

St Andrew's

ROSEVILLE

SUNDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2025

St Andrew's Roseville

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

Coming up:

19 Oct - M&A Partner Highlight with Ben Lim

9 Nov - Vision Day

10-12 Nov - Staff Planning Days Away

15 Nov - Bush Walk

17 Nov - Governance Training Evening

23 Nov - M&A Partner Highlight with Andrew Browning

Staff Leave

Indira Ryan: maternity leave starting 1st September 2025

Mel Bell: 18 Sept - 22 Oct

David Rietveld: 22-30 Oct

WE DIDN'T COME JUST TO READ THE MAP

"We've come to church to hear the Bible read and explained."

That's true — but not enough. It's like saying, "We've come to study the map," yet never stepping into the adventure it describes. The Scriptures are not simply information about God; they are the means by which God speaks. When the Bible is read and preached, the living Christ addresses his people.

Karl Barth once said, "We do not speak about God; we speak to God, and God speaks to us." That captures the essence of what is meant to happen when the church gathers. Church is not primarily our initiative — us coming together to talk about God — but God's initiative, gathering us to himself so that he might speak, act, and renew. In Christ, we are "seated with him in the heavenly places," participating in a reality that precedes and surrounds us.

Hebrews expresses this dynamic beautifully: "Since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus... let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings" (Hebrews 10:19,22). Because God has drawn near to us in Christ, we now draw near to him. The whole rhythm of gathered worship — Word, prayer, song, and sacrament — is a response to divine initiative.

The Puritan John Owen described this as communion with God: "Communion with God consists in his communication of himself unto us, with our return unto him of that which he requireth and accepteth, flowing from that union which in Jesus Christ we have with him." Our union with Christ is fixed and unchanging; our communion with him, however, deepens as we listen, trust, and respond to his living Word. So, in one sense, church is not just where we read the map; it's where we walk the road — where heaven and earth overlap, and the living Christ meets his people.

But all metaphors break down, including this one. As Calvin reminds us, "Christ is not offered to us naked, but clothed in his gospel." The Reformers called the Scriptures a means of grace — one of the ways God reveals Christ and imparts his benefits to us.

So perhaps we might think instead of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. They walked beside the risen Christ without recognising him, until he "explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself" (Luke 24:27). Encounter alone was not enough; the Word made the encounter intelligible.

The Scriptures describe the Christ we meet so that we might recognise him for who he truly is. The Bible is both the map and the means — the means by which we encounter Christ, who still comes to meet us, clothed in his Word.

So perhaps next Sunday we might say it differently: *We have come together to open the Scriptures, that the living Word might open us — to meet Christ and have his will written on our hearts by his Spirit.*

Grace & peace,

David Rietveld

(Acting) Senior Minister

MISSION PARTNER PRAYER POINTS

Please be praying for Ben Lim and his ministry with SUEU FOCUS. We will also have the opportunity to hear from and pray for Ben at all the services this Sunday.

- Praise God for three new sisters in Christ this year - two from Hong Kong and one from China! Prayer that they would all be firmly established in Christ and keep growing in him - especially Brenda* (name changed) who has recently returned to China.
- Praise and thank God for the faithful service of the 23 euFOCUS student small group leaders, discipling more than 200 students across 11 groups. Pray that God would strengthen them in his grace as they seek to grow as disciples of Jesus and encourage their members to similarly grow.
- Pray for Pranav, Pat, Kash, Rachel and others investigating Jesus with us - that God would lead them to repentance and faith in Jesus as Lord and Saviour.
- Pray that new euFOCUS Senior Students Susie & Nael would continue growing in godliness & trust as they settle into their leadership roles.
- Pray for wisdom, insight and discernment as we plan for 2026 - to grow euFOCUS as a loving, Jesus-centred community who long and labour to see all of USYD's 30,000+ international students know Jesus' gospel.
- Pray that God would provide all the finances needed (\$9,500 for 2025, and \$37,500p.a. from 2026 onwards) through the generosity of his people.

ST ANDREW'S COMMUNITY NEWS

MISSION & AID PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: BEN LIM

On **Sunday 19th October**, across all services, we'll be hearing from Ben Lim, one of our Mission & Aid partners.

Ben serves with the Sydney University Evangelical Union, ministering among international students—sharing the gospel, discipling young believers, and equipping them to follow Jesus during their time in Australia and beyond.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to hear stories from Ben's ministry, learn how God is at work among international students, and consider how we as a church family can support him—through both prayer and financial partnership.

Prayerful and Financial Support:

Click on the link below to visit the SUEU October Supporters' Month webpage, where you can download a Prayer Booklet.

<https://gradsfund.org/supporters-month-2025/>

If you would like to give to Ben's minister, please visit the link below:

<https://gradsfund.org/home/support/give/>



VISION DAY - SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER

Save the date for our upcoming Vision Day on Sunday 9th November. We will be holding 2 combined services that day, 10am and 6pm. After the 10am service there will be a BBQ lunch, and before the 6pm service there will be a BBQ dinner.



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.

To contribute to our Hall

Redevelopment, visit:

standrews.net.au/building-a-home

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 safeministryrep@standrews.net.au

Parish Council & Wardens 2025

Wardens

Alys Martin (10.30am)

Luke Hall (10.30am)

Aaron Black (5pm)

Treasurer

David Vidilini (10.30am)

Parish Council

Ursula Keen (8.30am)

Narelle Barbarino (10.30am)

Helen Vernon (10.30am)

Andrew Loel (10.30am)

Adrian Perry (10.30am)

Ed Shaw (10.30am)

Varya Davidson (5pm)

Craig Roberts (6.45pm)

Prayer Points

Please pray for the Kids and Youth ministries of the church:

- For Xtreme that meets on Friday afternoons, for Play Group that meets during the week, and for the Sunday Kids Church program at 10.30am.
- Pray that God will sustain Mel Bell and her team as they minister to our kids.
- For Revive that meets on Friday evenings and for the gathering of youth at the 10.30am and 5pm services.
- Pray that God will sustain Indira Ryan and her team, as they minister to our youth.

Please pray for our Maturity:

- That we will be a church that aims to help people grow in their relationship with Jesus.
- Pray for small groups and their leaders.
- That people will use the 'growing disciples' resources to grow in their personal relationships with each other.
- That people will look to join small groups and meet one to one with each other, to grow in our understanding of the bible.
- Pray that as the Bible is taught week to week, that the preachers will be faithful to the word of God and that God's Spirit might work powerfully amongst us.
- Pray that people notice a difference in their lives, as a result of God working in them, through the ministry of St Andrew's.

Please pray for the global Church:

- Please pray for the many churches around the world that face persecution daily.
- Pray for those churches that are growing quickly – like in China, India and Africa.
- Pray for those churches who are lacking resources and help us be willing to support those who are in need.
- Pray for the continual spread of the gospel around the world and that God will use his church to see this happen.

Please pray for each other:

- For the 5pm congregation:

That their love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that they may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to your glory and praise. **AMEN.**

WEEKLY ONLINE PRAYER MEETING

There is a Weekly Morning Prayer online meeting every Wednesday 7.30-8am

<http://tiny.cc/730amPrayer>

BETH BOYD - MTS

Beth Boyd from our 6.45pm congregation is currently doing a Ministry Apprenticeship and studying at Youthworks College. If you would like to receive regular updates and prayer points from Beth, visit the link below to opt-in to Beth's newsletter.

<http://tiny.cc/BethMTS>

ST ANDREW'S ROSEVILLE KIDS

Playgroup

Thursdays 10am - 12pm during the school term, in the Kelman Room

Xtreme

Years 4-6

Fridays 3:15 - 5:30pm

StAR Kids program

Sundays 10.30am Service

ST ANDREW'S ROSEVILLE YOUTH

REVIVE

Fridays 6:30 - 8:30pm

Years 7-12

Jnr Youth Bible Study

Sundays during 10:30am and 5pm services

Years 7-9

Snr Youth (years 10-12) are encouraged to attend the 6.45pm Service.

EVERYDAY ENGLISH CLASSES

Everyday English classes are held weekly during term time.

Thursdays 10am - 12pm

In the office @ 1 Bancroft Ave

STAFF TEAM:

Interim Senior Minister
Assistant Minister
Assistant Minister
Assistant Minister (*Children & Families*)
Youth Minister
Ministry Support Coordinator
Assistant Children's Minister
Student Minister
MTS Trainee
Office

VIEWS ON THE HOLY SPIRIT & HIS GIFTS IN THE CHURCH

If you would like to receive a booklet David has written/modified that explains his views on The Holy Spirit and his gifts in the Church please email office@standrews.net.au and ask for a copy.

LESSONS & CAROLS CHOIR INVITATION

Our Lessons and Carols service is on **Sunday 14th of December at 6pm** and we are excited to be preparing for this wonderful event that engages so powerfully with our community. If you are keen to join the choir, we would love to hear from you! Contact the office or Michael Crouch directly on: mjc_now@yahoo.com.au

Rehearsals will be:

Women: November Tuesdays @7:30pm

Men: November Thursdays @8pm

Together: December 2nd and/or 9th @7:30pm

GOVERNANCE TRAINING EVENING

Monday 17th November 7.30pm in the Church

For all current Parish Councillors and Wardens, and those who are interested in serving on the Parish Council in the future.

SCAM WARNING

Unfortunately there is another scam going around, involving a text message from someone impersonating David Rietveld.

The text reads: "Hi name, are you free at the moment? I have an errand I want you to help me with. Pastor David Rietveld."

If you receive this text message, do NOT respond and block the number.

If you ever receive a text message or email that you are unsure about, you are always welcome to check with the staff team if it is legitimate or not.

HELP NEEDED: SERMON ARCHIVE PROJECT

We're looking for someone willing to give an hour or so per week who can help tidy up our archive of sermon recordings, working with us to set up a better system going forward. If you enjoy digital organisation and would like to serve in this practical way, please get in touch by emailing office@standrews.net.au

Required skills: YouTube Studio, Wordpress, audio editing.

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Mel Bell	mel.bell@standrews.net.au	0418 447 428
Indira Ryan	indira.courtiness@standrews.net.au	0421 632 108
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