

ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH CANBERRA

8 March 2026
Third Sunday in Lent
(This week's service times within)

'The water that I will give,' says the Lord, 'will become in you a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' John 4.14



*Christ and the Woman of Samaria by Giovanni Francesco Barbieri (Guercino)
c. 1619–1620.*

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, the fountain of life,
to a humanity parched with thirst
you offer the living water that springs from the Rock,
our Saviour Jesus Christ:
stir up within your people the gift of your Spirit,
that we may profess our faith with freshness
and announce with joy the wonder of your love.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Light in the Darkness talks and resources. Our recent conference considered end-of-life care, euthanasia, and Christian hope. Recordings of the talks are available via our podcast channel. Search for St John's Canberra Talks in Spotify, Apple or Pocketcasts (or use a QR code or link at www.stjohnscanberra.org/sermons.) Some related resources can be found at tinyurl.com/SJ-LitD.

Sabbath Gospel. Our very own Dr Amy Erickson's new book, 'Sabbath Gospel', is now available for purchase! This book doesn't simply reduce Sabbath to a practice, but explores Sabbath as the destination of all of history, and in a way that hopes to reorient the church to renewed faithful living, working, and rest-giving in the present. You can purchase a copy here: <https://tinyurl.com/3trcbu6r>

Toward a new Parish Directory. As St John's grows, it becomes more important to find secure and efficient ways to connect with each other. We have introduced a computer- and app-based system that puts you in charge of what details we have, so that you can change or delete them at any time. To use it, see the handout available in the church foyer (or email admin@stjohnscanberra.org for a PDF version). The system has many useful features, but it starts with you logging in and updating us. (Later in the year, we'll offer some help after church if you're finding it too hard.)

Easter Letterbox Drop. If you are willing to do a letterbox drop of our Easter services flyer around Campbell and Reid, please take one of the packs at the back of the church. Please only take them if you can do the area as marked on the map. This will help us avoid duplication. Please return any unused flyers.

9.30 Morning Tea. 9.30am morning tea on the 15th (next week) is provided by the youth, who are fundraising for their camp later in the year. Donations would be gratefully received!

Making Marriage Work. We offer a short marriage course to wedding couples, and are pleased to offer these to others in our community. Whether you are recently married or have been for many years, this material – drawn from the Gottman Institute’s extensive research – could benefit any couple. Courses for 2026 can be booked at <https://www.stjohnscanberra.org/special-services>

AGM. Our parish AGM and Electoral Meeting will be held on Sunday 22 March in the Hall. From 11.00am, Alan Wilson (parish archivist) will give a presentation on the archives. From 11.30am the AGM will formally begin. We encourage all parishioners to attend so they can engage with the significant and exciting matters facing the parish in the year ahead.

Elections will be held for parish councillors, peoples’ wardens, and representatives for our Clergy Appointments Board and Synod. Those wishing to nominate someone for these positions should do so using the nominations form in the church foyer and depositing it in the offeratory box no later than Sunday 15 March.

St John’s Care Canberra Day Appeal. Over the past few years, St John's Care has proudly taken part in the Canberra Day Appeal, and we have been so grateful for the generosity of our local community.

The Canberra Day Appeal is now underway, and this is a wonderful opportunity to stand behind our community. Every \$1 you donate will be matched, becoming \$2 for the first \$2,500 raised - doubling your impact and helping us reach even more people in need.

Our goal is to raise \$25,000 to support our programs right here in Canberra. As you know SJC gets no government funding and relies totally on donations. If you're in a position to give, we would be so grateful for your support.

Visit <https://canberra-day-appeal-2026.raiselysite.com/o/st-johns-care> to give where we live today.

Dr Paula R Gooder in Canberra. Join us for two events with British New Testament scholar, Dr Paula Gooder. Public Lecture: Lives, Leadership and Legacy: Women in the Earliest Christian Communities (Thu 19 March, St Mark’s). Breakfast Conversation – Faith, leadership and women in the early Church (Sat 21 March, Holy Covenant). Free events. Bookings essential. Book here <https://tinyurl.com/22f3rm57> See page 8.

Name Badges. You can order your own St John's nametag for \$17.00 (resin with magnetic back) or \$15.00 (pin back). It's a great way to help people connect with you at church. Order at stjohnscanberra.org/ payments.

Anglican News February 2026. Here is the link to the latest edition of Anglican News: <https://anglicancg.org.au/news-and-events/anglican-news/> You can email any contributions for future issues of the Anglican News, by the first day of the month of the issue, to: anglicannews@anglicancg.org.au

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Mainly Music Morning Tea Helpers. Mainly Music is held at 10am each Wednesday during school terms. We need some volunteers to prepare and serve morning tea to the children and their parents/carers. If you enjoy hospitality and have 2 hours to spare once or twice a month, please let Mary de Lautour know.

Palm Cross Working Bee. Please join us for fun and fellowship to make our Palm Crosses on either Tuesday 17 March or Tuesday 24 March, from 2 - 4 pm in the Robertson Room. If you could bring a pair of scissors that would be great. We will have afternoon tea following our endeavours.

Operation Christmas Child Working Group. Semi-regular working group. For upcoming dates and venue details, contact Jennifer Lawson on 0407 286 572. See page 5.

SUMMARY OF UPCOMING EVENTS

(*St John's event)

***Sunday 8 March: Choral Evensong.** Join us at 5pm for this brief, reflective service, including hymns and choral music.

Monday 9 March: Commonwealth Day Celebration. Faith leaders will gather around the theme '*Unlocking opportunities together for a prosperous Commonwealth.*' The Governor-General will attend and share the King's message. 11:00 am – 12:15 pm (arrival from 10:45 am). The Chapel, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, 15 Blackall St, Barton ACT. RSVP: sstitt@csu.edu.au or (02) 6272 6201.

Tuesday 10 March: Order of St Luke Healing Meeting. All are invited to the Healing Meeting at St David's Anglican Church, Red Hill, at 2.00pm, followed by afternoon tea. Meetings focus on teaching and prayer. Info Fr John Gibson at gibsonjohn385@gmail.com or 0451 681 118.

Wednesday 11 March: The Surprising Secret to Self-Mastery.

Canberra City Legal is a venue for all workers to enjoy stimulating input and fellowship. Rev'd Dave McLennan will share with us how the Bible reframes our understanding of resilience, obedience, and the surprising path to real self-mastery. 7.30am-8.30am (Rydges). Details at <https://tinyurl.com/jwkf87a6>

***Friday 13 March & Saturday 14 March: Operation Christmas Child Working Group.** From 1pm-4pm in the Hall. (Friday, preparing the boxes; Saturday filling the boxes, including koalas for the 2-4 year old children.) Contact Jennifer Lawson on 0407 286 572.

***Sunday 15 March: Friends service.** The Friends of St John's will have their next Service on Sunday 15 March at 11.15am followed by lunch and their AGM in the Robertson Room. Our speaker will be Rev Dr Andrew Cameron, Senior Associate Priest and former Director of St Marks. The topic will be 'An Accidental Detour: My 22 Years in Theological Education'.

***Tuesday 17 March: Palm Cross Working Bee.** Please join us from 2 - 4 pm in the Robertson Room. If you could bring a pair of scissors that would be great. We will have afternoon tea following our endeavours.

Thursday 19 March: Public Lecture by Dr Paula Gooder.

Lives, Leadership and Legacy – Women in the Earliest Christian Communities. 7:00 for 7:30pm. St Mark's National Theological Centre, Barton. Book here <https://tinyurl.com/22f3rm57> See page 8.

Saturday 21 March: Breakfast with Dr Paula Gooder.

7.30am. Holy Covenant Anglican Church. Book here: <https://tinyurl.com/22f3rm57> See page 8.

***Sunday 22 March: Parish AGM and Electoral Meeting.** In the Hall. At 11am, Alan Wilson (parish archivist) will give a presentation on the archives. From 11.30 the meeting formally begins, and will include elections for parish councillors, peoples' wardens, and representatives for our Clergy Appointments Board and Synod.

***Tuesday 24 March: Palm Cross Working Bee.** Please join us from 2 - 4 pm in the Robertson Room. If you could bring a pair of scissors that would be great. We will have afternoon tea following our endeavours.

Saturday 28 March: Evil Tamed – Four Christian Perspectives.

An exploration of psychological, Biblical and social perspectives on evil, At Wesley Uniting Church. To register, visit www.trybooking.com/DJDZE

Saturday 28 March: Canberra Mission Focus. A day of worship, Bible teaching, and info sessions led by visiting missionaries. A children's program is included. For registration details and costs visit <https://www.cms.org.au/cms-canberra-mission-focus-2026>

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT OF 17 FEBRUARY 2026

Rector's Report: The Rector reported on the welcome drinks event followed by Evensong on Sunday 8 February. There was good community participation and some good contacts made. He thanked all those who helped organise the event. The Rector reported on the challenges facing St John's this year including gaps in pastoral care, a significant building program, upcoming changes in membership for the St John's Care Management Committee, the need to replenish bequests and the drop in budgeted carparking revenue. The 'Church Centre' package is being rolled out to replace the old system (Elvanto) which will help manage church contacts, maintain the parish roll, etc.

He also updated council on a significant change to the St John's Care Management Committee, with Glenda Richards retiring this month after more than 13 years in the role. Glenda's legacy of careful stewardship and Christian service deserves to be honoured. The Rector has been appointed as new chair.

Finance Update: The Treasurer reported that the offertories were up in December 2025 compared to December 2024 and that car parking income was down in December 2025 compared to December 2024. It was noted that the net operation result was a small surplus for 2025. Car parking income, currently about 26% of budget, is currently under pressure from changes in corporate client demand and the shift to working-from-home. That will be a special focus for Parish Council this year.

Property and Grounds Update: The Chair of the Property Committee reported that new people joined the Gardens and Grounds Team for the working bee this month which was marvellous. It was reported that there was a major issue with watering the lawn this summer but that has now been fixed and the reticulation system in the Rose Garden had to be fixed several times over December and January. At some stage the reticulation systems for the lawn and Rose Garden will

need to be replaced.

The new kitchen is almost complete and the Rector reported that the overall plans for redeveloping the Robertson Room, offices and St John's Care are looking great. The upgrade to the Parish Centre main switch-board will happen on Saturday 14 March. The extension to the columbarium will proceed as soon as practicable.

For any questions, please contact the Presiding Member, John Richards on gjrich@bigpond.net.au



At our 'Light in the Darkness' conference last Saturday, Prof. Megan Best helped us grapple with the issues surrounding new euthanasia legislation, and how Christians might approach mortality with wisdom, compassion and hope.

Lives, Leadership and Legacy

Women in the earliest Christian communities

A public lecture with
Dr Paula R Gooder

Writer and Lecturer in New Testament Studies and Canon
Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral, London UK



Thursday, 19 March 2026

7:00 for 7:30pm

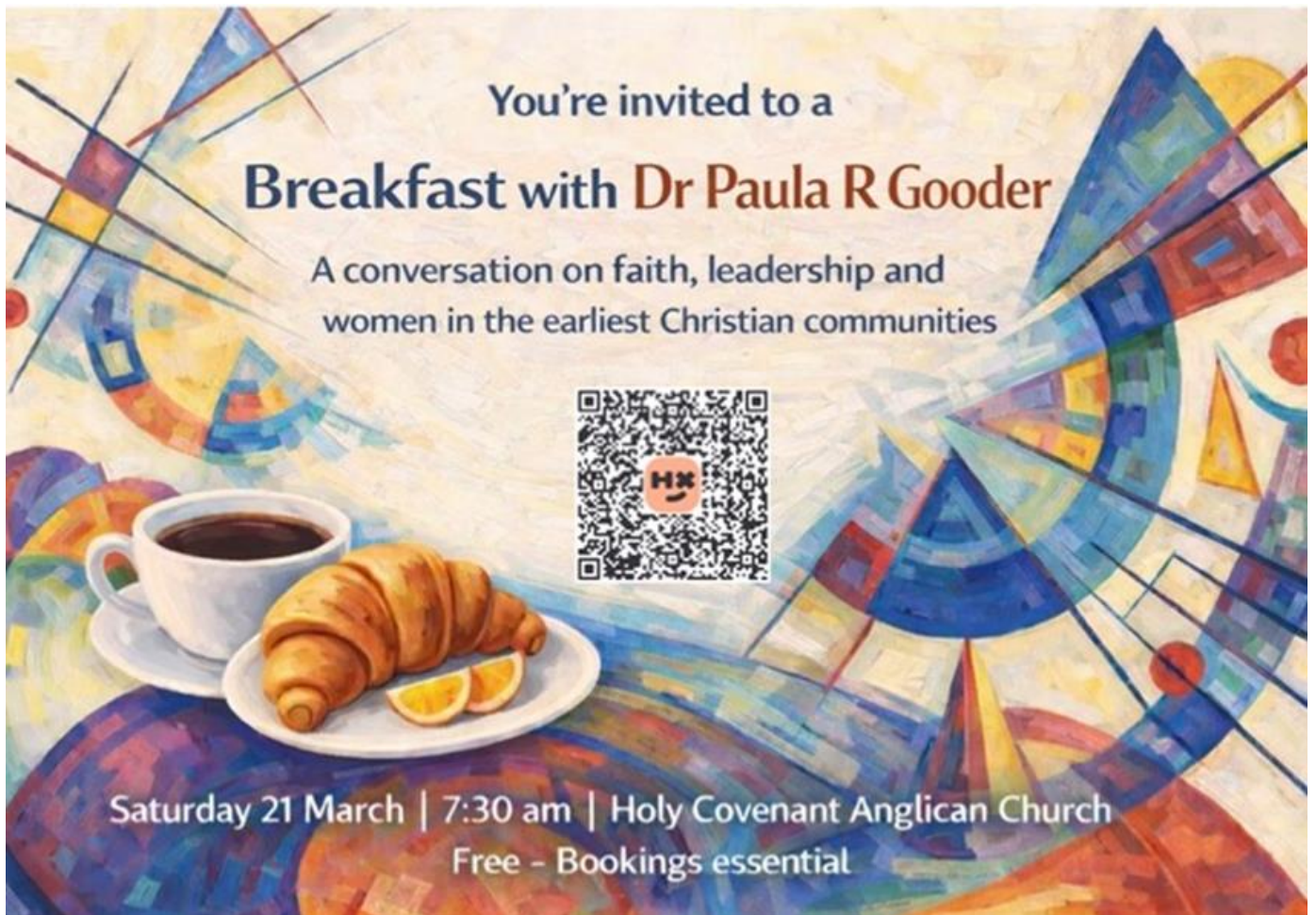
refreshments on arrival
Bookings essential (free)

St Mark's National Theological Centre
15 Blackall St Barton

Hosted by the
Women in Leadership Commission
Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn

You're invited to a **Breakfast with Dr Paula R Gooder**

A conversation on faith, leadership and
women in the earliest Christian communities



Saturday 21 March | 7:30 am | Holy Covenant Anglican Church
Free - Bookings essential

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 Giralang (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: Adults Bible Study

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

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

Focus: Bible study; group communicates via Signal

Contact: Russ Tunks – rustunks@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.*

A Journey of Small Steps

Not long ago, a man named H visited St John's Care looking for some basic support. Like many who walk through our doors, he was doing his best to navigate a difficult period in his life. During our conversation, he spoke honestly about his long struggle with addiction and the challenges it has created for him over time. He described feeling increasingly isolated and unsure about how to move forward. While he had experienced setbacks along the way, he also shared that he was beginning to think seriously about making some changes and seeking help to regain stability in his life.

Recovery from addiction rarely happens quickly. It is often a gradual process, made up of many small steps forward and the occasional step back. Over time, we have seen encouraging signs. H had begun speaking more openly about wanting to make changes in his life and has now taken some early steps toward seeking additional help.

At St John's Care, we recognise that while we can provide practical assistance, a listening ear, and encouragement, we are not equipped to provide the specialised addiction treatment that many people need. Because of this, we have worked alongside H to connect with specialist services that can provide professional counselling, treatment programs, and longer-term support. Psychologists often talk about the "buffering hypothesis", which suggests that social support can act as a protective buffer during difficult times. When people feel supported by others, the stress of life's challenges can become more manageable. For someone facing addiction, knowing that there are people who care, and that help is available, can make an important difference.

For H, and most others experiencing addiction, recovery will not happen overnight. However, each conversation, each small decision to seek help, and each supportive relationship along the way can help strengthen one's path forward.

At St John's Care, I feel privileged to walk alongside people during these moments in their lives, offering support where possible and helping connect people with the broader network of services that can support them further. The path forward often involves a conversation, a connection, and the knowledge that support is within reach.

Robbie Speldewinde
Operations Manager

Items required: Cooking oil, dishwashing liquid, tinned vegies, toothpaste
Easter items: Easter eggs, easter bunnies

Upcoming services

Sunday 8 March 2026

Third Sunday in Lent

Readings: Exodus 17.1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5.1-11; John 4.5-42

- 7.00am: Eucharist** (1662 Book of Common Prayer)
- 8.00am: Sung Eucharist**
- 9.30am: Family Eucharist** (Kids Church & Youth Group)
- 5.00pm: Choral Evensong** (1662 Book of Common Prayer)
- 6.00pm: stjohns@6** (Praise, Prayer and Proclamation)

Wednesday 11 March 2026

Readings: Romans 5.1-11; John 4.5-42

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

Sunday 15 March 2026

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Readings: 1 Samuel 16.1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5.8-14; John 9.1-41

- 8.00am: Sung Eucharist**
- 9.30am: Family Eucharist** (Kids Church & Youth Group)
- 11.15am: Choral Matins Friends Service** (1662 Book of Common Prayer)
- 6.00pm: stjohns@6** (Holy Communion)

Wednesday 18 March 2026

Readings: 1 Samuel 16.1-13; OR Ephesians 5.8-14; John 9.1-41

- 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>

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
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
SJC Operations Manager	Robbie Speldewinde	programs@stjohnscare.org.au	6248 7771

Parish Office: 6248 8399

Opening Hours: 10.00am to 3.00pm Tuesday to Friday

www.stjohnscanberra.org

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