

WE
Believe
IN PRAYER
PRAISE
NEWS &
THE BIBLE

WELCOME TO ST ANDREW'S ROSEVILLE
16 FEBRUARY 2014

ST
ANDREW'S
Believes
IN NEWS

*All that's going on
around St Andrew's*

FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER



REV JOHN DICKSON

➤ Senior Minister

Dear St Andrew's,

This week I am thinking about the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. You may remember that our first sermon series in 2014 was "A Baby in the Bathwater", where we explored why, despite the ugliness that would no doubt be found in Christian institutions, there is something true and beautiful in the 'church' Jesus established, about which he promised, "the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." We all feared at the time that the Commission

would uncover a darkness that would justly shame us. It has.

Twelve months into the Royal Commission, how are we to respond to the overwhelming evidence of extensive, long term failures on the part of church institutions to guard and care for those about whom Jesus Christ declared, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs" (Matthew 19:14)?

The Commission was established by the Australian Government in January 2013, following widespread community concern that Australia's institutions, including churches, had failed to protect children from abuse and failed to respond appropriately to allegations of abuse. Six commissioners were appointed, headed by Justice Peter McClellan AM, a Judge of Appeal in New South Wales. What they have uncovered is difficult to fathom, especially as the news has been wall-to-wall in recent weeks with the failures of the Salvation Army. I think this has been a special blow to the credibility of the church, because, of all the denominations, the 'Salvos' are the ones we really trust. But even they have been exposed as sometimes weak and contemptible. No doubt, the Anglican church will come under scrutiny in the months (and years?) ahead.

Words will not suffice. There can be no defence or minimisation. Even an apology will sound hopelessly inadequate given the weight of sorrow the Commission continues to bring to light. Conscious of this, the Centre for Public Christianity this week offered the following prayer for the Royal Commission, seeking God's blessing on the commissioners' work, his care for victims of abuse, and his refining mercy upon Christian communities everywhere. It has been distributed to denominational heads around the country.

Even if there is nothing the church can plausibly say on this matter to the wider public, as Christians we remain confident that our Creator and Saviour stands ready to hear our plea. It is the Centre's hope that individuals, churches and organisations will commit afresh to prayer for this important period in our national story.

God bless,

John

Almighty God,
Lord of truth and grace,
hear our prayers for the Royal Commission
into Institutional Responses
to Child Sexual Abuse.

Grant the Commissioners
wisdom and strength,
the patience to weigh testimony,
insight to pose questions,
and success in all their deliberations
for the health of our nation.

Above all, most merciful Father,
grant to victims of abuse
the courage to tell their stories,
strength to endure pain,
and healing for their wounds.
In their sorrow, give them your peace.
And refine your people, Sovereign Lord.
By the light of your truth expose in full
the darkness in our institutions.
Inspire remorse and establish justice.

Forgive us.
By your Spirit renew us,
for the good of all
and the glory of your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen

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COMMUNITY WATCH

THIS WEEK

🕒 **Life of Jesus**

Tue 18 Feb – 7.30pm

John and Buff Dickson's home

A 5-week course on the life he lived and the life he gives; for people curious to find out about the basics of the world's largest faith.

Contact the Church Office or email

lifefjesus@standrews.net.au



FOR THE DIARY

🕒 **Belonging Course**

Wed 26 Feb – 7.30pm

Matt Stedman's home

3 week fast-track course for newcomers to get to know St Andrew's and meet others.

Contact James Smith for details.

james.smith@standrews.net.au

🕒 **Time Out - Harbourside Walk**

Fri 28 Feb – 9:30am - 12noon

Clifton Gardens, Bradleys Head, Taronga Park Zoo and Sirius Cove

Meet at corner of Morella Rd and Iluka Rd, Mosman at 9:30am.

Contact Richard Tress 9416 6416 or

timeout@standrews.net.au

🕒 **Pre-lent Parties**

Tues 4 Mar (evening)

Set the evening aside for congregation specific get togethers.

More details to come.

🕒 **Parish Annual General Meeting**

Mon 17 Mar - 7:00pm

In the Church

*All that's going on
around St Andrew's*

COMMUNITY WATCH

PLEASE PRAY

☛ Churchwide Prayer

Pray for people taking the Life of Jesus Course that they might find this time stimulating and helpful to their understanding of Jesus and the Christian faith.

Pray for relaxation and refreshment this week for Matt, Emily, Roxy and Mason Stedman as they continue their holiday.

☛ 8:30am Prayer

Please pray for Alan Bryson in the final days of his life that he would know the peace of God's loving mercy towards him and that his family would be comforted by his life of faith in Christ and the new life he anticipates.

☛ 10am Prayer

Please pray for Mary Fenner's husband Warwick, who is very unwell in hospital - that God would direct his doctors, give improved and prolonged health and bring him to know Christ. Pray that Mary would know peace in God's love for her and trust his providence in all things. Pray for Ewan and Claire in this difficult time.

Praise God for the wonderful news of answered prayer for James Smith's mother, Dawn and that her recent tests for cancer are clear.

☛ 7pm Prayer

Praise God for the engaged couples in our church and pray for them as they prepare for marriage - that they will unite in loving and serving God and grow in love for one another.

☛ St Andrew's Ministries

Pray for our ESL Group in the care of Jane Clifford. Give thanks for a great team of helpers for this year. Pray for the opportunity this affords for outreach in the community and making Christ known in practical ways to those from other cultures and language groups.

☛ Other

Pray for Archbishop Glenn Davies and his wife Di in their ministry throughout the Diocese. Give wisdom for the various issues needing attention that all might be done with grace and understanding of people's needs.

Pray for Chris Edwards, shortly to be consecrated Bishop, and his wife Belinda, as they prepare to take up the responsibility of Bishop of the Northern Region. Thank God that he has called a man of his calibre to take up this task in our area.

*All that our missionaries
do in and around their communities*

MISSION & AID

MARK AND ROCHELLE GROOMBRIDGE



📍 Slovenia

Pray for Mark and Rochelle Groombridge with children Matej, Philippa and Calvin currently serving with CMS in Slovenia at the Reformed Evangelical Church in Ljubljana where Peter Novak is Pastor.

After some 10 years they have decided to return to Australia in six month's time. Pray for them as they begin to tell people that they are leaving. Slovenes generally maintain a very small circle of close friendships and feel the separation keenly, particularly the children.

Give thanks for the on-going proclamation of Jesus Christ with friends and families during the Christmas period; also for the Groombridges' growth in understanding Jesus death and resurrection as they have been reading through Luke's gospel.

Pray for people who joined in the Christmas events, especially Rochelle's friend, that they would be interested in learning more about Jesus.

Pray for their relationships as they speak with friends about returning to Australia.

Pray that God will keep them strong in him as they finish up over the coming months and return to Australia. Pray that God will sustain them mentally and emotionally through this time of great change.

Thank God that Kingsley and Veronica Box will move to Ljubljana to work alongside Peter Novak.

*Words you'll need
for today's service*

SERVICE ITEMS

CONFESSION

Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have strayed from your ways
 like lost sheep,
We have left undone
 what we ought to have done,
and we have done
 what we ought not to have done.
We have followed our own ways
 and the desires of our own hearts.
We have broken your holy laws.
Yet, good Lord, have mercy on us;
restore those who turn to you,
according to your promises declared
 to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.
And grant, merciful Father,
 for his sake,
that we may live a godly
 and obedient life,
to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

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.

KEY CONTACTS

☉ Senior Leadership Team

John Dickson – Senior Minister
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Cath Ahern – Children’s Minister (*Honorary*)
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☉ Pastoral

Suz Gorham – Assoc. Women’s Minister (*Part Time*)
10am and 7pm Congregations
M. 0478 040 773
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Mike Hastie – Assist. Minister (7pm Congregation & Youth)
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Meredith Hatcher – Assoc. Women’s Minister (*Part Time*)
8:30am, 10am and 5pm Congregations
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Jean Rixon – Senior’s Ministry Worker (*Honorary*)
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James Smith – Assist. Minister (10am Congregation)
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☉ Children’s Ministry

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☉ Community Service Project

David Morris – Coordinator of Volunteers
(*Part Time, Honorary*)
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☉ Administration / Church Office

T. (02) 9412 2553
office@standrews.net.au

FINANCIAL SUPPORT DETAILS

☉ Supporting the Property Redevelopment

To support the general work of St Andrew’s, electronic banking details for regular direct credit are:

Anglican Parish St Andrew’s
BSB 704 998
A/C 100 005 413

This is our preferred method to receive your regular support.
If you prefer to make cash/cheque contributions, there is a gifts and donations box attached to the church’s rear pew.

☉ Supporting the Property Redevelopment

To support the St Andrew’s Property Development, **tax-deductible** contributions can be made to the following account:

St Andrew’s Anglican Church Roseville Donation Fund
BSB 704 998
A/C 100 010 195

Please include your surname and the initials “PV” (for Property Vision) in the reference field.

Donations by cheque should be made to St Andrew’s Roseville Donation Fund.

Please mark the envelope with your surname and “PV”.

A receipt for tax purposes will be forwarded to you upon receiving your electronic or cheque donation.

If you would like to support the Property Redevelopment but **do not** require a tax deduction, please contact Santino Dimarco for specific instructions: santino.dimarco@standrews.net.au

ST
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IN THE COMMUNITY

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