

ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH CANBERRA

1 February 2026
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
(This week's service times within)

*What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6.8)*



Morning Tea gathering after the Wednesday 10am service

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

Prayer of the Day

Righteous God,
you confound the world's wisdom
by giving your blessing to the lowly and pure in heart:
give us such a hunger and thirst for justice
and perseverance in striving for peace,
that in our words and deeds
the world may see the promise of your kingdom,
which has been revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

BEGINNING 2026—IMPORTANT NOTICES

Supporting Ministry at St John's. As a new year begins, please take a moment prayerfully to consider the appropriate level of your regular financial contribution to our parish. We are highly dependent upon regular (preferably automatic) deposits to sustain our growing ministry and care for our site. 'Giving' details can be found on page 10 of this newsletter, or at www.stjohnscanberra.org/giving.

Kids and Youth in 2026. Our program for young people (yrs k-10) will recommence on 8 February at our 9.30am service, with 'Start Up Sunday' – a fun day with a waterslide, ice cream, and family BBQ after our 9.30am service.

Our overflow space and cry room will continue to function in the Robertson Room in 2026 during the 9.30am service, to assist families with younger children who may find this space easier.

For older youth, our 6pm service will continue its 'youth check in' after church – a chance to talk about faith and encourage each other.

New appointments. We offer a hearty thanks to Jennifer Lawson for her excellent service as Sacristan over the past 3 years, and welcome Kim Gibson (8am service) as she steps into this role.

Another area of change this year is in our flower team. Sanya Ritchie has retired after several decades of exceptional service. Barbara Griffiths is now coordinating the Flower Team, with support from Chris Creelman (Easter and Christmas boxes). Please make these new leaders feel welcome and support them as you are able.

AGM and Elections. Our parish AGM and Electoral Meeting will be held on Sunday 22 March. From 11.00am, Alan Wilson (parish archivist) will present some historic photos of the parish and speak briefly about his role as archivist. From 11.30am the meeting itself will begin. We

encourage all parishioners to 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 collections box no later than Sunday 15 March.

New kitchen. We expect work on our new (refurbished) parish kitchen to be completed this month. We are grateful for this much-needed improvement to parish infrastructure and appreciate your flexibility as we manage the temporary inconvenience.

Lenten study. Beginning on Thursday 19 February (7pm, Robertson Room), Rev'd Dave will be leading a Lenten Study on Rowan Williams' book, 'Passions of the Soul' (Bloomsbury, 2024). 15 copies have been ordered for quick purchase—others will need to order their own. Contact rector@stjohnscanberra.org ASAP if interested.

Bible Studies. A future newsletter will update on various parish Bible study groups. For now, note that Bible for Blokes will complete the Sermon on the Mount studies in coming weeks on Tuesdays at 10am in the Upper Room (see 'upcoming events' for details). Following the success of studies on the Sermon on the Mount we will also be starting a Lenten Study on Joy, using studies contributed by various Australian Bishops. With thanks, Canon Kevin.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

9.30 Kids' Church – help us serve! Kids' Church at St John's provides teaching, discipleship, and community to the members of our parish aged between 4 years and 11 years.

It can be easy to see these parishioners as almost separate from those who sit in for the whole 9:30am service. Yet these children are very much members of our parish. Through Kids' Church they are learning how to love Jesus and live their lives as His followers – just as you are during a service. They are learning how to be loving servants in a thriving community – just as you are. They are learning how church "works" even in the short time they sit amongst you each Sunday.

We can never forget that what we do today sows seeds for their earthly future, and their eternal life. They are the ones who will be sitting in the pews after we are long gone, the ones who will be part of the choir after us, or part of the working bees maintaining the grounds, serving morning tea, writing and sharing intercessions. They will pass on the

history of St John's, tend to the churchyard, and maybe, be the Rector! We cannot see what God has planned for these members of our parish, but we can be part of the story of their faith.

Kids' Church is a fun, and rewarding ministry and I would love for you to join our Kids' Church team. You will receive big smiles, excited greetings, hear of amazing triumphs, and get asked profound questions.

We have a growing ministry and are at least 3 people short. If you are hesitant about your "qualifications", please do not let that stop you – we can provide training and support! If you have even a mustard seed of interest, please reach out to me so we can work together to see if it is the right fit. Mary de Lautour, Children and Families Worker.

Worship support. We are seeking a small group who can support our worship preparations in the leadup to Holy Week and Easter. While there are a number of tasks that need to be done, none are particularly onerous – and many hands make light work. Are you able to help? Please let clergy know.

Working Bees. On the first Saturday of each month there is a working bee from 8.30am-10.30am, followed by morning tea. It's a good time of fellowship and it makes a big difference to our site. You may wish to consider becoming a regular.

Chaplaincy training. Sports chaplaincy offers a strategic point of connection with communities of people around us, including many who don't know Jesus. Come along and be trained for a relational model of ministry, learning skills in pastoral care and support. This training is suitable for anyone wanting to make a positive Christian difference in a local community - even if it's not sport! Details about the training here (with a link for the Canberra option towards the bottom of the page): <https://sportschaplaincy.com.au/become-a-chaplain/training-and-accreditation/sports-chaplaincy-training/>

SUMMARY OF UPCOMING EVENTS

(*St John's event)

***Tuesday 3 February: Bible for Blokes.** At 10am in the Upper Room, with Canon Kevin Stone.

***Saturday 7 February: Working Bee.** From 8.30am—10.00am. Two options: (a) help give the inside of the church a thorough clean, or (b) work outside helping to beautify the gardens and grounds. Please bring equipment (e.g. gardening gloves, dusters, rags, hat, suitable footwear, mowers, blowers) and join us for morning tea afterwards at 10am.

***Sunday 8 February: Welcome to 2026.** All are invited to gather for fellowship and refreshments on the lawn at 3.30pm, hosted by Parish Council. Refreshments will be followed by the year's first Choral Evensong at 5pm. New members of our community are especially invited to come and be welcomed into the parish.

***Sunday 8 February: Choral Evensong.** This is the first monthly Evensong for 2026. Join us at 5pm for this brief, reflective service, including hymns and a choral item.

***Tuesday 10 February: Bible for Blokes.** Making the choice of a Lifetime: Matthew 7:21-29. At 10am in the Upper Room, with Canon Kevin Stone.

***Saturday 14 February: Operation Christmas Child.** From 1pm-4pm in the Robertson Room, with Jennifer Lawson.

***Tuesday 17 February: Bible for Blokes.** At 10am in the Upper Room, with Canon Kevin Stone.

***Wednesday 18 February: Ash Wednesday.** Services of Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes will occur at 7.30am, 10am and 7.30pm.

***Saturday 21 February: 'Jazz on the Lawn'.** The whole Canberra community is invited to enjoy quality local jazz bands, wine tasting, and the beautiful St John's grounds from 2pm-7pm. BYO picnic blankets or chairs and food, with gelato and other food available for purchase. No fee – although there will be opportunity for donation.

***Saturday 28 February: Operation Christmas Child.** From 1pm-4pm in the Robertson Room, with Jennifer Lawson.

***Saturday 28 February: Light in the Darkness – Christian hope and end-of-life care.** The parish is hosting this conference to help Christians engage wisely with the new landscape introduced by so-called 'Voluntary Assisted Dying'. Booking details on see page 12.

***Friday 6 March: World Day of Prayer.** The focus of this year's ecumenical prayer gathering is the persecuted church of Nigeria. 6.30pm in the church.

***Sunday 22 March: Parish AGM and Electoral Meeting.** 11am, Alan Wilson (parish archivist) presenting some historic photos. 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.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

In January, eleven parishioners met in the Hall and made 50 little Koalas to be sent to the 2-4 year-old children. They will go with our love and a prayer that their recipients will receive our Lord as well as these small gifts.

Of course these are not the only items the children will be given and on 14 February we will be making a “fishing game” and putting together some other bits and pieces so that on 28 February we can pack the boxes for this age group.

It is our hope that this year we will be able to have all the boxes packed early. Come and join us on these days at 1.00pm. Great fun and an opportunity to help spread the gospel. Jennifer Lawson



Many hands make light work at the Operation Christmas Child January meeting where 50 little koalas were made with love.



ST JOHN'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH
CANBERRA

Welcome to
2026!

Please join us for
refreshments and
fellowship on the lawn

Sunday 8th February
from 3:30pm

**Evensong at 5pm for those
who wish to attend**

Bumpy Road Ahead

G is someone we have walked alongside for some time at St John's Care. Like many people we support, his journey has not been a straight line. Recently, G returned to the Centre during a particularly difficult chapter of his life.

After a period of relapse into old and problematic alcohol and other substance use, G experienced significant harm. During this time, he was assaulted and spent several days in hospital recovering from his injuries. When he came through our doors again, he was seeking something very simple, yet deeply human: food, safety, and someone to talk to.

It was clear that G was experiencing a significant low. He spoke openly about the weight of recent events and the disappointment he felt in himself. Moments like these remind us that recovery is rarely linear, and setbacks do not erase the progress a person has made or the strength they carry.

St John's Care has been able to support G in practical and meaningful ways. We provided basic food assistance to help meet his immediate needs, ensuring he had access to nourishment while he focused on recovery. Alongside this, we supported G to navigate complex health and legal systems following his hospitalisation, helping him understand his options and attend to important appointments and paperwork.

Recognising that G's needs extend beyond what any one service can offer, we have also worked to connect him with specialist services, including referrals to organisations with expertise in alcohol and other drug support, health care, and ongoing recovery. Just as importantly, we have offered time, compassion, and a safe space to talk, something that can make all the difference during moments of deep vulnerability.

There is a long road back for G. It is a road that will undoubtedly include both ups and downs, moments of hope and moments of struggle.

At St John's Care, we remain committed to standing alongside G, offering practical support and human connection as he finds his footing once more. His story is reminder to refrain from judging setbacks, and instead to be present in them, and to hold space for hope even when it feels hard to see.

Kind regards,

Robbie Speldewinde
Operations Manager

Items required: Sweet biscuits, kid's toothbrushes, cooking oil, Shampoo & Conditioner

Back to school items: Backpacks, Lunch boxes, drink bottles

Upcoming services

Sunday 1 February 2026

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Readings: Micah 6.1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1.18-31; Matthew 5.1-12

8.00am: Sung Eucharist

9.30am: Family Eucharist (Kids Church in Recess)

11.15 am: Choral Eucharist (1662 Book of Common Prayer)

6.00pm: stjohns@6 (Praise, Prayer and Proclamation)

Wednesday 4 February 2026

Readings: 1 Corinthians 1.18-31; Matthew 5.1-12

Sunday 8 February 2026

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

*Readings: Isaiah 58.1-12; Psalm 112; 1 Corinthians 2.1-16;
Matthew 5.13-20*

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 February 2026

Readings: 1 Corinthians 2.1-16; Matthew 5.13-20

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

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



Start Up SUNDAY



February 8th 2026

9:30am service



Kids Church and Junior Youth
starting with a splash in 2026!

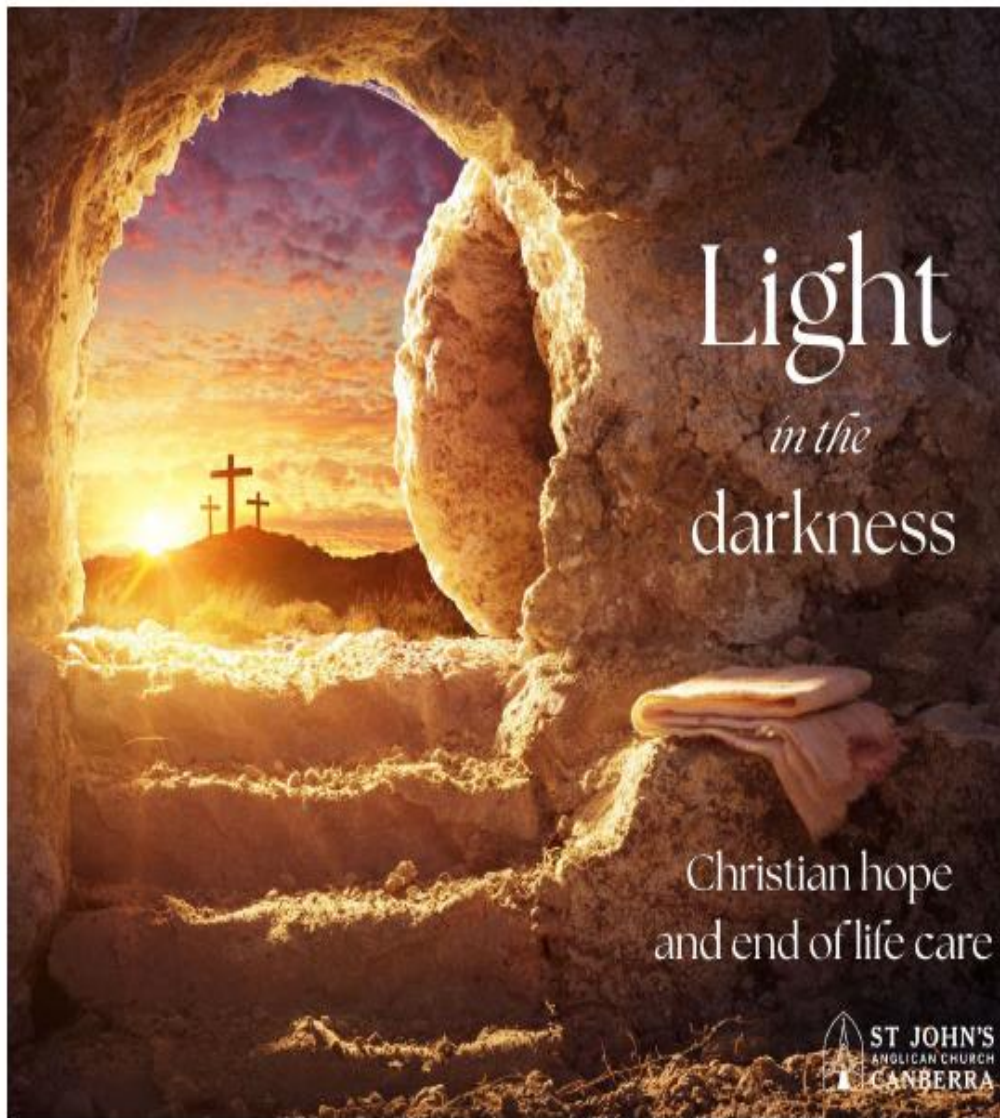
GIANT waterslide ~ BBQ lunch

Water play ~ Ice-cream



FUN!





With 'voluntary assisted dying' (VAD) now implemented in the ACT, there's still room for care shaped by the hope of the resurrection. At this half-day conference, Professor Megan Best, an expert in palliative care, will address the impact of VAD for carers and patients. We will also hear some Christian thinking about suffering and death.

9.30am–3.00pm
Saturday 28th February 2026
St John's Anglican Church Hall
45 Constitution Avenue Reid
parking onsite or in Amaroo Street.



Program details, and bookings essential, at
<https://www.trybooking.com/DHUQY> (or via the QR code).
\$46 per head.