



ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH CANBERRA

5 May 2024

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Today's services are at
8am, 9.30am, 11.15am, 6.00pm

Jesus said, 'You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit.'

John 15.16



Drawing on the imagery of a fruitful vine, Jesus invites us to remain in him and to bear fruit in his name.

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

PARISH NOTICES



KIDS' CHURCH AND YOUTH: Today we recommence our regular youth and children's ministries and give thanks to God for the teachers and leaders who help our younger parishioners learn their worth as followers of Jesus.

MAINLY MUSIC: Do you have 2.5 hours to spare one Wednesday morning each month? Mainly Music needs one additional helper to prepare and serve morning tea, offer a friendly smile and a listening ear to the parents and carers of the children. Please contact Mary de Lautour if you can help (mary.delautour@stjohnscanberra.org).

TIMOR LESTE MISSION: Our missions team is beginning preparations for the visit to Timor Leste in July. Please keep this group, and our missions committee, in your prayers as we seek to expand our parish's involvement in the work of the gospel throughout our world. (It may still be possible for latecomers to join provided they email the Rector ASAP.)

2024 HERITAGE FUND APPEAL: Parishioners and friends are invited to donate to this year's Heritage Fund Appeal which aims to restore the pews by removing unsightly scratches and creaky joints and recondition the timber kneelers. Conservation work on the altar rails in the sanctuary and the pulpit will also form part of the project. Donations of \$2 or more to the Heritage Fund are tax deductible. The Heritage Fund's Appeal letter and brochure will be sent to you shortly by email or through the post. You can also donate via our stjohnscanberra.org/giving. Your support for this year's project would be greatly appreciated. Randall Wilson, Chair of Trustees

WOMEN, THE BIBLE AND THE FREEDOM OF GOD: In April, St Mark's hosted a forum on the subject of women in the life of the church. It included an address by St John's parishioner Dr Amy Erickson. You can listen to the evening's stimulating talks at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X3t4posYjWQ&t=565s>

SJC CRAFT SESSIONS: St John's Care is seeking to set up regular craft sessions. Are you a knitter (or similar) who would like to share your enthusiasm of craft with others? St John's Care would like to hear from you! Please contact Wendy on (02) 6248 7771 or casemanagement@stjohnscare.org.au.

ST JOHN'S TRAILER: We are seeking more helpers to empty the church trailer's green waste at the tip. Do you have a tow bar and the ability to do this occasionally (likely no more than once per month)? If so, please contact Helen (rgwhmw@outlook.com).

KNEELERS: The beautiful kneelers in the church were sewn by loving hands some 60 years ago and are showing their age. If you could assist in the process of unpicking, washing, re-stretching, embroidering etc, please contact our Sacristan, Jennifer Lawson. jennifer.lawson@stjohnscanberra.org/

Please also be mindful that they need to be hung on their hooks such that they don't touch the heater, especially over winter. (Plans are in place to prevent this problem, but in the meantime please avoid bending them and, if necessary, hang them with the inside facing you. Thanks for your cooperation.)

FUNDRAISER FOR RICHA: Friends of Richa William (9.30 service) are raising money to help purchase an insulin pump and other supports to assist with the significant changes she is facing following recent major surgery. Please keep her and her family in your prayers. If you would like to support this fundraiser, go to <https://gofund.me/95738524>

UPCOMING EVENTS

BELLRINGING: All are welcome to attend our next bell ringing practice **today, 5 May at 5-6pm**. Try ringing or just sit in our beautiful grounds and enjoy!

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER: The Canberra ecumenical Christian gathering for the National Day of Prayer (NDOP) is on **Saturday 18 May 24 from 1-4pm** at St John's. All are welcome. Register at www.australiaprays.com.au

'PENTECOST CUPPA' IN THE SCHOOLHOUSE: Thanks to all who supported our Schoolhouse Museum's efforts over the Heritage Festival period. There will be an additional 'parish viewing' of the Schoolhouse's heritage display after the 8am and 9.30am services on **Pentecost Sunday (19 May)**, over morning tea. All welcome.

CHRISTIAN BOOTCAMP: This year, we are again running 'Christian Bootcamp' – evening classes, held approximately monthly. Ideal for those (16+) seeking baptism or confirmation, new Christians or enquirers. Flyers with more detail are available in the church porch. Our first session ('Who - or What - is God?') might help you decide if this is for you. Robertson Room, **Wednesday 29 May**, 7.30pm. Contact Rev'd Dave McLennan (rector@stjohnscanberra.org) to register your interest.

PATRONAL DINNER: Our parish dinner to celebrate our patronal festival will be held on **Thursday 13 June** at the CIT restaurant from **6.00pm - 8.30pm**. Bookings open next week.

EQUIP WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: Feel free to invite friends to join us as we join this video conference, hearing teaching on Revelation 1-5. **Saturday 22 June** from **9:30am** in the Robertson Room. RSVP to Mary de Lautour (<mailto:mary.delautour@stjohnscanberra.org>)



OTHER MATTERS

MARRIAGE COURSE: The Marriage Course offers practical support and ideas to strengthen your relationship. Participate from the comfort of your home via zoom, **7-9pm Thursdays over May & June**. Optional In-Person Introduction Evening (**Thu 2 May**) and Final Dinner (**Thu 27 June**). Hosted by the Catholic & Anglican Parishes of Inner North Canberra. (Enquiries: helenazobec@cg.org.au or 0405 440 463. Register at: tinyurl.com/y3fw859r)

BILLETS SOUGHT: A parishioner is seeking billets to assist with a Rotary program in Canberra in June. If you are willing to help, please email Suzanne suzanne.a.howarth@gmail.com

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE: A theological student is seeking insights into how modern life impacts attendance and involvement in church activities. If you wish to assist her, a survey is available at the following link: <https://bit.ly/ChristianSurvey2024>.

MISSED A SERMON?: Most weeks, the audio of the Sunday sermon is uploaded to our website. Feel free to re-listen, share with a friend, or connect with us when you are out of town. See <https://www.stjohnscanberra.org/sermons>

Escaping to safety

As the nights draw in and the coming mornings are crisp, we are reminded of the frailty and vulnerability of many of our clients. Whilst many of us are fortunate to be able to pay for our food, clothing needs and utility bills, many of our clients are already struggling with these life 'basics.'

How difficult it is for someone to have to ask for the very basics in life. For example, warm clothing, help to pay for electricity or even to ask for the provision of bedding, towels, or a bus ticket home. At St John's Care we endeavour to provide a friendly face, a hot drink, some biscuits, time to share, case management and counselling if required.

One such family who St John's Care are currently supporting have escaped a war-torn situation in their overseas village. We shall call them Family B. Originally St John's Care were supporting the mother of Family B. While she endeavoured to make a new life in Canberra, she also supported her son to start catering training in Canberra. This was to enable him to return to his wife and three children in his overseas village.

Family B had made their plan for better there. Now the separated family were in danger and were required to flee to Australia. This journey to safety has been

fraught with physical and mental distress. Family B continue to work through all the legal requirements to remain in Australia. This family of five are now staying in their aged family member's small two bedroom unit, resulting in a very cramped and difficult living environment.

St John's Care continues to support Family B with emergency relief food, clothing, bedding, blankets, towels, further referrals, bus tickets to attend immigration meetings, complex case management including advocacy for schooling and housing, explanations of legal requirements and therapeutic conversations.

St John's Care often steps into the gap where many agencies may not be able to support a family. The St John's Care team continue to be very thankful for the generosity of spirit, time, and donations that our amazing Canberra family supply.

Thank you very much for maintaining your support of Canberra's vulnerable by partnering with St John's Care.

Kind regards
Wendy, SJC Case Manager

Items required: tomato sauce, cooking oil, sweet and savoury biscuits, dishwashing liquid.

Upcoming services

Sunday 12 May

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 1.15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5.9-13;
John 17.6-19

- 7am Eucharist (1662 Book of Common Prayer)
8am Sung Eucharist
9.30am Family Eucharist (Kids' Church & Youth Group)
5pm Choral Evensong (1662 Book of Common Prayer)
6pm stjohns@6 (Praise, Prayer & Proclamation)

Sunday 19 May

Day of Pentecost

Readings: Acts 2.1-21 or Ezekiel 37.1-14; Psalm 104.26-36; Romans 8.22-27;
John 15.26-27; 16.4b-15

- 8am Sung Eucharist
9.30am Family Eucharist (Kids' Church & Youth Group)
11.15am Matins (1662 Book of Common Prayer)
6pm stjohns@6 (Holy Communion)

Sunday 26 May

Trinity Sunday

Readings: Isaiah 6.1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8.12-17;
John 3.1-17

- 7am Eucharist (1662 Book of Common Prayer)
8am Sung Eucharist
9.30am Family Eucharist (Kids' Church & Youth Group)
6pm stjohns@6 (Praise, Prayer & Proclamation)

Each Wednesday

- 10am 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

Contacts

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
Curate	Rev'd Anna Krebs	anna.krebs@stjohnscanberra.org	0411 367 817
Honorary Priest	Rev'd Vicky Cullen		0476 777 203
Honorary Deacon	Rev'd Chris Murray		0433 322 206
Youth Leader	Kirsten Lamb	kirsten.lamb@stjohnscanberra.org	
Children & Families Worker	Mary de Lautour	mary.delautour@stjohnscanberra.org	
Sacristan	Jennifer Lawson	jennifer.lawson@stjohnscanberra.org	0407 286 572
Schoolhouse Museum	Jennifer Garden	schoolhouse@stjohnscanberra.org	0414 551 821
Office Administrator	Kimberley van Leeuwen	admin@stjohnscanberra.org	6248 8399
Operations Manager	Alison Hosking	alison.hosking@stjohnscanberra.org	6248 8399
Friends of St John's, Chair	Matthew Neuhaus	friendsofstjohnscanberra@gmail.com	



SJC Emergency Relief Centre 6248 7771

SJC Executive Officer	Jason Haines	executive.officer@stjohnscare.org.au	6248 7771
SJC Operations Manager	Robbie Speldewinde	programs@stjohnscare.org.au	6248 7771

Parish Office: 6248 8399

Opening Hours: 9.30am to 2.30pm Tuesday to Friday

www.stjohnscanberra.org

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

BARNABAS' BAPTISM TESTIMONY

Barnabas Walker was baptised last week. Here is an abridged version of some words he shared.

After Dave asked me to speak at my baptism, I googled 'what to include in my testimony' and prayed that God would help me fill out an online scaffold. I was told to start by talking about my life before Christ.

That's a little hard because since I was born, I have been surrounded by loving Christians, role modelling to me the values of Christ. I was told the good news at church, school and at home. I was enthusiastic, but thinking about it now, I'm not sure I truly understood God, or even Christianity. When I had questions beyond "did Noah have dinosaurs on the ark?" I felt uncomfortable. I wondered why my faith wasn't as good as everyone else's and what was wrong with me.

As I left my Christian childhood and ventured out into a big, secular high school, I found myself torn between my little, confused faith and a deep desire to fit in. I made the wrong choice. I deliberately turned my back on God, thinking I – a 14 year old – had come to a brilliant, logical, enlightened, secular understanding of the world.

I didn't go far off the rails or become a problem child. What I did have was a quiet hole deep down and often ignored. I slowly realised that I was missing something.

Over the course of two years, I had little experience of faith – just reading my Bible one night, or accidentally referring to the church as "us" during a conversation. Seeing the brilliant testimony and living Christian faith, in person and online, pushed me over the edge. I recognised what I was missing in my life and decided that I wanted to come home.

Around Christmas, Mum and I had a conversation, where we decided to look for a church together. To be honest it didn't take that long to settle. Coming to St John's it felt so right. There was the occasional awkwardness of meeting new people, but that was always cushioned by an underlying warmth and kindness.

Coming into this place has grown my knowledge of and relationship with God, to my Church family I want to say thank you. To my actual family, I want to say thank you.

Next, according to the formula, I'm meant to talk about my life "after coming to Christ" but to be honest I don't think I have the perspective to talk about that yet. What I hope is that I continue this journey with you.