

ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH CANBERRA

30 March 2025
Fourth Sunday in Lent
(This week's service times within)

While he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Luke 15.21



Rembrandt van Rijn, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, 1661-1669,
Hermitage Museum, Saint Petersburg, Russia.

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

**Mothering Sunday & Simnel Cake:**

Today is Mothering Sunday. Please enjoy a piece of Simnel Cake - a light fruit cake with marzipan - after each morning service. We thank Helen Wilson for making the cakes to share and Malcolm Beazley for diligently cutting and packing these delicious morsels for the continuance of this lovely tradition.



A Simnel cake is a type of fruit cake that contains plenty of marzipan and is decorated with eleven marzipan balls, each symbolising Jesus's disciples (minus the treacherous Judas of course). It is eaten at Easter, although it used to be specifically associated with Mothering Sunday. When folk were fasting during Lent, Mothering Sunday, appearing in the middle of the fast, offered a respite from 40 days of religious austerity.

Mothering Sunday occurs on the fourth Sunday of Lent; a special day when people visited their mother church or cathedral. (Don't confuse Mothering Sunday with Mothers' Day, the latter being a convention of the last century.)

The origin of Simnel cake, goes back to mediaeval times as a yeast-leavened bread, which may or may not have been enriched. It was made with *Simnel* which derives from the Latin *simila* – the whitest and finest of flours.

By the 17th and 18th centuries, the bread mixture had been swapped for a pudding batter, enriched with dried fruit, spices and almonds and boiled like a pudding. When cooked, it was wrapped in pastry, glazed with egg and baked until a good hard crust formed.

At the end of the 19th century it looked more like a cake, and it was not until the 20th century that the familiar marzipan layers and decorative disciples appear.

Easter Letterbox Drop. Postcards advertising our Easter services are now ready for letterbox dropping in Campbell and Reid. Please pop into the office (Tuesday - Friday 10am - 3pm) to grab a map and bundle if you have time. We also have additional flyers for parishioners to do their local area, or provide to family/ friends.

Hope 25. In this week's newsletter you will find a bookmark, inviting you to identify people and initiatives to pray for as part of the Anglican Church's 'Hope 25' campaign.

As part of this campaign, between Easter and Pentecost our parish will be running the 3-2-1 course, which is a very basic introduction to Christianity. Rev'd Andrew will also be offering a public seminar on 'Finding Hope', on Thursday 8 May (7.30pm, Robertson Room). These are ideal events to invite friends along to. Contact Rev'd Andrew for more details.

Safe Ministry Training. St John's will be hosting a Safe Ministry training day in the Robertson Room on the 14 June this. Other dates and locations and online training are also available, please see the Diocese website for details here: <https://safercommunities.net.au/anglican-diocese-of-canberra-goulburn-online-training/>

All training is booked and paid for by the Parish. Please contact alison.hosking@stjohnscanberra.org if you would like to book in for training or if you have any questions about Safe Ministry.

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.

"Palm-Like" Greenery required. We require palms for Palm Sunday (13 April). If you have any "palm like" greenery that you'd like to contribute, please contact Sanya Ritchie before 6 April (6282 7118 or sanya.ritchie@gmail.com).

Hymn Book Shortage. We have been running short of 'Together in Song' hymn books at our 9.30 service. If you have accidentally taken a copy home, could you please take advantage of the current amnesty period and return it to the porch?

Gunfire Breakfast: Seeking Volunteers. This year St John's hopes to again host a 'Gunfire Breakfast' for the public, immediately following the Anzac Day Dawn Service. This is a witness to Christ through hospitality to the many who will be in our vicinity on that day, while drawing on our historic ministry to the Defence community. We need volunteers to step up if the event is to go ahead. If you are able to assist from 5am please email the Rector ASAP.

Meals for the William Family. Meals would be appreciated for the William family as Richa continues to face further complex surgery (and recovery). Frozen meals can be left in the church freezer, clearly labelled 'Williams'. Non-spicy chicken, fish or vegetarian meals only, please. Thanks for your prayers and care for this family.

Meet your candidate. In the lead-up to the Federal election, churches across Australia are hosting "meet the candidate" events for churches in their electorate. These forums are respectful, non-partisan opportunities for politicians to hear the concerns of the Christian community and give specific and direct responses. They are also an opportunity for Christian voters to hear directly from their candidates on a variety of issues, so that they can make a wise choice. You can find a full list of the forums, and search for your closest one at: <https://meetyourcandidates.org.au>

1 Way FM 'Lightning Strike' Appeal. Supporter of St John's, 1 Way FM, has shared the following message: On January 13, a lightning strike hit Telstra Tower, damaging our transmitter and reducing our broadcast power. Thanks to swift action from our team and local technicians, we restored operations—but to continue sharing hope and encouragement across Canberra, we need to upgrade our equipment. Your donation will directly support these essential upgrades, ensuring that 1WAY FM remains strong and reliable for our community. We need to raise \$47,285.

To donate, go to: <https://www.1wayfm.com.au/donate/>

In Pursuit of Paul. Come with Professor Constantine Campbell (St John's parishioner) and follow in the Apostle Paul's footsteps as we travel to major sites on Paul's journeys in Türkiye, Greece, Malta, and Rome. From the site of Paul's first recorded sermon in Psidian Antioch, to the Ephesian theatre where he sparked a city riot, to the spot where Lydia was baptised, to where Paul preached to the Athenians, to where he pleaded with the Corinthians. We'll visit the site of Paul's infamous shipwreck where he is still honoured, his Roman prison and his burial place. Along the way we'll gain deeper insights into Paul the man and missionary, as well as a greater appreciation of the backdrop for his letters that have shaped the church (and the world) for two millennia. November 6–19, 2025. Information session: April 7, 2025, via Zoom.

For further info: https://selah.au/trip/pursuit_paul/

UPCOMING EVENTS (*St John's event)

***Sunday 30 March: Parish AGM and Electoral Meeting.** Our parish AGM and electoral meeting will be held today (30 March) in the Hall at 2pm. Papers have been uploaded to our website (stjohnscanberra.org/documents) - only a small number will be available in hard copy.

***Saturday 5 April: Working Bee.** From 8.30am -10.00am. Two options this month: (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 6 April: Bell Ringing.** Join us for our monthly open tower between 5-6pm as we prepare to ring in Easter during St John's 180th year. You are welcome to have a go on the ropes or just listen in. Bring along some friends and family!

Tuesday 8 April: 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. The meeting will focus on teaching and/or prayer. Sessions are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Info Fr John Gibson at gibsonjohn385@gmail.com or 0451 681 118.

Sunday 13 April: Invictus – A Passion. The Llewellyn Choir Performs *Invictus: A Passion*, on Palm Sunday at 5.00pm at the Wesley Uniting Church, National Circuit Forrest. Book through www.llewellynchoir.org.au or scan the following QR code.

***Thursday 8 May: Finding Hope.** Does it feel harder to spot the good news in the world? In an age of high levels of personal and social anxiety and even pessimism, Rev'd Andrew will help us rediscover a firm and secure basis for genuine hope. Invite your friends to engage on this important topic. 7.30pm, in the Robertson Room.

Save the Date – Saturday 21 June. Equip Women Conference is celebrating 25 years, and we would love to see St John's gather 25 women this year. The topic is Revelation 6 -22. The cost is \$20 pp. It will be held in the Robertson Room or Hall (depending on numbers). Please contact to Mary de Lautour for information.

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE 26 FEBRUARY 2025

Rector's Report: The Rector reported the two main concerns in the coming year are: urgency and clarity to our building program and addressing our pastoral care needs. The crying room in the Robertson Room is being well attended on Sunday mornings during the 9.30am service, however, this causes a problem for Kids Church who cannot use the Robertson Room. This issue will be overcome once the Robertson Room is expanded as part of the Parish's site redevelopment plans but for now remains a critical concern, especially with winter approaching (with limited space options).

The chaplain for St John's Care will be starting the week of 3 March and will be based in the Wild Honey room. A new marriage preparation course has been trialled and is almost ready to launch.

Finance Update: The treasurer reported that the income and expenditure year end 31 December 2024 statement and balance sheet will be included in the papers for the Annual General Meeting which will be held on Sunday 30 March at 2pm in the hall. The offertory income at the beginning of 2025 is looking good and the income from parking is significantly up on the same time last year.

Property and Grounds Update: An overview of the site redevelopment plans was given. Advanced draft plans for the kitchen have been done and they are waiting for advice from a structural engineer before proceeding on this project. Builders and joiners have already been contacted. The work to replace the current kitchen will take 2 to 3 months once it commences. Extending the Robertson Room will be the next project after the kitchen. Further discussions are needed as to the storage, IT, power and heating requirements for this space prior to plans being finalised. St John's Care is also reviewing its expansion plans with the Parish architects to provide more space and to reduce their dependence on the scout hall for storage.

There was a significant water leak in one of the Parish's houses in Amaroo Street which required major, unplanned expenditure. All the timber kneelers in the Church have now been refinished as have some of the pew ends. This work is funded through the National Trust.

Community Outreach: A celebratory 180th anniversary evensong service held on 9 March. Russ Tunks reported that the Jazz on the Lawn event on the 15 February was very successful with over 300 people attending. It was a good community outreach event which will be held again next year.

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

Dignity Restored

At St John's Care we are dedicated to addressing the challenges of disadvantage, isolation, and financial hardship within the Canberra community and beyond. Recently, one of our long-time clients whom we shall call F, visited us for her regular food support and case management. F is a single mum who has successfully been able to manage her goals on a single income.

However, F lost her job due to the company shutting down. F was devastated and the sudden loss of income led to rent arrears, and overdue utility bills. I spoke with F about Care Financial, who offer financial counselling and support. This referral was to assist F to regain control of her financial situation while adjusting to a tighter budget. F also asked for help in dealing with her debt and her outstanding bills. F began working with Care Financial, she was so grateful for their support and provided positive feedback about the service.

Care Financial also runs a rent relief program which helps ACT residents on low/moderate incomes to catch up on arrears, relieve some financial pressure, and prevent eviction. F met the eligibility criteria and was approved for the rent relief grant. St Johns Care works with ACTEWAGL in providing energy vouchers for ACT residents. I worked closely with F through the referral process, and she was ultimately approved for \$300 worth of support, and was also referred to the Utility hardship fund team who could assist her further. F has been working closely with the financial hardship team and has been managing her bills and reducing her debt.

Our amazing volunteers packed pantry items and non-perishable food items, fresh fruit, vegetables, meat and bread into bags for F and her family. F also helped herself to some clothes for herself and for her children. F was overwhelmed with gratitude at the compassion, respect and love that she continues to receive from SJC. F said "St Johns Care is the service that has made me, and my family feel welcome. You have restored our dignity". To all our donors thank you for your generosity. I would also like to thank the organisations we work in partnership with, this family's life has been restored because of the combined support we have provided them with.

Kind regards

Lisa Masamha
Case Manager

Items required: Honey, 500ml tomato sauce, Shampoo & Conditioner, Muesli

Upcoming services

Sunday 30 March 2025

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Readings: Joshua 5.2-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5.16-21; Luke 15.11-32

- 8.00am:** **Sung Eucharist**
9.30am: **Family Eucharist** (Kids Church & Youth Group)
6.00pm: **stjohns@6** (Praise, Prayer & Proclamation)

Wednesday 2 April 2025

Readings: 2 Corinthians 5.16-21; Luke 15.11-32

- 10am:** **Eucharist** (1662 Book of Common Prayer)

Sunday 6 April 2025

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Readings: Isaiah 43.16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3.3-14; John 12.1-8

- 8.00am:** **Sung Eucharist**
9.30am: **Family Eucharist** (Kids Church & Youth Group)
11.15am: **Choral Eucharist** (1662 Book of Common Prayer)
6.00pm: **stjohns@6** (Praise, Prayer & Proclamation)

Wednesday 9 April 2025

Readings: TBA

- 10am:** **Eucharist** (1662 Book of Common Prayer)

For more information: www.stjohnscanberra.org

SUPPORTING THE MINISTRY OF THE PARISH

The best way to support our ministry is to (annually) prayerfully consider an appropriate amount, and then set up automatic regular transfers using our 'giving' account:

BSB:702 389 **ACCOUNT:** 0520 9450 **NAME:** St John the Baptist Reid

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
Honorary Priest	Rev'd Vicky Cullen		0476 777 203
Youth Leader	Kirsten Lamb	kirsten.lamb@stjohnscanberra.org	
Children & Families Worker	Mary de Lautour	mary.delautour@stjohnscanberra.org	
Sacristan	Jennifer Lawson	jennifer.lawson@stjohnscanberra.org	0407 286 572
Schoolhouse Museum	Jennifer Garden		0414 551 821
Office Administrator	Jane Rose	admin@stjohnscanberra.org	6248 8399
Operations Manager	Alison Hosking	alison.hosking@stjohnscanberra.org	6248 8399
Friends of St John's, Chair	Matthew Neuhaus	friendsofstjohnscanberra@gmail.com	

SJC Emergency Relief Centre 6248 7771

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

Parish Office: 6248 8399

Opening Hours: 10.00am to 3.00pm Tuesday to Friday

www.stjohnscanberra.org

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

FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT

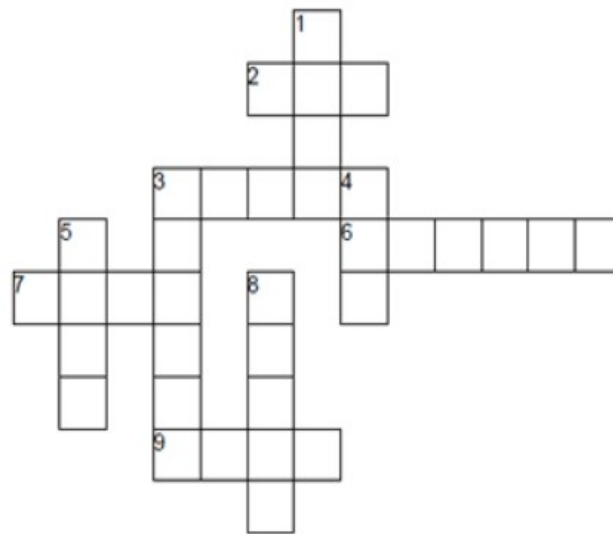
Parable of the Lost Son Crossword

The Parable of the Lost Son

So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. Luke 15:20 (NLT)



The puzzle is based on Luke 15:11-32



ACROSS

2. Farm animals with pink, brown, or black skin, short legs, and a flat nose.
3. A large special meal to celebrate something or honor someone.
6. A large amount of money and other valuable possessions.
7. To not be able to be found. (I ____ my dog.)
9. A piece of jewelry, generally made of precious metal and worn on the finger.

DOWN

1. To touch or press your lips against another person as a greeting or to express love.
3. A male parent.
4. The number that is equal to one plus one.
5. Your male children.
8. When something which was lost has been relocated. (I ____ my dog).

TWO	KISS	RING	WEALTH	FATHER
FEAST	FOUND	LOST	PIG	SONS