



## St John the Divine

*Eucharist service*

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent**

26<sup>th</sup> February 2023

### WELCOME!

*Welcome to our worship and community life at St John the Divine, and to our live-streamed service, linked from our parish website: [www.stjohndivine.org.au](http://www.stjohndivine.org.au)*

### GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

*Welcome*

Hymn: TiS580 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

*James Edmeston (1791-1867) - tune: Mannheim*

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- 1. Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,  
for we have no help but thee;  
yet possessing every blessing  
if our God our Father be.**
- 2. Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us;  
all our weakness thou dost know;  
thou didst tread this earth before us,  
thou didst feel its keenest woe:  
lone and dreary, faint and weary,  
through the desert thou didst go.**
- 3. Spirit of our God, descending,  
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,  
love with every passion blending,  
pleasure that can never cloy:  
thus provided, pardoned, guided,  
nothing can our peace destroy.**

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,  
**whose mercy endures for ever.**

### Sentence

We do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

*Matthew 4.4*

Let us pray

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear the commandments which God gave his people Israel.

- 1 I am the Lord your God; you shall have no other gods but me.
- 2 You shall not make an idol of anything and worship it.
- 3 You shall not make wrong use of the name of the Lord your God.
- 4 Remember the Lord's day and keep it holy.
- 5 Honour your father and mother.
- 6 You shall not commit murder.
- 7 You shall not commit adultery.
- 8 You shall not steal.
- 9 You shall not give false evidence.
- 10 You shall not covet the possessions of others.

**Lord, have mercy on us: and write your law in our hearts by your Holy Spirit.**

**Holy God,  
holy and mighty,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God,

whose Son fasted forty days in the wilderness,

and was tempted as we are, yet did not sin:

give us grace to direct our lives in obedience to your will,

that, as you know our weakness,

so we may know your power to save;

through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from Genesis 2.15–17; 3.1–7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

May your word live in us,

**and bear much fruit to your glory.**

Psalm 32

- <sup>1</sup> Blessed are those whose sin is forgiven:  
whose iniquity is put away.
- <sup>2</sup> **Blessed are those to whom the Lord imputes no blame:  
and in whose spirit there is no guile.**
- <sup>3</sup> For whilst I held my tongue:  
my bones wasted away with my daily complaining.
- <sup>4</sup> **Your hand was heavy upon me day and night:  
and my moisture was dried up like a drought  
in summer.**
- <sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you:  
and my iniquity I did not hide;
- <sup>6</sup> **I said 'I will confess my transgressions to the  
Lord':  
and so you forgave the wickedness of my sin.**
- <sup>7</sup> For this cause shall everyone that is faithful  
make their prayer to you in the day of trouble:  
and in the time of the great water-flood,  
it shall not come near them.
- <sup>8</sup> **You are a place to hide me in,  
you will preserve me from trouble:  
you will surround me with deliverance on  
every side.**
- <sup>9</sup> 'I will instruct you, and direct you in the way that you  
should go:  
I will fasten my eye upon you, and give you  
counsel.
- <sup>10</sup> **'Be not like horse or mule, that have no  
understanding:  
whose forward course must be curbed with bit  
and bridle.'**
- <sup>11</sup> Great tribulations remain for the ungodly:  
but whoever puts their trust in the Lord,  
mercy embraces them on every side.
- <sup>12</sup> **Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, and be glad:  
and shout for joy, all you that are true of heart.**

A reading from Paul's letter to the church in Rome 5.12–21

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that

one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. But law came in, with the result that the trespass multiplied; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, just as sin exercised dominion in death, so grace might also exercise dominion through justification leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

May your word live in us,  
**and bear much fruit to your glory.**

Hymn: TiS591 Forty days and forty nights  
*George Hunt Smytton (1822-70) & Francis Pott (1832-1909)*  
*alt. - tune: Heinlein*  
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- 1. Forty days and forty nights  
you were fasting in the wild,  
forty days and forty nights  
tempted, and yet undefiled:**
- 2. Let us your endurance share  
and from earthly greed abstain,  
with you watching unto prayer,  
with you strong to suffer pain.**
- 3. And if Satan on us press  
flesh or spirit to assail,  
victor in the wilderness,  
grant we may not faint or fail.**
- 4. Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,  
ever constant by your side,  
that with you we may appear  
at the eternal Eastertide.**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew 4.1–11

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."'

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." ' Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."'

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

"Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.' "

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord,  
**praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Sermon*

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,  
God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;  
from there he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

#### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

*Response:*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are  
yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

#### RECONCILIATION WITH GOD

Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your heavenly Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

*Mark 11.25*

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled and wandered far off.

*Pause to bring to mind times where we have separated ourselves*

*from God,  
from others,  
from creation, and  
from our inner selves.*

Let us now ask for mercy, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Merciful God,  
our maker and our judge,  
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,**

**and in what we have failed to do:  
we have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;  
we repent, and 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.**

Almighty God,  
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:  
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,  
strengthen you in all goodness  
and keep you in eternal life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### RECONCILIATION WITH EACH OTHER

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

**We meet in his name and share his peace.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

Offertory hymn: TiS136 There's a wideness in God's mercy

*Frederick William Faber (1814-63) alt. - tune: Cross Of Jesus  
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- 1. There's a wideness in God's mercy  
like the wideness of the sea,  
and forgiveness in his justice  
sealed for us on Calvary.**
- 2. There is plentiful redemption  
in the blood that has been shed;  
there is joy for all the members  
in the sorrows of the Head.**
- 3. For the love of God is broader  
than the measures of our mind;  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.**
- 4. But we make his love too narrow  
by false limits of our own,  
and we magnify his strictness  
with a zeal he will not own.**

**5. If our love were but more simple  
we should take him at his word;  
and our lives would be illumined  
by the goodness of our Lord.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.  
Accept and use our offerings for your glory  
and for the service of your kingdom.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary  
and lived as one of us.

He was tempted in every way as we are,  
yet he did not sin.

By his death on the cross  
and rising to new life,  
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin  
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

By his grace we are able  
to triumph over every evil,  
and to walk in the way of his love.

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Merciful God, we thank you  
for these gifts of your creation,  
this bread and wine,  
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,  
we who eat and drink them  
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;  
and when he had given you thanks  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,  
and again giving you thanks  
he gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Drink from this, all of you.

This is my blood of the new covenant  
shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of  
me.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:  
proclaiming his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross,  
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming again,  
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,  
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice  
for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,  
unite us in the body of your Son,  
and bring us with all your people  
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
with whom, and in whom,  
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
we worship you, Father,  
in songs of never-ending praise:  
**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

#### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
We who are many are one body,  
**for we all share in the one bread.**

**We do not presume  
to come to your table, merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy  
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your  
table.**

**But you are the same Lord  
whose nature is always to have mercy.  
Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,  
and to drink his blood,  
that we may evermore dwell in him,  
and he in us. Amen.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.  
Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and  
blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and  
feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*Please come forward to receive communion or a  
blessing.*

#### SENDING OUT GOD'S PEOPLE

Let us pray.  
God of mercy,  
may we who have shared in this holy meal  
know your forgiveness in our lives,  
bring reconciliation to others,  
and be a sign of your wholeness in this broken world.

**Father,  
we offer ourselves to you  
as a living sacrifice  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

Hymn: TiS194 O love how deep, how broad, how high!  
Thomas à Kempis (1379-1471) tr. Benjamin Webb (1819-85)  
alt. - tune: Puer Nobis Nascitur  
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- 1. O love how deep, how broad, how high!**  
It fills the heart with ecstasy  
that God, the Son of God should take  
our mortal form for mortal's sake.
- 2. For us he was baptized, and bore**  
his holy fast, and hungered sore;  
for us temptations sharp he knew;  
for us the tempter overthrew.
- 3. For us he prayed, for us he taught,**  
for us his daily works he wrought,  
by words and signs and actions, thus  
still seeking not himself but us.
- 4. For us to wicked hands betrayed,**  
scourged, mocked, in purple robe arrayed,  
he bore the shameful cross and death;  
for us at length gave up his breath.
- 5. For us he rose from death again,**  
for us he went on high to reign,  
for us he sent his Spirit here  
to guide, to strengthen and to cheer.
- 6. To him whose boundless love has won**  
salvation for us through his Son,  
to God the Father, glory be  
both now and through eternity.

Christ our Saviour draw you to himself,  
that you may find in him crucified  
a sure ground for faith,  
a firm support for hope,  
and the assurance of sin forgiven;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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## NOTICES

**Fr John on sick leave** Fr John's sick leave is extended to March 19.

Please welcome Rev'd Clive Watkins who is leading the services today.

**Congratulations to Ailsa & Peter Wakeley** who celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary this week.

You are invited to join us in the Fellowship Room following the 10am service to continue the celebration!



### Lent course: *Christ's Costly Gift of Reconciliation*

The recommended Lent course for this year has been prepared by CTBI - Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. It is sent as a weekly email on Wednesdays, starting on Ash Wednesday. The course can be subscribed to here: <https://ctbi.org.uk/lent-study-2023/> Parishioners are encouraged to undertake this individually or to contact Joan Sweet if you would like to join the Saturday morning study group.

A small number of study booklets have been printed for those of you who do not have the internet or are having trouble accessing the emails. Please speak to Cathy or one of the Wardens if you need one of these.

### Meryl Fisher's resignation

Meryl Fisher has resigned from Parish Council, and from managing the hall hire lease agreements.

We thank Meryl for her years of service to the parish, both on the council and beyond. All the parish's community service groups that hire our facilities have been especially appreciative of Meryl's approachability and kindness as she efficiently attended to the administration of the lease agreements. In that role Meryl has enacted the mission of St John's in how she has grown our relationships with the various people running the community services and has been a great role model for being missional.

Meryl will continue in her role as a St John's team member and representative for The Dining Room Mission.

Please note that until another person has been appointed, the management of the hall hire is now the responsibility of the wardens.

### Parish Council activity deferred

Thank you to the parishioners who responded to the call for more Parish Councillors. There have been 3 new nominations.

Due to Meryl's resignation from Parish Council, the number of current Parish Council members (Fr John, Ken, Helen, Howard, Lyn) has dropped below the quorum of six required to make decisions.

This means that the Council can no longer meet and therefore cannot formally appoint new councillors. A special election meeting must therefore be scheduled by the Wardens. This is a Statutory Parish Meeting for all parishioners on the electoral roll and gives the parish the opportunity to elect new councillors.

The date and time of the Statutory Parish Meeting is to be announced as soon as possible.

The following table demonstrates our current situation:

#### Positions elected by parishioners:

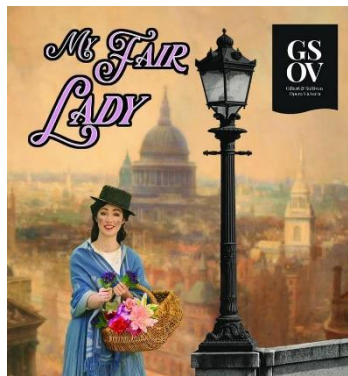
Warden	Ken
Warden	Helen
Counsellor	Howard (Treasurer)
Counsellor	Lyn
Counsellor	<i>vacant (due to Meryl's resignation)</i>
Counsellor	<i>vacant</i>

#### Positions appointed by Vicar:

Warden	<i>vacant</i>
Counsellor	<i>vacant</i>
Counsellor	<i>vacant</i>

As previously stated at the Annual Parish Meeting, Fr John will make his appointments only after the parish is able to fill all the elected positions.

Please note also that the position of Parish Secretary has been vacant for the past year. The Parish Secretary is formally appointed by the Parish Council, and the role is usually filled from within the Council.



One of our parishioners, Jenny Wakefield, is performing in the well-known musical My Fair Lady, being presented at the Alexander Theatre in Clayton.

If you would like to join a group of parishioners attending the matinee on Saturday April 1<sup>st</sup> at 2pm,

please contact the office or see Cathy **ASAP** as tickets are selling fast.

Transport will be arranged for those who need it.

#### THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent</u>
	8am Eucharist
	10am Sung Eucharist
	8pm AA meeting
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10.30am AI Anon meeting
Tue 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	1pm AA meeting
	5.30pm community meal: TDRM
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> Mar	10am Eucharist
	5.30pm community meal: Winter Shelter
	7.30pm NA meeting
Thu 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	11am Taralla Blue Cross
	10.30am AA meeting
	7.30pm AA meeting
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	-
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> Mar	7am AA meeting
	10.30am Focus on Faith & Friendship
	- Lenten Study
	7pm Lai Christian Church
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> Mar	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent</u>
	8am Eucharist
	10am Sung Eucharist
	8pm AA meeting