

# St Andrew's

## ROSEVILLE

19 MARCH 2023

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**We are a church that loves Jesus and wants the good news of His death and resurrection proclaimed to all people, so that they can believe in Him.**  
**If you would like to know more about following Jesus or about St Andrew's, please visit our website -**  
[www.standrews.net.au](http://www.standrews.net.au)

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Dear St Andrew's,

Today we farewell Bettina Potent from our church. Bettina arrived at St Andrew's in November 2020 at the height of the COVID 19 pandemic.

During her time with us Bettina has overseen improvements to the site both physically and operationally, including upgrades to the office and staff areas and the insurance work after the major rain event in 2022. Bettina has improved our office systems and IT, especially our usage of Elvanto and the backend of our website, which has only aided in the ministry that we have been able to do at St Andrew's.

Bettina has overseen the coordination of the many volunteers of the church and been a friendly and supportive face of the church to the many who come onto the site during the week. We are so thankful for her contribution to the life of St Andrew's and also for the care that she has shown to many here in our church family and beyond.

Will you join with me in praising and thanking God for Bettina and her ministry here, and praying for her as she heads off to her new position.

In Christ,

Mal

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### STAFF TEAM:

Senior Minister	Mal York	mal.york@standrews.net.au	0404 489 485
Snr Asst Minister	Scott Warner	scott.warner@standrews.net.au	0416 263 161
Assistant Minister	Vanessa Hughes	vanessa.hughes@standrews.net.au	0413 339 652
Children's Minister	Mel Bell	mel.bell@standrews.net.au	0418 447 428
Youth Minister	Indira Courtness	indira.courtness@standrews.net.au	0421 632 108
Office Manager	Bettina Potent	bettina.potent@standrews.net.au	02 9412 2553

[www.standrews.net.au](http://www.standrews.net.au)

## PARENTS AT 10:30AM

As the Kelman room isn't able to be used at the moment, we have moved our parents room to the foyer of the offices. It's all set up with some simple resources, a screen and tablet that is easily connected to the livestream.

It has pram access, air con and comfy seating so please enjoy!

## COMING UP

- **25 March** - Chilean Fiesta Night  
*Click [here](#) to buy tickets*
- **9 April** - Good Friday (8:30am, 10:30am)
- **11 April** - Easter Day (8:30am, 10:30am, 5pm, 6:30pm)
- **11-14 April** - Crafternoons for HUB; and  
**16 April & 21 April** - Set-up & Pack-up for HUB  
*Click [here](#) to sign up to serve!*
- **17-20 April** - HUB  
*Click [here](#) to book*



## CHURCH VERGER

We are looking for someone to be a church Verger. The role is a casually paid position to facilitate access to and use of the site for people who pay to use the church facilities. The main task is to open and close the site and ensure that the site is left in the way that it was found. For example, wedding rehearsals and weddings, funerals, groups that rent the site on a Saturday or during the week, and so on.

If the right person is so inclined, it would also include knowing how to operate the sound system in order to provide sound support when the hall is being used. Training is available.

The role would suit someone who is looking for casual work, perhaps someone who is retired or studying at university - or neither! If this may be of interest to you, please contact Mal ([mal.york@standrews.net.au](mailto:mal.york@standrews.net.au)).

## SPECTACLE COLLECTION

The collection of old spectacles for the Recycle for Sight program run by the Lions Clubs is on until the end of March. Please place your donations in the box at the back of the church.



## PRAYER POINTS

For your prayers this week...

- Revive Mission Nights (17 & 24 March) - please pray for our youth as they invite friends to come along to one of the Revive Mission nights to hear about the saving grace of Jesus. Pray that people would truly hear, repent and believe in God's perfect timing.
- The surge in COVID numbers, for protection of the vulnerable, swift healing for those who are sick and protection from long COVID.
- Those who are undertaking confirmation classes in readiness to publicly declare their faith at our confirmation service next month.
- Pray for persecuted Christians facing ongoing attacks in northern Nigeria that have left thousands of people dead or displaced. Pray that those who are displaced will be able to re-establish their homes and livelihoods, that they will hold fast to the truth of the gospel, and keep trusting God as they suffer persecution.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The preferred method for contributing to the ministry and operational costs of St Andrew's is via regular EFT giving to:

**BSB 032 086 - Account 387 248**  
**St Andrew's Roseville**

Cash/cheque contributions can be made via the offertory collection boxes inside the church (no funds are kept on site).

For enquiries about financial matters, please contact our Treasurer, David Vidilini via [accounts@standrews.net.au](mailto:accounts@standrews.net.au).

## MISSION + AID CMS - MAL & LEANNE

Please join Mal & Leanne in giving thanks...

- that they are in reasonable health.
- that they have received new 1-year visas (despite being "illegals" for a little while).
- for the arrival of a new lecturer who will focus on Old Testament when the present OT lecturer leaves in June.

Please pray...

- for stamina in a time with so much on at the moment.
- for admin support for the lecturers.
- for a student with a 'broken heart' (his heart is damaged and he is in need of costly surgery) - pray that he will find comfort in our sovereign Lord.
- that chickenpox won't spread further in the community
- wisdom in dealing with the numerous needs that Mal and Leanne encounter.

## SAFE MINISTRY

We take safety seriously at St Andrew's and we are committed to the physical, emotional and spiritual welfare of those in our care. If you have questions or concerns please contact our (voluntary) Safe Ministry Representative, Megan Webster at [safeministry@standrews.net.au](mailto:safeministry@standrews.net.au).

# Quick Resources on the Question of Suffering

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15 March 2023

In last week's talk Scott raised the issue of suffering, and it may have left some wanting to think through this issue more. Jews and Christians have wrestled for thousands of years over the question of why God allows evil and suffering. So, if you are wrestling with that question, you are not alone. It also means there are many resources to look to for assistance. Here are just a few of those resources:

1. You could read:
  - (a) In the Old Testament – Job, Psalm 22 (and other Psalms) and Lamentations
  - (b) In the New Testament - the passion of Jesus, such as in John 19.Our God suffers with us. Many Christian 'greats' cried out to God in pain and suffering.
2. There are many podcasts and interviews with people in the midst of difficult times – eg:
  - a. Undeceptions - Episode 67 from May 2022, titled "On Suffering", which contains an interview with Mary Ellen and Jackson Rogers.
  - b. Undeceptions has a couple of short episodes where John Dickson interviews his friend Ben Shaw and then reflects on Ben's death: see "Still Cancer" on 29 March 2021 and then "Facing Death" on 28 June 2021.
  - c. Or consider Undeceptions Episode 76 from August 2022, titled "Against Euthanasia" for a different take on the subject.
  - d. Hope 103.2 produces several podcasts involving personal interviews. For example: the Undistracted and Finding Hope podcasts. Try the Finding Hope interview with Melissa Lipsett on 25 October 2021 (about her broken home and background).
3. There are many books by ordinary people on the topic. Consider the short book *Carried: A Mother's Memories of a Life Cut Short*, by Gail Parker, from Taree. Gail is Christian and wrote the book about the death of her daughter, Corrine. There are many other books like that one.
4. C S Lewis wrote *A Grief Observed*, about the death of his wife. He also wrote *The Problem of Pain*, which deals with the question in a more academic and less emotive way. Or try a biography of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Christian man executed by the Nazis.
5. Tim Keller wrote a book called *Walking with God through Pain and Suffering* (worth reading) and was *subsequently* diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and told "you will die from it". Listen to:
  - a. Tim's interview on 7 January 2023 with Justin Brierley of the UK podcast 'Unbelievable?' about how cancer has impacted, and indeed benefitted, him.
  - b. John Dickson's interview with Tim on the Undeceptions podcast (title "With Keller") on 4 April 2022.

6. The problem of evil and suffering is often said to have two distinct aspects: an intellectual problem (that philosophers love to debate) and the emotional problem (that New Atheists use to claim that God does not exist). For a detailed treatment of both by an academic Christian philosopher consider William Lane Craig's website 'Reasonable Faith' [www.reasonablefaith.org](http://www.reasonablefaith.org). You will find there:
  - a. Dr Craig's "In the Arena" podcasts, with recordings of his debates on the topic with Phillip Adams, A C Grayling, Sam Harris, Christopher Hitchens and more.
  - b. A lot of written material, with detail and arguments, for example:  
[www.reasonablefaith.org/videos/lectures/the-problem-of-evil-and-suffering-gracepoint-church](http://www.reasonablefaith.org/videos/lectures/the-problem-of-evil-and-suffering-gracepoint-church)  
and  
[www.reasonablefaith.org/writings/popular-writings/existence-nature-of-god/the-problem-of-evil](http://www.reasonablefaith.org/writings/popular-writings/existence-nature-of-god/the-problem-of-evil)
7. For some people, a problem to do with suffering arises by reason of the Old Testament and the pain and suffering that occurs in the OT. For:
  - a. a popular-level discussion of it, listen to the podcast "Ask NT Wright Anything", episode #155 on 3 February 2023 called "Making Sense of Old Testament Violence".
  - b. a more detailed treatment, consider reading *Is God a Moral Monster* by Paul Copan.
8. And, ultimately, the extent of suffering is a concern because we bring a Christian perspective to it. Without God, and his external standard, we have no solid basis for being concerned about evil and suffering. The fact that we are so concerned by evil and suffering is essentially evidence that God exists and we are made in his image.