

# St John's Sutherland

## Prayer Diary

May



# Vision and Leadership

- 1<sup>st</sup>
- 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.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 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

- 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 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, & more ....all 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.
- 4<sup>th</sup>
- 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 new 7pm Focus Group which now 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

### 5<sup>th</sup> Life Groups

- Pray that members will be challenged in their faith, encouraged and supported through their life group and that relationships will grow and deepen. Pray that God will bless each group as they learn and study together, and as they draw close to Him each day.
- Pray that people who are not in a life group will have the opportunity to join an existing group to receive support, encouragement & prayer.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Prayer Ministry

- Praise God for those who are part of the St John's Prayer Chain, and for their faithful commitment to pray for others as needs arise. This 'behind-the-scene' ministry is vital to the health of our church family.
- Pray that we would make good use of the Prayer Diary, daily bringing St John's before God in 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.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Church Weekend Away

- Praise God for the opportunity to draw together as a church family at the St John's Weekend Away. Pray that we will continue to grow in our love and commitment to God, to His church, and to each other.
- Pray that what Marc Rader shared with us would have a deep and lasting impact as we look to God to see where he is leading us as individuals, and as His church in Sutherland. Pray we will use the gifts He has given us to build up the Body, and that we would continue to rely on His strength and not ours.
- Give thanks for the four young people from the Youthworks College Year 13 program who lead the children's program.

### Meals Ministry

- Give thanks for the recent support from those on the meal roster in providing afternoon tea to the children at the Easter soccer camp.
- 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.

## Children and Youth Ministries

- 8<sup>th</sup>
- 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 work on plans, and develop new ministries, to connect with children and youth.
  - 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 Term One! Pray for a great start to the "Amazing Race" theme which begins this month.
- Praise for each of the leaders' commitment and hard work. Pray they return refreshed and continue to do a great job.
- 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.

## 9<sup>th</sup> Kaleidoscope Kids

- Praise that there has been 4 new (non-St John's) families that have been attending regularly this term.
- Thanks for Carolyn Burns, and her dedication, week in and week out.
- 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)

## School Scripture (SRE)

- Praise God for the recent Easter assemblies which were well accepted and taught the children more about God's love.
- 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.

## 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Soccer Camp

- Praise God for the great connections that were made with the 46 children who attended the camp this year. Pray the seeds of God's love, sown into their hearts over the week, will grow and bear fruit.
- Pray that God would raise up more coaches for next year's camp.

## Other Children's Ministries

- Praise that the **Sun Fun Day** program ran well at the 9.45am service during the April holidays, and thanks for the parents who helped out.
- Pray for Benita as she starts organising the **Kids Fun Day** (Pupil Free Day) for July. Pray for volunteers to step forward to help out.

## 11<sup>th</sup> 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 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 either of our worship services and would be welcomed naturally when they arrive.

## Equipping

- 12<sup>th</sup>
- Pray for those attending the six week 'Christianity Explained' course which started on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May. Pray that they will hear the Gospel message presented clearly, in a loving and engaging manner, and that they will find answers to the bigger questions in life.
  - Pray for Carolyn Burns as she leads 'Safe Ministry' training for new leaders on 10<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May. Pray for those attending the training as they take up their new roles in Children's & Youth ministry leadership.
  - Pray for the upcoming PeaceWise training at the beginning of August, that many from St John's would attend. Pray that as a church family we will continue to be committed to handling conflict in a positive and biblical way.

## Adult Ministries

- 13<sup>th</sup>
- 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 4<sup>th</sup> June, that a good speaker will be found, and 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).

14<sup>th</sup> 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.
- Pray for Linda Harding, as she prepares to come and share at the High

Tea on 28<sup>th</sup> May. Pray that God will speak clearly through her as she share about spiritual maturity and how to grow up in Him.

- 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.

## 15<sup>th</sup> Seniors

- Give thanks for the monthly **Senior's Club**, meeting to connect with people over 60. Pray that those who can be part of this ministry will be called forth to restore it to full strength, and that through their fresh ideas and leadership, the ministry would be kept relevant.
- Thanks for Rod's involvement on 3<sup>rd</sup> May as the guest speaker at Senior's Club.
- Praise God for the continuing commitment of aging team members, and for support and friendship shown to them by the staff.
- Praise God for the faithful ministry of all the teams who serve the aged in our local community. Pray they can speak a clear message about God each week through personal conversations, singing, practical deeds, prayer and preaching. These ministries touch not only the residents in the nursing homes and retirement villages, but also visiting relatives and staff.

## 16<sup>th</sup> Open House

- It was good to welcome two newcomers at the April meeting, both of whom recently joined St John's. Pray more will join & feel welcomed.
- Praise God that Open House provides an opportunity for anyone who is isolated or lonely to come together, chat and spend time with others.
- Pray for God's guidance, as to what the future of this ministry will be. Pray that people, facilities and community involvement will fall in to place to enable this ministry to develop.
- Pray for the blessing of new leaders to help bring new vision and energy, and for others who could occasionally help out with transport.

## Social Justice

- 17<sup>th</sup> • 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 partnership with **TASK** through **TEAR**, that we will engage as a church with the work that **TASK** do - through prayer, learning, financial support, lifestyle change and advocacy. Pray that the partnership will be a blessing to those living in the slums of the Mean

Chey district of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, as well as to us here in Sutherland.

- 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

- 18<sup>th</sup>
- 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. Thanks to those who generously supported the school's Car Boot Sale, and the appreciative response of the P&C President. Thanks for encouraging starts to new mentoring relationships last term and for the growing relationships between mentors and teachers. Pray for preparations for the Fun Lunch in Term 2. Pray for the boy who lost his mother last year, now adjusting to the conclusion of mentoring. Pray for a church to partner with this child's new school through the Kids Hope program.
- 19<sup>th</sup>
- Continue to pray for **Court Support**, praising God for the excellent new facilities and for the consideration and cooperation of the staff at Sutherland Court. Give thanks for more secure facilities for victims of domestic violence. Pray for the team as they adjust to all the changes, for safety for all, and that they will continue to show God's presence in the court building.
  - 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...a kitchen with a counter and permanent boiling water...a long way from the wonky table they started with!

- 20<sup>th</sup>
- Pray for a new initiative to connect with Sutherland Primary School through the provision of **Food Hampers** to families in need. Give thanks for the positive response from the Principal and staff. Pray for a groundswell of support from the congregation, and for a passionate coordinator to help organise the donations and packing of hampers.
  - Pray for two upcoming events where we have the chance to engage with the community... the Famine Village (40 Hour Famine, World Vision) and the Coffee@Peace festival.
  - Give thanks for the many individual 'connections' formed with people in the community by members of our church. Pray we might all be prayerful and deliberate about inviting them along to St John's events.

## Mission

- 21<sup>st</sup>
- Praise God for the Mission Portfolio team, in particular Rhys, who coordinates support for our link missionaries, and Barbara who looks after cards and communications. Pray they would continue to be supported and encouraged in this important ministry.
  - Pray for our new process of linking missionaries with Life Groups. Pray Life Groups can maintain support and enthusiasm and build strong relationships over the year.
  - Pray also for work to be undertaken this year to establish a short-term mission program, as well as improving communications with all of our link missionaries.
- 22<sup>nd</sup>
- 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 as the whole family returns to Australia on home assignment, including a visit to St John's on 5<sup>th</sup> 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 3 successful soccer camps over the Easter Holidays.. the ministry is bearing great fruit, thanks to God's abundant grace! Praise Him 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.

- 23<sup>rd</sup> • The **Guzmans** (Cesar, Ani & Sebastien)... pray for perseverance and wisdom for Cesar as he pastors a congregation in the Penalolen district of Santiago, Chile. Pray for ongoing spiritual growth and opportunity to share Christ's love in the local area.
- 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 Syliva's Exegesis course next semester and for computer and phone problems to be resolved.
- 24<sup>th</sup> • 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.
- 25<sup>th</sup> • Pray for **Glenn Starr** and **Fiona Francesconi** as they start another term of school. Pray for their ongoing support from local churches and continued prayer that they can reach into the hearts and lives of those attending Jannali, Gynea and Kirrawee High Schools.
- Pray for the preparations being made by the Jannali Board of Christian Education for their annual Fundraising Supper to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> June.

## Communications and Technology

- 26<sup>th</sup> • 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

- 27<sup>th</sup>
- 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

- 28<sup>th</sup>
- 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

- 29<sup>th</sup>
- Thanks for God's provision, and for each church member's commitment to sacrificial giving.
  - Pray that God will provide us with the resources we need to keep going. Unfortunately, the budget continued to not be met in March.

## Administration

- 30<sup>th</sup>
- Pray for our Wardens (Gavin, Sue, Elizabeth) 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

- 31<sup>st</sup>
- Pray for the Parish Councillors as they work on their portfolio plans for the year, and as they work with the ministry leaders and key people to achieve their objectives. Pray especially for the three new Parish Councillors ..... Bronwyn Cowan, Leigh Finney and Matt Hammond, as they continue to come to grips with being portfolio holders.

1<sup>st</sup> June

Pick up a copy of the  
***June Prayer Diary***  
in the church entrance or online at  
***[www.stjohns.org.au/ministries/prayer](http://www.stjohns.org.au/ministries/prayer)***