

St John's Sutherland

Prayer Diary

October



Vision and Leadership

- 1st
- Give thanks that God continues to lead us and confirm His vision for St John's as we draw near to Him. Pray that we might continue to look to Him and remain faithful to this vision of 'Connecting our Community with Christ'.
 - Pray for wisdom and insight for Andrew Hudson as he continues as our acting senior pastor. Pray that he might continue to provide support and encouragement for the staff and the congregations during this period of transition.
 - Pray for Baptism interviews, that Andrew would be able to share the good news of Jesus clearly to parents who ask for baptism. Also pray that the Baptism services would be engaging.
- 2nd
- Pray for the staff (Andrew, Ian, Benita, Faye, Graham and Sue) and the Wardens (Sue, Elizabeth & Gavin) as they work together to lead the church in the direction of fulfilling the Vision.
 - Please pray for the preachers during October, that they would speak clearly and fearlessly as we learn from Old Testament characters.
 - Pray for the church nominators (Kylie Cameron, Ian Doust, Lynne Johnson, Greg Upex and Tim Venum) as they continue to seek for a new Senior Pastor. Give thanks for their diligence. Pray they will not grow weary, but keep looking to God to provide.

Church Services

- 3rd
- Give thanks for the **8am Service**, and for the faithfulness of those who help out on the rosters each week. Pray that the monthly 'Tea and Toast' gathering would continue to be well attended.
 - Praise God for the strong attendance at the **9.45am Service**. **Give thanks for the many** new faces coming to St John's. Pray that they feel welcomed and supported. Praise God for the many volunteers who contribute to the 9.45am service. Pray for continued energy in their ministries.
 - Pray for the **5pm Service** (DRV) which draws together a diverse mix of residents. Give thanks for the team who pull this service together each week, and for opportunities to connect with other residents in the Village.
 - Pray for the **7pm Service** as they take a break in the first week of October to make way for involvement in the Black Stump festival.

Pray for the numerical growth of the service, as it strives to reach a 'critical mass'. Praise God for those who have recently joined the welcoming team. Pray for the continuing need for other people to 'step up' and help out.

- 4th
- Give thanks for all those involved in the various ministry roles and rosters each week, bringing the services alive with bible readings, music, welcomers, sound, projection and more. What a great model of the body working together to serve each other!
 - Pray for all the congregations during this period of transition. Pray that we would be able to rely on God and stay committed to looking out for each other's needs. Pray that all services would build a strong sense of belonging for members and visitors alike.

Support Ministries

- 5th
- Give thanks for the recent Healthy Relationships Seminar on dealing with grief and change. Pray that those who attended would feel better equipped. Pray also that those who came from the local community would have heard and experienced God's love in action.
 - Thank God for the strong network of Life Groups at St John's, and for the joy that many have had in studying Ephesians together. Pray that leaders will be refreshed over the holiday break, and that groups will get great encouragement from meeting together in Term 4, growing in their knowledge and understanding of God and as they share their life with each other.
 - Praise God for the Prayer Chain, and for those who faithfully pray for the various prayer requests. Praise God for answered prayers and ask that He would give us patience when we need to wait for answers.
- 6th
- Praise God for the Book Club, for its relaxed atmosphere and good discussions, and that it offers a place to connect with others.
 - Give thanks for the Meals 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 this ministry, as she works to ensure the cooking and delivery of meals works as smoothly as possible.

Children and Youth Ministries

- 7th
- 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.
 - Ask God to raise up people to help with existing ministries and the possibility of new initiatives.
 - Pray that our strategy for ministry to upper primary children will continue to be developed and clarified, ensuring a smooth transition for children into youth ministries.

8th Children's Ministry

- Praise God for the Promiseland ministry, teaching children each Sunday morning. Pray that the children will be open to hearing from God's word, and that strong relationships will develop between leaders and kids.
- Give thanks for Kaleidoscope Kids which runs each Wednesday afternoon. Praise God that the children feel comfortable to ask questions in devotion time. Pray for a third person each week (a regular, or a group that rotate).
- Praise God that the SRE (Scripture) year is going well, and for the good connections we have with all four local primary schools. Give thanks 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. Praise God that all of our classes are currently covered by wonderful teachers.

- 9th
- Pray for Benita and Ian as they seek to establish a Lunch-time Group and a team to run it at Loftus Primary School for Years 5 and 6. We are currently negotiating a start date with the school...pray that discussions go well and that the program will be a blessing for the school and community.
 - Praise God for the re-establishment of the Creche ministry in Term 4. Pray for the co-ordinator, Skye Blackley, as she pulls together a team of people to help on the roster, ensuring that our youngest members are well looked after.
 - Pray for the new Junior John's Place program for children in Years 5 & 6 on Friday afternoons. Give thanks for the children who have been coming along. Pray that good relationships will form between these children, and with the leaders.

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 on Friday nights, that their lives will be transformed through this ministry.
- Give thanks for the Youth Mission Team. Pray for genuine relationships to form as leaders spend time with the youth hanging out at John's Place.
- Give thanks for a great Band Night on 17th September. Pray that these nights will continue to provide us with the opportunity to serve the local youth and build friendships with them, as well as raising the profile of John's Place in the local community.

Equipping

- 11th • Pray for the Equipping Team as they organise to run a community seminar on bullying and internet safety. Give thanks for the connections made with Enough is Enough, who will lead the night.

Adult Ministries

- 12th • Give thanks for the Men@stjohns team as they plan events for the rest of the year. Pray they will organise events that are relevant, challenging and fun for those who attend. Pray that someone will be interested in joining the team, particularly someone in their 20's. Pray that relationships will continue to grow amongst the men at our church.
 - Praise God for the Women in Fellowship ministry, which draws women together from across the St John's family. Pray a new speaker will be found for the Christmas event, with Gill Davis now unable to attend. Pray for opportunities to invite friends and family along and that they would experience the joy of Jesus this Christmas.
- 13th • Give thanks for the new Tea 'n' Toast gathering after the 8am service each month. Pray that it will provide a welcoming place for people to gather together, chat about the service, and stay connected.
 - Praise God for Senior's Club which runs each month at Thomas Holt Village. Last month's meeting presented a crisis, with five out of seven team members having to withdraw permanently. Give thanks that others were able to help with the visit from Kareela Public School. Pray for the Club's future as they undergo a review in November.

- 14th • Praise God for the Open House ministry and the strong loyalty among a core group. Pray that it meets the needs of those who come and will reach any who are seeking Christian companionship and may not know where to turn.
- Give thanks for the Nursing Homes and Retirement Villages ministries carried out each month by faithful teams of volunteers. Pray for renewed vigor and energy for all those who help out. Pray for the residents in these facilities (The Palms, Lark Ellen, Nagle Apartments, and Thomas Holt Village) that they will take part in the various ministries offered, and in doing so, be touched by the love of Christ in a profound way.

Social Justice

- 15th • 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 our partners, TASK, in Cambodia. Pray for God's blessing on the projects that are undertaken as a result of our financial support and on all of the work that they do.
- 16th • Pray for the children that receive the Operation Christmas Child boxes, that they may find the love and hope that Jesus gives us this Christmas time through these boxes. Pray also that Samaritans Purse will be able to work through the communities involved in this project and make an impact in these people's daily lives.
- Praise God that as a church we have been able to engage with the World Vision 40 Hour Famine again this year, in order to raise money and awareness to help so many who live in desperate poverty. Pray that the funds raised will be spent wisely to help those who do without every day.
- 17th • 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 and treat them with respect. Pray also that we can be Christ-like, offering true love and generosity to those who are often feeling vulnerable.

Community Engagement

- 18th
- Praise God for the Court Support program run at Sutherland Local Court, and for the answer to prayer with two new volunteers and the return of Kevin Geerkens. Give thanks also for the commitment of all team members who often battle health and "advancing years syndrome" to honour their commitments. Pray for REAL justice to prevail, that lives and families won't be destroyed by the 'system'.
 - Community Engagement celebrates with the John's Tucker team over the first delivery of a food hamper to a Sutherland Primary School family, and for the birth of John's Cupboard a food ministry to the needy in our community and church.
- 19th
- Praise God for the Kids Hope program at Sutherland Primary School, and for the recent support shown by St John's members for their cake stall and Coles & Woolies vouchers. Thanks for the academic achievement of some of the mentored children and the encouragement of seeing the children progress. Thanks also for the recent Sydney Conference "Tuning into Kid's Emotions". Pray forthe provision of relief mentoring while a mentor is away in Term 4; for the provision of an ongoing mentor for a child mentored short term until the end of 2011; for a refreshing break for mentors and teachers during the school holidays; pray also for the impact of the last term of mentoring for the Year 6 child preparing for transition to high school next year.
 - We praise and thank God for MU Australia (Mother's Union) and for the success of the Deanery Day held at St John's last month. Thank God for the wonderful fellowship between all the MU branches, having in common the desire to love and serve the Lord. Pray they will continue to look forward, trusting in God.
- 20th
- Praise God for the Playtime ministry which runs every Monday and Thursday during school terms. Pray for the family whose teenage daughter recently underwent a knee reconstruction. Pray also for work for the husband of a family just moved recently to Sydney. Thank God for the recent Playgroup conference that St John's members were able to attend. Pray leaders will act on what they learnt to ensure Playtime's ongoing effectiveness. Praise God that Monday Playtime is continuing to go well. Ask God to provide for all our needs at Playtime next year.

- The **Sydney Alliance** Founders assembly went off with a bang.... 2500 people gathered at the Sydney Town Hall including 6 delegates from St Johns. Praise God for a strong Christian presence and public witness and for a wonderful opportunity for Community Engagement. Pray for those at St John's who are considering engaging with the community in the Shire and in Sydney through the Alliance. Pray for the two Sydney training days in October.... Thursday 20th and Thursday 27th at Engadine Community Centre.... that many Christians, some members of St Johns and other community members will attend these days to become more familiar with how the alliance works and to connect with the community.

Mission

- 21st
 - Give thanks for the financial support received for our link missionaries. Praise God also for the support and connections that are provided through some of our life groups as they 'link' with our missionary families.
 - Continue to pray for the opportunity to develop short term mission trips for St John's members to consider.
- 22nd
 - The **Adams** (Brad, Krisha, Sebastian, Helen, Patrick, Lauren)... teaching at Bingham Academy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Give thanks that the Bingham director, Murray Overton, had a successful hip replacement in New Zealand and is now back in Ethiopia. Continue to pray for the new staff and students as they settle into life in Ethiopia. Give thanks for a great start to the school year for their own children; pray that they will all continue to grow in their knowledge and love of God.
 - **Ambassadors in Sport** sharing Christ with children through soccer camps and coaching. Continue to pray for David Johnson, stepping into Andrew Cameron's role of building the camps and coaching. Pray for the continued expansion of Ambassadors into Victoria and South Australia. Pray for Andrew's continued work with Ambassadors from afar in the US.
 - The **Guzmans** (Cesar, Ani & Sebastien)... pastoring a congregation in the Penalolen district of Santiago, Chile. Pray for the city of Santiago, that the crime rate there will subside and that the word of God will continue to reach more people.

- 23rd
- Lynda McMillan pray for Lynda as she travels to Cambodia in early October for a short-term mission trip with Hope Global. Pray that God will empower her and the rest of the team as they run 2 conferences with teachers to improve their education, so that in turn students can benefit. Pray for safety for the team and the opportunity to reach out to the Cambodian people through this ministry and example.
 - The Millars (Andrew, Leana, Tyler, Reid, Mackenzi & Denzel)... teaching English in northern Spain. Praise God that the teaching Academy continues to flourish, and that they have felt His guidance very clearly over the past few weeks. Praise God for the new Youth Project '180 degrees' and the weekend camp to kick it off. Pray that more teachers can be found to lead their kid's church.
- 24th
- The Starkeys (Drew & Hannah) ... in Tonga. Praise God that they have settled in quickly into life in Tonga, with the blessing of a nice house and a wonderful church. Pray they will be able to play an active part in their community, as they empower others. Pray they will really know the love and support of family and friends back in Australia.
 - The Webbs (Ross & Lyndal)... working alongside local Christians in Vanuatu, overseeing the translation of the bible. Pray for their new fellow translation advisor, Brad Flemming. Pray also for Pastor Aman, a local pastor who is leaving pastoral work to join Brad in his translation efforts. Pray that they all settle in well to their new villages and are able to form a strong working partnership.
- 25th
- Pray for Glenn Starr in his work as a scripture teacher at The Jannali High School. Pray especially at this time of year as he provides support to students undertaking the Higher School Certificate. Pray also for the Jannali Board of Christian Education as they try to raise awareness within local churches and sufficient funds to support Glenn
 - Pray for Fiona Francesconi, employed through Sutherland Board of Christian Education, to work as a scripture teacher in Kirrawee and Gymea High Schools. Pray also for opportunities to support students undertaking the Higher School Certificate.

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.

- Give thanks that new computer equipment has been prioritised for purchase, providing for staff and ministry needs. Praise God that a new Promiseland laptop has been purchased and is already in use. Pray for sufficient finances for the remaining items to be purchased.
- 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 might have a renewed sense of purpose for the buildings at St John's, and an ability to make them more inviting and accessible.

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 • Continue to pray for St John's financial situation during this interim period. Pray we might be able to renovate the Senior Pastor's home at 63 Ninth Ave, without eroding our savings too much. Pray for funds to become available to cover these costs, as well as Rod's holiday pay which continues until the end of October.
- Give thanks for God's provision and the good stewardship of offertory money. Pray we will use it wisely and creatively to further God's work at St John's and in the local community.

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 Ian, Faye, Benita, Sue and Graham as they also take on extra responsibility over this period of transition.

Planning

- 31st
- Give thanks that the cleaning and repairing of 63 Ninth Avenue is progressing well, as we use this interim time to prepare the senior pastor's house.
 - 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.

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***November
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in the church entrance
or online at:

www.stjohns.org.au/ministries/prayer