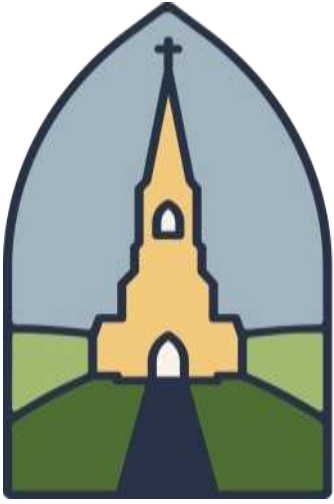




ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH CANBERRA

23 August 2026

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

(This week's service times within)

Jesus said to them, 'Who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' Matthew 16.15–16



At the recent General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia, participants from our 23 dioceses gathered in Melbourne – including four parishioners of St John's (pictured).

***St John's exists to bear public witness to Jesus Christ,
the source of life.***

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, fount of all wisdom,
in the humble witness of the apostle Peter
you have shown the foundation of our faith:
give us the light of your Spirit,
that, recognising in Jesus of Nazareth the Son of the living God,
we may be living stones for the building up of your holy Church;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Operation Christmas Child. On Monday the parish delivered 210 boxes to the ACT collection point. Each box holds the equivalent of about \$50 retail value, which makes St John's contribution to this mission approximately \$10,000 (plus another \$1500 for postage). This is a valuable addition to our budgeted missions giving for this year.

CMS Japan missionary visit to St John's: looking for accommodation 14-20 September. Church Mission Society missionary to Japan, Nathan Clapham and his family, are visiting Canberra from 14-20 September. Nathan's missionary work is supported by St John's missionary giving. Nathan will be spending time with St John's next month, participating in our bible study groups and joining our 9.30am and 6.00pm services on 20 September. Nathan is seeking accommodation (i.e. a single room) for 14-20 September, and we would be grateful for indications of availability to assist him that week. If you can help, please contact Edward Jackson at skjack75@gmail.com

Training for Bible Readers and Intercessors. Are you part of our regular team of Bible readers or intercessors or would like to consider joining? Please make use of this final training session to assist your ministry. Rosemary Thwaites (9.30am service) is an experienced voice coach and will offer some tips to help your reading voice enhance this important part of our public worship. 7pm, Tuesday 25 August (in the Church).

Diocesan Young Adults' Dinner and Games Night. Young Adults from across the Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn are invited to gather for a free night of dinner and some games on Friday 25

September, 6.30pm – 10pm, at St Mark's Theological Centre, Barton (Durie room). All Anglicans from 18–30 are welcome. It would be great if you can bring some dinner or snacks to share, and a favourite board or card game. But if you can't, we'd still like to see you. Book at trybooking.com/DOIJL or use the QR code.



Sunday 8am Service Morning Tea Helper Needed: We are seeking someone to join our Sunday 8am Service Morning Tea Roster. Please contact Wendy Smith at widge41@gmail.com

Our Parish Fair 17 October-Clothes Convenor Needed. Please contact Jon Hawkins ASAP at Jon.hawkins@bigpond.com if you can take on the task of being the Clothes Convenor for the Clothing Stall. Several stalls will need extra volunteers, including: white elephant, treasures & trinkets, cake, craft, and the BBQ. Also, anyone interested in helping with the sound system on the day, we'd love to hear from you. See page 8 for *"What When and Where to leave your donations"*.

Friends of St John's event – "How International Law can help in a world in chaos – a Christian perspective": Professor Don Rothwell, Professor of International Law at ANU and a member of St John's 8am congregation will speak at the next Friends of St John's event on Sunday afternoon 13 September at 3.30pm in the Robertson Room. This will start the new series of Friends events of an afternoon tea and speaker followed by a traditional Evensong at 5pm.

Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast. This annual event, to be held on 26 October at 7.15am – 8.15am (in the Great Hall of Parliament House) offers us a chance to pray for our members of parliament, in the presence of many political and faith leaders. St John's has again booked 2 tables for interested parishioners. If you'd like to claim one (\$75), email the parish office at admin@stjohnscanberra.org as soon as possible to secure your spot. Keynote speaker Amy Brown will draw on her experience of leadership and personal challenge in public service, to explore the theme "The Way Down is the Way Up" – the counterintuitive Christian hope that God meets us in the valley, where we may be formed deeply and encounter Him most clearly.

UPCOMING EVENTS

(*St John's event)

***Monday 24 August: Cuppacomalong.** All welcome for fellowship and afternoon tea. This month, two parishioners will be speaking on the topic, "My Road to St John's". Come and have a cuppa and a chat, 2pm to 4pm. Contact Ailsa Curtis (6247 9363).

***Tuesday 25 August: St John's Sketching/Painting Group.** 9.30am to lunchtime, in the Robertson Room. All welcome to come along with sketch pad, pencils or paints. Contact Fiona (0404 066 021) or Jennifer (0407 286 572).

***Tuesday 25 August: Bible for Blokes (then weekly).** 10.00am in the Upper Room. Enquiries, Canon Kevin Stone.

***Tuesday 25 August: Public reading & intercessions training.** Voice training for our public readers and intercessors. 7pm, (in the Church).

***Thursday 27 August: Bootcamp—Singleness, marriage and sex.** 7pm in the Robertson Room.

Friday- Sunday 28-30 August: SPARK - a Christian conference for young adults (18-30ish). For more information visit <https://sparkconference.com.au> or speak to Annemieke (@6pm service).

***Saturday 5 September: Focus on dementia care with Rev'd Mark Wormell.** 4pm—6pm Robertson Room. (See page 5 for details.)

***Sunday 13 September: Friends of St John's.** Guest speaker Professor Don Rothwell on "How International Law can help in a world in chaos – a Christian perspective". At 3.30pm in the Robertson Room with an afternoon tea followed by a traditional Evensong at 5pm.

***Friday 25 September: Diocesan young adults' dinner and games night.** 6.30pm – 10pm, in the Durie Room at St Mark's Theological Centre, Barton. (See page 2 for details.)

***Saturday 17 October: St John's Parish Fair.** 9am-2pm. Save the date!

***Friday 13 – Saturday 15 November: Youth Camp.** A weekend supported by Scripture Union, offering teaching and encouragement for our youth and young adults. Contact jess.evans31169@gmail.com

FOCUS ON DEMENTIA CARE

with Rev'd Mark Wormell, 5-6 September 2026

As people and their carers face various challenges associated with dementia, St John's seeks to be a community that upholds them with understanding and some familiarity with the condition. Dementia can affect people of all ages. Their essential personhood remains, as do their ongoing spiritual needs. Rev'd Mark Wormell, author of *Coming to Christ in Dementia*, will visit St John's for two Saturday seminars and being our guest preacher on Sunday. These events are important for us all, whether we're young or old, and even if simply we know, or occasionally chat with, a person facing some dementia challenges.

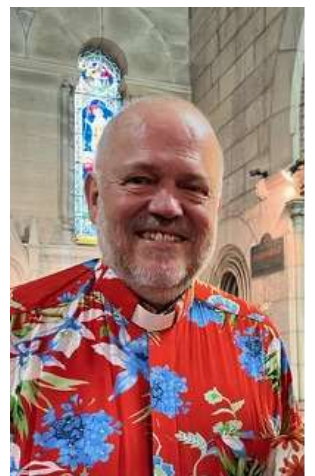
Saturday 5 September 4pm—6pm Robertson Room:

Seminar One: Mark will look at what dementia is and its effects. He will consider the Christian view of personhood and contrast that with secular views, and will suggest some ways Christianity helps us to value and care for those living with dementia.

Seminar Two: Can a person lose their faith in dementia? Can they come to faith? Mark will look at what faith is, and how living with dementia may impact our faith.

Sunday 6 September: Mark will be our guest preacher, focusing on the challenges associated with dementia.

Rev'd Mark Wormell is an Australian Anglican priest. He studied theology at Moore College (with Rev'd Dave), and since then has planted and pastored a congregation of Chinese post-graduate students in Broadway, Sydney. He has also pastored the parishes of Glebe, Cremorne and Enmore, and has been a part-time chaplain in three aged care facilities. He lectures in ministry with seniors at Mary Andrews College, and has authored *Coming to Christ in Dementia*, which can be purchased through Amazon.



Remembering George Edward Gregory First Rector of St John's Church Drowned 20th August 1851

The Thursday just past marked the 175th Anniversary of the death of the first appointed Minister of St John's, who was tragically drowned in the Molonglo River only 16 months after his appointment, and just a month before his planned marriage.

Gregory had embarked on a five-day visit on horseback to parishioners beyond present day Tharwa, taking services and conducting two baptisms. Heavy rain started falling and, on his return, the Molonglo was in high flood. Gregory was a good swimmer, and was anxious to reach the rectory, then situated at Acton. Despite warnings from friends on the south side of the river, he decided to swim across. He entered the cold water, was swept downstream and disappeared, his body being found three days later. St John's first Rector was buried outside the original eastern end of the Church. When the building was extended in 1872, his body was exhumed and reinterred in the crypt beneath the church. His grave is marked by a metal plaque in the crypt, with its location also indicated by a brass plate inside the Church, just beyond the altar rail.

The early parishioners of St John's erected the Church's first memorial plaque to their young minister, and its sorrowful inscription can be seen high on the southern wall, near the organ gallery.

*Here lie the mortal remains
of the Revd. George Edwd. Gregory
who was drowned 20th August 1851
Aged 25 years and 10 months
Watch therefore for ye know neither the day nor the hour
When the Son of Man cometh.*



Plaque in the crypt marking the grave of George Gregory

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

On Monday St John's Christmas Child boxes were delivered to the ACT collection point to be transported overseas. History shows that many of the children who receive a box and the accompanying gospel will give their hearts to their Lord. There will be much rejoicing in heaven. Thank you everyone who worked so hard to make this happen and to those who have contributed financial support. We are so lucky to be able to further the spread of the gospel in this simple but effective way.

May I remind you of the child who, 30 years ago, received both gifts: a box and his Saviour. Today he pastors the dispossessed in Soweto one of the poorest areas in South Africa. This year alone he was able to bring 150 children to faith through the distribution of boxes which had been provided by Christians such as us. Imagine the multiplication of 210 boxes, most of which go to countries in the Pacific region.

It is not too late to support this amazing work. You can do so by talking to the office who can process a tap from your card or giving cash (if you can remember what that is). Any amount helps but \$30 will cover the cost of the items in a box and \$12.50 will pay for transportation. Most importantly, continue to pray for each child that receives one of our boxes.

Jennifer Lawson



ST JOHN'S COMMUNITY FAIR 2026 DONATIONS

The following lists *What, When & Where you can leave your Donations* for the Community Fair:
Please do not leave donations before the times below

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	NOTES
Books, Games, Puzzles, DVDs and CDs	Now	Bench outside Church Hall	<i>If the Hall is open, please leave your donations on the stage.</i> Good quality fiction and non-fiction, including large print books and books for young adults and children. <i>Please no textbooks, manuals, Readers Digest, encyclopedias, videotapes or audio cassette tapes.</i>
Oranges, lemons, limes, apples, dried dates, or dried apricots	Now	Parish Office	Tuesday – Thursday 10am-3pm
Clothes	TBA		<i>If the Hall is open, please leave your donations in the marked area, immediately to the left inside the Hall.</i>
Craft, Trinkets, Treasure, White Elephant	From 28 September	Bench outside Church Hall	<i>If the Hall is open, please leave your donations in the marked area, immediately to the left inside the Hall.</i>
Raffles	From 28 September to 11 October	Bench outside Church Hall	
Plants & Gardening	From 12 October	Bench outside Church Hall	
Jam & Cake	From 15 October	Central bench in Kitchen	

When the right support changes everything

Hardship rarely exists in isolation, and a single challenge can often begin to impact every aspect of a person's life.

Recently, a client named K came to SJC at a point where he felt he had nowhere else to turn. Following the passing of a family member who owned a property, K found himself caught in a complicated legal situation. As he attempted to navigate the property law system and seek professional advice, the costs continued to grow and K accumulated significant debt. Before long, the financial pressure began affecting almost every part of his life. His physical and mental health suffered, and the ongoing stress began impacting his ability to maintain employment. What had started as a legal problem had quickly become something much bigger.

Fortunately, SJC had recently been approached by Thomsons, a law firm that had generously offered to support St John's Care.

I was able to refer K to Thomsons, who have spent the past few weeks helping him navigate an incredibly complex and costly process. Importantly, K has been able to access professional legal advice and consultation that would otherwise have been financially out of reach. Earlier this week, K returned to St John's Care to provide an update and say thank you. More importantly, he wanted us to pass his thanks on to Thomsons, telling me that their assistance had **"seriously changed my life."** K and I spoke about just how significant the impact had been. Removing some of the legal and financial pressure had allowed him to begin focusing again on his health, employment and the other areas of his life that had suffered. K's experience is a reminder that sometimes the most valuable support we can provide is not something sitting on our shelves. It is knowing our community, building strong partnerships, and connecting someone with the right people at the right time.

We are incredibly grateful to Thomsons for generously sharing their expertise with K. For K, their generosity was more than free legal advice - it provided relief, hope, and an opportunity to begin moving forward again.

Robbie Speldewinde, Operations Manager

Items needed: Powdered milk, Shampoo and conditioner, Small packets of sultanas, Cooking oil, Vegemite

St John's Study Groups

Monday: 'Young Blokes' Bible Study

When & Where: Mondays, 6.30pm, Campbell

Who: Young men (ages approx. 18-25)

Focus: Bible study and discussion

Contact: Rev'd Andrew - Andrew.Cameron@stjohnscanberra.org

Tuesday: Bible for Blokes

When & Where: Tuesdays, 10.am, Upper Room

Who: Men of any age

Focus: Bible study and discussion

Contact: Rev'd Kevin – Kevin.Stone@stjohnscanberra.org

Tuesday: Young Women's Bible Study

When & Where: Tuesdays, 7:00–8:30 pm, at a home in Reid (school terms)

Who: Women aged 15–30; new Christians and those exploring faith welcome

Focus: 30 min fellowship + 1 hour study; social events in school holidays

Contact: Jess – jess.evans31169@gmail.com or 0404 703 847

Wednesday: Southside Bible Study

When & Where: Wednesdays, 2pm, Fadden, Tuggeranong

Who: Adults, any age.

Focus: Bible study and discussion

Contact: John Richards—0407 790 767

Wednesday: Adults Bible Study

When & Where: Wednesdays, 7:00–8:00 pm, Rectory (school terms)

Who: Adults, any age. Mostly connected with stjohns@6

Focus: Bible study; group communicates via Signal

Contact: Russ Tunks — russtunks@yahoo.com.au

Thursday: Ladies' Bible Reading Group

When & Where: Thursdays, 9:30 am (after school drop-off), Robertson Room (school terms)

Who: Women, especially with pre-school children

Focus: Bible reading and discussion (currently Matthew)

Contact: Mary de Lautour — mary.delautour@stjohnscanberra.org

There may be scope for a new Bible study to commence. Contact clergy if you'd like to be involved.

Upcoming services

Sunday 23 August 2026

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Exodus 1.8-2.10; Psalm 124; Romans 12.1-8; Matthew 16.13-20

- 7.00am:** Eucharist (1662 Book of Common Prayer)
8.00am: Sung Eucharist
9.30am: Family Eucharist (Kid's Church & Youth Group)
6.00pm: stjohs@6 (Praise, Prayer and Proclamation)

Wednesday 26 August 2026

Readings: Romans 12.1-8; Matthew 16.13-20

- 10.00am:** Eucharist (1662 Book of Common Prayer)

Sunday 30 August 2026

Martyrs of New Guinea

Readings: Zephaniah 3.14-20; Psalm 130; Romans 8.33-39; John 12.20-32

- 8.00am:** Sung Eucharist
9.30am: Family Eucharist (Kid's Church & Youth Group)
6.00pm: stjohs@6 (Praise, Prayer and Proclamation)

Wednesday 2 September 2026

Readings: Zephaniah 3.14-20; OR; Romans 8.33-39; John 12.20-32

- 10.00am:** Eucharist (1662 Book of Common Prayer)

For more information: www.stjohnscanberra.org

SUPPORTING THE MINISTRY OF THE PARISH

The best way to support our ministry is to (annually) prayerfully consider an appropriate amount, and then set up automatic regular transfers using our 'giving' account:

BSB:702 389 **ACCOUNT:** 0520 9450 **NAME:** St John the Baptist Reid

See also: <https://www.stjohnscanberra.org/giving>

Rector	Rev'd David McLennan	rector@stjohnscanberra.org	0468 634 351
Senior Associate Priest	Rev'd Dr Andrew Cameron	andrew.cameron@stjohnscanberra.org	0477 689 421
Associate Priest	Rev'd Canon Kevin Stone	kevin.stone@stjohnscanberra.org	0450 676 864
Honorary Priest	Rev'd Vicky Cullen		0476 777 203
Children & Families Worker	Mary de Lautour	mary.delautour@stjohnscanberra.org	
Sacristan	Kim Gibson	admin@stjohnscanberra.org	
Schoolhouse Museum	Jennifer Garden		0414 551 821
Office Administrator	Jane Rose	admin@stjohnscanberra.org	6248 8399
Operations Manager	Alison Hosking	alison.hosking@stjohnscanberra.org	5140 0101
Friends of St John's Chair	Matthew Neuhaus	friendsofstjohnscanberra@gmail.com	
		SJC Emergency Relief	6248 7771
SJC Managing Director	Jason Haines	md@stjohnscare.org.au	6248 7771
STJ Operations Manager	Robbie Speldewinde	programs@stjohnscare.org.au	6248 7771
SJC Chaplain	Nathan Vandersee	chaplain@stjohnscare.org.au	6248 7771

Parish Office: 6248 8399

Opening Hours: 10.00am to 3.00pm Tuesday to Friday

www.stjohnscanberra.org

45 Constitution Avenue, Reid 2612 GPO Box 219, Canberra 2601