

## Contact Details

St John's & St Paul's (03) 5962 6620  
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St John's 5-7 Symons Street, Healesville  
St Paul's 43 Bell Street, Yarra Glen  
Website <http://www.stjohnshealesville.org.au>

## Minister - Rev Matt Smith

0421 213 790 Email - [minister@stjohnshealesville.org.au](mailto:minister@stjohnshealesville.org.au)  
(Day off - Mondays during the lockdown)

## Newsletter - Sandy Berthelsen

0419 506 784 Email - [sandyphotos@bigpond.com](mailto:sandyphotos@bigpond.com)

## Wardens

Berys Nixon, Rob Colombo, Peggy Marriner

## Parish Council

Narelle Allison, David Green, Simon Green

## Child-Safety Commitment

St John's Healesville & St Paul's Yarra Glen Anglican Church is committed to the welcome, safety, and value of the children under our care and has zero tolerance for child abuse.

Our child-safety officer is Claire Bennett.

For further information please see the Anglican Church Child-Safe Policy available from the information table.

## Giving to St John's & St Paul's

Please give generously to the Mission and Ministry of our church:  
'Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.' (2 Corinthians 9:7)

## Church Banking Details

A/C Name: St John's Anglican Church  
BSB: 063 689 A/C No: 1006 5060

# Yarra Valley Anglican Church



## St John's Healesville and St Paul's Yarra Glen

# Church Newsletter - May 2020

Our church buildings will remain closed for the duration of the Covid-19 lockdown. We are not sure how long this will be. However, digital services are available online from our website.

<https://stjohnshealesville.org.au/sunday/>

Notes from my sermons are also available from the church website.

<https://stjohnshealesville.org.au/sermon/>

You are invited to join us for 'virtual morning tea' 10am Sunday mornings via Zoom. Meeting ID: 395 879 9829.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3958799829>

## Current Sermon Series: Romans 8 - God is For You!

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? - Romans 8:31-32

## Coming-Up @ YVAC

### Romans 8: God is For Us, Therefore...

#### **We are Not Condemned**

April 19: Rom 8:1-4, Zech 3

#### **We Have God's Spirit**

April 26: Rom 8:5-13, Jer 31:31-34

#### **We are God's Children**

May 3: Rom 8:14-17; Hos 1:9-2:1

#### **We Have Hope Through Suffering**

May 10: Rom 8:18-27, Psalm 32

#### **All Things Work for Our Good**

May 17: Rom 8:28-30, Gen 50:15-21

#### **We are More Than Conquerors**

May 24: Rom 8:31-37, Isa 37:14-20, 33-37 (Ascension Sunday)

#### **He Empowers Us For Mission**

May 31: Acts 2:1-21, Num 11:24-30 (Pentecost Sunday)

#### **Nothing Can Separate Us From His Love**

June 7: Rom 8:38-39, Mal 1:1-5 (Trinity Sunday)

'The inner sanctuary within the cathedral of Christian faith; the tree of life in the midst of the Garden of Eden; the highest peak in a range of mountains.' Such are the descriptions given to Romans 8, the greatest chapter within what many consider to be the greatest book in Scripture.

If you are looking for a great read during this pandemic, why not check out Ray Galea's *From Here to Eternity: Lessons from Romans 8* published by Matthias Media. In this book Ray builds on the words of Romans 8 to offer the reader assurance in the face of sin and suffering. It's an easy, engaging read, full of great illustrations and personal examples. It's helping me greatly for the current sermon series.

#### **Action on Gaming Machines**

Four weeks have now past since social distancing required the closure of pokie venues. According to psychologists this is enough time for addictions to be broken. Therefore, now is a great time to encourage our political leaders to take some decisive action to buy back gaming machine licences.

Archbishop Philip has encouraged us to write to Premier Daniel Andrews and our local State MP, Cindy McLeish, on this issue. The following guide has been offered:

"Dear Mr Andrews/Ms McLeish,

The ACT Chief Minister, Andrew Barr, is not wasting the coronavirus crisis, offering to buy back licences for pokie machines for \$15000 each. This is a wonderful investment in the health and prosperity of the citizens of the ACT and could be done in Victoria also.

Industry lobbyists will claim that money spent in gaming venues creates jobs. The truth is that \$1m/annum spent in gaming venues creates just three jobs whereas the same money spent in hospitality creates twenty jobs. Pokie machines are job destroyers as well as being the second highest cause of crime in the community after illicit drugs.

Please use the opportunity created by this crisis to buy back as many pokie machine licences as possible. Please start with the pubs and clubs in the poorest suburbs where the residents can least afford the losses."

*Premier of Victoria: The Hon Daniel Andrews MP  
Level 1, 1 Treasury Place, East Melbourne, Victoria, 3002  
daniel.andrews@parliament.vic.gov.au*

*Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party: Ms Cindy McLeish MP  
PO Box 128, Yarra Glen, VIC, 3775  
cindy.mcleish@parliament.vic.au*

### **Reflection from David Green, St John's Congregation.**

*We do not know what to do,  
but our eyes are on you." 2 Chronicles 20:12.  
We do not know what we ought to pray for,  
but the Spirit himself intercedes for us. Romans 8:26.*

The book of Isaiah speaks of God's judgment on the world, in his own time and at the end of time. It is frightening, and so it should be for those who fail to obey and love God. Yet for his obedient servants both then and now we see God's love for us. He will bring us justice, salvation through the Messiah (Jesus), and peace and comfort.

In Isaiah 37:14-20 King Hezekiah and Jerusalem were facing a devastating attack from the Assyrian army, the king and the people were terrified. Hezekiah did something he should have done years earlier. In desperation he sought God, and God listened to his prayer and answered. The Assyrian army died overnight (Isaiah 37:36).

King Jehoshaphat, some 150 years earlier was also under threat (2 Chronicles 20:6-15). He prayed, for we have no power to face the vast army that is attacking us and no one can withstand you. *We don't know what to do, but our eyes are upon you".* God answered Jehoshaphat's prayer.

Even though we may not know what to do during this pandemic, lockdown, or other personal challenges we are facing, we can pray. God loves us and we can be sure that he works for us. He cares for us but we don't always comprehend his ways.

What we must do is pray. The Lord 's Prayer is a good basis, especially, 'your will be done on earth. Pray for one another, for our children and families, for our leaders, for those suffering, for medical professionals, an endless list, and much more.

### **Pastor's Update - Rev Matt Smith**

Friends, there is so much for me to be thankful at this time. I praise God and am encouraged by the way you are staying in contact, supporting and praying for each other. I am also thankful for the words of encouragement we have received with the arrival of our daughter Tabitha Hannah and for the positive feedback we are receiving for the online church services.

I am slowly making my way through the parish directory. However if you have any urgent needs and would appreciate a pastoral visit or prayer over the phone, please don't hesitate to contact me.

I am excited to hear members of our church inviting their friends and family to stream our online services. I wonder who you could be inviting to tune-in and hear the gospel? Invitations can go out online via social media and email, or by simply dropping a note in the letterbox. We are exploring the possibility of doing a letter-box drop around our streets and neighbourhoods, offering encouragement, support and drawing people's attention to our online church services. Please contact Sandy or myself if you are willing to assist mailing these church flyers during your daily walk/exercise.

### **Bible Studies - 8pm Thursdays via Zoom**

Our regular Bible studies are combining during the lockdown and are meeting 8pm Thursday evenings via Zoom. If you are interested in joining these Bible studies or would like to set up another church gathering via Zoom, please be in touch with Sandy or Matt.

### **Man Flu Guild - Temporarily Suspended**

Due to the lockdown, sadly the Man Flu Guild is unable to meet and support each other with our affliction. On the positive side, this forced isolation means we will be able to contain the spread of Man Flu, and I am excited to report we are temporarily replacing the 'Man Flu Guild' with a 'Coronavirus Men's Guild'. The 'Coronavirus Men's Guild' will meet online via Zoom. Contact Andy White for details.

## **A Letter from our Wardens**

Dear Parishioners,

Last night your Parish Council met and last Thursday the first weekly combined Life Group happened – via Zoom. We are learning new ways to continue the ministry of our Parish. It has been productive - and fun! Our Sunday online services have been wonderful.

We are very aware that not everyone has access to the internet. So, we want to keep you in touch by writing. The Parish Council reviewed our online services with Matt. It's been time-consuming and, at times, taxing for him, but he's done an amazing job. Matt's leadership and teaching, and the participation of parishioners including children, from homes, the beautiful outdoors and from St Paul's have drawn us close to our God of exquisite creation. The Lord's care and provision for us, especially as we celebrated Easter at a time when there is so much fear, confusion and pain in our world, has beamed through the services. We talked about the pastoral care program Matt put in place (while Tabitha was making her way into the world!) and hope everyone is enjoying regular contact from parishioners. The apostle John tells us in his first epistle (1 John 1:3,4) that as we have fellowship with one another, we have fellowship with the Father and the Son. Through this our joy is made complete.

On a very "down-to-earth" level, we agreed that the big, old oak tree behind St John's needs a good cut-back. That will happen in due course, along with a tidy-up around it.

A major concern for everyone right now is the state of the world economy and, bringing it right home, the financial state of our Parish. Our Parish's position is dependent, of course, on the position of parishioners. Please know we are praying for any who are under added financial stress because of the virus.

Where possible, Parishioners have been encouraged to give their offerings online, direct to the Parish account. Again, we want to

encourage this. Of course, this is not possible for those without the internet. We would like to offer assistance to you, if you wish. We have volunteers who are willing to drop by your home once/month to collect your offering envelopes. If this will help, please give Robert Colombo (Healesville) a call (Phone 0409395281). He will tell you when he'll drop by. Another person will be with him, to comply with regulations. Peggy Marriner is doing this for St Paul's and is willing to collect from others if you let her know (Phone 0403228150).

If you have suggestions that would help the Parish to care for you and serve you at this time, please let one of us know.

Please continue to pray for Matt and Ceridwen as they settle as a family of five, and as Matt leads us in these unusual circumstances. Do contact each other and pray that, through this time, our fellowship with one another and our love for the Lord Jesus Christ will grow stronger and richer.

Your Wardens: Robert Colombo, Peggy Marriner, Berys Nixon

### **A prayer for use in the time of this virus**

Lord Jesus Christ, healer and friend, come and care for all of us through the danger and uncertainty of the coronavirus epidemic.

To people who are sick, bring healing. To people who are displaced, isolated, or cut off from family, friends or work, bring comfort and companionship. Work with medical staff as they care for the sick, and protect them from harm.

Give skill and fruitful research to scientists as they search for treatments, prevention and a cure. To public health authorities, give wisdom to decide the best ways to manage both this crisis and our anxieties. When communities are fearful, give a calm spirit, and kindness to neighbours and strangers.

Through this testing time, and through all the risks we face together, teach us once again how we can love one another as you have loved us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.