

May 21 2017

## Welcome to St John's

Welcome to St John's today. If you are visiting with us, we hope you enjoy your time with us. If you fill in the Communication Card with your details, we would love to keep in touch with you.

## Welcome to Bishop Michael Stead

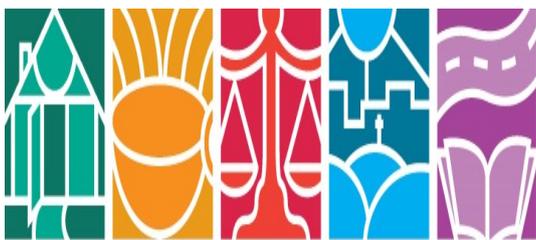


This morning we welcome our regional Bishop, Michael Stead, who is visiting St John's this morning. Michael will be preaching at the 9.30am and 11am services.

There will be a light lunch after church this morning.

This evening at the 6pm service Paul Perini will be preaching.

## SJCS AGM



**ST JOHN'S COMMUNITY SERVICES**

The AGM for St John's Community Services is on Tuesday May 30 at 7.30pm in the upstairs lounge of the hall. Stephen Judd from HammondCare will be our guest speaker. We will present the audited accounts of the company, and deliver a report on our achievements over the past year, and our plans for 2017.

## **Rough Edges 21st Birthday**

Rough Edges turns 21 years old this year! And we are going to celebrate 21 years of ministry to the disadvantaged in our community.

On Sunday July 2 at 11am we are having a special Rough Edges Celebration Service. Our guest preacher is Tom Henderson-Brooks, former assistant minister here at St John's.

The service will be followed by a lunch in the hall.



# Supporting Mission

Parish Council has received suggestions (including at our recent AGM) that we consider in a more serious and structured way how St John's supports mission. At a recent Parish Council meeting, we decided that a good first step would be to get more detailed feedback from the congregation on this issue.

Thanks to those who have already sent in some feedback. Here are some topics or questions to get you started thinking about this:

**Big picture:** What principles are important to you as we consider the best ways for St John's to support mission?

**Nitty Gritty:** Are there particular locations, issues, types of missions, organisations, people etc that you'd like to raise as part of our discussions?

**Participation:** Would you be interested in participating in a small group that did some more detailed work and prayer around this topic in the coming months?

**Other thoughts:** Is there anything else that you would like the Parish Council to know or consider at this point about this matter?

If you have any responses to any of these questions, or some other thoughts, please email your ideas to [admin@stjohnsanglican.org.au](mailto:admin@stjohnsanglican.org.au)

# Bible Reading: Psalm 148

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord.

Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights above.

<sup>2</sup> Praise him, all his angels;  
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

<sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon;  
praise him, all you shining stars.

<sup>4</sup> Praise him, you highest heavens  
and you waters above the skies.

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
for at his command they were created,

<sup>6</sup> and he established them for ever and ever—  
he issued a decree that will never pass away.

<sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,

<sup>8</sup> lightning and hail, snow and clouds,  
stormy winds that do his bidding,

<sup>9</sup> you mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars,

<sup>10</sup> wild animals and all cattle,  
small creatures and flying birds,

<sup>11</sup> kings of the earth and all nations,  
you princes and all rulers on earth,

<sup>12</sup> young men and women,  
old men and children.

<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
for his name alone is exalted;  
his splendour is above the earth and the heavens.

<sup>14</sup> And he has raised up for his people a horn,  
the praise of all his faithful servants,  
of Israel, the people close to his heart.

Praise the Lord.

## Save the Date: Roughtober!



The Roughtober sleepout for 2017 is **Friday night, October 20.**

Get it in your diary now!

And now is a great time for Community Groups to start thinking about how they would like to get involved in fundraising this year.

## Equip17

Equip17 is a one day womens conference on Saturday May 27th. It would be great if a group from St Johns could go, share fellowship and enjoy lunch together. Cost is \$75.



Talk to Jennifer Coleby for more information:

[jennifera.coleby@hotmail.com](mailto:jennifera.coleby@hotmail.com)

<https://www.equip.org.au>

## The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be Your name,**

**Your kingdom come,**

**Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours**

**Now and for ever. Amen.**

# World News: Pakistan: Chief Justice rejects request for June hearing of Asia Bibi's appeal

Chief Justice of Pakistan Mian Saqib Nisar has turned down a request from Asia Bibi's lawyer that her Supreme Court appeal be heard in June.

Asia's lawyer, Saiful Malook, moved an early hearing application in mid-April, requesting that the appeal (against her conviction and death sentence under the blasphemy law) be fixed for the first week of June. No reason was given by the Chief Justice for refusing the application.

Asia has been in prison since June 2009. After several court hearings and many delays, the High Court ruled against her in October 2014. Her lawyers immediately appealed to the Supreme Court and following several further delays the case was listed for hearing in October 2016.

However, it was immediately adjourned because one of the three judges recused himself, claiming a conflict of interest as he had been on the bench in a related case. If the death sentence is upheld by the Supreme Court, Asia's only hope will be a presidential pardon.

## Grounds for appeal

Mr Malook said that Asia's case in the Supreme Court appeal is that the High Court, while upholding the trial court sentence, failed to take into consideration the statement made by her under Section 342 of the Code of Criminal Procedure wherein she stated that she *"had offered oath to police on the Bible that she had never passed derogatory and shameful remarks against the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) and the Holy Quran."*

The appeal also argued that the police had conspired with the complainant to make a false accusation and that the evidence of the prosecution witnesses was motivated by previous arguments they had with Asia Bibi.

Mr Malook also said that the High Court had failed to extend the benefit of doubt to Asia Bibi on account of a long delay of five days in the initial registration of the case which followed *"deliberation and consultation among different Muslim religious leaders before the registration of the case. It was a well-settled principle of criminal law that unexplained delay in the registration of the criminal case, caused serious doubts on the veracity of the evidence."*

*(Dawn, Express Tribune)*

Church in Chains has written to the Pakistani Chargé d'Affaires in Dublin expressing deep disappointment at this further delay in hearing Asia's appeal and pointing out that Asia has now been in prison for almost eight years in a case that casts grave doubt on the operation of justice in Pakistan. The letter appeals to the Pakistani government to act immediately to ensure that the Supreme Court appeal is heard without further delay and emphasises that Asia's case is a clear example that *"justice delayed is justice denied"*.

## Background

Asia Bibi is a Christian farm labourer from Punjab province in northeast Pakistan. On 14 June 2009, when picking berries in the fields with three Muslim women, Asia went to fetch water. The women refused to drink from the bowl she brought, saying the water had been brought by an “untouchable” and was “unclean”. After an argument, one of the women told the local imam that Asia had said: “*Jesus Christ died on the cross for me – what did Mohammed ever do for you?*” The imam filed a blasphemy case, local men beat Asia and the police took her into custody for protection.

In November 2010, she was sentenced to death. Over the years, Islamists have persistently called for Asia’s execution, and Muslim clerics put a bounty on her head. Two politicians who supported her and spoke out against Pakistan’s blasphemy laws have been assassinated.

Asia is married to Ashiq Masih and they have two daughters, Isha (18) and Isham (17), who has an intellectual disability and walking difficulties. Since Asia was accused of blasphemy, the family has been forced into hiding to avoid attack, and has had to move several times.

## Prayer for Rough Edges

I started writing this as our trainee volunteers watched an Australian movie which came out in the 90's about a couple dealing with significant mental health issues (*Angel Baby* - I



highly recommend it). I am very grateful for these people who have given up a weekend to learn about life for our patrons, and who will commit many hours to getting to know the people who come through our doors. Please pray that their lives will be transformed by what they are learning, but more importantly by who they will be meeting and being in their time with the Rough Edges community. Over the next few weeks we have a number of opportunities to promote Rough Edges, particularly to the Christian community. Please pray that we will write and speak with wisdom and persuade people to active and meaningful care for the marginalised in our society and beyond. Although we have brought on a new group of volunteers this week, our volunteer numbers remain

a weak point for us. Please pray that we will be able to find ways to effectively grow our volunteer numbers while retaining the quality training and close community that is so important to us. Wayne and I thank you for your prayers for our holidays. We both had wonderfully interesting and refreshing trips with our families. We are grateful to be safely back home. Ed is currently away and we pray that he and Jane have an equally enjoyable holiday. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

Regards, Penny Barletta, Team Leader, St John’s Community Services

# Supporting St John's



Support the ministry here by setting up a Direct Deposit with your bank to:

**St John's Anglican Church** BSB 032-032 Account Number 811-496

Weekly Offertories	Budget 2017	Actual	Surplus (Deficit)
14th May 17	\$1,680	\$1,192	(\$488)
14th May 17 YTD	\$33,600	\$34,126	\$526

## Rosters

11.00 Service	21st May	28th May
<b>Celebrant</b>	Paul Perini	Paul Perini
<b>Deacon</b>	Bill Knight	Ed Vaughan
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Joanna Knight	Jenny Coleby
<b>Speaker</b>	Bp Michael Stead	Paul Perini
<b>Reader One</b>	Joanna Knight	Felix Chong
<b>Prayers</b>	Bill Knight	Paul Perini
<b>Welcomers</b>	Jenny Coleby	Liz Illingworth Alexandre Vianna
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Clare Crompton Renie Roberts	Elizabeth Warren Brough Warren



We acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet.

### Our Sunday services

9.30am - Our Family friendly service  
11am Communion - A classic Anglican service  
6pm - Contemporary Worship



To use the Hearing Loop, sit in the pews on the right hand side of the aisle (as you face towards the front) in the area in front of the sound desk.

### Getting in touch

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