

WE  
*Believe*  
IN PRAYER  
PRAISE  
NEWS &  
THE BIBLE

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WELCOME TO ST ANDREW'S ROSEVILLE  
SUNDAY 2ND JULY 2017

ST  
ANDREW'S  
*Believe's*  
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

### ✉ Senior Minister

Dear St Andrew's,

If you've been following the media reports this week, the latest Census figures show that we are 'losing our religion'—one of the headlines in the last few days. The percentage of Australians self-identifying as Christians dropped from 61 per cent in 2011 to 52 per cent in 2016, whilst the percentage of people ticking the 'no religion' box rose from 22.6 per cent to 29.6 per cent—almost a third of the population. These results were somewhat expected, even if the change is more rapid and larger than anticipated.

So, what's going on?

Sceptical groups have been declaring that this is an inevitable trend toward unbelief in Australia. The greater the modernisation, the less plausible and relevant Religion becomes. If you listen to some speak, you'd expect Christianity to practically disappear from our shores in about 50 years. But rumours of religion's death are greatly exaggerated!

It is true that church attendance has experienced a rapid decline in the last 50 years in Australia, but that decline has been slowing and is now holding roughly steady, with about

15% of Australians attending church at least once a month. This suggests that many of the 61% of Australians who self-described as 'Christian' in the 2011 Census were probably indicating a cultural label rather than an actively religious one. The same is probably true of a good portion of the 52% that ticked 'Christian' in the 2016 Census. The 'nominal Christian' number is coming down toward the 'actively observant Christian' number.

Not that I identify being a Christian with mere church attendance. Interestingly, survey data that explores the actual beliefs of Australians reveals that somewhere in between 15% and 52% of the population continue to have fundamentally Christian convictions. For example, 23% of Australians think the Bible is 'a book inspired by God' and a further 17% think it is 'mostly true'. Concerning Jesus, 21% say they are 'confident Jesus rose from the dead' and a further 26% think he 'possibly rose from the dead'. (Source: McCrindle, 2016)

So, far fewer than 52% of Australians (yet far more than 15%) hold core Christian beliefs. It seems to me that the new Census data is simply uncovering what has long been the case: many Australians are Christian only in name. What has changed is that the social convention of calling oneself a Christian is eroding. Church scandals and the increasing

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# FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER

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secularisation of media and politics have understandably made calling oneself a Christian—unless one really, really means it—less desirable. And we probably haven't seen the end of the decline yet. It may be that by the next Census, or the one after that, we will 'bottom out' at something like 30% of the population that calls itself Christian.

Meanwhile, the untold story in all of this is that the only churches that are evangelistically growing in Australia (and around the Western world) are those that hold orthodox Christian beliefs—evangelicals and Pentecostals. Liberal churches are dying; that's where the large decline in church attendance has come from over recent decades. What all this means is that 'nominal Christianity' and 'Christianity *lite*' are disappearing from our nation, while 'convictional Christianity' continues to grow. Has the Lord been pruning our nation's Christianity to set us up for a period of growth? Please, God!

Those with 'no religion' will no doubt also continue to grow (and reach a limit), meaning that the choice between Christ and unbelief will be sharper and more meaningful over the coming decades. And that is no bad thing!

Blessings,  
John

## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Graciously hear us, Lord God;  
and grant that we, to whom you  
have given the desire to pray,  
may by your mighty aid be  
defended and strengthened in  
all dangers and adversities;  
through Jesus Christ  
our Lord. Amen.

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# COMMUNITY WATCH

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## COMING UP

### ☛ Meals Cook-up & Kid's Ministry Craft Prep

Tue 18th July – 9:30am - 12noon  
in the Church Hall

### ☛ Church-Wide Prayer Meeting

Wed 2nd Aug | 7:30pm - 8:30pm  
In the Church Hall

## FOR THE DIARY

*Dates for your diary - more details to come*

☛ Sat 12th Aug | 5:30pm  
ESL 15th Anniversary Dinner

## PLEASE PRAY

### ☛ Churchwide

Give thanks for this past school term and pray that as our children (and some of their parents) have a break, that the holidays will be a time not just of physical rest but also of spiritual refreshment. Pray that our families will make time for gathering around the Bible and praying together during the holidays.

### ☛ 8:30am

Pray for Bert Oosterhoff; for healing and good rest as he recovers in hospital from prolonged infection following surgery.

Continue to pray for Robert and Judith Riches as they both slowly recover at home from recent health issues.

Pray for those who are no longer able to regularly worship with us due to age, frailty or poor health; Brian Cotton, Beverley Glissan, Margaret Green, Eleanor Firth, Naida Holliday, Margaret Rook, Adrienne Searle, and Frank Wyndham. Pray that they will draw close to God and know His peace and comfort.

### ☛ 7pm

Praise God for the range of Scripture Union and Crusader camps taking place over the winter break. Particularly pray for Zoe Parish and Dave and Katie Woodwell who are serving on Ski Cru camp as well Soha Fassaie who will be leading on a Study 6 Cru camp. Pray that many young people hear and respond to the gospel.

### ☛ St Andrew's Ministries

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

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

**[prayer@standrews.net.au](mailto:prayer@standrews.net.au)**

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# COMMUNITY WATCH

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## AMITY ROGERS

As many of you will know, the Rogers family returned from Mexico last week having decided not to proceed with the treatment there for Amity.

Having met with Professor Kellie early this week, Amity has been placed on a very low dose of steroids which, in the short term, does provide relief from symptoms.

Jackson and Mary Ellen are doing a final review of possible clinical trials for the treatment of DIPG tumours, though they are doubtful that these treatments will be great options for Amity.

It is likely that Amity will soon commence oral chemotherapy which is believed to give the best results with the least impact on quality of life.

As Amity loves swimming, the Rogers family are going on a holiday this week where Amity can enjoy the water before she begins the chemotherapy treatment.

Please pray that the Rogers will enjoy their holiday time and that plane travel will not be difficult given the circumstances. Also pray for wisdom as Jackson and Mary Ellen continue to make critical decisions concerning Amity's care.

Jackson and Mary Ellen have asked that their immense gratitude and thanks be passed on to the church; for the prayer support, practical support and, more recently, the financial support. At this point, the money that has been raised via the appeal that was launched two weeks ago is sufficient for their current needs. We will advise you should there be a need for further funds.

Please continue to pray for Amity, Mary Ellen and Jackson, and for Amity's siblings, Atticus, Rufus and Georgia.

Blessings,

**Santino Dimarco**  
Executive Pastor

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

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# MISSION & AID

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## INDIGENOUS WARLPIRI PEOPLE



### ➤ **Tanami Desert, Northern Territory**

Pray for World Vision as they work with the Warlpiri indigenous communities in the Northern Territory.

Pray for the World Vision Early Childhood Care and Development project (ECCD) and for consistency in the provision of early childhood services in the community.

Pray for the goals of the World Vision project; that progress will continue to be made in 2017;

- Safe communities for children so they have the best chance to develop and are ready for future opportunities and learning.
- Early childhood services that provide culturally sensitive early learning opportunities for children.

- A well-trained local early childhood workforce to help deliver these services.
- That communities will lead their early childhood agenda and advocate for locally relevant family and childhood services.

Pray for wisdom for national and community leaders to speak the truth in love, to seek justice with mercy and to care for those who are disadvantaged.

Strengthen indigenous church leaders to faithfully shepherd the flock, and strengthen all indigenous Christians to be salt and light in their communities and in the whole nation.

*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.

There may be an opportunity for Q&A after  
the sermon. Questions will be taken from the  
floor, or can be texted to 0416 874 993.

# KEY CONTACTS

## ☛ Senior Leadership Team

**John Dickson** – Senior Minister  
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**Cath Ahern** – Children's Minister (*Honorary*)  
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## ☛ Group Contacts

**Children's Ministry**  
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**Fit For Good**  
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**Youth**  
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**Xtreme**  
Fridays after school for Years 5&6  
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## ☛ Ministry Contacts

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**Peter Watson** – Minister for Seniors  
(*Part Time*)  
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## ☛ Church Office

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# 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.

The current year budget includes an allocation of  
10% of general offertory to Mission & Aid.

## ☛ 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 032 102 | A/C 141 628

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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*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.*