

WE
Believe
IN PRAYER
PRAISE
NEWS &
THE BIBLE

WELCOME TO ST ANDREW'S ROSEVILLE
12TH MARCH 2017

ST
ANDREW'S
Believes
IN NEWS

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

FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER

REV NAME

☛ **Senior Minister**

Dear St Andrew's,

This week we will be handing out a 'pamphlet' from the Sydney Anglican Diocese titled *What has God Joined Together?* It deals with a Christian understanding of marriage and is intended as a resource for believers as they think through the fraught questions around same sex unions. I am normally hyper-sensitive about any such Christian communications—we are often clumsy and lacking in grace. But this document is good. Any quibbles I have don't take away from the fact that I am proud the Diocese has produced something so thoughtful and measured. Archbishop Davies has asked us to distribute it to church members. I am glad to do so.

In the meantime, I have written my own piece on the topic with a slightly different purpose. You could call it 'A Very Short Case for Classical Marriage'. It is written not for the church per se, nor for members of the LGBTI community, but for our neighbours who might be wondering if there are any half-decent arguments, beyond Bible verses, for maintaining the traditional view of marriage. Perhaps it will be useful to you in your conversations with friends. Feel free to let me

know what you think. It's a work in progress. I'm a work in progress.

The case for maintaining the traditional understanding of marriage is neither dumb nor mean, and nor does it depend on religion. But given the passionate nature of the debate, that case has rarely been understood before it was shouted down.

If most national polls are correct, the redefinition of marriage is only a matter of time. The purpose of making the case for what I am calling 'classical marriage', then, is not to block the will of the people. It is to explain why plenty of half-reasonable Australians will continue to find it impossible to think of two people of the same sex as married, whatever happens at law. I offer here my 'eulogy' to a venerable old argument that lost without ever really being understood.

1. The universality of marriage. All cultures we know anything significant about have shared the same basic idea of marriage, as the union of a man to a woman in hope of creating and nurturing their offspring. Even polygamous cultures preserved an identical idea of marriage by insisting that a man with four wives had four separate marriages not one union with four women. Despite great cultural variety of expression, this core idea is

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universal, and it unhistorical to suggest otherwise. The revered Roman philosopher Musonius Rufus (the ‘Socrates of Rome’) could be speaking for all of humanity when he said in his treatise on marriage, “The husband and wife should come together for the purpose of making a life in common and of creating children.”

Ancient Romans (like the Greeks) happily affirmed all sorts of other relationships, including long term same sex love, but they never countenanced same sex ‘marriage’. Indeed, while no one could describe the Romans as homophobic, in plays and literature they sometimes ridiculed the notion of two people of the same sex being ‘married’.

To be clear, the fact that human cultures have shared the same understanding of marriage does not in itself mean that we should follow their lead. The point is that the universality of the concept of marriage should cause us to wonder what *fact* of the human situation was recognised with such unanimity across time and cultures. What ‘logic’ did *they* observe which *we* perhaps have overlooked?

2. A biological fact. Every human being comes into existence as a result of the union of just *one* man and *one* woman. The bond of a man to a woman is therefore the key building block of any human community. The irreducible core of

society, then, is: man + woman + offspring. Without this so-called ‘nuclear family’—which is really just the fundamental biological reality—there is no ongoing society.

All cultures observed this fact of the human situation and honoured the unique bond of a man to a woman with a unique terminology: marriage. That is the indisputable starting-point of the logic of classical marriage.

3. An existential and social insight. This basic biological fact is strengthened by the equally obvious existential and social insight that all human beings, under normal circumstances, reasonably desire to be raised by the two people that gave them life. Marriage, understood in the classical sense, is the only way to facilitate this existential and social good; it is the only way to ensure that children are raised by the two people responsible for their existence.

The concern to preserve this social good underlies much of the opposition to redefining marriage. Same sex marriage, by definition, entrenches a vision of family that structurally prevents a child from being raised in a household by the two people that gave the child life. It chooses to estrange children from the daily care of at least one of the biological parents.

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4. The classical definition of marriage. A clear definition of marriage arises logically from these biological, existential, and social observations. Only one human bond has been endowed by nature with the inherent capacity to come together in hope of creating and nurturing their own offspring: the bond of a man to a woman. This unique union, which serves such a central role in the progress and flourishing of human communities, deserves its own well-guarded accolade: marriage.

5. Marriage and childlessness. The emphasis on child-bearing (and raising) inherent in the classical view of marriage does not preclude infertile couples from being regarded as married—a frequent misunderstanding of the classical view. Throughout history, marriages that produced no children were still regarded as marriages, for the simple reason that such unions were nonetheless inherently oriented toward the usual goal of marriage, albeit unsuccessfully. Such couples were seen as injured members of the same team, aspiring to the same social good but without success. Infertile marriages therefore still inherently testify to—and so publicly commend—the key social good to which marriage has been oriented from the beginning: ensuring that human beings are born to and raised by the two people that gave them life. Marriage

among the elderly (those past child-bearing age) can also be affirmed on similar grounds.

Same sex couples certainly possess their own noble qualities (such as love, friendship, and loyalty), but they do not inherently testify to or support this great social good, any more than do two ('platonic') best friends who cohabit for life in mutual companionship and service. We may easily recognise the good in such relationships without broadening, and therefore thinning out, the concept of marriage by declaring that all adult loving bonds are 'marriage'.

6. Marriage and discrimination. Same sex couples, like de facto couples, currently have all of the same legal rights and protections as married couples. Yet, it is sometimes feared that by refusing same sex couples the accolade of 'marriage' we are discriminating against them and so withholding from them their human rights. However, refusing to acknowledge same sex marriage can only be viewed as discriminatory if one has already assumed a definition of marriage as *a loving adult bond*. With that starting definition, it is indeed a breach of rights to exclude same sex couples from 'marriage'.

But what if one holds that marriage is *the unique human bond endowed by nature with the inherent capacity to come together in hope of*

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creating and nurturing their own offspring? In that case, there can be no charge of discrimination. For the thing that is preventing two people of the same sex being married to each other is not a judgment about the worth of gay men or lesbian women but a prior definition of what marriage itself is. The fact that traditional marriage advocates could acknowledge a gay man marrying a lesbian woman is evidence (however rarely enacted) that the traditional objection to same sex marriage is not about sexual orientation *per se* but about the definition of the marriage bond. If you broaden the concept of marriage to include two people of the same sex, in other words, you have not extended the right to marry to same sex couples. You have merely changed what you mean by marriage.

7. Losing well. None of the above amounts to grounds for 'blocking' same sex marriage, if that is the will of the Australian people. Classical marriage advocates, whether religious or otherwise, have no special rights over society simply because they represent a venerable and universal human tradition. My own hope is simply that Australians will be able to recognise in the above thoughts that opposition to same sex marriage is not necessarily ill-informed or mean-spirited (though, of course, it *can* be). It rather

develops out of an appreciation of the logic of the natural order and an abiding conviction that our culture is enhanced by giving *more* emphasis (not less) to the key building block of human communities: the union of a man to a woman in hope of creating and nurturing their own family.

It is possible to honour same sex couples for their own inherent goods (of devotion, love, and friendship), but this does not mean we need to redefine marriage to make LGBTI people feel more included. It is possible to accept same sex relationships as an ordinary feature of Australian life without accepting the redefinition of marriage itself. The ancient Romans could do it. So can we.

I remain committed to honouring LGBTI Australians and, as a Christian, to 'losing well'. Christ showed us how to profoundly love and profoundly disagree at the same time. I am looking forward to fresh opportunities to embody this twofold ethical feat in His name.

God bless,

John

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COMMUNITY WATCH

THIS WEEK

➤ Getting Together Knitting Group

Thu 16th Mar | 12:30pm - 2:30pm

In the Kelman Room

Contact Jane candjclifford@hotmail.com or
Jenny jennyjessup@yahoo.com.au

➤ Reformation Rally

Sat 18th Mar | 9am - 1pm

At Marcus Loane Hall, Moore College
1 King St Newtown

Celebrating 500 years of the Reformation.
Talks on Tyndale, Luther, and Cranmer by
Peter Jensen, Simon Manchester and Peter
Adam | www.moore.edu.au/events

COMING UP

➤ Belonging Course

Sun 19th Mar | 12:30pm - 2:30pm

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

➤ Roseville-Lindfield-Killara Inter-church Lenten Services

Tue 21st Mar 7:45pm

At Holy Family Catholic Church, Lindfield cnr
Pacific Hwy and Highfield Rd, Lindfield

Preacher: Rev Mary Pearson (Lindfield Uniting)

Tue 4th Apr 7:45pm

At Killara Uniting Church Cnr Arnold St and
Karranga Ave, Killara

Preacher: The Rt. Rev. Peter Watson

➤ 2020 Vision Project Gala Dinner & Auction

Sat 25th Mar | 7pm In the Church Hall

Dress code: Bow ties & boas

Tables of 8 available

RSVP to events@standrews.net.au

Cost: \$150 per ticket from 11 March onwards.

After emailing your RSVP you will receive
information on how to make payment.

Gala Dinner Volunteers needed for
babysitting, set-up and pack-up, wait staff etc.

Contact volunteers@standrews.net.au

➤ Parish Annual General Meeting

Mon 27th Mar | 7pm

In the Church

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COMMUNITY WATCH

OTHER

🕒 AGM Election Nominations

Nominations for Parish Councillors, Wardens, Nominators and Synod Reps are required prior to the AGM on Monday 27th March.

Talk to those you think will serve well and, with their permission, nominate them by email ensuring that you clearly state who you are nominating and for which role:

santino.dimarco@standrews.net.au

Please note that if you nominate someone, you must also be present at the Annual General Meeting.

PLEASE PRAY

🕒 8:30am

Pray for Colin Yarham who is recovering from surgery on his hand after a fall and the discovery of pneumonia whilst in hospital. Thank God that there were no broken bones from the fall.

Continue to pray for John Stanbridge and Lindsay Killen following kidney surgery. We thank God that John's pathology shows containment and successful removal and pray for a calm and courageous spirit for Lindsay as he still awaits results.

Pray for Naida Holliday and Mark Jolly as they are both unable to attend church.

🕒 10am

Praise God for the safe arrival of a baby boy, Riley Alexander, to Stephen and Olwen Chell and particularly that Riley and Olwen are doing well. Pray that the family quickly settle into a new routine and that Jessica will enjoy having a baby brother.

Pray for Amity Rogers, her parents Jackson and Mary Ellen and her brothers Atticus and Rufus. Thank God for the recent opportunity of meetings with neurosurgeons here and globally to consider how to treat Amity's brain tumour. Pray for Jackson and Mary Ellen; for guidance, wisdom and peace in this anxious period as they try to decide what to do, especially as Amity is well at the moment and might continue to be so. There are experimental options available but none is proven and all are unlikely to be a lasting treatment. Pray the family in this difficult period and especially for Mary Ellen in the final stages of pregnancy. Praise God that Amity is loving school, learning to write and read and has been appointed the class rep for the SRC!

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COMMUNITY WATCH

☛ St Andrew's Ministries

Pray for the ESL classes held on Thursday mornings. Please pray for Jane Clifford and the other ESL volunteers. Pray that the classes will help those who attend form new friendships as well as develop their English skills.

Pray for all those who attend Playgroup each week, and for Cath Ahern, Mel Bell and their team of helpers. Pray for the parents and children to see Jesus' love through the activities and through the care given by all involved.

☛ Other

Pray for our local Federal MP, Paul Fletcher, and local State MP, Jonathan O'Dea, as they represent us in parliament. Give them wisdom and energy as they work on many issues, and pray that God's will is done in state and federal parliament.

If you would like to communicate prayer points to the Ministry Team, please email

prayer@standrews.net.au

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

We beseech you, almighty God,
look on the heartfelt desires
of your servants, and stretch forth
the right hand of your power
to be our defence against all
our enemies; through Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.

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COMMUNITY WATCH

ST ANDREW'S MINISTRY UPDATES

🕒 **Get Together knitting group**

It's a great thing when St Andrew's really does start to look like a centre of community. We see this in the "Get Together" knitting group.

Jane Clifford and Jenny Jessup wanted to engage socially with anyone in our community who was interested in craft or might just want to join together to chat. Every second Thursday they meet from 12:30pm - 2:30pm in the Kelman Room to knit and sew for people in need.

They've made beanies and blankets that have found their way to Women's Shelters and Streetworks ministries.

If you don't know how to knit or sew, Jane and Jenny are happy to provide lessons. Perhaps this is one way you could join in at St Andrew's?

The next meetings are 16th and 30th March. For more details contact Jane: 9417 4169 or candjclifford@hotmail.com or Jenny jennyjessup@yahoo.com.au

🕒 **Fit For Good**

Would you like to do some good for others, raise the profile of St Andrew's locally, while improving your overall health and well-being? The Fit for Good ministry includes a Running Group and Pilates classes and all money raised goes to worthy aid charities (\$13,000 since Fit For Good began).

The Running Group meets every Sunday at the church at 6:45am. Its focus this term is training for the local Lindfield fun run on Sunday 9th April (there is a 5km and a 10km course). About 40 adults and children participated last year, many in St Andrew's branded singlets or t-shirts (most sizes still available). So why not join "The Believe Team" and make a colourful splash for St Andrew's in the heart of this community?

Pilates classes are held at St Andrew's in the Upper Hall on Mondays (5:30-6:30pm) and Fridays (11.15am - 12.15pm). They are run by professional instructors (Katy Wiseman from 5pm and Angie Black from 10am) who donate all of the funds they receive through the Pilates classes to our Fit For Good ministry. The very reasonably priced classes are suitable for beginners through to advanced.

For more information on Fit For Good please contact fitforgood@standrews.net.au

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

MISSION & AID

JENNY FALLON



🕒 **SIM (Serving In Mission) Australia**

Jenny Fallon has recently marked 30 years since starting with SIM (as a community health nurse and midwife in Burkina Faso). She has now taken on a new role of Member Care Coordinator for NSW/ACT.

Pray for SIM Australia's Member Care team; for vision and cohesion as they adjust to slightly changed roles. Give thanks for Steve Early coming on board to help with training, and for Stan and Deanna's leadership.

Give thanks for Jenny and her husband Dale's new church fellowship, Alive@5. Pray they'd continue to walk closely with the Lord and find how they can best serve him whatever their location.

Pray for the many personnel needs SIM has round the world. Pray God would call more people to serve through administrative roles and teaching in schools.

Praise God for the Equipping Women program in Burkina Faso. Pray the women would grow in spiritual maturity and capacity to teach others from God's Word.

Thank God for the HOPE for AIDS program in Malawi and the many who've been helped and encouraged over the years. Pray for the Spirit's leading in how to make this sustainable under the African Economic Community.

Pray for the Missions Interlink NSW Re-entry retreat for returned missionaries from many agencies from 19-21 May. Jenny and Dale will be facilitators for this.

Pray for guidance for Jenny and Dale in regard to their possible return to Malawi later this year for another short term mission.

Continue to pray for the protection and release of Ken Elliot (abducted with his wife, Jocelyn, from the north of Burkina Faso more than 12 months ago. Jocelyn was later released). There has been no recent news about this situation.

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

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE PRAYERS

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
T. (02) 9412 2553
john.dickson@standrews.net.au

Santino Dimarco – Executive Pastor
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santino.dimarco@standrews.net.au

Stuart Holman – Senior Associate Minister
M. 0414 439 771
stuart.holman@standrews.net.au

Cath Ahern – Children’s Minister (*Honorary*)
M. 0407 152 995
cath.ahern@standrews.net.au

➤ Group Contacts

Children’s Ministry
kids@standrews.net.au

Community Project
communityproject@standrews.net.au

Environmental Action Group
eag@standrews.net.au

ESL
esl@standrews.net.au

Fit For Good
fitforgood@standrews.net.au

Playgroup
playgroup@standrews.net.au

Time Out
timeout@standrews.net.au

Youth
stayrevive@standrews.net.au

Xtreme
Fridays after school for Years 5&6
kids@standrews.net.au

➤ Ministry Contacts

Mike Hastie – Assistant Minister
M. 0421 014 977
mike.hastie@standrews.net.au

James Smith – Assistant Minister
M. 0438 669 530
james.smith@standrews.net.au

Peter Watson – Minister for Seniors
(*Part Time*)
T. (02) 9412 2553
peter.watson@standrews.net.au

➤ Church Office

Bec Kimpton – Office Manager
T. (02) 9412 2553
office@standrews.net.au

FINANCIAL SUPPORT DETAILS

➤ Supporting the General Ministry

Supporting the general work of St Andrew’s:

St Andrew’s Anglican Church Roseville
BSB 032 086 | A/C 387 248

*This is our preferred method
to receive your regular support.*

Alternatively cash/cheque contributions can be made
via the offertory collection during 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 062 240 | A/C 0090 1771

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.

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

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St Andrew’s Anglican Church Roseville
1 Bancroft Avenue Roseville NSW 2069, Australia
T. (02) 9412 2553 | office@standrews.net.au | www.standrews.net.au

*Please note that a still photograph is taken during each of the services to assist with
confirming attendance numbers. The photographs will not be used for publication.*