

**WE**  
*Believe*  
**IN PRAYER**  
**PRAISE**  
**NEWS &**  
**THE BIBLE**

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**WELCOME TO ST ANDREW'S ROSEVILLE**  
**22ND MARCH 2015**

**ST**  
**ANDREW'S**  
*Believes*  
**IN NEWS**

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

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# FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER

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## REV JOHN DICKSON

### ☛ You asked for it: more from John Dickson on Mark 11.

I have heard through some small group leaders that a few people were disappointed last week that I didn't take the sermon right through to the end of Mark 11 and, in particular, to Jesus' promise to be able to "move mountains".

Actually, I cut my thoughts about this section out of the sermon, because it was already too long. So I'm glad to pick it up off the cutting room floor.

As we saw, by cursing the fig tree and overturning the tables in the temple Jesus was offering a graphic warning—via a piece of prophetic theatre—that Jerusalem and its leadership were heading for destruction, a theme Jesus expands on in Mark 13. When this theme of judgment against Jerusalem is understood, Jesus' mention in verse 22 of "moving mountains" takes on huge significance. In reply to the disciples' astonishment at the withered fig tree (a symbol of Jerusalem's fall) he declares:

<sup>22</sup> "Have faith in God. <sup>23</sup> Truly I tell you, if you say to this mountain, "Be taken up and thrown into the sea," and if you do not doubt in your heart, but believe that what you say will come to pass, it will be done for you." As with the

cursing of the fig tree, the Old Testament background fills in the blanks here, so to speak. The prophet Zechariah not only promised the arrival of the Messiah into Jerusalem (on a colt), in chapter 14 he also predicted a future judgment upon Jerusalem and he gave advance notice of the best escape-route for the faithful: they were to go east straight over the Mount of Olives. Here's the text:

Zechariah 14. See, a day is coming for the LORD, when the plunder taken from you will be divided in your midst. <sup>2</sup> For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses looted and the women raped; half the city shall go into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city. <sup>3</sup> Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle. <sup>4</sup> On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives, which lies before Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley; so that one half of the Mount shall withdraw northward, and the other half southward. <sup>5</sup> And you shall flee by the valley of the LORD's mountain.

This is obviously symbolic—strictly speaking, 'apocalyptic'—language. The prophecy assures the faithful of a speedy flight to safety right

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through a 'departing' Mount of Olives. This is the idea behind Jesus' words in v.23 "...say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' The reference to 'this mountain' makes clear he is referring not to any old mountain, or to mountains generally, but to the mountain he is actually standing on, the Mount of Olives, the same mountain Zechariah said would be removed to provide an escape for the faithful when fleeing the destruction of Jerusalem. In other words, having signified the destruction of Jerusalem in the cursing of the fig tree, Jesus now assures his followers, in highly symbolic language, that God will nonetheless provide a way of escape for them, eastward over the Mount of Olives and into the safety of the Judean hill country. The same advice appears in Mark 13:14 where Jesus says the disciples will escape the fall of Jerusalem "fleeing to the mountains" of Judea. These are the mountains just beyond the Mount of Olives. In other words, while the promise of 'moving mountains' through prayer may have a secondary application to our prayer life generally, Jesus is specifically promising apocalyptic rescue from the destruction coming upon Jerusalem (which, indeed, occurred just 40 years later).

The same topic runs through the final section in Mark 11 in the words, "Whenever you stand

praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses" (v.25). Some scholars think this is a random saying of Jesus that Mark attached here for no good reason. Others point out that it fits perfectly where it is, if one interprets it as a reference to the need to forgive various kinds of enemies and opponents who might turn to Christ in the final days of the fall of Jerusalem. The temptation for those forewarned by Jesus and given a pre-arranged way of escape would be to harbour bitterness and resentment toward those upon whom this judgment would come—the unbelieving Jews of Jerusalem. It would have been easy to gloat over them as those who were copping what they deserved. The temptation would have been heightened by the fact that these Jerusalem officials were the ones responsible for executing Jesus. But Jesus won't have this kind of attitude. His disciples must not hold others in contempt. When former opponents of the Christians of Jerusalem end up joining the Christian movement and making their escape, long term believers must not hold their former wrong doing against them. Even if a priest of the Temple were to turn to Christ in the final days before Jerusalem fell, Christians must welcome him with open arms and a forgiving heart.

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# COMMUNITY WATCH

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## THIS WEEK

### ☛ **Parish Annual General Meeting**

Mon 23rd Mar - 7pm

In the Church

Copies of the 2014 financial statements together with the proposed 2015 budget are available on the Display Cabinet.

### ☛ **Environmental Action Group Information Evening**

Thu 26th Mar - 7:15pm - 8:30pm

In the Church Hall - light refreshments provided.

The first EAG information night is on 'Insecticides and Herbicides - Minimising environmental damage when we use garden chemicals'.

See the flyer on the Display Cabinet for more information. To book your place email [eag@standrews.net.au](mailto:eag@standrews.net.au) or call 9412 2553

## FOR THE DIARY

### ☛ **Time Out - Q Station Visit**

Mon 30th Mar - 9:30am

Join us for a visit to the old Quarantine Station on North Head, near Manly.

Meet at the church at 9.30am or at 10.20am at the car park near the station entrance. Please consider inviting a friend or neighbour.

Contact Richard Tress 9416 6416 or Marilyn Moulton 9449 5822 or email [timeout@standrews.net.au](mailto:timeout@standrews.net.au)

### ☛ **Middle Eastern Feast**

Thu 2nd Apr - 7:30pm

In the Church Hall

Cost: \$25 (BYO drinks) - more details on flyer  
When RSVP'ing please confirm that you have paid and what payment method you used.

RSVP by Fri 27th Mar to [events@standrews.net.au](mailto:events@standrews.net.au)

### ☛ **Easter Services**

Good Friday 3rd April

8:30am Traditional

10am Contemporary + Kid's Ministry

Easter Sunday 5th April

8:30am, 10am, 5pm, 7pm regular services

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# COMMUNITY WATCH

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## PLEASE PRAY

### ☛ Churchwide Prayer

Thank God for all who have recently been part of the Belonging course. Pray that they will soon feel part of the family at St Andrew's and settle into growing and serving as God leads.

Pray for our AGM on Monday night; for widespread unity and passion for Christ and his work in and through St Andrews. Pray for the selection of Wardens, Parish Councillors and Nominators and for an inspiring and encouraging meeting. Pray that as the Budget is presented, the parish will work to achieve the goals which are set.

Pray for Tim Clark and Tash Roberts (7pm) and their families (10am, 5pm and 7pm) as they prepare for Tim and Tash's wedding on Saturday 28 March. All are welcome to celebrate with them at the ceremony at 2pm at St Andrew's.

Please pray for families in our congregations who have concern for children and teenagers who are suffering anxiety issues. Pray for wisdom and guidance for parents and a firm trust in God. Pray that these young people will grow in resilience and the peace and confidence of a deep trust in God.

### ☛ 8:30am Prayer

Thank God that Eleanor Firth is home recovering after a fall and pray for her complete healing and return to strength.

### ☛ St Andrew's Ministries

Praise God for Cath and those who help her run the Playgroup. Pray that the children and their carers will see Jesus as the program seeks to show God's love.

### ☛ Other

Pray for our local MP Jonathan O'Dea as the State election is this week; for fair and just results which will impact our daily lives. Pray for our local Federal MP Paul Fletcher in the issues which concern our parliament, that the best decisions will be made for the community as a whole.

## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

We beseech you, almighty God,  
to look in mercy on your people:  
that by your great goodness  
they may be governed  
and preserved evermore;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

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

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# MISSION & AID

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## MALCOLM & LEANNE



Pray for the language studies that Malcolm and Leanne have commenced. Pray for the ability to focus attention on language and for quick learning; particularly that they can hear sounds and tones and reproduce them.

Pray for wisdom about choosing which gathered community to attend and how to be involved.

Pray for good relationships with ongoing contacts in the area.

Pray for Malcolm and Leanne as they cope with the pollution in their area they are living in. Pray for them as they settle in and adapt to the local culture.

### 📍 South East Asia

Pray for Malcolm and Leanne serving in South East Asia in training and development.

Give thanks for the provision of an apartment in a central place in the city.

Praise God that Malcolm and Leanne's children are doing well. All three have started university this year in Australia.

*Words you'll need for  
today's contemporary services*

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# CONTEMPORARY SERVICE PRAYERS

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## CONFESSION

Merciful God, our maker  
and our judge,  
we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed:  
we have not loved you  
with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours  
as ourselves;  
we are sorry for all our sins.  
Father, forgive us.  
Strengthen us to love and obey  
you in newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
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  
T. (02) 9412 2553  
[john.dickson@standrews.net.au](mailto:john.dickson@standrews.net.au)

**Santino Dimarco** – Executive Pastor  
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**Matt Stedman** – Senior Associate Minister  
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**Cath Ahern** – Children's Minister (*Honorary*)  
M. 0407 152 995  
[cath.ahern@standrews.net.au](mailto:cath.ahern@standrews.net.au)

## ➤ Pastoral

**Suz Gorham** – Assoc. Women's Minister (*Part Time*)  
**10am** and **7pm** Congregations  
M. 0478 040 773  
[suz.gorham@standrews.net.au](mailto:suz.gorham@standrews.net.au)

**Mike Hastie** – Assist. Minister (7pm Congregation & Youth)  
M. 0421 014 977  
[mike.hastie@standrews.net.au](mailto:mike.hastie@standrews.net.au)

**Meredith Hatcher** – Assoc. Women's Minister (*Part Time*)  
**8:30am, 10am** and **5pm** Congregations  
M. 0403 154 160  
[meredith.hatcher@standrews.net.au](mailto:meredith.hatcher@standrews.net.au)

**Jean Rixon** – Senior's Ministry Worker (*Honorary*)  
T. (02) 9416 5436  
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**James Smith** – Assist. Minister (10am Congregation)  
M. 0438 669 530  
[james.smith@standrews.net.au](mailto:james.smith@standrews.net.au)

**Peter Watson** – Minister for Seniors (*Part Time*)  
T. (02) 9412 2553  
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## ➤ Children's Ministry

**Cath Ahern** – Children's Minister (*Honorary*)  
M. 0407 152 995  
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## ➤ Community Service Project

**David Morris** – Coordinator of Volunteers  
(*Part Time, Honorary*)  
M. 0404 053 628  
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## ➤ Administration / Church Office

T. (02) 9412 2553  
[office@standrews.net.au](mailto:office@standrews.net.au)

# FINANCIAL SUPPORT DETAILS

## ➤ Supporting the General Ministry

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 Redevelopment, **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](mailto:santino.dimarco@standrews.net.au)

ST  
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