

St John's Sutherland

Prayer Diary

April



Vision and Leadership

- 1st
- Pray for the Vision & Leadership Team (Rod Harding, John Blackley, Gavin Bowman, Faye Hillier, Graham Johnson, Elizabeth Stevens) as they seek to guard the vision, and oversee the development of the five main areas of focus identified by Parish Council for 2011:
 - * **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 that as we refocus our attention on the Vision through these five key areas, that we would each get a clear picture of what God is calling us to. Pray that we'd rely on His strength, not ours, as we seek to bring Him glory in 'Connecting our Community with Christ'.
- 2nd
- Pray for the Church Weekend Away at the end of April, that every member of the St John's family would be able to come together, either for the whole weekend or the Saturday program. Pray that it might be a time for the parish to really build their sense of community, and that it might set us up with confidence and direction for the rest of the year.
 - 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.
 - 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.
- 3rd
- 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.
 - Give thanks for the Leader Development team (Rod Harding, Malcolm Babbage, Robyn Field, Ian Forest-Jones) and the work they are doing to support and train leaders over the coming year, as well as looking at how we raise up and support a new generation of leaders.

Church Services

- 4th
- Praise God for the dedicated work of each person and team that helps bring our church services together every Sunday - musicians, sound operators, welcomers, morning tea and supper providers, preachers, projectionists, Promise land leaders, bible readers, service leaders, book stall runners, office staff, wardens, flower arrangers, sides persons....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.
 - 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.
- 5th
- 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
 - Pray that all the services at St John's 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.

Support Ministries

- 6th Life Groups
- Praise God for the diverse mix of St John's Life Groups that meet each week. Pray for a growing sense of trust to develop, as group members share together, study God's word and spend time in prayer.
 - Pray that people who are not in a life group will have the opportunity to join an existing group to receive support, encouragement & prayer.

Prayer Ministry

- Give thanks that we have a God who loves us, and who is interested in us. Praise Him for the gift of prayer, enabling us to talk to him at any time, and about any thing.
- Pray for the life groups and prayer triplets, as they focus on praying for St John's during their first meeting in April. Pray that this new format, of running the prayer days within small groups each term, will help to strengthen our focus on prayer.

7th 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.

Church Weekend Away

- Pray for preparations for the Church Weekend Away. Pray that the whole St John's church family might attend, and that, through it, we might grow in love and commitment to God, to his church, and to each other.
- Pray for our speaker, Marc Rader, that he might be engaging, inspiring and challenging in the message he brings.
- Give thanks for the four young people from the Youthworks College Year 13 program who will lead our children's program.

Meals Ministry

- Give thanks for the **Meal Ministry** and for those who provide meals to others in times of need. Give thanks for the support it provides to those in need at St John's, and in connecting with those in need in the local community, through ministries such as Playtime.

Children and Youth Ministries

8th Promiseland

- Praise that the 'Camp' theme is going well.
- Praise that there are a few 'new' kids that have become regulars!
- Prayer for the leaders to continue to do a great job. Praise for their commitment and hard work, and pray for a refreshing break in April.
- 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.
- Pray for the Easter Assemblies, that they reach the children anew with God's love for them.

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)

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.

10th Other Ministries

- Pray for Benita, as she coordinates **Sun Fun Day** in the Easter holidays, that parents would be keen to help out, and that the children would feel settled with the different holiday format.
- Praise God that we have an open door in to the schools, especially Sutherland Primary. Pray we can make the most of this opportunity by running another **Kids Fun Day** or **Holiday Camp**, and that volunteers would come forward to help out.
- Pray for Benita and Ian as they try to organise new ministries, such as a lunch time group and a junior youth group. Pray we put God first in these decisions, that we make the best use of these groups and that volunteers step forward to help get these new ministries started.

Soccer Camp

- Praise God for this creative way to engage with children from the local community, as well as those at St John's.
- Pray for the camp running at St John's in the Easter holidays, that God draws kids to come. Pray that they would have fun and be attentive to the talks so they can learn about God's love for them.
- Pray that parents will feel welcomed and be impacted by the care shown for their children and the lessons they are learning.
- Pray that the camp will have a different feel to other soccer camps.

11th 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 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 research project about the needs of youth in the Sutherland area will help us plan our ministry well and will help us to make good contacts with other youth services and youth.
- Pray that the youth who attend John's Place would feel welcome at church, and would be able to step in to an unfamiliar setting.

Equipping

- 12th
- Praise God for a great response to the Healthy Relationship Seminar on 'Dealing with Anger'. Give thanks that good conversations and connections were made with many who attended.
 - Pray for wisdom as we each decide a wise balance between service (at home, work and church), being equipped and being refreshed.

Adult Ministries

13th Men@stjohns

- Thank God for the great time that the men had at the 'Golf and BBQ' morning in March, in spite of the heavy rain.
- Pray that relationships will continue to grow amongst the men at our church.
- Pray for the breakfast that will be held at the Como Hotel on the 4th June, that a good speaker will be found, and many men will attend.
- Pray for the men@stjohns team as they plan events for the year.

14th Women in Fellowship

- Praise God for the first women's event at the end of March, providing the opportunity to come together to encourage and spur each other on. Pray that we would continue to look to see where God is at work in our everyday lives.
- Pray for Linda Harding, as she prepares to come and share with us at the High Tea on 28th May. Pray that God will speak clearly through her.
- 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 Seniors

- Praise God for the faithful ministry of all the teams who serve the aged in our local community..... through Senior's Club, the Lark Ellen Nursing Home, Palms Nursing Home and Nagle Apartments. 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.
- Pray that those who can be part of **Seniors Club** will be called forth to restore the ministry to full strength, and that through their fresh ideas and leadership, the ministry would be kept relevant. Praise God for the continuing commitment of aging team members and the encouraging support of the staff at the nursing homes and villages.

16th Open House

- 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

- 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.
- Praise God for the launch of the partnership with TASK through TEAR ... that we were able to hear about the work TASK do from Pauv and Choeun, who shared stories of the work God is doing through them and their organisation. Praise too, that the dinner was well attended 93 people in total, with 70 from St John's. It was an exciting start!
- Pray that as we embark on this partnership with TASK, we will engage as a church with the work they 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.
- 18th • 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

- 19th
- Pray for the **Playtime** ministry, and the faithful team who run it on Mondays and Thursdays. Praise God for keeping safe all the relatives of the 4 Japanese families who attend Playtime. Pray for God to bring peace to families experiencing relationship breakdowns. Ask God to provide more leaders for Monday Playtime which is down to 1 leader.
 - Pray for the **Kids Hope** program at Sutherland Primary School. Pray for a successful adjustment for the boy whose mother passed away, as he comes to the end of the transition mentoring at his new school. Pray for opportunity for continuing informal contact with mentor, and for a church to start Kids Hope program in this boy's new school. Pray for a positive, encouraging beginning for a new mentoring relationship starting at the beginning of April. Thank God for an excellent recovery for a couple of mentors after medical procedures.
 - Continue to pray for **Court Support**, praising God that the team remains intact and with high moral. Pray that the new facilities, in the yet-to-be completed court refurbishment, will meet the needs of the Court Support team. Pray there are no last minute panics and that they will have plenty of opportunities to make a difference in keeping tensions low for those attending court.
- 20th
- Pray too for **MU**, especially as they visit new mums at hospital. Pray that God will give them the right words of encouragement to share with these mums, and that the Luke's gospel, prayer cards, gift and list of Christian playgroups they give them will be well received. Pray that the mums will have an open heart to read the literature and think about the wonderful gift God has given them in their new baby.
 - Pray for the Community Engagement Team, now assessing our existing ministries, and seeking to understand how we can further encourage and develop what we already do so as to be more effective in connecting with our local community.
 - 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

- 21st
- Pray for the Mission Portfolio Plan, that the team has the time to implement all the strategic aspects, especially development of a short term mission plan and updating the promotional mission board in the church entrance.
 - Thank God that a number of life groups have adopted a missionary family, individual, or organisation, as we seek to create a more personal connection for them with the St John's family. Pray for the life groups as they take over the role of giving the mission focus spot.
- 22nd
- The **Adams** (Brad, Krisha, Sebastian, Helen, Patrick, Lauren)... teaching at Bingham Academy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Pray for the family as they prepare to come back to Australia for 3 months at the end of April (hopefully visiting St John's in June), and for the provision of accommodation and a car whilst they are here.
 - **Andrew Cameron** ... pray for his role in “Ambassadors in Sport”, and especially for the new staff team in South Australia. Pray for the upcoming Easter Holiday Camps, one of which will be hosted by St John's. Pray that many local families will take the opportunity to enroll their children in a fun time of learning about our beautiful God, as well as the beautiful game, and that these camps will create a way for them to connect with the St John's, and other host churches.
- 23rd
- 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** ... pray for renewed energy as she continues to live and teach in Sabah. Give thanks for the very practical ways Sylvia lives out her faith - teaching local children & helping with the RSPCA.
- 24th
- The **Millars** (Andrew, Leana, Tyler, Reid, Mackenzi & Denzel)... pray for the group which is meeting each week to pray and call on the Lord for direction regarding the youth of the Gijon, Spain. Pray for Tyler and Reid, settling into a new school, for Denny's asthma, and for daily family stress levels to decrease.
 - The **Webbs** (Ross & Lyndal)... working alongside local Christians in Vanuatu, overseeing the translation of the bible. Thank God for the success of the recent ladies' bible workshop on the island of Tanna, in which many women learned how to look for meaning and application when they read their bibles. 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.

- 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 too for the Sutherland and Jannali Boards of Christian Education, that they can continue to raise sufficient funds to maintain these vital missions in our local high schools.

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 church computer moving into 2011. 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 we can meet the needs of both members and non-members in communicating events and information.

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 that God will provide us with the resources we need to keep going. Unfortunately, the budget was not met in January or February.

Administration

- 29th
- Pray for our Wardens (Sue, Elizabeth and Gavin) as they take responsibility for many aspects of the administration of our church, putting in long hours around their day jobs.
 - Pray for Sue and Graham as they work to keep the St John's wheels turning.

Planning

- 30th
- Pray for the Parish Councillors as they complete 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 new Parish Councillors Bronwyn Cowan, Leigh Finney and Matt Hammond, as they come to grips with being portfolio holders.