

St John's Sutherland

Prayer Diary

July



Vision and Leadership

- 1st
- Praise God for the Vision He has given us at St John's to 'Connect our Community with Christ'. Pray for all our ministries, church gatherings and events to engage with the Vision, as we seek to glorify God and serve others.
 - Give thanks for Rod (& Cherie's) ministry with us over the past 28 years. Through them we've become more Christ-like at St John's, modelling his love and grace and mercy to each other and to those around us, as we serve Him in Sutherland and beyond.
 - Pray for St John's as we enter into a period of transition. Pray we would hold on to our identity in Christ, drawing close to God, and trusting Him to provide all our needs. Pray that as members of the church we would be displaying more of the fruits of the Spirit.... love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
 - Pray for God's blessing on Rod as he enters a new phase of his life, that God will open up new doors for him. Pray for a safe and refreshing holiday with Andrew & Deb in London, and pray for his search for a new place to live when he returns.
- 2nd
- Pray especially for Rod's retirement dinner on 16th July, as we seek to "end well" with this celebration. Pray that many existing and ex-parishioners might be able to attend to make it a memorable night for Rod. Pray for those involved in planning the dinner.
 - Pray for Andrew Hudson and his time as the Acting Pastor at St John's from 24th July onwards. Pray that he is warmly welcomed and that he can encourage us in our transition time before the new senior pastor arrives.
 - Pray for the staff team ... Ian, Benita, Faye, Graham and Sue ... as they work together to lead the church in the direction of fulfilling the Vision.
 - Pray for the church nominators (Kylie Cameron, Ian Doust, Lynne Johnson, Greg Upex and Tim Venum) as they continue the demanding task of seeking a new Senior Pastor. Pray God will guide them to the right person, and that He would be preparing his heart to come to St John's, and that we'll be ready to welcome him into our church family.

Church Services

- 3rd
- Pray that all services at St John's - 8am, 9.45am, 5pm (DRV) and 7pm - would build a strong sense of belonging for members and would provide a place where newcomers can connect, as we share community with one another and with God.
 - Praise God for the dedicated work of each person and team that helps bring our church services together every Sunday - welcomers, service leaders, musicians, sound operators, bible readers, preachers, sides persons, projectionists, morning tea and supper providers, bus drivers Promiseland leaders, office staff, wardens, flower arrangers, & moreall work to bring God glory through our church services.
 - Pray that each person and team will know that their contribution is important and valued by the whole church.
 - Give thanks for all those involved in the Music Ministry. Pray especially for the band leaders, Nicole G Ford and Dan Gale, as they lead the bands and the congregation in worship.
- 4th
- Pray for guidance as to the best way to utilise the existing Drama resources and skills within St John's to present God's message in creative and powerful ways.
 - Pray that each church service will be run with a desire to know God better and to serve Him as we see our Vision fulfilled. Pray that we will continue to be open to new ideas, under the Spirit's leading and with love for our church family and the local community.
 - Pray for the 7pm Focus Group which meets each month to set the direction of the 7pm service. Pray that this new format would attract others along, willing to give feedback and share creative ideas

Support Ministries

- 5th Life Groups
- Give thanks for the Life Groups at St John's, that they provide a place for learning, growth, encouragement and support for everyone who attends. Pray that members will be committed to coming along to their groups as we each support one another and share life together.
 - Pray for the Life Group leaders, that they would be walking close to God and being refreshed by Him. Pray that the leaders would gain real joy from leading their groups, and that they would be blessed for the role they play in the health of our church.

6th Prayer Ministry

- Praise God for the chance to learn more about Intercessory Prayer over the past month, flowing on from the Church Weekend Away. Pray for those who have attended one (or more) of these prayer sessions, that we would be encouraged to listen more to God. Praise God for the opportunity to uphold St John's in prayer in this way, especially over this interim period, as we trust God and look to Him to lead us.
- Pray for the Life Groups at St John's, that they will provide a place for learning, growth, encouragement and support for everyone who attends. Pray that members will be committed to coming along to their groups as we each seek to support one another and to share life together.

7th Book Club

- Give thanks for this fledgling group which had its inaugural meeting in April and has since gone on to review three books. Praise God for its relaxed atmosphere and good discussions, and that it offers a place to connect with others.

Meals Ministry

- Continue to give thanks for this largely 'unseen' ministry, providing meals to those in need at St John's, as well as connecting with those in the local community, through ministries such as Playtime.
- Pray for Sarah Mross, co-ordinating the Meal Ministry, as she pulls together meal ideas and recipes, particularly those that can be made for people with food allergies.

Children and Youth Ministries

- 8th • Thank God for the children and youth who are part of the St John's family. Ask God to continue to bless them, that they would grow in their love and knowledge of God and his Son.
- Give thanks for the parents of these children and youth, and for their support and commitment to the ministries at St John's. Pray for them as they disciple their children and show God's love in tangible ways.
- Pray for Benita and Ian as they establish a lunch-time group at Loftus Primary School for Years 5 and 6, in Term 3.
- Pray that God will be working in the hearts of His people to see ways we can connect with our community through these ministries.
- Pray that God will raise up people to help with existing ministries and the possibility of new initiatives.

9th Promiseland

- Praise God for a great term learning about “An Amazing Race”, and for the involvement and enthusiasm shown by the children.
- Praise God for the Family Service which ran during the 9.45am service on 19th June. Thanks for all the planning and preparation that went in to making this a great time for all!
- Pray that the leaders will have a relaxing and refreshing break over the school holidays, and come back with great energy and motivation.
- Praise God that the Resouce Co-ordinator role has been filled until the end of the year, giving thanks for Bec Venum's role in this area as she now steps aside to focus on being a mum.
- Pray for the fulfillment of the vacant weekly leadership roles and a Preschool Promiseland Coordinator.

Kaleidoscope Kids

- Praise that the birthday party on 29th June went well, for Kaleidoscope Kids first anniversary. We were blessed to have new kids from the community join us and find out about Kks.
- Praise the children feel comfortable to ask questions in devotion time.
- Praise for Carolyn Burns and all the hard work she puts in.
- Prayer for a third person each week (a regular, or a group that rotate)

10th School Ministries

- Praise God for answering prayers for a new SRE teacher who started teaching the Year 5 class at Sutherland.
- Praise that the SRE year is going well, and for the good connections we have with all four local primary schools.
- Praise that the SRE classes are slightly larger than last year. Pray that numbers keep growing, so we can impact on more and more of the local children as we teach at their schools.
- Pray for Benita and Ian as they establish a lunch-time group and a team to run it at Loftus Primary School for Years 5 and 6.

Creche

- Prayer that a coordinator will soon step up to take on the coordination of the creche program.
- Pray for the young children who attend St John's, that they will know from the earliest time of God's love for them.

11th Holiday Programs

- Pray for Benita as she organises the **Kids Fun Day** (Pupil Free Day) for July. Pray for volunteers to step forward to help out.
- Pray for the children from the community to be able to come along and hear God's word.

- Pray for the team as they prepare and run the program in the large hall on Monday 18th July.
- Pray for the possibility of an October holiday program, that there will be a team and program. Pray for Benita as she organises this new ministry.

Youth Ministry

- Pray that **John's Place**, the youth drop-in centre at North Sutherland, will continue to be established in the local area. Pray for the youth who come to hang out on Friday nights, that their lives will be transformed through this ministry.
- Thank God for the commitment of the Youth Mission Team who volunteer each Friday night. Pray that God would grow them together as a team, sustaining them, and equipping them to love and serve the local youth.
- Pray that upcoming events will continue to raise the profile of John's Place in the neighborhood. Praise God for the support from local businesses and other community services.
- Pray for stamina and a long-term vision, as we look to God to make this ministry flourish and grow.
- Pray that the youth who attend John's Place would be inspired to attend one of our worship services and would be welcomed naturally when they arrive.

Equipping

- 12th
- Thanks to God that Carolyn Burns passed her inspection and can continue to run Safe Ministry training here at St John's. Give thanks for Carolyn's energy and dedication in this role.
 - Pray for the Equipping Team, for wisdom as they organise which training and equipping opportunities to run in 2011.

Adult Ministries

- 13th
- Pray for wisdom and guidance as we plan the various adult ministries for 2011 and beyond. Pray particularly for effective use of people who are committed to the various adult ministries.

Men@stjohns

- Give thanks for the 40 men who attended the breakfast at the Como Hotel. Pray that the message given by Rod would continue to impact people in their daily lives.
- Pray that relationships will continue to grow amongst the men at our

church.

- Pray for the men@stjohns team as they plan events for the year, and that another guy would feel called to join the existing team (currently Mark Cameron, Paul Doran, Steve Hillier and Garry Rasmussen).

14th Women in Fellowship

- Praise God for the opportunity to come together again on 27th August as we enjoy an afternoon of pampering. Pray for Catherine Pratten as she prepares to come and share with us.
- Praise God for the women's and men's ministries, and the important role they play in building relationships, especially over this period of transition. Pray that each event would foster strong connections across ages and life stages, and encourage each of us to grow closer to God.
- Pray for opportunities and courage to invite friends along to the various events. Pray those who come would feel welcome, and that they would encounter Jesus in a powerful way.

15th Senior's Club

- Praise God for the nine people on team, including the valuable addition of Joy Goonpan, the fourth DRV member. However, there are serious concerns, with the team losing drivers through aging, and with mobility problems limiting others. Income is also falling.
- Pray for the team as they look to God to provide. Pray for Bronwyn Cowan as she plans to attend the November planning meeting to help address some of these issues.
- Pray the team will receive clear guidance for the period ahead. Give thanks for the support of the Thomas Holt Village staff and volunteer who gives them great help. Give thanks for the support of the Thomas Holt Village Chaplain, Steve Wylie, who retires this month.

16th Open House

- Give thanks that Open House continues to be supported with a faithful core group and often a new face, reflecting the intentional nature of the group to be "open" in the sense of "there for everyone when needed", however occasional that may be.
- The core group include some needing transport. Pray that others from our St John's family can help to provide transport when it's needed on the third Tuesday of the month.

Social Justice

- 17th
- Praise God for His love and mercy, and for leading us as a church to be engaged in promoting and advocating for peace and justice
 - Give thanks for a great response to the slum simulation night we held on 18th June. It was a successful and thought provoking event, with the funds raised enabling us to reach our financial target for the **TASK Partnership**.
 - Pray for the Social Justice Team to be God's agents in stirring up interest and commitment at St John's to a range of social justice issues such as fair trade, refugees, indigenous issues and more.
 - Pray for those that come seeking practical help through the church office, that we can meet their physical needs. Pray also that we can be Christ-like, offering true love and generosity to those who are often feeling vulnerable.

Community Engagement

- 18th
- Pray for the **Playtime** ministry which runs Mondays and Thursdays. Praise God that a way forward has been found for the Monday group to continue operating. Pray that this solution can be maintained. Pray for a mother who heard about Promiseland, that she might bring her kids one Sunday and they might enjoy themselves as they learn about Jesus, and that any barriers to their coming might be removed. Thank God for the good ruling that the judge made regarding the child custody case we've been praying for over the last few months. Thank God that changes will be gradual and that the mother feels confident that the right decisions have been made for the safety of her children. Praise God for the mother considering coming to biblestudy, pray that there might be chances for her to read the bible with Playtime leaders so she feels more confident.
 - Give thanks for the tireless work of the **Playtime** leaders in providing a great experience for families in the community. We pray that as some of the leaders move on that others will step in to fill their shoes and that we will still be able to provide a place where children and their carers are valued, respected and shown God's love in action.
- 19th
- Pray for the **Kids Hope** program at Sutherland Primary School. *Praise God for*a successful Fun Lunch which gave the children a fun event just for them; fruitful and encouraging mentoring in the first half of the year; positive impact of mentoring on children particularly a child who recently left the school; positive feedback from staff seeing the benefits in the children mentored; developing relationships with

teachers. *Pray for* ...the adjustment of a mentored child who recently and suddenly left the school; refreshment and renewed enthusiasm for mentors over the school holidays; good health for children, mentors and teachers in Term 3.

- Pray for the **Court Support** program at Sutherland Local Court. Praise God for the recent fall in the number of court cases, and pray that this significant improvement can be sustained. Praise God for the team of 30, mainly elderly, members. Whilst they are a remarkably stable team, they have suffered the loss of three members to declining health and illness, so pray for team strength to be restored.
- 20th • Pray too for the opportunities taken by **MU Australia** (Mother's Union) as they engage in multiple ways with the wider and unchurched community, and work and pray for the strengthening and encouragement of marriage and family life.
- Pray for the **Hamper Ministry**. We now have coordinators for the program at St John's and an enthusiastic team at Sutherland Primary School. Pray the final details will be ironed out quickly and that the launch of the program to the St John's family will be well received and successful in assisting parents in need to support their families.
- Pray that as part of the **Coffee@Peace** festival we will be able to assist people in their understanding of Fair Trade, TEAR and the ways in which St John's is reaching out to the community.
- Pray that as the Community Engagement Team, and as a church, we can continue to find ways to be connected to the community, and to then connect our community with Christ.

Mission

- 21st • Give thanks for the members of St John's who regularly support our link missionaries, and pray that others may be encouraged to provide support, both through prayer and financially.
- Continue to pray for the work still yet to be undertaken by the Mission portfolio team. In particular, work to be done to develop a short term mission program, and formalising our ongoing support for our link missionaries.
- Continue to pray and give thanks for the St John's Life Groups which 'link' with our missionaries and provide them with prayer and support.
- The **Adams** (Brad, Krisha, Sebastian, Helen, Patrick, Lauren)...

- 22nd teaching at Bingham Academy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Give thanks for their recent visit to St John's, that they could share their work with us and we can continue to support them in prayer and through financial giving. Pray for the family as they now head back to Bingham Academy, for a smooth transition back into life in Ethiopia.
- **Andy Cameron** ... Ambassadors in Sport. Praise God that David and Abi Johnston are steadily raising support, with David (DJ) able to start working part-time for Ambassadors on an ongoing basis from next month. Pray for the camps that will be held over the July holidays in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. Pray for Andy over the next few months as he finishes writing the materials for the Coaching Accreditation Program, finalises a new Fair Trade partnership, revamps the website and registration process, writes new organisational policies, recruits for and develops the Board of Ambassadors, and continues to hand over the camps program to DJ.
- 23rd
- **The Guzmans** (Cesar, Ani & Sebastien)... pastoring a congregation in the Penalolen district of Santiago, Chile. Praise God that in it's 3rd year, the congregation has expanded to the capacity of the Church hall, with many in the local area brought to the Lord by attending the Marriage Enrichment Program and through the "SOUL" (Christianity Explored for Youth) outreach program. Pray for larger, economical premises to be found, and more church members to be trained to take leadership and support roles to support the growth.
 - **Sylvia Jeans** ... in Sabah. Pray that she continues to be supported to do what she believes God has called her to, teaching students and living as a crucial witness to God's love in her local community.
- 24th
- **The Millars** (Andrew, Leana, Tyler, Reid, Mackenzi & Denzel)... teaching English in northern Spain. Pray for the group which is meeting each week to pray and call on the Lord for direction regarding the youth of Gijon. Praise Him for his guidance and for the youth project that is emerging. Pray for them as a family over their summer break to grow closer to each other and to God.
 - **The Webbs** (Ross & Lyndal)... working alongside local Christians in Vanuatu, overseeing the translation of the bible. Praise God for their recent visit to Malekula Island, a future translation location. Pray for Brad Flemming (translation advisor) and Pastor Aman as they seek to establish a new translation team, moving themselves & their families to the island to live alongside and minister to those speaking Na'ahai.

- 25th • Pray for **Glenn Starr** (The Jannali High School) and **Fiona Francesconi** (GyMEA and Kirrawee High Schools) as they share the gospel week by week in the schools. Pray for their ongoing support, both prayerfully and financially. Give thanks for the great turnout at the Jannali Board of Christian Education's annual Fundraising Supper in June, for the funds raised and the launch of new support brochures. Give thanks also for Glenn coming to speak at St John's on 3rd July.

Communications and Technology

- 26th • Give thanks for the various individuals and teams who work behind the scenes at St John's, enabling us to communicate effectively with one another and with our local community.
- Pray for the IT team as they work to find the right solution for the churches computer needs. Pray also that the right database solution is found by the end of the year.
 - Pray that people would feel led to join one of the teams in the 'Communications and Technology' portfolio IT team, Website team, Media team, Design team, and the Audio Visual team.
 - Pray that ministry teams, and those organising church events, would make good use of the St John's website, providing rich, informative and exciting content.

Property Development

- 27th • Pray that we would continue to wait on God to provide a way forward with the property development. In the meantime, pray that we will be content with the property and buildings He has blessed us with, and that we could use them creatively for His glory.

Property Maintenance

- 28th • Praise God for the current building and grounds, that they are still in good shape after all this time. Pray for wisdom in knowing what to prioritise when maintaining the church properties.
- Give thanks for those people who willingly give their time to the maintenance, cleaning and lawn mowing rosters. Ask God to raise up other church members to get involved and to help share the load.

Finance

- 29th
- Give thanks for God's provision, and for each church member's commitment to sacrificial giving, enabling St John's to function and fulfil the vision God has given us.
 - Pray for funds to become available in July/August, enabling the 'rectory' in Loftus to be refurbished before a new senior pastor arrives

Administration

- 30th
- Pray for our Wardens (Elizabeth, Gavin & Sue) as they take on extra responsibilities in this interim period, whilst we await the arrival of a new senior pastor.
 - Pray for Graham and Sue as they also take on extra responsibility, before and after Andrew Hudson starts with us.
 - Pray for Andrew in his role as Acting Pastor, that he might work well with us to serve God here at Sutherland.
 - Give thanks for Rod's retirement dinner on 16th July, for the planning and preparation that went into it to make it a m. Pray that many

Planning

- 31st
- Pray for the staff, Wardens and Parish Councillors as they seek to keep St John's functioning smoothly. Pray that they will be able to communicate well with Andrew Hudson, sharing information and bringing him up to speed with the various portfolios and ministries.

Pick up a copy of the
August Prayer Diary

In the church entrance
or online at:

www.stjohns.org.au/ministries/prayer