

St John the Divine Croydon

Eucharist Service

2nd Sunday of Easter

12 April 2026



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: **TiS 372 – Jesus lives! your terrors now** *(please refer to hymn book)*

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

Christ is risen. Alleluia. **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Sentence of the day

[EA] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. [1 Peter 1.3]

[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.

**Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy**

**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 and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt: may we, who have not seen, have faith and receive the fulness of Christ's blessing; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

[Please be seated for the Readings]

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

THE 1ST READING – Acts 2.14a, 22-32

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

²² 'You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵ For David says concerning him,

"I saw the Lord always before me,

for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence."

²⁹ 'Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on

his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, “He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.”

³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

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

PSALM 16

¹ Preserve me, O God : for in you have I taken refuge.

² **I have said to the Lord, You are my lord : and all my good depends on you.**

³ As for those who are held holy on the earth : the other gods in whom men delight,

⁴ **Though the idols are many that men run after : their offerings of blood I will not offer, nor take their name upon my lips.**

⁵ The Lord is my appointed portion and my cup : you hold my lot in your hands.

⁶ **The share that has fallen to me is in pleasant places : and a fair land is my possession.**

⁷ I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel : at night also he has instructed my heart.

⁸ **I have set the Lord always before me : he is at my right hand, and I shall not fall.**

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices : my flesh also shall rest secure.

¹⁰ **For you will not give me over to the power of death : nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.**

¹¹ You will show me the path of life : in your presence is the fulness of joy, and from your right hand flow delights for evermore.

THE EPISTLE – 1 Peter 1.1-12

¹ To the exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ²who have been chosen and destined by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit to be obedient to Jesus Christ and to be sprinkled with his blood: May grace and peace be yours in abundance.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice,^[a] even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen^[b] him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours made careful search and inquiry, ¹¹inquiring about the person or time that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated, when it testified in advance to the sufferings

destined for Christ and the subsequent glory. ¹²It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in regard to the things that have now been announced to you through those who brought you good news by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look!

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

[EA] Gradual Hymn: **TiS 379 – He is risen, he is risen!** *(please refer to hymn book)*

[Please remain standing for the gospel]

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **John 20.19-31**

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’ ²⁸Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ ²⁹Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

[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:-

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE [Intercession]

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

The prayers conclude with:

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 for ever. Amen.

PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

[EA] God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. [John 3.16]

[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 is us. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

[EA] Christ our Passover Lamb has been offered for us, therefore we come to celebrate the festival.

[Silence may be kept]

[EA] Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, with a sincere and a true heart.
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.

[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.**

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: **TiS 387 – Christ is alive! Let Christians sing** *(please refer to hymn book)*

[Please remain standing for the gospel]

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 that you raised him to life triumphant, and exalted him in glory. By his victory over death, the reign of sin is ended, a new day has dawned, a broken world is restored and we are made whole once more.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing/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.**

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

(Sing) **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.

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.

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

[C] Eternal God, giver of life, in the breaking of the bread we know the risen Lord. May we who celebrate this holy feast walk in his risen light and bring new life to all creation.

[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 : **TiS 571 – Forth in your name, O Lord, I go** *(please refer to hymn book)*

[C] Almighty God, who redeemed us through the resurrection of Christ, and has brought us out of slavery into everlasting freedom, give you joy and peace in faith and bring you to your eternal inheritance; 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. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Worship Roster for today

8.00am E.A. Jim Moore, **R1.** Clive Mattingley, **R2.** Clive Mattingley, **Intercessor.** Fr. Sam, **Cr.** Norm Stephens, **C.M.** Norm Stephens, **W.** Eileen Moore & Caroline Stephens

10.00am E.A. Steven Sim, **R1.** Carol Doriean, **R2.** Elizabeth Sanderson, **Intercessor.** Ailsa Wakeley, **Cr.** Naomy Nesimnahan, **C.M.** Naomy Nesimnahan, **W.** Carol Doriean & Elizabeth Sanderson, **Counters.** Pei Lee & 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.

A note from Fr Sam

'Please be informed that our finances need to **improve immensely** if we need to exist beyond two more years. This has been recognised in our leadership's discussions. A realistic and non-sentimental comment suggested that we are financially 'unviable'. And another voice commented that 'we are fooling ourselves by not waking up to this reality'. Can these comments inspire you to 'wake up'? We are now a Part-time parish which can only support a P/T priest! But, we seem to operate like a F/T parish by operating as it was in the beginning! We just cannot do it and therefore a request for you to 'wake up'.

Discussions about our future, led to ideas about mergers with other congregations. But, we were reminded that there aren't any congregations who will appreciate our sort of cherished Anglo Catholic/Middle-of-the-road traditions. Many parishes around us seem to be borderline Anglicans and not like us! If we need to continue as a congregation that needs to maintain our cherished traditional worship, then **we first need to survive – financially!** We have welcomed many who do appreciate what we offer – worship wise. But, if we need to continue welcoming them, then **we first need to survive – financially!** While thanking the few who support the parish generously, I invite others to consider your parish giving for **parish survival** as one of your utmost priorities.

I will further enlighten you with an 'open letter' to the parish.

Fr Sam Anthony

NOTICES

Special Parish Meeting – 19 April 2026

As the Diocese of Melbourne has a new Archbishop, we are required to elect two new synod representatives to serve on behalf of St John's at the upcoming synod. A Special Parish Meeting will therefore be held on **Sunday, 19 April 2026**, immediately following the **combined service at 9:00 AM**. Nomination forms will be available in the narthex.

DATE: Saturday 18th April, 2026. TIME: 6.00 pm - 9.00 pm. COST: \$15.00 per head
BYO nibbles, drinks & glasses. Also cash & coins for silent auction & games. Bring your family & friends and support St. John's FR event. (Make up a table with family & friends) Please add your names to the list on the board in the narthex for table sittings and numbers if you wish to attend.

SUPPORTIVE FRIENDS - Friday April 17th

The next meeting of Supportive Friends will be held in the Fellowship Room at St. John's on Friday April 17th at 10.30am.

We will be welcoming Liz Hyde and Pat Draper to this meeting to speak to us on transitioning from Independent Living to Assisted Living. It will be wonderful to have them both with us again and to have them share their experiences with us.

'Show and Tell' - do you have a Twiddle Muff (started or finished)? or ideas of other things we could make that would be helpful for people in either Aged Care or Emergency Housing? Please share them with us on Friday 17th. Please bring a small plate of food to share for morning tea. Let us know if you need transport. EVERYONE WELCOME. Looking forward to seeing you on the 17th.,

Wendy and Rosemary

TDRM Cooking – Tuesday 14th April

It is St John's turn to cook and serve the meal for The Dining Room Mission this coming Tuesday, 14th April and lots of cooks are needed. The recipe and main ingredients are provided and can be collected before/after the 8am and 10am services, and transport can be arranged if you are unable to collect the items or deliver the food to TDRM hot by 5pm on Tuesday. 2-3 volunteers are also needed in the kitchen with preparing and serving the meal and doing the dishes, etc. Please see Cathy Cossey if you can assist

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

		2nd Sunday of Easter	
Sun	12-Apr	8:00 am	Said Eucharist
		10:00 am	Said/Sung Eucharist
Mon	13-Apr	10:30 am	<i>Al Anon (fellowship room)</i>
Tue	14-Apr	5:30 pm	Community meal: TDRM
		7:30 pm	<i>A.A. meeting (fellowship room)</i>
Wed	15-Apr	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	16-Apr		
Fri	17-Apr	10:30 am	Supportive Friends
Sat	18-Apr	7:00 am	<i>A.A. meeting (fellowship room)</i>
		6:00 pm	Trivia Night by Fundraising team
		3rd Sunday of Easter	
Sun	19-Apr	9:00 am	Sung/Said Eucharist COMBINED SERVICE
			Followed by Special Parish Meeting to elect
			Synod Representatives

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