



**ST JOHN'S**  
ANGLICAN CHURCH  
**CANBERRA**

# Christmas 2024



*Nativity by Federico Barocci (1597).*

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

## From the Rector



### Is Christmas still relevant?

As our world concludes yet another troubled year, Christmas takes us back to an age with its own injustices and uncertainties. Can that original Christmas event so many years ago still speak to modern times?

Not if it's just a fairy tale or a crude collection of myths.

Yet the gospel writers seem clear that it is far more than that. They speak of a series of real events, whose fantastic and miraculous elements are not pious inventions, but evidence of a moment of infinite power and unique importance.

The gospel accounts are bristling with joyful amazement as the news is announced to Mary, Joseph, shepherds and sages that something new has broken into the world's routine – something of barely imaginable grandeur. The subsequent dramatic life and impact of the baby who was born that night testify to the credibility of these accounts.

This baby is '*Emmanuel*' - God with

us. And *with us* in the most profound sense possible. For in this child, God fused his life forever to ours, bridging the gap between humanity and divinity and showing his determination to redeem and save.

The world's instabilities and troubles have persisted over the past 2000 years. Yet what God has done in seeking us out and drawing near to us continues to have obvious relevance, making our various problems pale by comparison.

That is why the relevance of this story can never fade. And it is why every year, in communities like ours all around the world, people are finding new hope, help and meaning for their lives in the one who was born on that first Christmas.

On behalf of the St John's ministry team, I wish you a very merry Christmas. May the joy and wonder of this season grow as you come more fully to know Jesus Christ and his great love for the world.

I look forward to exploring this together in 2025.

Rev'd Dave McLennan

([rector@stjohnscanberra.org](mailto:rector@stjohnscanberra.org))

## Welcome to St John's

*Welcome to St John's! After Christmas, many of our regular activities will enjoy a short season of rest after an active and full year.*

*If you are looking to connect with a church or would like to know more about the Christian faith, there will be a range of ways to pursue this in 2025. Please email the parish office and someone will make contact in due course. (See also our website: [www.stjohnscanberra.org](http://www.stjohnscanberra.org))*

**Save the date! Welcome 2025 with 'Jazz on the Lawn'**. To celebrate a new year of life together, we welcome the whole community and visitors to a 'welcome to 2025' event on **Saturday 15 February**. BYO food and drink and enjoy a quality jazz program in the church grounds featuring various local bands. 4pm-7.30pm.

**Kids and Youth in 2025**. Our program for young people resumes at our 9.30am service on **9 February**, with 'Start Up Sunday'. This will include water play (including the return of the dunking machine!) The term one youth program (Yrs 7 onwards) will be centred on 'Youth Alpha'. In the meantime, children are always welcome at all services. Activity sheets are available and at the 9.30am service there will be a cry-room (with livestream) in the nearby Robertson Room.

**Post-Christmas Service Times**. Our 8am, 9.30am, 6pm and Wednesday morning services will continue unchanged over the holiday period (except that there will be no 10.00am service on 1 January.) Our 7am, 11.15am and 5pm (Evensong) services will pause, recommencing in February.

**Parish Office**. The office is closed from 24 December. Regular hours (Tues-Friday, 10.00am—3.00pm) will resume on 14 January.

**Past sermons**. While it is important to prioritise public worship, sometimes this isn't possible. To assist people who are sick or travelling, sermons (including information on how to find them on podcast platforms) can be found at [stjohnscanberra.org/sermons](http://stjohnscanberra.org/sermons). See also:

Spotify



Apple



Pocket Casts





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## **Sunday Services after Christmas**

The following Sundays will each include an **8am** and **9.30am** Eucharist, and a **6pm** service:

### **29 December 2024: First Sunday after Christmas**

*(Readings: 1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26; Psalm 148;  
Colossians 3.12-17; Luke 2.41-52)*

### **5 January 2025: The Epiphany of our Lord**

*(Readings: Isaiah 60.1-6; Psalm 72.1-7, 10-14;  
Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12)*

### **12 January 2025: The Baptism of Our Lord**

*(Readings: Isaiah 43.1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8.14-17;  
Luke 3.15-22)*

### **19 January 2025: Second Sunday after Epiphany**

*(Readings: Isaiah 62.1-5; Psalm 36.5-10;  
1 Corinthians 12.1-11; John 2.1-11)*

### **26 January 2025: Third Sunday after Epiphany**

*(Readings: Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19;  
1 Corinthians 12.12-31; Luke 4.14-21)*

## **Mid-week services**

Each Wednesday except 1 January, there will be a **10am** Eucharist (1662 Book of Common Prayer)

For more information visit [www.stjohnscanberra.org](http://www.stjohnscanberra.org)