



September 2023

St John's news

A news publication from the
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The Eagle of Saint John. But what is it meant to represent?
See page 2 for the explanation.

The Eagle of St. John



*Carolingian ivory plaque with the eagle of Saint John, showing the customary halo,
Victoria & Albert Museum*

The **Eagle of Saint John** (Spanish: *Águila de San Juan*) is a heraldic eagle associated mostly with the Catholic Monarchs which was later used during Francoist Spain (1939–77) and the Spanish transition to democracy (1977–81). It is sable with an or halo and feet of gules.

John the Evangelist, the author of the fourth gospel account, is symbolised by an eagle, often with a halo, an animal may have originally been seen as the king of the birds. The eagle is a figure of the sky and believed by Christian scholars to be able to look straight into the sun.

The better known heraldic use of the Eagle of St. John has been the single supporter chosen by Queen Isabella of Castile in her armorial achievement used as heiress and later integrated into the heraldry of the Catholic Monarchs. This election alludes to the queen's great devotion to the evangelist that predated her accession to the throne. There is a magnificent tapestry with the armorial achievement of the Catholic Monarchs in the Throne Room of the Alcazar of Segovia.

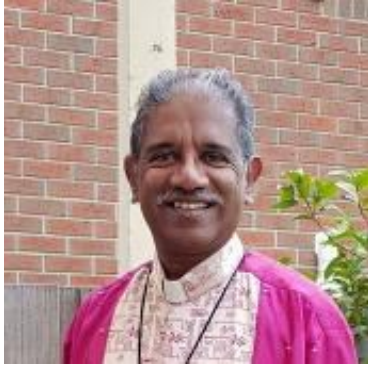
The Eagle of St. John was placed on the side of the shields used as English consort by Catherine of Aragon, daughter of the Catholic Monarchs, Mary I and King Philip as English monarchs. In Spain, Philip barely bore the Eagle of St John in his armorial achievements.

The Eagle of the Evangelist was recovered as single supporter holding in 1939, 1945 and 1977 official models of the armorial achievement of Spain and it was removed in 1981 when the current coat of arms was adopted. The use of the eagle of St. John was exploited by the Spanish dictator Francisco Franco, who used it as a symbol of his regime.

Prominent examples of the use of St. John's Eagle in heraldry across the world include the heraldry or emblems of: Valparaíso City (Chile); Boyacá Department (Colombia); Catholic Archdiocese of Besançon (France); Mellersdorf-Pfaffenberg (Germany); Lima City (Peru); Kisielice, Kwidzyn District and county, Oleśnica Town and county (Poland); Gata and the 29th Infantry Regiment "Isabel la Católica" (Spain); Lääne county, Haapsalu town and Kuressaare town (Estonia); and the St. John's College (University of Sydney, Australia).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eagle_of_Saint_John.

From the Vicar



Welcome to this Spring edition of St John's News (September 2023).

It is remarkable that we have reached the final quarter of

2023. As you can see below, Christmas is just 'around the corner' and soon it will be time to think about our new year's resolutions. Before considering our personal new resolutions for 2024, it would be wise to reflect on the resolutions that we had put together for 2023 and ask ourselves, "Have we achieved them, and if not, why?"

In November, we will be having the parish Stewardship Campaign. I believe that the 2023 Stewardship Campaign is the first after a long time (due to Covid). But even before that, it would be wise to think about how we use our talents, time and treasure in St John's.

For our reflection, useful articles on Stewardship have been provided in this and previous editions of St John's News. Please take the time to read them again so as to be better stewards of the talents, time and treasure, which God has graciously granted to all of us. Obviously, if we search earnestly, there are numerous things that we can do

(irrespective of our age). This is particularly relevant for us as we have embarked on the "Leading your Church into Growth" programme.

September marks the end of the church's financial year. The wardens, parish council and I, have already started the process to prepare and compile the annual reports for the parish annual meeting scheduled for 26 November (Christ the King Sunday, the end of the church liturgical year).

As part of the process leading to the parish annual meeting, the electoral roll will be reviewed. If you are regular in attending church at St John's, and you are not on the parish electoral roll yet, perhaps this is another matter for you to consider. The Treasurer will soon be busy finalising the annual financial statements for audit and begin the process to formulate the budget for the next financial year.

I have suggested several matters for us to consider as we enter the final quarter of 2023 and approach 2024.

Has the Holy Spirit been gently nudging you that there is more you could be doing here?

May God, revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, grant us the wisdom and guide us all through this final quarter of 2023 & always.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Santa 😊

Christmas in St John's

03 December 4PM-6PM - Messy Church Christmas

17 December 7PM – Carols service

24 December – 10AM – Combined family service (Advent 4)

24 December – 11PM – Christmas Eve family service with carols

25 December – 10AM – Christmas Day family service with carols

Please look-out for further details in the weekly pew sheet.



Leading your Church
into Growth



Anglican Parish of St John's, Bentleigh

Vision: To be a centre of God's
love and hope!

Mission: Love God,
love people,
grow disciples of Chris!

A message from the Leading your Church into Growth (LyCiG) team (Anglican Diocese of Melbourne)

At the end of our LyCiG Melbourne 2023 conference many of the participants committed to bring LyCiG to our Parish Councils and communities. To assist in this commitment, LyCiG local will run several training sessions in 2023.

The days and times of the remaining training sessions are listed below.

Topic: Leading Your Church into Growth with Canon John Sanderson

Time: 7PM, every month on the Third Wednesday (1 to 2 hours each).

For future dates, please see below

October 18, 2023 - "making a pathway for seekers to become disciples"

November 15, 2023 - "begin a planned journey of growth"

The sessions listed above will be held in St John's Church. Together with the Parish Council, all parishioners are *strongly encouraged*) to attend, participate and learn about LyCiG. By the grace of God, this will empower every parishioner to be actively involved in growing St John's and to work together as a team for God's glory.

"God of Mission, who alone brings growth to your Church, send your Holy Spirit to give Vision to our planning, Wisdom to our actions, Joy to our worship & Power to our witness. Help our church of St John's to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you, and in service to our local community, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

(LyCiG image from: <https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/resource/leading-your-church-into-growth/>)

An inner city church, located in an area of downtown where there were few residents, was forced to a decision. A large corporation was offering them a great deal of money for their site on which the corporation wanted to put a parking lot. The money would enable the church to move to another part of the inner city where they would find many more people to serve.

Even though this was exciting to some of the congregation, other members were resistant to the idea. They pointed out that the church was the guardian of a building whose history and architecture reached back into the early part of the nineteenth century. Denominational history had been made in that building, and some of the grand figures of the church had passed its portals.

Eventually the congregation decided to sell the site and make the move to a new building in a teeming inner-city neighbourhood. The pastor who was with this congregation through all this upheaval said, "We had to decide whether we wanted to be in a museum or in mission." They couldn't have it both ways. It meant either staying on their site, glorying in their past history and serving a few people, or giving up their past and gearing themselves to a significant ministry among the city's people. They opted for mission status over museum status.

(from If Only... by Wallace H. Kirby, as cited in www.preaching.com/sermon-illustrations/illustration-on-mission/)

Stewardship reminder!

The Door has been opened:

Excerpt of a report on St. John's Stewardship Programme 1974 prepared by T. Clayfield, Chairman, St John's Stewardship Programme.

During the recent Stewardship Programme, the doorbell has been rung at many a home in the Parish. And as a result, the door has been opened to a caller from St. John's.

Almost without exception the welcome has been friendly resulting in many offers of time, talents and treasures to assist with God's work at St. John's and beyond.

In the last issue of 'The Church Mouse', we outlined details of the brief, but intensive schedule planned by Church Advisory Services Pty. Ltd. At that time few, if any, were looking forward to the task ahead. In this issue we can report most optimistically that, under God's guidance, St. John's of Bentleigh is beginning to come alive once again!

One wonderful aspect of the visitation programme just completed was the invitation extended around the Parish for a **Stewardship of Service**. A brochure setting out 30 Church activities – from Vestry membership to the visitation of shut-ins was produced, and copies were presented to, and discussed with, most families called upon. As a result, promises of offers of **TIME** and **TALENTS** are more plentiful than they have been for many a day.

For example, no less than 8 men have indicated that they are interested in nominating for future Vestry duty; 4 people have offered to help with the Sunday School; and 14 others have offered their particular skills to assist with church maintenance.

Many have said that they intend joining an organisation associated with St. John's.

On the financial side (**Stewardship of Treasure**) the programme has been equally successful with worthwhile promises (over a 2-year period). The weekly average from 213 pledges = \$436. (Average pledge = \$2.00) It is significant to note that prior to this programme the average pledge was \$1.67 from 202 contributors. On paper, the results of the visitation programme look particularly healthy.

What we all have to do now is to help each other retain our enthusiasm. In other words, the door has been opened, but we now need to keep it open for greater achievements in friendliness and fellowship, increased participation in Church activities and the greater use of our individual time and talents.

The Church is the people, not the building, and the key word for the benefit of all in the Parish of St. John's is **Participation**. We have completed the mechanics of making the initial call on interested Anglican families in the Parish – now let us really start our programme to revitalise the membership of St John's family Church.

From: The Church Mouse. Oct./Nov. 1974, p3.

Postscript September 2023:

As the parish of St John's Bentleigh prepares for the annual stewardship campaign in November 2023 (just before the new church year begins on Advent Sunday), may we all be as supportive like those in the 1970s, and engage enthusiastically for the glory of God, revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



So that explains it...

On the first day God created the cow. God said, “You must stay in the paddock all day long, have calves and give milk to support the farmer. I will give you a life span of 60 years.” The cow said, “That’s a tough kind of life for 60 years. Let me have 20 and I’ll give back the other 40.” And God agreed.

On the second day God created the dog. God said, “Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past, I will give you a life span of 20 years.” The dog said, “That’s too long to be barking. Give me 10 years and I will give you back the other ten.” So, God agreed.

On the third day God created the monkey. God said, “Entertain the people, do monkey tricks, make them laugh. I’ll give you 20 years life span.” The monkey said, “How boring, doing monkey tricks for 20 years. Dog gave you back 10 years, so that’s what I’ll do too.” God agreed.

On the fourth day, God created man. God said, “Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy life. I’ll give you 20 years.” Man said, “What?? Only 20 years?? I tell you what, I’ll take my 20 and the 40 the cow gave back and the 10 the dog and the monkey gave back, that makes 80, okay?” God agreed.

So that is why in the first 20 years we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next 40 years we work to support our families. For the next 10 years we do monkey tricks to entertain our grandchildren, and for the last 10 years we sit on the verandah and bark at everyone. 😊😊

from: [Interlink – UCAF Queensland Magazine, Aug/Sept. 2004](#)

A face from the past

On the fifth Sunday of the month I was at the 9am service at St David’s, Moorabbin. Paul Samuel who was a resident curate here many moons ago was there with his wife, Sue. Since COVID they have not been able to attend services, but have remained in touch via zoom and YouTube etc. They send greetings to those who knew them.

Jean Phibbs Aug. 2023

A blast from the past! Pt. 1

The Mystery of Suffering

We see within us and about us in the world the frightening and ubiquitous presence of suffering and of death. Such has always been the situation of man. Left to his own resources, man finds it impossible to fathom the meaning of this mystery. Only the Christian faith provides man with the key to understanding it, and thus only the Christian faith can save him from despair. Peace, however, lies at the end of a long and difficult road. The man who knows suffering in his life ought not to be surprised that he feels much closer to cursing God than to praising Him. However, he should at the same time believe with all his strength that Jesus Christ will help him one day, not only to understand the meaning of suffering, but also to accept his own personal suffering. In this way he will make suffering serve not only the interests of his own salvation but that of the whole world.

Why is the rose inseparable from thorns? Why does the sea savagely devastate miles of coast? Why does radioactivity set free by man have to destroy the lives of other men? Why does man's body corrupt? Why is the heart of man beset by suffering as his body? What lies behind man's inhumanity to man? Why is suffering the constant companion of man in his journey through life?

If your car's not working properly, you naturally conclude that something is wrong with the engine. An engine is built according to a specified design, and if you put extraneous parts into it, you will either decrease its efficiency or stop it altogether. Man, through sin, introduced disorder into the plan of the Father, and together with it he introduced both suffering and death. Through a loving obedience, the fruit of God's grace, man before sin lived a life of order and balance, experiencing no conflict within himself, in his relations with others, or with the world about him. Through egoism and pride man is separated from God and condemned to conflict within himself, with others, and with his world. The marriage between the two brings with it struggle, suffering, and death. It is not doom of man. *'For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is life everlasting in Christ Jesus our Lord'*.

Could God not have prevented man from sinning? Certainly, by taking away his freedom. Does a teacher show his love for his students by giving them the answers to their problems, for fear they'll make a mistake? Does a mother show her love for her baby by refusing to teach him to walk, for fear he'll fall? Does a father show his love for his son by forbidding him to go out, for fear he'll get into trouble? Would God have shown his love for man by taking away the possibility of a life of love freely chosen? When you love you don't take away the other's freedom so as to avoid his falling into evil, but rather you are willing to run the risk of error, or failure, of suffering. It is because God loves us that He has run the risk of our sinning.

You can often follow the unfortunate consequences of your sin: your pride wounds the other, your egoism deprives him of something he wants or needs, your passions exploit and degrade the other. Alcoholism and debauchery cause innumerable physical and moral sufferings whose repercussions are impossible to delineate with any certainty. The culpable negligence of the upper classes and the wealthy nations, their egoism and racism are the cause of slums, hunger, sickness, misery, illiteracy....

You don't complain about being healthy even though you owe your health to others (your

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

parents, those who grew your food, those who processed it, etc.). You don't complain about being educated even though much of your knowledge came from others (teachers, authors, etc.). Why do you complain then about sufferings which you didn't 'merit'?

If you accept the solidarity of the human family, you must accept it for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer. You are an integral part of the whole human family and of the whole cosmos, and you are continually coming under the influence of both. You are strictly dependent on the whole for your personal development, and yet at the same time you have a role to play in the life of the whole. Within the context of this total unity the most significant event affects the furthest limits of the whole creation. When you sin, it is often impossible for you to precisely determine the consequences of your action in terms of the world's burden of pain. In the same way, when you suffer both mentally and physically, when disaster strikes the world in the form of floods, famines, wars, etc., it is impossible for you to pinpoint the origin of the disorder. Be willing to accept the mysterious solidarity of men and matter, but always keep in mind the fact that for every sin which appears in the world, somewhere a new suffering also makes its presence felt.

Could God possibly find pleasure in man's sin which is fundamentally a failure to love? How then could he possibly find pleasure in the suffering which is the inevitable consequence of sin? Since suffering reveals a profound disorder in the Father's plan of love, you should never merely resign yourself to suffering; hygiene, proper diet, medicine, scientific progress of every kind; the suffering of the human family; justice and peace as international goals for all men; the suffering of the human heart; education, love...; suffering resulting from the rebellious forces of nature; scientific research, technology, work. When, out of love for others, you enlist in the struggle against suffering, you can be sure that you are entering into the plan of God. If you would be truly efficacious in this regard, lay the axe to the root – destroy sin. But this process of uprooting is never complete. Suffering remains a fact of our existence and will continue to do so. Will you find a way of using it to your own advantage or will it lead you into the murky night of despair?

Modern man makes increasingly extensive use of by-products; even harmful waste products are now utilised for the good of the human family. Of the origin of suffering, it also illumines the mystery of its utilization for the salvation of the world. Do you want to make suffering, the 'by-product' of sins, serve the interests of man's salvation?

Ask Jesus Christ to show you how He made of suffering, by the power of His love, the raw material of redemption.

Suffering is neither the will nor the work of God but the work of man. Man, through his sin, has wedded himself to suffering; an intolerable marriage, had Jesus Christ not come to redeem suffering from its meaninglessness. Erected in the midst of the world by man's revolt, a huge cross overshadows not only the whole of humanity but the whole of the cosmos as well. However, the love of Jesus Christ for his Father and for all men has made of this cross the way that leads to resurrection.

M. Quoist, [The Church Mouse](#), Dec.74/Jan.75, p3-4.

There are many men who lost their faith in God
because they first lost their faith in man; and
there are others who regained faith in God because
they first met a good man who took the bitterness
out of their hearts. - *Faulhaber*

The last word

A story which has been related many times in this parish is how the previous Vicar's daughter, when a toddler, took herself up to the Sanctuary during the sermon and knocked over a vase of flowers creating a great mess and a lot of noise. It's been repeated with amusement, absolute horror, or with a slight note of warning depending on the person relating it. It all raises the contentious issue of children in church – should they be there or not?

One person to consider this is the Vicar. Most Vicars think the church is where children ought to be, but some find them most distracting.

Then there's the congregation. Since congregations consist largely of parents, they are usually very tolerant. And a word to members of congregations – if you are distracted by a child imagine what his/her mother is going through, and if she didn't come with the child, she probably wouldn't come at all.

What about you, the parents? Some parents believe quite firmly that children ought to go to church from an early age, others think it's a place for them only when they can start to appreciate what is happening. Can you worship with your children or are you constantly on edge at their every movement and totally distracted by them.

Of course a lot depends on the child himself. Some children are perfectly content to sit and watch and play with a favourite toy or read a book. Others fidget, yell and grumble through it all and launch into excursions around the church.



Some opponents of children in church have said that their childhood impressions of church created quite a barrier to their understanding of the Christian faith as adults. As a child they found church gloomy, joyless, and utterly incomprehensible, like the small boy who said to his mother halfway through his first service, "Mummy, are you sure this is the only way to get to heaven?"

There is no right answer – we each have to sort this out to our own satisfaction, considering all the people involved.

ADDENDUM: Many at St. John's have shared the experience described here. We do however have one advantage over many other parish churches. The service is amplified to the Narthex where parents can sit with children and still take a full part in the service.

The Church Mouse, Oct./Nov. 1974, p4; Image: <https://childrensministryleader.com/what-is-childrens-ministry/>

Postscript September 2023:

In an era where the number of young people (including their families) regularly attending St John's has reduced considerably, how could we re-imagine ministry to young people and their families? If you are passionate about this and wish to invest your talents to grow young people ministries, please speak to the Vicar without delay. ChildSafe protocols will apply. 😊

News from 'Kids Hope'

We have [Mentor Hour Resources](#) galore with lots of fun wintery-themed ideas. Don't forget our '[Getting Started](#)' printouts handy for getting to know a new child if you're just starting out.



Snow Foam Slime



Snowy Tree Science



Fathers Day Card



Footie Sugar Cookies



Pay It Forward Day Wands



Snowball Cookies



Whilst we know that mentoring can be such a rewarding experience for many, we also want to acknowledge that for various reasons, sometimes it's not always easy.



The very nature of helping vulnerable children can sometimes mean they don't always positively respond to your mentoring. Well at least not on the outside. If this is your situation at present, we want to encourage you - **do not give up!**

We recently had a call from a new donor who told us she donated because her son was mentored in primary school. She was so grateful for the mentoring as it had helped him get through a really tough time. She said if it wasn't for the mentoring, he wouldn't be where he is now... thriving in Year 12! When we heard her story, we immediately rang his mentor to encourage him (who is still faithfully mentoring today!). He was so surprised as he recalled actually wondering if he had even made a difference as the boy didn't seem to need him. Nonetheless, he was so encouraged by the good news!

It can take time and sometimes you may never really know the difference you are making. But please be reassured that what you are doing truly matters. We keep hearing more and more stories every day of transformational change. Sometimes it seems to be almost overnight, other times.... it takes time.

If you're finding things a bit tough, please reach out to your Coordinator or Pastor for support. We also have a [Wellbeing](#) section on our website with some excellent articles and guides to help keep your wellbeing in check as you care for struggling kids.

So from the bottom of our hearts, thank you... and keep going!

(another) baptism at St. John's

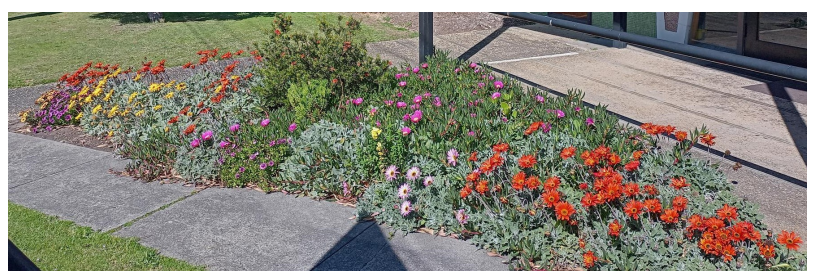


Sunday August 27th saw another baptism at St John's—this time for little Jennifer Lisa Roberts. The service was followed by a small family gathering in the Pickford Hall. From left are Vicar Santa, Max Cameron (Godparent), mother Elizabeth, father Alex with Jennifer, Kirsteen Roberts (with her young son) and St John's Lay Minister Terry Nisbet



Spring is here at St John's and the burst of colour is always a pleasing sight!

Photos by: Anthony Lyons



Tutoring at St. John's

Tutoring in math and science has been growing in 2023, and numbers now average 10-12 students. Students vary from upper primary to years 7-12. They bring their laptops, Ipads, textbooks and homework, and we also have other work to extend them. Currently there are 2 regular retired teachers supervising, but more help would be great. We now use all available trestles and tables, and if numbers continue to grow, we'll need more trestles! The Narthex is a great space, warm in winter and cool in summer.
Roger McGrail (Aug. 2023)



New Memorial Cabinets

Thanks to the expertise of Ray Brewin's carpentry skills, the chapel now has been graced with the installation of two new Memorial Cabinets. The original Memorial Cabinet which was located behind the lectern, was just a laminated box which had become very tired-looking. Peter Saba stained the Memorial Cabinets to match the surrounding timber work.



Ray Brewin at work



The overall view of the chapel after the new memorial cabinets were installed

Photos: Anthony Lyons

Our locum musicians

Since the departure of our regular parish musician, the Revd Alex Scutt last year, we have been fortunate enough to have the assistance of local and very talented organists. In the last issue we introduced Allan Clarke and Simon Sheridan. In part 2 we introduce Geoff Cousins and Ian Keenan. 😊

Geoff Cousins. Born in London, Geoff was exposed to music from an early age as both his father and grandfather were talented amateur musicians, with Geoff's father playing in a band at Harrods, London. At school, he was fortunate enough to be educated by an up-and-coming young Director of Music, who established an active music culture. The school chapel had a lovely organ and Geoff was drawn to the music it created and was inspired to pursue this as a career. As well as at school, he had been inspired to learn the organ when he heard a recording of a Bach toccata being played on the Notre Dame organ in Paris.



Geoff was thrilled to be assigned to the organist at St Paul's cathedral in London for his organ tutoring when he commenced his tertiary studies at Trinity College of Music. It was with this tutor that he obtained a Royal College of Organists diploma. It opened so many opportunities to accompany, perform and experience great musical events as his teacher was also organist of St. James' Palace and had played for Queen Elizabeth's Coronation.

After a few years at his first appointment at an independent boarding school in East Anglia (U.K.), Geoff. was appointed Director of Music. From this, his teaching career developed and he held several Director/Head of Music appointments in independent schools in the U.K. From there to Jersey, Channel Islands, where he met his Australian wife who was in a parallel career.

After 5 years in the Channel Islands, they took up appointments in Melbourne where Geoff held the title of Director of Music at multiple independent schools, most recently as Head of Music at Caulfield Grammar, Wheelers Hill campus, where after 20 years, he retired.

Although not having played for many years, Geoff continues to enjoy music, attending many organ recitals and MSO performances.

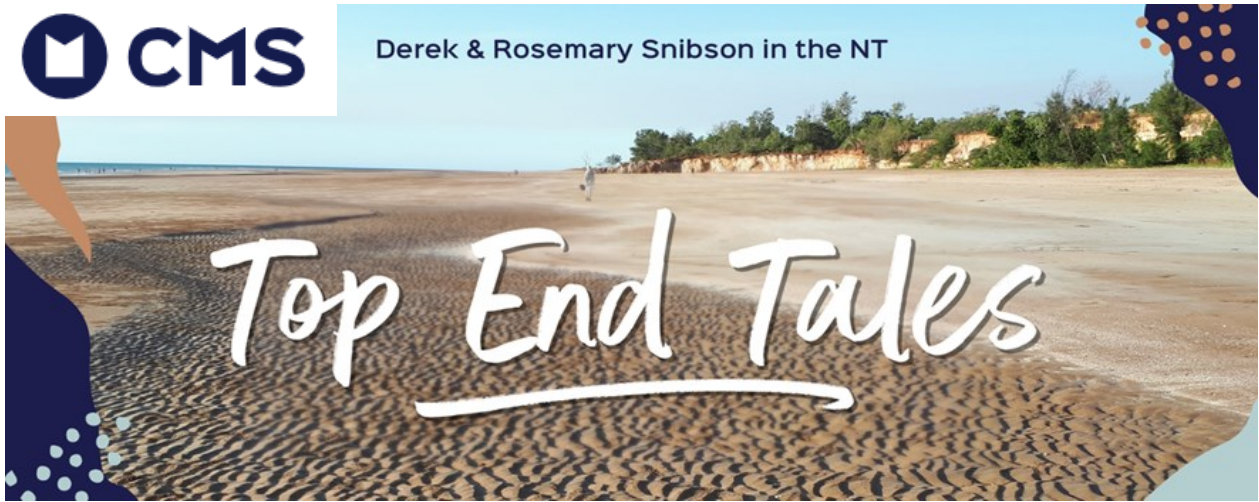
Ian Keenan. I retired from work 10 years ago, and have worked for the PMG, then Telcom and Telstra through their many name changes. My working career covered 43 years. Over that period I was involved earlier with telephone switching and later broadcasting systems progressing to analogue and digital mobile phone maintenance engineering. My interest in music started at an early age when I commenced piano lessons with the nuns at the Presentation Convent. I had also been singing in church choirs.

Upon starting work I was able to support organ tuition and further my interest in that direction. I had some very good teachers over that period and am indebted to them for their patience!!

Over the years I have been director of music at several parishes in Melbourne. I am currently organist at St Joseph – Chelsea and accompany the Saturday night vigil mass choir. We are lucky as we have two organists so there is some flexibility. Sunday mornings are occasionally free so I do locum roles at various parishes. Something I enjoy doing, meeting people throughout the diocese.



The Anglican Parish of St John's Bentleigh is seeking to appoint a parish musician. If you're interested in exploring using your musical gifts to serve God in the Anglican Parish of St John's Bentleigh, and to obtain a copy of the position description, please contact the parish office on 03 9557 2226 or email: bentleighanglican@bigpond.com.



*Supporting and Equipping
Aboriginal Christians and Leaders in Darwin (August 2023)*

A time of Hospitality in the Dry

Welcoming old friends:

Greetings to you our family and friends.

One aspect of the Dry Season is welcoming friends to the Top End, wanting to escape the chills of the South. Derek and I counted up to six couples or singles whom we have met or stayed with us over the past month. Some have been people whom we have known for up to fifty years, others are new friends who have come from remote areas for various reasons such as hospital visits or needing to do business in town. The kitchen has been in over-drive!

In sharing with the people coming through, we realize that our God has provided his people to encourage us in thanksgiving for all that He has done in all our lives and in the work of the Kingdom across Australia. This mutual fellowship must make our Father happy.

Of course, there are difficult and challenging things in each of our circumstances, but we are keenly aware that His Spirit is working to change and form us into Jesus' likeness.



Clericon: four days at Riyala (above)

It was good to have fellowship with people from different parts of the Territory at Clericon in early July. We focused on Marks' Gospel 8-10, led by Malcolm Richards. During the time there, I felt that I was learning more about an Indigenous world view that impacted on how we read the Bible. We 'white fellas' have so much to learn about the world view of our leaders and Christian brothers and sisters and how they read scripture in the light of their cultures.



Young people built 2 humpies and Greg Anderson was used to test how water proof they were!



All ages in fellowship and some fun games. How many marshmallows can you stick on your face?



Bagot Church continues on with some changes. Pastor Jerry has stepped down and another person- Trevor and his wife are leading. In this photo, our friend Mandy is helping the children with an action song.

Please ...Give thanks with us for:

- A successful **Clergy Conference** with families attending, held at Riyala campsite last week. 70 people attended, and a minority came from the Roper, Numbulwar, Kunbalanja and Groote Eylandt.
- Connections with **new people** from the work at the **Drug Rehabilitation Bible Study** and for their enthusiasm to attend church.
- The **cooking activity** Rosemary has been running at Anglicare Transitional Housing and is now finished. It has opened doors to meeting new people who have moved into Garaworra.

...Pray with us for:

- The on-going ministry at the **Prison**. We have had quite a few lockdowns at the jail for various reasons which has meant that both Derek and Rosemary have been unable to get in for regular weekly Bible Studies there.
- So many seriously **sick people** in Royal Darwin Hospital where we visit. Please pray for **four men** from one family who were admitted with injuries from a fight at Groote Eylandt. Please pray for these young men that they look to the Lord to speak to them about repentance, hope and forgiveness.
- Against the forces of darkness at work in many lives that stop them seeing the **light of Jesus**.

Food Security Champion for refugees

St John's is proud to become a Food Security Champion for refugees by partnering with the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC).

ASRC feeds more than 1,600 people each fortnight. Most are families living with no income, right to work or access to health care. Each month we will collect one foodbank item that is in high demand and our donations taken to the ASRC in Dandenong.

For the month of August we will collect dishwashing liquid. Please keep this much needed item in mind when you do your weekly shop and bring them to the donation box in the narthex for distribution.

Donations for the remainder of 2023 are,

September—peanut butter; *October*—canned chickpeas; *November*—breakfast items; *December*—laundry liquid.

For further information please speak with Beatrice McDonald who will coordinate the project over the year. Thank you! **Beatrice McDonald**



**FROM THE
PARISH ARCHIVES**

**Can anyone make a guess where the
Revd. David Chambers is standing?**



*Pic: Casuarina Beach Darwin...
... a renewing journey on a pathway with many textures and adventures..
**Supporting and Equipping
Aboriginal Christians and Leaders in Darwin** (September 2023)*

Joy in celebrating growth and new beginnings amidst grief.

Nungalinya College students serve and celebrate.

There was a buzz of excitement as twelve students met in the Chaplains' rooms to learn and plan for the week's training and visitation at Royal Darwin Hospital.

The new Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care Course was offered to some mature leaders from various communities across the Northern Territory. They were rearing to go!

After doing some theory at College, they spent three days 'Practicum' along with the us and the full-time chaplains, doing visitation of patients. They learnt about the Cowdy Ward (Mental Health), from the Palliative Care Chaplain and from visiting the Mortuary.

Permission was granted for the group presentations in public areas.

They visited and held a mini-service at the Rehab Ward in the Palmerston Hospital. On another day, as patients, visitors or staff walked through the foyer of Darwin Hospital, they heard a guitar and songs, as well as music from a boom box, with students praising the Lord in various languages. Some by-standers even stopped and joined in the singing in their own language or the actions. Some people came up to the group for ministry in their respective languages. We wondered if Christian students could ever get to do that in the foyer of other major metropolitan hospitals!



Singing and ministry in Darwin Hospital Foyer



Happy Chaplaincy Graduates

Top end Tales Sept 2023 (cont'd)

We saw the powerful impact when local languages were used with the small visiting groups who met and prayed with patients. They could go much further than any of us 'white fellas' could in perceiving needs and knowing 'the story.'

This course has started to equip students to work in areas like health, education and disability services and in private homes in their communities.

At the end of the week, we attended the graduation of these students at Nungalinya College. One of them is Miriam, who has been visiting with us at the Hospital for over two years. She is now thinking about how she can use what she has learnt in her own community of Urapunga, such as being a chaplain at the Primary School.

The weight of their ministry calling hit home at once for two, including Miriam. Late on the night of their graduation day, we were called back to the hospital to support a couple stunned with grief. For weeks we had been visiting this family with their prematurely born son (26 wks).

We are close to the mother's family, and the two students we took were related to them. That night the baby tragically died. Together we sat, cried and prayed in the garden behind the hospital late into the night.

Nungalinya College Celebrates 50 years.

A lot happened on this same week. Nungalinya College held its 50th Anniversary on the Saturday. This was a lively celebration of past and present achievements and hope for the future. We were moved by what the College has done in faith in the lives of many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders over 5 decades. We were taken around the Bible Story Gardens that have lovingly been landscaped on the property - beginning with Eden (Genesis 1-3) and then moving through to the story of the Way of the Cross. Students and visitors can sit in different parts of the garden and reflect on that part of the Christian Story and what it means for their lives.

We also were shown different trees that have been planted over time and learnt about their significance and meaning as First Nations' bush-tucker and bush-medicine. Others presented basket weaving, spear-making and historical displays, while a video spanned the evolving history of the College along with testimonies from students.



One highlight at the 50th Celebration was sitting under the stars after a big dinner to experience music and dance from the worship of the communities represented at Nungalinya College.

Top End Tales (cont'd)



L: Friends and fellow team members ; and R: The 'Easter' part of the Bible Gardens at the Nungalinya 50th Celebrations._____

Bagot Church Baptisms

The next day, the Bagot Community Church members were excited to celebrate the baptism of Two Warlpiri women in their 50s at Lake Alexander. It took a lot of logistical planning. How do you transport 30+ people along with food and gear to the Lake? Most don't have cars or they don't function, as we found out! Derek was called to help bump-start a borrowed 4x4 with flat batteries. We started collecting people at 3pm for a 4pm service which ended up starting well after 5pm! Yet nobody seemed fazed. We enjoyed a beautiful sunset as we finished with a BBQ, greatly improved by left-over food from the Nungalinya celebration the night before (below right). We remembered the feeding of 5000 by the lake... with about '12 baskets' left over.

Cecily (below left, seated) and Priscilla (right) had spent months preparing with the leaders and Derek. They were delighted to testify of God's grace at work in their lives.



"But each one of us has received a gift of grace. These gifts are given to us by Christ. ... He gave all these people so that they might prepare God's people to serve. Then the body of Christ will be built up. That will continue until we all become one in the faith.

[Ephesians 4:7,12,13; NIRV]

Please ...Give thanks with us for:

- Joining in the training and visitation at Darwin Hospital with the Nungalinya students over two weeks, and for those who will go back to their own communities to find ways to work out their renewed call.
- the fruit and celebration of 50 years of learning, discipleship and leadership development of Indigenous Christians, from around the NT, being formed and equipped for ministry through Nungalinya College.
- The baptism at Lake Alexander of 2 women from Bagot Church on 20th August and for God's ongoing work of grace and healing in their lives.

...Pray with us for:

- A full two months ahead, including Synod, leadership training, and a planned stay at Ngukurr (SE Arnhem Land) for a few weeks in October.
- James and Edwin as we join in the preparation for their Ordinations while we are there.
- Our health, stamina and wisdom as we face the coming 'build-up' season.
- For new contacts at the Drug and Alcohol Rehab Bible study and for others that have left and are finding their feet. Pray that they hold on to Jesus, the source of their hope and new-life.



Three students at Nungalinya from Numbulwar, a friend from Church, and James (centre) at a Bible Study at our place on Sunday. He is to be ordained on 19th October at Urapunga, followed by Edwin's at Numbulwar (not present). It is a joy to see Indigenous people God has called being equipped to serve and lead among their own people. We delight in the privilege of being here

***Thank you:
for your ongoing partnership with us through generous care, prayer and giving.***

If you would like to contribute to CMS supporting us financially,
please ring CMS Victoria, (03) 9894 4722

SHOEBOX SEASON IS HERE

For the second straight year, Operation Christmas child is celebrating a milestone. Last year, we surpassed 200 million shoebox gifts collected worldwide since we began the project back in 1993.

This year, we're celebrating another exciting part of the project as 50 million children around the world have been disciplined through classes that originated with operation Christmas child. Praise God!

Imagine that! Fifty million children growing up guided by Biblical principles and Scriptures they've memorised. That's nearly double the souls in Australia. But many more need to be reached – some of whom live in remote, hard-to-reach places where the name of Jesus may never have been heard.

Samaritan's Purse partners with local churches and volunteers across the globe who are committed to praying for these countries and territories. I'm excited about what God is doing through shoeboxes in the Philippines.

Last year, a ministry partner in the island nation said there were no children in her church. She and her team prayed for God's blessing and handed out 100 shoeboxes in a nearby community. The boys and girls were delighted with their gifts and many of them took part in the Greatest Journey discipleship course that includes 12 Bible lessons taught by trained local volunteers. Dozens of children gave their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ. Now, over 60 children and youth attend the church each Sunday!

Fourteen year-old Jirah, whose name means 'God will provide', got one of those shoeboxes in the Philippines. When she opened her box she received "the goodness of Jesus Christ", she said. She had prayed for some needed personal items and found them among her many gifts. "God's gift was so thoughtful", she said. "I appreciate His kindness and love. He answered my prayer!"

With the shoebox gifts the church received this year, the team is going to a village that has no Christian witness. Join me in praying that as the shoeboxes are given out that God will open hearts to hear the Good News and that a new church will be planted in the area to help build His Kingdom.

We thank God for people like you who pack millions of shoebox gifts – like the one treasured by Jirah – for Operation Christmas Child. Every box represents an opportunity to reach one more child with the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the Lord is "not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

I hope that you and your church have already started packing shoebox gifts this year. Remember that the most important thing you can put into a shoebox is your prayers. National Collection Weeks are October 23 – November 4.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and generous support for Operation Christmas Child and the worldwide projects of Samaritan's Purse. May God bless you

Franklin Graham (President)

If you are willing to engage in this ministry and contribute to 'Operation Christmas Child' you can! Packing of one or many boxes can be done online - use link below. Thank you!

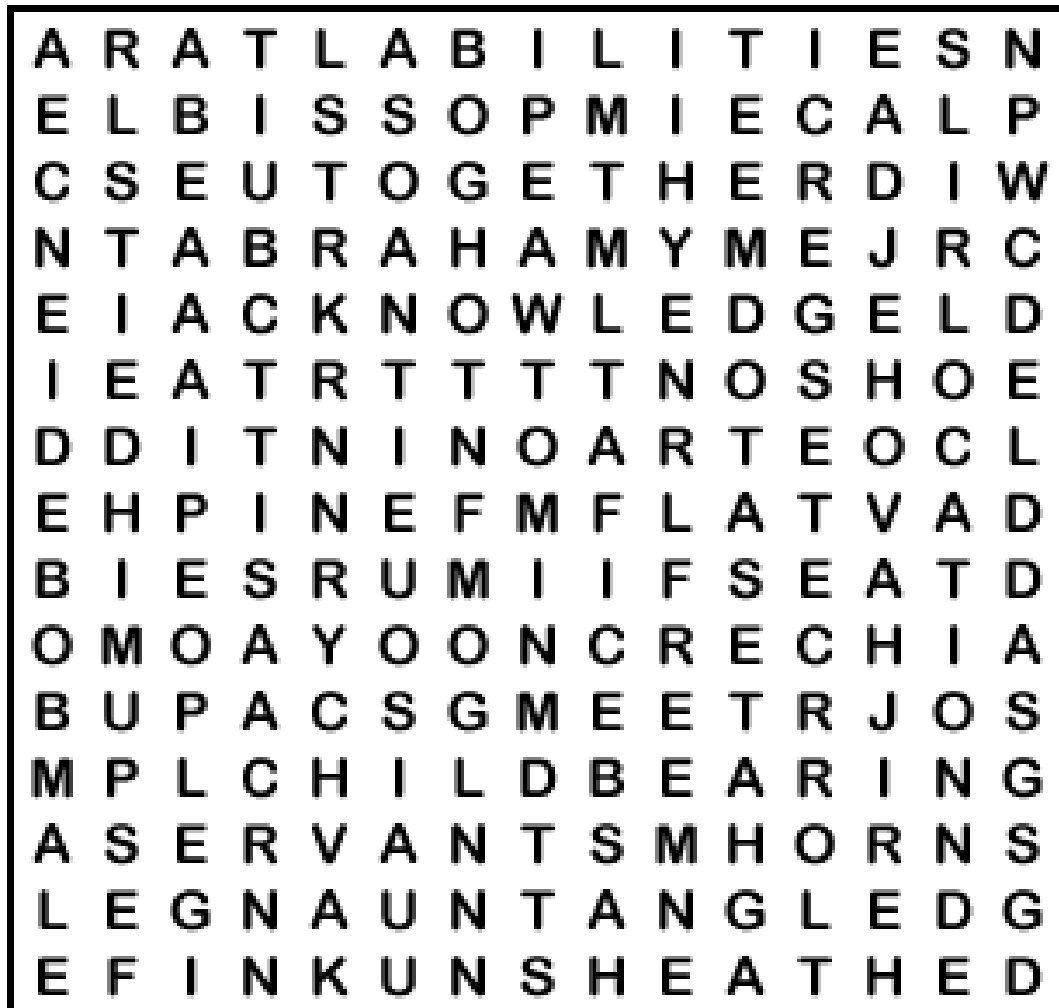
<https://occdonations.samaritanspurse.org.au/product/pack-a-shoebox-online/>



Bible Word Search: 'Genesis 22:1-14'

All the words listed below are in the puzzle - left, right, up, down or diagonally. Find each word and click its first letter then its last letter to highlight it. After you have found all the words, click the leftover letters in the correct order to form the mystery answer. To work the puzzle on paper instead: Print this page and circle each letter of the words you find.

(from: https://www.christianbiblereference.org/ws_Genesis22114_0.htm)

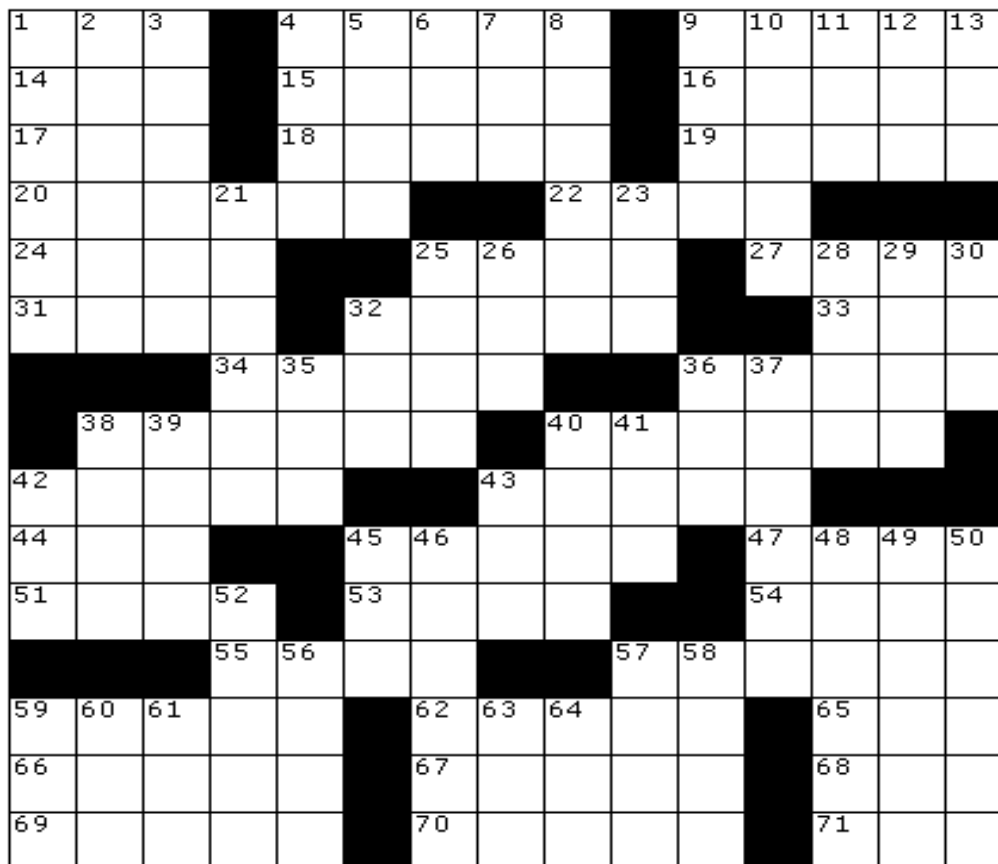


Abilities, Abraham, Acknowledge, Act,
Altar, Angel, Apparently, Burnt offering,
Childbearing, Commanded, Heart,
Horns, Impossible, Isaac, Jehovah-jireh,
Knife, Lamb, Location, Mountain,
Obedience, People, Place, Ram,
Sacrifice, Saddled, Servants, Slay, Son,
Test, Tied him up, Together, Understood,
Unsheathed, Untangled, Wrestling

Bible Crossword Puzzle

All the words listed below are in the puzzle - left, right, up, down or diagonally. Find each word and click its first letter then its last letter to highlight it. After you have found all the words, click the leftover letters in the correct order to form the mystery answer. To work the puzzle on paper instead: Print this page and circle each letter of the words you find.

(from: https://www.christianbiblereference.org/Crossword/cw_03-35.htm)



ACROSS

- 1 Computer key
- 4 Parable of the ___ and weeds
- 9 Broker
- 14 That girl
- 15 Hallway
- 16 Genetic identical
- 17 Touch affectionately
- 18 Had by Joseph, Joseph and magi
- 19 Book after Daniel
- 20 Unwilling
- 22 Wharf
- 24 A Roman emperor
- 25 Rhythm
- 27 Young Men's Christian Association
- 31 First man
- 32 Panels
- 33 Hearing part
- 34 Brother of Moses

- 36 Something very small
- 38 Literature categories
- 40 ___ of Eden
- 42 Canteen
- 43 Composure
- 44 Insult
- 45 Sacrificial table
- 47 Account (abbr.)
- 51 To incite
- 53 Street
- 54 KJV pronoun
- 55 Ancient Indian
- 57 Had by Joseph, Joseph and magi
- 59 Strike (KJV)
- 62 Movie
- 65 Kitten
- 66 Devout
- 67 Burp
- 68 East northeast
- 69 Scorched
- 70 Looks for
- 71 Limited (abbr.)

DOWN

- 1 Spain (Sp.)

- 2 Scraped
- 3 Et ___
- 4 Gobs
- 5 Employ
- 6 East southeast
- 7 Wing
- 8 Sacred building
- 9 Throb
- 10 Give ___ to God
- 11 Aurora
- 12 North northeast
- 13 Thirst quencher
- 21 Book near Acts
- 23 ___ A Small World...
- 25 Country in SE Asia
- 26 No room for them in the ___
- 28 Word interpreted by Daniel
- 29 Adam's son
- 30 Extremity
- 32 Before (prefix)
- 35 Noah's ___
- 36 Married woman
- 37 Envisage
- 38 Slick

- 39 Alleviate
- 40 Instrument to guide oxen
- 41 Atmosphere
- 42 Food and drug administration (abbr.)
- 43 School group
- 45 Electric spark
- 46 Five ___ and three fishes
- 48 Place of worship
- 49 Binder
- 50 Tried
- 52 NT epistle
- 56 Bird's home
- 57 Stack of cards
- 58 Decays
- 59 Resort hotel
- 60 Center
- 61 Promissory note
- 63 Wrath
- 64 Owed



Come for fun, craft, food, songs, story

***Where: St John's Church
Cnr Tucker & Centre rds., Bentleigh***

***When: Sunday 4-6 pm
1 Oct., 5 Nov., 3 Dec.***

ALL WELCOME

First Sunday each month Mar–Dec

Ph: Heather 9557 2226 for more information

Or visit www.bentleighanglican.org.au



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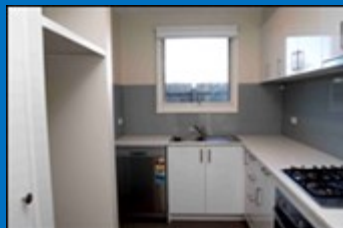
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**(Services and Maintenance fees for \$94.00 per week or \$83.40 if
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content insurance, electricity and gas)**

Visit bentleighanglican.org.au/stjohnsclose

Call Roger on 0432 544 542

INSPECTION TIMES—by appointment





St John's Bentleigh, 624 Centre Road, Bentleigh, VIC3204
 Church Office: + 61 3 9557 2226 | www.stjohnsbentleigh.org
 Church Office e-mail: bentleighanglican@bigpond.com

Sunday @ 8.30AM (Holy Communion)

Sunday @ 10.00AM (Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Sunday);

Sunday @ 10.00AM (Prayer, Praise & Proclamation (2nd & 4th Sunday)

1st Sunday @ 4PM - 6PM Messy Church (from March 2023)

5th Sunday @ 10AM Combined all age Holy Communion service & shared lunch

Wednesday @ 10.30AM Holy Communion in the Chapel

ALL WELCOME to attend & participate!



2023 CALENDAR

DETAILS are in the weekly pew-sheet!

Sept & Oct	Nov & Dec
03 Sept - Messy Church	01 Nov - ALL SAINTS Day
03 Sept - Fathers' Day	05 Nov - Messy Church
12 Sept - Wardens meeting	14 Nov - Wardens meeting
18 Sept - Blue Cross	20 Nov - Blue Cross
19 Sept - Parish Council meeting	21 Nov - Parish Council meeting
23 Sept - Kids & Craft Market	22 Nov - ORANA Fellowship
27 Sept - ORANA Fellowship	23 Nov - Men's Munchers Lunch
28 Sept - Men's Munchers Lunch	25 Nov - Kids & Craft Market
	26 Nov - CHRIST THE KING & ANNUAL MEETING
01 Oct - Daylight saving time STARTS	02 Dec - P-Council Planning/Prayer
01 Oct - Messy Church	03 Dec - Messy Church
10 Oct - Wardens meeting	03 Dec - Advent Sunday, PC Commissioning & Stewardship Commitment Sunday
16 Oct - Blue Cross	11 Dec - Blue Cross
17 Oct - Parish Council meeting	17 Dec - Carols service 7PM
25 Oct - ORANA Fellowship	24 Dec - Christmas Eve all age/family service 10AM
26 Oct - Men's Munchers Lunch	24 Dec - Christmas Eve 11PM
28 Oct - Kids & Craft Market	25 Dec - Christmas Day 10AM
29 Oct - 5th Sunday	31 Dec - Christmas 1, 5th Sunday & New Year commemoration 10AM
	01 Jan 24 - New Year's Day
	** Advent Prayer Walk - 03 Dec to 24 Dec**
	Stewardship (5, 12, 19 November)
	Annual Synod Diocese of Melbourne 11 - 14 October 2023

School terms - 30 Jan to 06 April; & 24 April to 23 June; 10 July to 15 September; 02 October to 20 December

Unless otherwise noted, **"Craft, Coffee & Chat"** meets every Monday (10AM-12Noon in the Narthex). During term time, a **Bible study group** meets on Wednesday (~11.30AM - Cooper Centre), **BREATH Ladies Fellowship** meets on Wednesday (fortnightly ~7.15PM in the Narthex), **ORANA Fellowship** meets monthly on Wednesday (~ 1PM in the Narthex), **Tutoring** occurs (every Thursday ~ 4PM in the Narthex). Another **Bible Study Group** meets in the home of a parishioner — venue & other details provided on request. **Men's Munchers Luncheon Group** meet monthly (4th Thursday) for lunch or evening meal. For further details of all these programs, please see the weekly pew-sheet.

Version: 4

Please note [e & oe]: This calendar should be read in conjunction with the weekly pew-sheet.

Date printed: 18/09/2023

St. John's, Bentleigh

624 Centre Road, Bentleigh, VIC3204

Church Office: + 61 3 9557 2226 | www.stjohnsbentleigh.org.au

Church Office e-mail: bentleighanglican@bigpond.com



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(1st and 3rd Sundays).

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& shared lunch.**

Wednesday @ 10.30AM Holy Communion in the Chapel

All welcome to attend and participate

On line services

<https://youtube.com/channel/UCwvuRjxqlX4njbrwZJBqNXQ/live> .

Ministers: All Parishioners



Vicar: The Reverend Santa Packianathan

Email: spackianathan@melbourneanglican.org.au

Phone: 9557 2226 or 0438 509 669

Office: Sun - Sat., except Thursdays.

Children/Families Minister: Heather Saba 9557 2226

Honorary Lay Minister: Terry Nisbet 9557 2226

Parish Musician: Vacant (TBA) 9557 2226

Admin Assistant: Anthony Lyons 9557 2226

Email: bentleighanglican@bigpond.com

Church Office hours:

Tue, Thu & Fri 9.30am - 12:30pm, 1pm - 4pm

Online Giving

St John's Anglican Church Bentleigh

BSB 083 337 Acc. No. 51 5 354 967

Thank you for supporting the mission of St John's Bentleigh

Vision: To be a centre of God's love and hope

Mission: To love God, love people, grow disciples of Christ

The Anglican Parish of St. John's, Bentleigh, acknowledges the traditional custodians of the country on which St. John's is situated, the Bunurong People of the Kulin nation. We recognize their continuing connection to land, waters and culture.

We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present