

St John the Divine Croydon

Eucharist Service

5th Sunday of Easter

3 May 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 616 – O day of God, draw near** (tune St Michael)

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

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

Sentence of the day

[EA] 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life', says the Lord. 'No one comes to the Father except through me.' [John 14.6]

[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:

Everliving God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life: give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life; who lives 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 7.55-60

⁵⁵ But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ ‘Look,’ he said, ‘I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!’ ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ When he had said this, he died.

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

PSALM 31.1-5, 17-18

¹ To you, Lord, have I come for shelter :
let me never be put to shame.

² **O deliver me in your righteousness :**
incline your ear to me and be swift to save me.

³ Be for me a rock of refuge, a fortress to defend me :
for you are my high rock and my stronghold.

⁴ **Lead me and guide me for your name’s sake :**
bring me out of the net that they have secretly laid for me, for you are my strength.

⁵ Into your hands I commit my spirit :
you will redeem me, O Lord God of truth.

¹⁷ **All my days are in your hand :
O deliver me from the power of my enemies
and from my persecutors.**

¹⁸ Make your face to shine upon your servant :
and save me for your mercy's sake.

THE EPISTLE – 1 Peter 2.11-25

¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul. ¹² Conduct yourselves honourably among the Gentiles, so that, though they malign you as evildoers, they may see your honourable deeds and glorify God when he comes to judge.

¹³ For the Lord's sake accept the authority of every human institution, whether of the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴ or of governors, as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. ¹⁵ For it is God's will that by doing right you should silence the ignorance of the foolish. ¹⁶ As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil. ¹⁷ Honour everyone. Love the family of believers. Fear God. Honour the emperor.

¹⁸ Slaves, accept the authority of your masters with all deference, not only those who are kind and gentle but also those who are harsh. ¹⁹ For it is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.'

²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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

[EA] Gradual Hymn: **TiS 246 – Christ is the world's light**

[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 14.7-14**

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’⁸Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’⁹Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”?’¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

[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 in 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 432 – Christ is made the sure foundation**

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 456 – Your hand, O God, has guided**

[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.

In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.

Worship Roster for today

8.00am E.A. Jim Moore, **R.** Rosemary Callow, **Intercessor.** Fr. Sam, **Cr.** Clive Mattingley, **C.M.** Clive Mattingley, **W.** Eileen Moore & Lyn Lynch

10.00am E.A. Steven Sim, **R1.** Jenny Harris, **R2.** Joel Shambrook, **Intercessor.** Elizabeth Sanderson, **Cr.** Naomi Nesimnahan, **C.M.** Naomi Nesimnahan, **W.** Jenny Harris & Helen Duncan, **Counters.** Joel Shambrook & 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.

NOTICES

Thank you Asti

We take this opportunity to thank Asti for her devoted services as the Office Administrator over the past few years, here at st John's Croydon. Asti is resigning from this position to seek other avenues. Asti will be remembered for her cheerful nature, dedication, skills and the manner in which she carried out her many tasks. Asti often brought her very young children with her too. We wish her and her family all God's blessings. Thank you Asti.

A message from your Treasurer

Chart showing Offering Income vs Ministry expenses (adjusted)

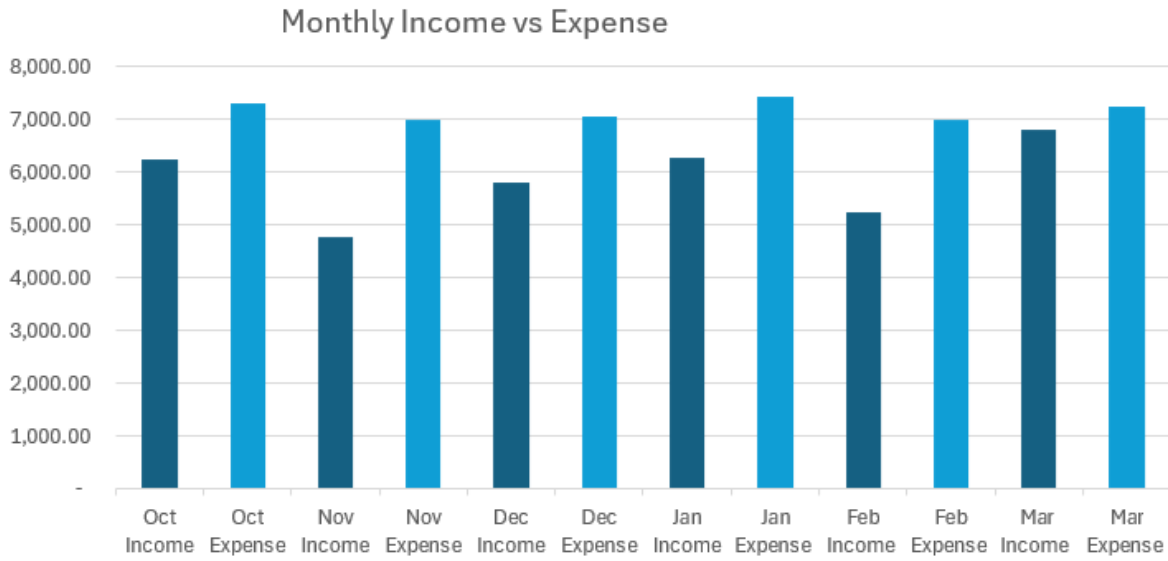
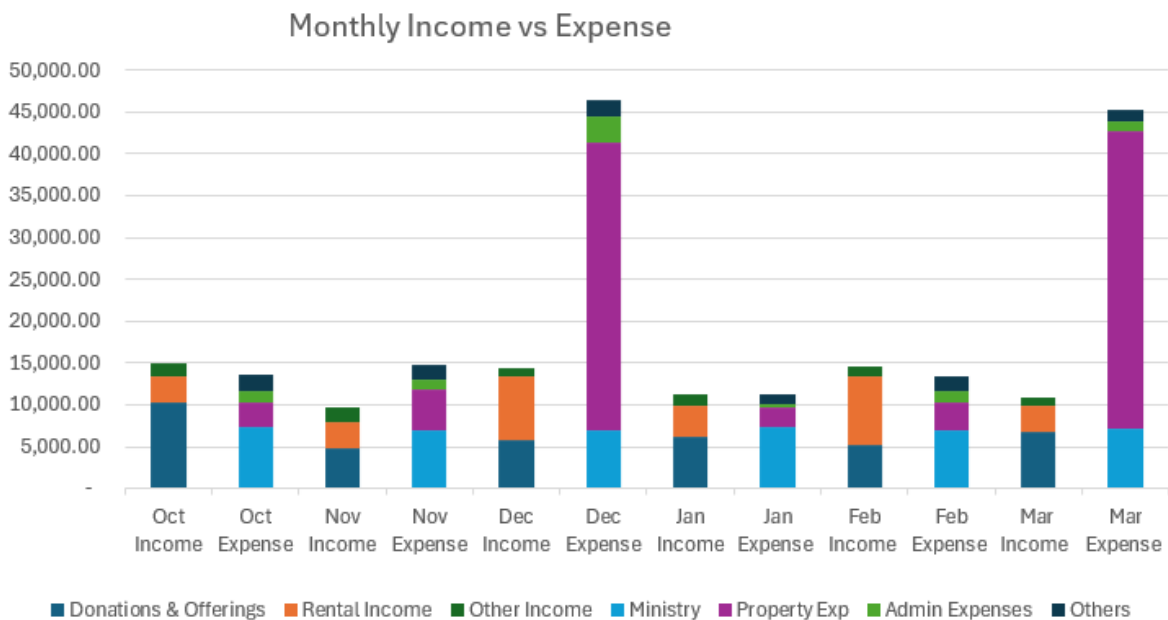


Chart showing Total Income vs Total Expenses (adjusted)



Roof & Drainage Project will cost approximately \$360,000 over the course of next 4 months. We will draw from our Pinkney bequest so anticipate remaining balance of bequest of \$485,000 on completion of this project. However, the more necessary maintenance costs are in the pipeline.

Our current giving only supports 80% of our current part time ministry. Our Bequest may only keep our parish going for another 6-7 years. We again strongly encourage parishioners to set up direct debit arrangements for your giving.

Church Roof Replacement Project

We are pleased to confirm that the commencement of the building works to replace the church roof and repair the drains is now imminent.

Some materials have arrived already, and the scaffolding, security fencing and crane is expected to be delivered late next week (date to be confirmed). The church carpark will be closed during the deliveries.

From **May 4th** scaffolding & security fencing will be erected, new roofing materials will be craned to the top of the roof and the pipe-organ protection installed. From that date until the completion of the project the following restrictions and arrangements will be in force:

Church Access & Parking

- Parishioners should not enter the church building during working hours or when trades are on site. Entry to the church building at these times is by prior arrangement with the Wardens and Vicar only
- All entry to the building must be via the main Narthex doors – other doors cannot be used except in case of emergency
- Disabled access via the ramp will continue to be available at all times
- Car parking will be allocated for trades vehicles along the rear fence – please follow the signs.
- Parking for Sunday services should not be affected

Church services

- Wednesday services will take place in the Fellowship Room
- Sunday services should continue as normal in the church
- Australian Pipe Organs Pty Ltd have been engaged to provide protection for the organ. The organ will therefore be inoperable for the duration of the building works. Upon completion the organ will be cleaned and tuned and ready for us to enjoy again

Memorial Garden

- It is necessary for scaffolding to sit within the Memorial Garden, and there will also be some disturbance of the garden when the drainage work is done. Please be assured that soil works will be carried out in accordance with Diocesan protocols and the garden will be restored as soon as possible.

We will keep you updated throughout the project and please see Mark Duncan (Building & Grounds Co-Ordinator) or Stephen Cossey if you would like further information.

Jenny Harris & Cathy Cossey - Churchwardens

PARISH DIRECTORY

Address	5 Toorak Ave, Croydon VIC 3136
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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

		5th Sunday of Easter	
Sun	3-May	8:00 am	Said Eucharist
		10:00 am	Said/Sung Eucharist
Mon	4-May	10:30 am	<i>Al Anon (fellowship room)</i>
Tue	5-May	11:00 am	Aged care service: Tarralla Blue Cross
		5:30 pm	Community meal: TDRM
		7:30 pm	<i>A.A. meeting (fellowship room)</i>
Wed	6-May	10:00 am	Said Eucharist
		12:00 pm	Mother's Union meeting
		5:15 pm	<i>Community meal: Winter Shelter</i>
		7:00 pm	<i>N.A. meeting (fellowship room)</i>
Thu	7-May		
Fri	8-May		
Sat	9-May	7:00 am	<i>A.A. meeting (fellowship room)</i>
		6th Sunday of Easter	
Sun	10-May	8:00 am	Said Eucharist
		10:00 am	Said/Sung Eucharist

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