

St John the Divine Croydon

Eucharist Service

Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist and Martyr

21 September 2025



Welcome to our worship and community life at St John the Divine. All are welcome to come forward to make your communion with God, receiving either the sacrament, or a blessing if you prefer.

All stand when the bell rings.

[The sanctuary party will process towards the Altar with music provided by the Organist. The opening hymn will be sung once the sanctuary party has assumed their seats.]

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

[EA] Opening Hymn: *please refer to the hymn book or insert*

[C] The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Sentence of the day

[EA] Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have come not to call the righteous, but sinner. [Matthew 9.13]

[EA] 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.

[EA] 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

[EA] Let us then run our race, laying aside every weight and bringing our sins to the Lord in penitence and faith.

**Heavenly Father,
you have loved us with an everlasting love,
but we have broken your holy laws
and have left undone what we ought to have done.
We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them.
For the sake of your Son who died for us,**

**forgive us, cleanse us and change us.
By your Holy Spirit,
enable us to live for you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

[C] 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.**

[Sing/say] **Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy**

[Sing/say]
**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Collect of the day

[C] Let us pray:
Almighty God, who through your Son Jesus Christ called Matthew from the selfish pursuit of gain to become an apostle and evangelist: free us from all greed and love of riches so that we may follow the steps of our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

[All] **God of mission, who alone brings growth to your Church, send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning, wisdom to our actions, joy to our worship, and power to our witness. Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual**

commitment to you, and in service to our local community, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[Please be seated for the Readings]

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

THE 1st READING – Proverbs 3.1-6

- ¹ My child, do not forget my teaching,
but let your heart keep my commandments;
² for length of days and years of life
and abundant welfare they will give you.
³ Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you;
bind them round your neck,
write them on the tablet of your heart.
⁴ So you will find favour and good repute
in the sight of God and of people.
⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.
⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.

May Your word live in us. And bear much fruit to Your glory.

Psalm 19.1-6 (read by alternate verses)

- ¹ The heavens declare the glory of God :
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork;
² **One day tells it to another :
and night to night communicates knowledge.**
³ There is no speech or language :
nor are their voices heard;
⁴ **Yet their sound has gone out through all the world :
and their words to the ends of the earth.**
⁵ There he has pitched a tent for the sun :
which comes out as a bridegroom from his chamber,
and rejoices like a strong man to run his course.
⁶ **Its rising is at one end of the heavens,
and its circuit to their farthest bound :
and nothing is hidden from its heat.**

THE EPISTLE – Ephesians 4.1-14

- ¹ I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your

calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it is said, 'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.'

⁹(When it says, 'He ascended', what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming.

May Your word live in us. **And bear much fruit to Your glory.**

[EA] Gradual Hymn: *please refer to the hymn book or insert*

[Please remain standing for the gospel]

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Matthew 9.9-13**

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

⁹As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.

¹⁰And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' ¹²But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'

[For] the Gospel of the Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

[Please be seated for the sermon / reflections.]

Sermon / Reflections

THE CREED

[EA] Let us stand and 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 [Intercession]

[EA] Let us pray for the world, the church and one another

The prayers conclude with:

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers. **Grant that what we
have asked in faith we may by your grace receive through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.**

PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

[EA] Jesus said: I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and
whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. [John 6.35]

[EA] Let us pray:

**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 GREETING OF PEACE

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

We meet in his name and share his peace.

[C] The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

[All may exchange a sign of peace]

[EA] Offertory Hymn: *please refer to your hymn book or insert*

Offertory prayer

[C] 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

[C] [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.

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.

And now we give you thanks because
you have called us into the fellowship of Matthew and all your saints,
and set before us the example of their witness
and the fruit of your Spirit in their lives.

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/singing

**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.'

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made one 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.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident 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 for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

[Sing/say]

Jesus, Lamb of God, **Have mercy on us.**
Jesus, bearer of our sins, **Have mercy on us.**
Jesus, redeemer of the world, **Grant us your peace.**

As this broken bread was once many grains, which have been gathered together and made one bread:

so may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

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.

[The wine will be administered in two chalices. The taller chalice will be for 'sipping' and the shorter chalice for 'dipping/intinction']

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

[C] God, the source of all holiness: may we who have shared at this table as strangers and pilgrims on earth be welcomed with Matthew and all your saints to the heavenly feast in your kingdom.

[C] 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.**

Notices, if any by one of the Wardens

[EA] Closing Hymn : *please refer to the hymn book or insert*

[C] God give you grace to follow Matthew and all the saints in faith and hope and love; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

[EA] Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Worship Roster for today

9.00am E.A. Steven Sim, **R1** Pat Mackay; **R2.** Joel Shambrook, **Intercessor.** Jenny Harris, **Cr.** Andrew Bell, **C.M.** Andrew Bell, **W.** Norma Seip & Jenny Harris; **Counters.** Eileen Moore & Ken Hutton

E.A: Eucharistic Assistant, **C.M.:** Communion Minister, **Cr.** Crucifer, **R:** Reader, **W:** Welcomers



Thank you for joining in our worship today. We offer an after-service 'cuppa' in our meeting room next to the foyer after Sunday Services – you are invited to join us.

Rosters for next week : 28-Sep

8AM E.A. Jim Moore, **R1&R2.** Deborah Guess; **Intercessor.** Fr Sam, **Cr.** Andrew Bell, **C.M.** Andrew Bell, **W.** Eileen Moore & Rosemary Callow

10AM E.A. Naomi Nesimnahan, **R1** Connie Killey; **R2.** Ken Hutton, **Intercessor.** Elizabeth Sanderson, **Cr.** Steven Sim, **C.M.** Ken Hutton, **W.** Cheryl Yon & Ken Hutton; **Counters.** Connie Killey & Pei Lee

Readings for next weeks

28-Sep	Michael and All Angels	Daniel 7.9-10, 13-14 or Ezekiel 1.4-12	Ps 138	Revelation 12.7-12a	John 1.45-51
5-Oct	Pentecost 17	Lamentations 1.1-6	Lamentations 3.19-26 or Ps 137	2 Timothy 1.1-14	Luke 17.(1-4) 5-10
12-Oct	Pentecost 18	Jeremiah 29.1, 4-7	Ps 66.1-11	1 Timothy 2 91-7) 8-15	Luke 17.11-19
19-Oct	Luke, Evangelist and Martyr	Jeremiah 8.22-9.3	Ps 145.10-18	2 Timothy 4.9-17a	Luke 10.1-9

NOTICES

Blessing of the Animals

The Blessing of the Animals is approaching fast, and we need your help to ensure the smooth service on the day. Please help as you are willing and able.

- a. Take a digital picture of your pet/s Cats, chickens, dogs, birds etc for the Facebook campaign with permission to use these photos. They would need to be in “.jpeg” format and sent to the office@stjohndivine.org.au
- b. Donate pet food cats, dogs, birds etc to go into the quite small showbags to be handed out after the service.
- c. Food for afternoon tea to be brought on the day and people to serve drinks from the servery.
- d. People to help on the day (ie: Live stream of the service, set up tables and chairs, etc.
- e. And most importantly to pray & suggest what we can give & offer people which might awaken an interest into the “way” of Christ.

SAVE THE DATE!



Blessing of the animals

Sunday 5 October 2025

2 PM

5 Toorak Avenue, Croydon

Messy Church

Stephen's Anglican Church Bayswater runs a Messy Church service every two months. The next one is coming up on Sunday October 5th 2024 from 4.00pm to 6.00pm. In October the scripture is Matthew 25:1-

13, The parable of the ten bridesmaids with the theme of being ready for Jesus, and will have creative activities which include making a lantern, a game of pin the flame on the lantern, edible lamps, prayer mat, puzzle and coloring pages. Further information please contact Jean (St Stephen's) at 0408 558 153.

Anglican Calendar 2026

It's this time of the year again. If you would like to order an Anglican Calendar please email office@stjohndivine.org.au for a GST free price of \$15.45 by **14 October 2025**.

Lectionary 2026

The APBA Lectionary 2026 Year A (Matthew) Is now available for sale. The price is \$16.95 and if you wish to order through church you can have a GST price for \$15.41. Please email office@stjohndivine.org.au by **14 October 2025** if you wish to have one (or more) delivered to church.

The Dining Room Mission

I would like to give a huge thank you to all those who helped out last Tuesday 9th September. Once again, the parishioners came through, helping with the cooking and serving. The menu was a great hit with delicious pasta bakes, garlic bread and apple crumble. There was even a birthday cake which was shared with everyone. Over 50 meals were served plus over 35 takeaway meals. Thanks to everyone who donated their time and skills to this amazing outreach mission. Cathy Crossey still managed to organise it even though she was away in New Zealand.

PARISH DIRECTORY

Address	5 Toorak Ave, Croydon VIC 3136
Office	03 9723 5099 Tues, Wed, 9am -12pm
Email	office@stjohndivine.org.au
Website	www.stjohndivine.org.au - <i>also on Facebook</i>
Vicar	Fr. Sathi (Sam) Anthony (BD, MTh) 0400 248 347 please leave a message when calling Email: sathianthony@optusnet.com.au

Banking details for those who wish to make a direct deposit to support our programs and for your regular offering:

Westpac: BSB # 033-044, St. John's General Account # 251582

Please email notices to Parish Office by Wednesday 9AM

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist and Martyr			
Sun	21-Sep	9:00 am	Said/Sung Eucharist COMBINED SERVICE
			Followed by birthday celebrations
Mon	22-Sep	10:30 am	<i>Al Anon (fellowship room)</i>
Tue	23-Sep	5:30 pm	Community meal: TDRM
		7:30 pm	<i>A.A meeting (fellowship room)</i>
Wed	24-Sep	10:00 am	Said Eucharist
		5:15 pm	<i>Community meal: Winter Shelter</i>
		7:00 pm	<i>N.A. meeting (fellowship room)</i>
Thu	25-Sep		
Fri	26-Sep		
Sat	27-Sep	7:00 am	<i>A.A. meeting (fellowship room)</i>
		6:30 pm	<i>Lai Christian Church service</i>
			Michael and All Angels
Sun	28-Sep	8:00 am	Said Eucharist
		10:00 am	Said/Sung Eucharist

Permissions

Service excerpts from *A Prayer Book for Australia* © 1995 The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation.

The Scripture quotations contained herein are from *The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Anglicised Edition*, copyright 1989, 1995 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, and are used by permission. All rights reserved.

Words to hymns reproduced from The Australian Hymn Book Company Pty Ltd, © 1999, CCL # 632290

CCLI Streaming Licence # 129545