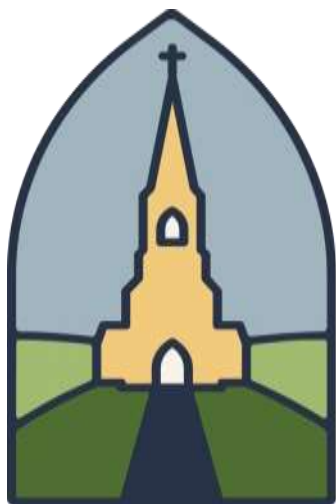




ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH CANBERRA

16 August 2026

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

(This week's service times within)

Thus says the Lord, 'Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.' Isaiah 56.1



Etching by Pietro del Po, *The Canaanite (or Syrophenician) woman asks Christ to cure*, c. 1650

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of freedom,
you have broken the tyranny of sin
and sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts:
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,
that all people may know the glorious liberty of the children of God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Operation Christmas Child Blessing of the Boxes: The Blessing of the Boxes for Operation Christmas Child will take place at the 9.30am Service today.

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 training session to assist your ministry. Rosemary Thwaites (9.30am service) is an experienced voice coach and will offer some helpful tips to help your reading voice enhance this important part of our public worship. The event will be held twice, to maximise opportunities for attendance: Today at 11.15am, and 7pm, Tuesday 25 August (in the Church).

Funeral Service for Canon Geoffrey Sibly: The funeral service for Canon Geoffrey Sibly will be held at St John's on Tuesday 18 August at 10am. All are welcome.

Bible for Blokes: We will have a one week break due to the Clergy Retreat. We will resume on Tuesday 25 August at 10am for Study 12 (Acts 12). Enquiries Canon Kevin Stone.

Youth and Young Adult Bouldering Event. Join us for bouldering, slack lining and table tennis at Blochaus, Mitchell on Saturday 22 August at 10:00am. Please RSVP to Jess Priest (Jess.evans31169@gmail.com or 0404 703 847).

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. 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)

***Sunday 16 August: Public reading & intercessions training (option 1).** Today, voice training for our public readers and intercessors. At 11.15am, (in the Church).

***Tuesday 18 August: Funeral service for Canon Geoffrey Sibly.** 10am in the Church. All are welcome.

***Thursday 20 August: Bootcamp—How do I know how to live?** 7–9pm in the Robertson Room.

***Saturday 22 August: Youth and Young Adult Bouldering Event.** At Blochaus, Mitchell at 10:00am. Please RSVP to Jess Priest (Jess.evans31169@gmail.com or 0404703847).

Saturday 22 August: Church Missionary Society - Mission in the Spotlight Dinner. 5.00pm-8.40pm at St Matthew's Anglican Church, Wanniasa. Enquiries Canon Kevin Stone, 0450 676 864.

***Monday 24 August: Cuppacomalong.** All welcome for fellowship and afternoon tea. 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 (option 2).** 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 6 September: Rev'd Mark Wormell guest Preacher at today's Church services.** Focus on dementia.

***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 the Robertson Room with an afternoon tea followed by a traditional Evensong at 5pm.

***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 as 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.

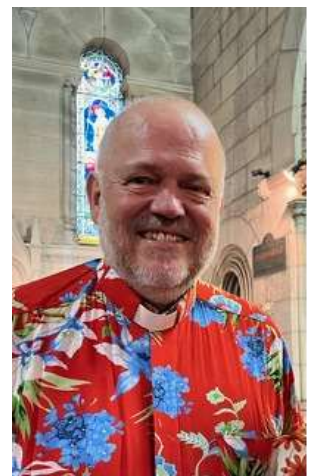
Saturday 5 September 4pm—6pm Robertson Room:

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 today, 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.



CHURCH CENTER & PARISH DIRECTORY

You may have heard by now about Church Center, the app and website we're using to assist communication at St John's.

We recognise that not everyone loves phones and apps and technology, or wants to sign up in this way. **That's completely OK.** The information below is for those who'll find it useful.

If you've not signed up yet and would like to, download the 'Church Center' app (note the U.S. spelling!), search for 'St John the Baptist Anglican Church', and give it a go. Or, email admin@stjohnscanberra.org for a short PDF on how to proceed.

We're rolling out two new functions in Church Center that will enable us to contact each other: the **Directory**, and **Groups**.

The Directory: what you need to know. If the following seems a little cumbersome, that's because we're ensuring the security of your details, your control over your details, and your decisions about to whom you'll respond.

- A 'Directory' icon now appears at the bottom of the Church Center app. *(You can also access it on a computer through the web. But we'll focus here on the app.)*
- You'll only appear in the Directory if you are enrolled in Church Center **and then ask to join** the Directory (see below).
- If you join, others will be able to contact you, but **via email only**. Your email address is initially hidden from them.
- In the Directory, you click on 'Contact [person's name]'. You write a note in the app, which then goes to their email inbox. They'll then respond to you (or not) **via email (not via the app.)**
- When you *receive* a contact in this way, it's up to you whether to reply to their email. (If you're not sure who someone is, you can always check with church staff before replying.)

- We strongly suggest you'd **only** share a phone number, or anything else, **with someone you know**.
- You cannot be contacted via the Directory if you've not entered an email address into Church Center. It relies on email addresses.
- Phone numbers and email addresses **will never appear** in the Directory.

To join the Directory, after you've enrolled in Church Center (see above), you need to do **three things**:

1. Email Jane at admin@stjohnscanberra.org, and ask for an 'invitation' to join.
2. You'll receive an email from 'St John the Baptist Anglican Church <no-reply@churchcenter.com>' (check your spam folder!). In that email, click 'Yes, share my information'.
3. In the app, go to your 'information and settings', then to 'Directory Listing'. Select 'Allow others to contact me', and hit 'Update'. (You might also like to share your photo, as an aid to us getting to know one another.)

That's it. You should then be able to contact others, and be contacted.

Groups. Groups are a powerful function allowing smaller groups within St John's to communicate with each other—this time, *through* the app (and so reducing endless emails).

It will also enable you to share resources, advertise meeting details, and do some other things.

If your small group (e.g. a Bible study group; volunteer workers' group; music team; catering team, etc.) would like access to that function, let Rev'd Andrew know, or email admin@stjohnscanberra.org.

There'll be some policies you'll need to know and observe. But this aspect of Church Center will be very useful.

Of course, you need to be enrolled in Church Center to use the Groups function. However, you can be in a group *without* also being in the Directory.

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	

First a Refuge

I often find myself asking questions like, 'Why am I here?', 'What am I doing?' and 'Why am I doing it?' Questions that get to the big issues of life. (Is this a sign of wisdom, or am I just a glutton for punishment?) To say I'm an overthinker might be an understatement, and those closest to me would probably agree. As with most 'weaknesses', there usually comes a corresponding 'strength'. Sometimes these questions need to be asked, and when they are, the process can help us refocus and re-energise as we rediscover why we are here and why we do what we do.

And while I think there will always be a bit of fluidity to the answers, there are also some things that don't change... fixed points that we need to bring our often fickle selves back into line with. Ever since starting here at SJC, I have been wrestling with these big questions; not least around my role as a chaplain, but also regarding the very heart of St John's Care itself. Why does St John's Care exist? What is at the core of our very being as an organisation?

A slight caveat before progressing: what follows are *my* thoughts on this, and they may not represent the thoughts of everyone else involved here at SJC. Further, I don't pretend that this is the last word on the matter. But here is my start in answering the question: what is St John's Care, and why does it exist?

I reckon St John's Care is *first, a refuge*. A refuge from hunger... a refuge from the cold... a refuge from isolation and loneliness... a refuge from judgement... a refuge from having no one to talk to... a refuge from having no one who cares. This won't come as a surprise to many, because after all, it was Jesus himself who said, "*Come unto me all you who are weary and heavy laden... and I will give you rest [refuge?]*" Of course, questions remain, and more needs to be said. What else might we need refuge from? And after we've received refuge, then what? But more on that later.

First, we are a refuge. And that is good.

Thank you for partnering with us and enabling us to be a refuge for many.

Grace and peace.

Nathan
Community Chaplain

Items required: Powdered milk, small packets of sultanas, tomato sauce 500ml

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 — 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.

Upcoming services

Sunday 16 August 2026

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Genesis 45.1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 11.13-32; Matthew 15. 21-28

8.00am: Sung Eucharist

9.30am: Family Eucharist (Kid's Church & Youth Group)

6.00pm: stjohns@6 (Holy Communion)

Wednesday 19 August 2026

Readings: Genesis 45.1-15; Matthew 15. 21-28

10.00am: Eucharist (1662 Book of Common Prayer)

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: stjohns@6 (Praise, Prayer and Proclamation)

Wednesday 26 August 2026

Readings: Exodus 1.8-2.10; OR, Romans 12.1-8; Matthew 16.13-20

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