

St Andrew's ROSEVILLE

SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER 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:

13 Dec - Carols @ Home (5.30pm)

14 Dec:

- 10am Service
- Traditional Service of Lessons & Carols (6pm)

21 Dec - 10am & 6pm

24 Dec - Christmas Eve:

- All-Ages Service (5pm activities, 6pm service)
- 11pm contemporary service

25 Dec - Christmas Day:

- 9am Service only (traditional)

28 Dec - 10am only

18 Jan - David's farewell

20 Jan - James Smith's Induction Service

25 Jan - James Smith's first Sunday

THE PROMISE OF PEACE

"Peace on earth to those on whom his favour rests" (Luke 2:14).

The angels aren't offering a warm sentiment. They are announcing a decisive act of God. At the centre of Christmas is peace with God — reconciliation made possible through the child who will grow up to deal with sin, absorb judgement, and open the way home for all who trust him. That is the foundation stone and must be affirmed clearly.

But is that all the angels mean?

René Girard helps us see the wider landscape. He argues that fallen human beings slide into animosity, rivalry, and scapegoating. We assume we are right and the other is wrong. Peace, on our terms, usually means more of our values, less of their lunacy. It's a self-righteous posture that appears in every culture. Herod is the obvious version — grasping, fearful, clinging to power with violence.

But Girard says there is a subtler form too. A kind that even looks altruistic: if only we could suppress this evil now, things would unfold as they should for everyone's good. It's the logic of empire, the logic of control. Rome called this the Pax Romana — order secured through dominion. As Tacitus observed, "They make a desert and call it peace."

In contrast, Jesus' peace is larger, deeper, and utterly different in texture.

It begins not with coercion but with humility. Not with force, but with self-sacrifice. Not always insisting that the other must yield, but at times seeing the good in the other, even those outside the story.

This is why the wise men matter. They come from the East — outsiders, seekers guided by starlight and dark arts rather than Scripture. They may not arrive fully aligned. They search, they find, they kneel. Jesus brings a peace expansive enough to gather strangers, soften boundaries, and turn curiosity into worship.

Jesus continues to bring layers of peace. Peace with God — the deepest reconciliation. Peace within — a quieter heart shaped by grace, forgiving others, and not endless rivalry. Peace between people — the possibility of humility, listening, seeing the insight of others, and respecting the image-bearing nature of all humanity.

Where might Jesus bring peace into your life this Christmas?

Grace & peace,

David Rietveld

(Acting) Senior Minister

PRAYER POINTS

Please pray for our Belonging to one another:

- That we will be a church that helps people who come to feel they belong
- Pray for wisdom as we welcome people on site and that every member of the church will be looking to welcome and include new people
- Pray especially for our welcome programs such as the 'belonging' and 'newish' lunches. Pray that we might become a church that looks to show hospitality to one another and build authentic relationships with each other.
- Pray that we will be known as a church that loves Jesus and each other.

Please pray for all Churches in Australia:

- For the many churches that meet, not just in Sydney, but around Australia.
- Pray for the salvation of Australians and pray that Australian churches may be a good witness of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Pray that God will protect the churches in Australia from false teaching and protect those who minister in them from the work of the evil one.
- Pray that the churches of Australia might unite under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, by his Spirit, so that we can show a unified message of Salvation.

Please pray for each other:

- For the 10:30am congregation
- That out of God's glorious riches, will be strengthened with power through your Spirit in their inner being, so that Christ may dwell in their hearts through faith. And we pray that they, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that they may be filled to the measure of all your fullness. **AMEN.**

CAROLS WEEKEND

This year we are having Carols weekend! There is something for everyone:

CAROLS @ HOME

On **Saturday 13th December** we have an all-ages style 'Carols at home' which will be on the lawn out the front of the church, BYO picnic. **Arrive at 5.30pm for a 6pm start.** You can sign up to volunteer on the day via the link below.

tiny.cc/carols2025

Any questions, feel free to contact office@standrews.net.au



LESSONS & CAROLS

Then on **Sunday 14th December at 6pm**, we are holding a traditional service of Lessons & Carols in the church, with choir and organ. This service is based on the tradition of the Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols, originating in 1880 and later popularised in 1918. The service consists of several Bible readings (lessons) and carols, telling the whole Christmas story from beginning to end. There will also be a light supper after the service.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve:

- All-Ages Service (5pm activities, 6pm service)
- 11pm contemporary service

Christmas Day:

- 9am Traditional Service



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)

FAREWELL GIFT FOR DAVID RIETVELD

David's time with us is drawing to a close, so if you would like to contribute to a farewell gift for him, please do so using the account details and instructions below:

St Andrews Roseville

BSB: 032086

Account: 387248

Please mark transaction as "FAREWELL GIFT"

David's last Sunday with us will be Sunday 18th January. Keep an eye on the newsletter for further details of his farewell.

JAMES SMITH'S INDUCTION SERVICE

James Smith's Induction Service will be held on Tuesday 20th January, 7.30pm at St Andrew's Roseville. This is a special service to mark James' appointment as Rector of St Andrew's, and to commission James for his ministry to Roseville in the years to come. All are welcome.

James' first Sunday at St Andrews will be on Sunday 25th January, and he will be present at both 10am and 6pm.

More details to come.

TOYS 'N' TUCKER

Over the last couple of weeks, we have been collecting donations for the Anglicare Toys 'n' Tucker Appeal, which seeks to support our fellow community members who are doing it tough this Christmas. Thank you so much for all of your contributions to this appeal. This year, we were able to pack about 40 boxes of donations! We are so encouraged by your generosity.



DECEMBER/JANUARY SERVICE TIMES

From this Sunday, 14th December, until the end of January, we are combining our services into one morning service at 10am, and one evening service at 6pm.

There are two exceptions to this rule: Christmas Day (9am only), and Sunday 28th December (10am only).

We pray this is an opportunity that blesses you all with fellowship with parishioners from services you don't usually attend.

WEEKLY ONLINE PRAYER MEETING

The Wednesday morning prayer meeting will take a rest from Wednesday 10 December and resumes on Wednesday 21 January 2026.

BETH BOYD - MTS

If you would like to receive regular updates and prayer points from Beth, our MTS worker, visit the link below.

<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

David Rietveld
Scott Warner
Vanessa Hughes
Mel Bell
Indira Ryan
Amelia Ross
Emily Tong
Matthew Ryan
Beth Boyd

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0416 263 161
0413 339 652
0418 447 428
0421 632 108
9412 2553
0403 316 656
9412 2553

CHRISTMAS PARTIES & EOY CELEBRATIONS

