

WE
Believe
IN PRAYER
PRAISE
NEWS &
THE BIBLE

WELCOME TO ST ANDREW'S ROSEVILLE
29TH MAY 2016

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,

I want to offer a brief comment about the important connection between *theology* and *practice*—I promise it's not as boring as it sounds!

At the Sydney Writers' Festival last week, the much loved social commentator and author of *The Good Life* and *Beyond Belief* Hugh Mackay declared: "Jesus never told anyone what to believe in. He only spoke about how to treat each other." The festival organisers were impressed enough with the remark to send it out as a verbatim tweet. Mackay repeated the idea in several other forums as he promoted his new book, which argues that one doesn't need 'beliefs', especially religious ones, to have a coherent ethical viewpoint.

It is always disappointing when someone so well informed on other matters imagines they can declare forth with authority on topics about which they are, to say the least, not well informed.

With 5 minutes thought I was struck by how many of Jesus' *paradigmatic* statements refer to specific *beliefs* as the logical basis of *obedience*. The Sermon on the Mount opens

with the words, "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." The most famous sermon of Jesus, in other words, begins with a reminder that he is not just looking for moral riches but a humble recognition of our moral poverty as the key that unlocks the door to God's kingdom. There's a bit of *belief* in there. Or consider the opening words of Jesus in Mark's Gospel: "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the gospel". There's that pesky 'kingdom' stuff again, and a call to believe it all—as 'gospel'.

I could go on, but a particularly good example of the connection between theology and ethics is Jesus' summary of his teaching about loving our enemies, turning the other cheek, giving to those in need, and so on. He concludes: "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." Here we find the inner logic of all that Jesus taught about ethics: it is because mercy is at the heart of God that it is also the central ethical principle of the universe. I am almost tempted to say that Jesus *never* taught people 'how to treat each other' without grounding it in stuff we are 'meant to believe' about the love of God.

The ABC published my full critique of Hugh Mackay's thought here if you're interested: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-05-20/dickinson-can-we-love-our-enemies-in-a-godless-world/7433288>

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But the reason I raise all this is to remind us that Christian behaviour is *not* about trying harder to be moral. All of our efforts for the Lord, for each other, and for the church, ought to flow out of a deep sense of God's grace and mercy toward us. Attending church, coming to prayer meetings, giving to the ministry, inviting friends to Sunday services, and our daily efforts to live for Christ at home, school, university, or in the workplace—all of these things are motivated by thanksgiving for God's mercy and animated by the power of God's Spirit within us.

This is not to downplay good old-fashioned 'duty'—some sense of duty never hurt anyone. But as we strive to live for God every day, and especially as we pursue our *2020 Vision* Project, my prayer will continue to be that we will do great things for the Lord as an overflow of thanksgiving and in the power of the Spirit.

As the Prayer Book puts it so well:

We pray, give us that due sense
of all your mercies,
that our hearts may be truly thankful,
and that we hold forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but also in our lives;
by giving up ourselves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honour and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

God bless,

John

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Lord God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: mercifully accept our prayers, and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do nothing good without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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COMMUNITY WATCH

THIS WEEK

🕒 **StreetWork Supporter's Breakfast**

Sat 4th Jun | 8am

In the Church Hall

An opportunity to hear about and support StreetWork's efforts for at-risk youth in our local community.

Please RSVP to rsvp@streetwork.org.au or contact **02 9419 7559**

🕒 **First Aid Training**

Sat 4th Jun | 9am - 4pm

In the Kelman Room

For Kids and Youth ministry team members and anyone else who like to refresh their first aid skills or to attend a course for the first time.

Run by Australia Wide First Aid. Cost: \$94

Register by Tue 31st May by emailing cath.ahern@standrews.net.au

🕒 **Belonging Course**

Sun 19th Jun | 12pm - 2pm

Over lunch in the Kelman Room

Fast-track way of getting to know St Andrew's and other newcomers.

Contact James Smith for details or email belonging@standrews.net.au

🕒 **Property Redevelopment Launch Event**

Mon 20th June | 7pm

Roseville Golf Club

There is no payment required for this event.

Guest speaker: Archbishop Glenn Davies

RSVP by Fri 10th June to

events@standrews.net.au

PLEASE PRAY

🕒 **Churchwide**

Please pray for everyone attending the Life of Jesus course beginning this week. Pray that they will find the course engaging, helpful in giving insight, and pray for John and Buff as they host and lead these nights.

Pray that we all find opportunity for conversations with friends and family that will be effective in promoting the gospel and useful for invitations to church.

🕒 **8:30am**

Please pray for Brian Parkins' daughter Rachel as she recovers from a serious fall last week. Thank God for her faith and ask him to comfort and strengthen Rachel during this difficult time.

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COMMUNITY WATCH

☛ 10am

Praise God for new people who have recently joined the 10am congregation. Pray that they will quickly feel settled in our community and grow in their faith and service of Jesus Christ at St Andrew's.

Pray for Anna Wadsworth, granddaughter of Denis and Myree Pullen, who is being baptised at the 10am service today. Pray for Anna's parents Matthew and Joanne; for love and wisdom to bring up Anna to know and follow Jesus.

Please pray for Richard Tress who is rehabilitating at Castlecrag Private Hospital after surgery on a broken arm he suffered last week. Pray that the break will mend quickly and that there will be no long-lasting effects from the injury.

☛ 5pm

Pray for Eden Sharkie who is being baptised today at the 5pm service. Pray for Eden, her parents David and Kirsten and their family; that they will help Eden grow in the knowledge of God's love.

☛ 7pm

Pray for a new small group beginning this week and for the leaders Leigh and Meredith

Hatcher; that members lives will be transformed by God's word and that meaningful friendships will develop quickly.

Pray for university students as they approach their Semester 1 exams. Pray for clarity of mind and for God's peace in anxious circumstances.

Praise God for the recent fortnightly fitness group that meets on Saturday mornings; especially for a number of friends from outside the church community who we've connected with.

☛ St Andrew's Ministries

Pray for the music ministry teams at St Andrew's; that they can use their gifts to help all of us worship God and draw near to him during our services.

Pray for Cath Ahern as she leads the team who teach SRE in local public schools. Pray that the children enjoy the classes and engage well with activities and lessons.

☛ Other

Pray for Roseville College Principal Megan Krimmer and Roseville Public School Principal Sean Moran. Pray guidance and wisdom for them as they nurture and care for the students at their schools.

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

MISSION & AID

STEPHANIE AND ANDREW BROWNING



📍 Tanzania

Stephanie and Andrew Browning with children William and Christopher are serving in Arusha, Tanzania where Andrew works at the Lutheran Mission Hospital and Stephanie has set up and runs the Christ Church International School.

Praise God for Andrew's recent trip to Uganda. Fifty-six women were cured of fistulas. There was one remarkable miracle due to a new operation Andrew has developed in Tanzania, with God's help. Three doctors were trained in this procedure.

Thank God also for Andrew's trip to the Addis Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia where he was able to help with a workshop for fistula experts from around Africa (only 4 people!). It was

encouraging to share the developments and see how the care for patients has greatly improved over the years.

Pray for Dr Yohannes and Dr Margaret in North Eastern Ethiopia as they're faced with the many difficulties of working in the desert. There is a severe famine there and many pregnant women are severely malnourished. Many young children, older people and livestock are dying from hunger and thirst.

Pray for the new Maternity Africa hospital in Northern Ethiopia (Barhir Dar) that is currently being built. Building is well under way and it is hoped that the hospital will be opened in September. With record numbers of women delivering (around 200 per month) there is a great need for this new hospital.

Pray for the staff who have been so busy with the number of deliveries that the outreach work to surrounding health centres has suffered. 2 new midwives have been employed in the hope of improving this situation.

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

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE PRAYERS

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

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➔ Group Contacts

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Environmental Action Group
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ESL
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Fit For Good
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Playgroup
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Time Out
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Youth
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Xtreme
Fri after school for Years 5&6
kids@standrews.net.au

FINANCIAL SUPPORT DETAILS

➔ Supporting the General Ministry

Supporting the general work of St Andrew's:

Anglican Parish St Andrew's
BSB 704 998 | A/C 100 005 413 *

This is our preferred method to receive your regular support.

Alternatively cash/cheque contributions can be made via the offertory collection during each of the services.

➔ Supporting the Property Redevelopment

To support the St Andrew's Property Redevelopment, **tax-deductible** contributions can be made via:

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".

If you would like to support the Property Redevelopment but **do not** require a tax deduction, please contact the Executive Pastor, Santino Dimarco.

(* this BSB may be displayed as Indue Limited which is part of the Diocesan banking arrangements)

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