

St John's Sutherland

Prayer Diary

June



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. Pray especially for the development of the five main focus areas, identified by Parish Council for this year:
 - * **Children & Youth** → with emphasis on John's Place, lower primary and senior primary age groups
 - * **Change Management** → processing the transition to the next phase of the life of St John's
 - * **Leader Development** → furthering the direction of building a leadership culture
 - * **Property Upgrades** → thinking through what our property needs are for the future
 - * **Community Forums** → developing the new emphasis on Sunday services, in relation to the vision
 - Pray for the staff team ... Rod, Ian, Benita, Faye, Graham and Sue ... as they work together to lead the church in the direction of fulfilling the Vision.
- 2nd
- Pray for Rod, preparing for his retirement, at the same time as maintaining leadership and 'vision' for our church, overseeing the rest of the team, and keeping focus on the vision as a whole. Pray he will have time to focus on transitioning into retirement and beyond.
 - 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
- Praise God for the recent **Confirmation Service**, and especially for the five confirmees who gave their lives to Christ - Di Cooper, Bronnie Hammond, Kristin Lane, Ethan and Patrick Verdich. Pray that they will continue to draw closer to God, growing in understanding, and in their experience of the Christian faith.
 - 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 monthly **Community Forums**, that we might each invite friends and family along as we try to bridge the gap between church and community. Pray we make wise use of these events.
 - 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 that Life Groups offer a safe place for members to grow in their faith and knowledge, as they share life together. Praise that many groups are able to accommodate new members as new people join our church family at St John's.
 - Pray that people who are not in a life group will have the opportunity to join an existing group to receive support, encouragement & prayer.
- 6th **Prayer Ministry**
- Praise God for the creative ways we were able to engage in prayer at the Church Weekend Away, through the prayer stations and intercessory prayer. Pray for opportunities to make use of these different ways of talking and listening to God, both in our own lives and in the life of St John's.

- Pray for the Life Groups and Prayer Triplets, as they set aside focused time this month to pray for St John's and its ministries. Pray that this format, of running the Prayer Days within the Life Groups each term, will help to strengthen our focus on prayer.

Mentoring

- Pray for a small group of St John's members (Rod Harding, Sue Baird, Chris & Malcolm Babbage, Catherine Pratten & Faye Hillier) as they attend a mentoring course this year, looking to see how we might foster a model of mentoring at St John's.

7th Church Weekend Away

- Praise God for the Weekend Away, and that, through the time we spent together, we might grow in our love and commitment to God, to his church, and to each other.
- Give thanks for our speaker, Marc Rader, who had such an impact on all who heard him. Pray that we might all be conduits of God's grace as we serve each other.
- Give thanks for the four young people from the Youthworks College Year 13 program who lead the children's program.

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.

Promiseland

- Praise God for a great start to the “Amazing Race” theme this Term, and for the involvement and enthusiasm shown by the children.
- Praise for each of the leaders' commitment and hard work.
- Pray for someone to fill the role of Preschool Promiseland Coordinator.
- Pray that other church members will be able to fill in the gaps in the Primary section, especially for 2 small group leaders.

Kaleidoscope Kids

- Praise the children feel comfortable to ask questions in devotion time.
- Prayer for a third person each week (a regular, or a group that rotate)

9th School Scripture (SRE)

- Praise that the year is going well, and for the good connections we have with all four local primary schools.
- Praise that the 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.
- Prayer for a few classes that as of yet still do not have SRE teachers, especially the Year 5 class at Sutherland.

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.

Kids Fun Day

- Pray for Benita as she organises the **Kids Fun Day** (Pupil Free Day) for July. Pray for volunteers to step forward to help out.

10th 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.
- Praise God for the success of the recent Trivia Night fundraiser organised by the Como-Jannali Rotaract on our behalf.
- 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

- 11th
- Pray for those attending the Christianity Explained course, as they have their final meeting on 15th June. Pray that they will have heard the Gospel message presented clearly, in a loving and engaging manner, and that they have found Jesus is the answer to the many questions in life.
 - Pray for Carolyn Burns as she leads Safe Ministry training for new leaders on 31st May. Pray for several people, new to St John's, as they take up their new roles in Children's and Youth Ministry leadership.
 - Pray for the upcoming PeaceWise training at the beginning of August, which some staff and church members will be attending. Pray that as a church family we will continue to be committed to handling conflict in a positive and biblical way.

Adult Ministries

- 12th
- 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

- Pray for the breakfast that will be held at the Como Hotel on the 4th June. Pray for Rod who will be speaking, and that many men will attend.
- 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).

13th Women in Fellowship

- Praise God for the community of women at St John's. Pray that the WiF ministry would foster stronger connections across this diverse mix

of females, and encourage each to grow closer to God.

- Give thanks for what Linda Harding shared with us at the High Tea. Pray we will work with God as he grows and matures our faith.
- 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.

14th Seniors

- The major prayer point is the need for new team members, but also give thanks that St. Johns and DRV people have been willing to reinforce us on an occasional basis. Less urgent but desirable is the need to "refresh" the leadership with a new coordinator or pair.
- Rod's "farewell" brought our highest attendance to date - a praise point - but our income is down due to unrelated factors. Our 2010 programme would have been beyond our means this year.
- We may be at some sort of "crossroads" in the type of programme we run - popular though it has been - and planning for 2012 and beyond will have to consider present realities, a matter for prayer rather than panic.
- Give thanks for the strong support we get from Thomas Holt Village staff and Chaplain.
- Pray particularly for the outreach to nursing home residents. Pray for sustainability in this ministry and for new ideas and younger volunteers to support the faithful St John's team.

15th Open House

- Praise God that attendance is stable, possibly growing a little with the occasional "new" face including one or two who are newcomers to St. Johns.
- Continue to pray for the blessing of more leaders to help bring new vision and energy, and for others who could occasionally help out with transport.

Social Justice

- 16th
- 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.
 - Pray for our TASK Partnership (through TEAR) improving sanitation and water quality for those living in the slums of Mean Chey district of Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Pray especially for the upcoming slum simulation event on 18th June, that many will come along to

experience these different living conditions.

- 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

- 17th
- Pray for the Playtime ministry which runs Mondays and Thursdays. Praise God that two Playtime women have expressed interest in reading the Bible one on one. Pray the team can meet their needs and answer their questions. Pray God will raise up other St John's members to join the team, which has recently lost a leader on both Monday and Thursday. Pray for a father at Playtime who is unable to work because of arthritis...pray treatment will ease the pain and that his family will be able to survive financially.
 - Pray for the Kids Hope program at Sutherland Primary School. *Praise God for ...*the very positive comment from school executive affirming the value and impact of Kids Hope at SPS; the start of one or more new Kids Hope partnerships in the Shire; very encouraging response from a child when the mentor returned after a short break; opportunity to build partnership through introduction of a food hamper service by St. Johns. *Pray for ...*the preparations for the Fun Lunch in mid-June and for opportunities to connect with parents at the lunch, esp. when it is the first opportunity; for satisfactory adapting to restrictions on locations available for mentoring in Term 2; for good health for mentors, children and teachers; for a mentor for a potentially referred child for mentoring.
- 18th
- Pray for the Court Support program at Sutherland Local Court. Praise God for a successful return to this ministry when the Court reopened on time. The new facilities are excellent and the team is intact (30 people from 10 local churches) with a new member in prospect. Relations with staff, and security remain excellent; all matters for praise!
 - Pray for MU and the various ways they seek to support others in need. Give thanks to God for the wonderful facilities that the Attorney General's Department have built for them to use at the newly renovated Sutherland Court.

- 19th • Give thanks for the emerging **Hamper Ministry**. Pray for Mike and Toni Daniels, taking on the coordination of this ministry, as they begin to work out the logistics involved, making up hampers from our donations and then helping to distribute these to families in need at Sutherland Primary School. Give thanks for the interest being shown by church members.
- Give thanks for the success of the recent Supper for the SES Sutherland Unit as part of the **National Day of Thanksgiving**. Give thanks for all those who volunteer in the State Emergency Service, for their time and effort in helping in crisis situations.
- Pray that as the Community Engagement Team, and as a church, we can continue to find ways to be connected and connect our community with Christ.

Mission

- 20th • 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 in prayer and financially.
- Continue to pray for the linking of Life Groups to missionaries. Pray for Life Groups to be encouraged to communicate with their link missionaries and to pray regularly for them.
- 21st • The **Adams** (Brad, Krisha, Sebastian, Helen, Patrick, Lauren)... teaching at Bingham Academy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Give thanks for 2 great years at Bingham. Pray for rest and refreshment for the whole family now back in Australia on home assignment, including a visit to St John's on 5th June. Pray for graduating students to hold fast to their faith, and for new teachers to raise support to join in August.
- **Andy Cameron** ... & Ambassadors in Sport. Praise God for the launch of the Coaching Accreditation Program, which will see hundreds of Christians trained in soccer ministry around Australia. Pray for wisdom for Andy as he oversees the expansion of Ambassadors in Australia, and for David Johnson (DJ) who is in the process of raising support to become a full time staff member.
- 22nd • 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 ... praise God for a good enrolment at Sabah Theological Seminary this year, and for the 19 Greek students, that they will appreciate the language tool for better exposition of the Bible. Pray for Sylvia's Exegesis course next semester and for computer and phone problems to be resolved.

- 23rd
- 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. Pray for Tyler and Reid, settling into new schools, for Denny's asthma, and for reduced family stress levels.
 - The **Webbs** (Ross & Lyndal)... working alongside local Christians in Vanuatu, overseeing the translation of the bible. Pray for the increasing takeup of the New Testament in the North Tanna dialect and for increased funding for the supply of "Mega-Voice" audio players for those who can't read.
- 24th
- Pray for **Glenn Starr** (The Jannali High School) and **Fiona Francesconi** (Gynea and Kirrawee High Schools) as they share the gospel week by week in the schools. Pray for their ongoing support from local churches, especially for the Jannali Board of Christian Education's annual fundraising Supper on Saturday 4th June.

Communications and Technology

- 25th
- 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

- 26th
- Thank God for answering our prayers, with Sutherland Council willing to open negotiations again.
 - Pray for the team as they process this new beginning and meet to work out what this means for St John's.

Property Maintenance

- 27th
- 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

- 28th
- Thanks for God's provision, and for each church member's commitment to sacrificial giving.
 - Pray for continuing and increasing support for our work, including during the period after Rod's retirement, so St John's can continue to function and fulfil the vision God has given us here in Sutherland.

Administration

- 29th
- Pray for our Wardens (Sue, Elizabeth & Gavin) as they take responsibility for many aspects of the administration of our church, whilst also preparing for Rod's retirement.
 - Pray for Graham and Sue as they work to keep the St John's wheels turning.

Planning

- 30th
- Pray for the staff, Wardens and Parish Councillors as they seek to keep St John's functioning smoothly during the period around and after Rod's retirement. Pray that a suitable locum can be found, and that he might work well with us to serve God here at Sutherland.
 - Pray for Rod's retirement dinner on July 16. 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.

Pick up a new copy of the
July Prayer Diary

In the church entrance
or online at:

www.stjohns.org.au/ministries/prayer