

# St John's Sutherland

## Prayer Diary

September



## Vision and Leadership

- 1<sup>st</sup>
- 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 the vision and plan He's given us.
  - Praise God for Andrew Hudson's first 6 weeks....he has enjoyed preaching from Ephesians and we thank God for blessing us through His word.
  - Pray that God would lead the parish through this interim time by helping Andrew and the staff to be sensitive and aware of things and respond quickly and appropriately to ministry needs.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 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 preachers during September in the morning and DRV services....Sam Hudson (4<sup>th</sup>), Andrew Hudson (11<sup>th</sup>), George Collins (18<sup>th</sup>), Malcolm Babbage (25<sup>th</sup>), that they would be fearless (Ephesians 6:19, 20) as they proclaim God's word.
  - 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 for the **8am Service**, and for Andrew Hudson as he works through the sermon series on Ephesians. Pray that those who faithfully attend each week would be encouraged to live for Christ in fresh ways.
  - Pray for the **9.45am Service**, giving thanks for the new families and individuals coming along each week. Pray we would welcome them into the St John's family, growing in diversity and love for one another.
  - 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**, and for Ian Forest-Jones as he preaches through a series on "Think Like Jesus". Pray that these sermons will transform and renew people's minds, as they consider what they

believe, and how it applies to their lives. 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.

- 4<sup>th</sup>
- 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

- 5<sup>th</sup>
- Praise God for the strong network of Life Groups at St John's, and for the community and teaching they provide to many. Pray for all the members in life groups, that they will be supported and encouraged in their Christian walk with God. Pray for openings for new members to join existing groups. Give thanks for the life group leaders and pray that they will be refreshed in their relationship with God.
  - 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.
  - Praise God for the chance to learn more about Intercessory Prayer during recent prayer times. 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.
- 6<sup>th</sup>
- 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

- 7<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.
  - 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.
- 8<sup>th</sup>
- Children's Ministry
- Praise God for the Promiseland ministry, teaching children each Sunday morning. Give thanks for the great response to the "Lost Heroes" theme this term, and for the involvement and enthusiasm shown by the children and leaders. Pray that the children will be open to hearing from God's word, and that strong relationships will develop between leaders and kids. Pray for someone to fill the role of Preschool Promiseland Coordinator. Pray for Mark and Justine Harding (resource co-ordinators) and Steve Hillier (small group leader) as they settle into their new roles.
  - 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). Give thanks for two new children from the community that have become regulars, and for Carolyn Burns who helps to lead the group each week.
  - 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.
- 9<sup>th</sup>
- 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 current 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. Pray for

the co-ordinator, Skye Blackley, as she settles into the role, and that people will join the roster to help mind the young children in the 9.45am service. Pray for these young children, that they will know from the earliest time of God's love for them.

- Pray for Benita as she continues the preparation for the October kid's **Holiday Club**. Pray for a team to rise up to help Benita with the running of the program. Pray for excitement to start building up in the kids so that the program is a great success. Pray we can reach children in the community through this ministry.
- Pray for the new **Junior John's Place** program for children in Years 5 & 6 on Friday afternoons. Pray for a good start with an Open House for parents and their children on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Pray for the leaders as they attempt to connect with children of the community in this new way.

## 10<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 on Friday nights, that their lives will be transformed through this ministry. Give thanks for the donation of \$4,250 from the Como Jannali Rotoract (following the Trivia Night earlier in the year) and for their desire to maintain a relationship with the John's Place team.
- Give thanks for the **Youth Mission Team** and for the service of those who've stepped aside (Bec Venum & Drew & Hannah Starkey). Pray for genuine relationships to form as leaders spend time with the youth hanging out at John's Place.
- Pray for the upcoming **Band Nights**, the next on 17<sup>th</sup> September, for 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

- 11<sup>th</sup> • Pray for the Equipping Team, for wisdom as they organise which training and equipping opportunities to run in 2011.

## Adult Ministries

- 12<sup>th</sup>
- 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 recent Women in Fellowship pampering afternoon, with time spent together being refreshed by God's word, good food and great company. Praise God that Gill Davis has accepted our invitation to speak at the Christmas event on 7<sup>th</sup> December. Pray for opportunities and courage to invite friends along. Pray those who come would feel welcome, and that they would encounter Jesus in a powerful way.
- 13<sup>th</sup>
- 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 after the service.
  - Praise God for Senior's Club which runs each month at Thomas Holt Village. Give thanks for the annual visit of Kareela Primary School on 6<sup>th</sup> Sept and for the highlight that the children's music, singing and performance bring the residents. Pray for creativity in making funds stretch to cover costs. Pray for the residents who enjoy the entertainment provided through the Club activities. Pray for the future of Seniors Club as they review the whole concept in November.
- 14<sup>th</sup>
- Praise God for the Open House ministry with movement and vitality around the "core group". It can fill a valuable role but needs more support with leadership and transport. Ask God to raise up support.
  - 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.
  - 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.

## Social Justice

- 15<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.
  - 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.
  - Pray that as a church we will wholeheartedly take part in the **Operation Christmas Child** project, led so enthusiastically as always by the Macbeth's. Pray that the boxes we put together will be a real blessing to those who receive them, and go some way to sharing God's love at Christmas time with people who have so little.
- 16<sup>th</sup>
- Give praise 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 we will continue to give generously as we sponsor those who participated, and that funds raised will be spent wisely to help those who do without every day.
  - 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

- 17<sup>th</sup>
- Praise God for the **Playtime** ministry which runs Mondays and Thursdays. Pray that the new roster format for Monday Playtime will work well this Term, and that it will continue to be a place where families feel welcomed and able to join in. Pray that parents, carers and children will see Playtime as a highlight of their week and that God will enable strong relationships to form and grow.
  - Pray for the **Kids Hope** program at Sutherland Primary School. Praise God for the encouraging development of relationship between a teacher and the mentors who relate to her. Pray this will continue and lead the way for mentors in the future. Thanks for unexpected

expressions of enthusiasm for the mentoring by children. Pray for a strong response of contributions for the Cake Stall on 17<sup>th</sup> Sept for the school Car Boot Sale. Pray for encouragement for a child responding to an unstable family situation and the uncertainty that causes for that child. Pray for certainty and stability to increase.

- 18<sup>th</sup>
- Praise God for the **Court Support** program run at Sutherland Local Court. Pray for the health and well-being of the team of 30, mostly aging, members. Give thanks for Kevin Geerkens who is able to rejoin the team; pray for new people to come forward. Thanks for a successful “Art from Inside” exhibition run by Prison Fellowship at Parklea Correctional Centre. The quality of the work seemed the highest ever, with Aboriginal artists much in evidence and an encouraging number of "red dots" showing sales. Pray for the success of “Angel Tree”, a programme to provide the children of prisoners with a Christmas gift who might otherwise miss out.
  - Give thanks for **MU Australia** (Mother's Union) as they work and pray for the strengthening and encouragement of marriage and family life. Praise God for the Deanery Day Service on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September at St John's and the chance for other MU branches to come together to share in fellowship and a meal. Give thanks for the speaker Natalie McLeod and for the message shared. Pray for the upcoming working meeting in October, that fresh new ideas would emerge. Pray also for preparations for the Holy Communion Service in November which Andrew Hudson will be leading.
- 19<sup>th</sup>
- Pray for the continued great response to the **John's Tucker Hamper** ministry. Give thanks for the energy, interest and heart that Tony and Mike Daniels have for this ministry and pray for the families from Sutherland Public School who will receive the hampers.
  - Pray for the **Community Engagement Team** as they work to make connections in the community.

## Mission

- 20<sup>th</sup>
- Give thanks for the financial support received for our link missionaries. Pray that members will be further encouraged to provide prayerful and financial support, as St John's looks to meet our monthly commitment.

- Pray for work about to be undertaken to build a portfolio of Short Term Missions opportunities for St John's members.
- Pray for the Life Groups which have 'linked' with missionaries, that they will provide strong support and prayer to these individuals and families on behalf of St John's. Give thanks for the connections that have already been made by many groups.

- 21<sup>st</sup>
- The **Adams** (Brad, Krisha, Sebastian, Helen, Patrick, Lauren)... teaching at Bingham Academy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Praise God that all teaching positions for the new school year (commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> August) have been filled.....Pray for the new teachers and their families, that they will settle in well to life at Bingham. Continue to pray for Somalia and eastern Ethiopia suffering from severe drought, with some of the refugee camps suffering from measles outbreaks.
  - **Ambassadors in Sport** .... we continue to pray for the outreach that Ambassadors has 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.
- 22<sup>nd</sup>
- 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.
  - The **Millars** (Andrew, Leana, Tyler, Reid, Mackenzi & Denzel)... teaching English in northern Spain. Praise God for the Youth Project Team, for the unity and direction they are experiencing. Pray that the local churches will take hold of the project and be willing to support it in whatever way they can. Praise God for the provision of two teachers starting at the Academy in September. Pray for Andrew, Leana and the whole family to be in step with the Holy Spirit.
- 23<sup>rd</sup>
- 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. Praise God they are meeting new people and engaging with the community, and that they've found a church and are already actively involved on the rosters and part of a small group. Praise God that they have started working in their new roles and meeting the people they will be working with. Pray their roles will become more defined

and they will have greater clarity about what they need to do.

- The Webbs (Ross & Lyndal)... working alongside local Christians in Vanuatu, overseeing the translation of the bible. Pray that they can continue to translate the bible into more dialects and that God's word will be available to more and more people on the outer islands.

- 24<sup>th</sup>
- 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 Gynea High Schools. Pray also for opportunities to support students undertaking the Higher School Certificate..

## Communications and Technology

- 25<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.
  - Give thanks that new computer equipment has been prioritised for purchase, providing for staff and ministry needs. Pray for sufficient finances for the required items to be purchased. Pray also for time and energy to implement these changes.
  - 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

- 26<sup>th</sup>
- Praise God for the central location of our church property within Sutherland.
  - 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

- 27<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

- 28<sup>th</sup>
- 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

- 29<sup>th</sup>
- 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

- 30<sup>th</sup>
- 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  
***November  
Prayer Diary***

in the church entrance  
or online at:

***[www.stjohns.org.au/ministries/prayer](http://www.stjohns.org.au/ministries/prayer)***