

Services

Sunday 8.30am	Holy Communion (traditional)
Sunday 10.30am	All age worship (contemporary service with kids & junior youth programs)
Sunday 6pm	Sunday at Six (for the young and young at heart)
Wednesday 10.30am	Holy Communion and companion time

Next Week's Sermon

8.30am, 10.30am	SAS
<i>Words of Paradise continued</i>	<i>Wisdom revealed</i>
Simon Jackson	David Bassett

Upcoming Events

Combined Carols Services 10am & 5pm Sunday 13 December St Matt's Church	Christmas Day services 8am & 9.30am – St Matt's 9am – St Bart's 9.30am – Trinity Gardens
Christmas Eve Services 5pm Children's - St Matt's 5pm Children's – St Bart's 11pm – St Matt's	Combined Services 27 December 10am – St Matt's 3 January 10am – St Matt's

Partner Churches

St Bartholomew's Norwood
77 Beulah Rd Norwood

Grace Church Trinity Gardens
Trinity Gardens Bowling Club
Canterbury Ave Trinity Gardens

Grace Anglican Network Office

146 Kensington Rd Marryatville
Office Hours:
Mon, Wed & Thurs 9am – 12pm
Tuesday 1-3pm

Giving Electronically to St Matt's
BSB: 105 073

Account No: 286 016 340
If you require a reference we recommend using your surname.



St Matthew's
KENSINGTON

Dear Church,

22 November 2015

I'm looking forward to Christmas this year. Though I have no great affection for the Christmas season and all its commercialization and craziness, I do love the day, and I love to celebrate it with my family.

I've also been given the privilege to preach the gospel on Christmas day over the past few years which always helps me to focus on the unfathomable wonder and joy of God become man. Once again, in 2015, I'll be preaching my little heart out come Christmas Day - I hope you'll come and marvel with me!

Yet of all I've read and all I've pondered so far this 'silly season', the sweetest might be this simple prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson.

In light of all the ugliness, pain and uncertainty in the world today – not least the recent terrorist attacks in Beirut, Baghdad and Paris - it seems especially timely in its call to peace, love, forgiveness and deliverance from evil. After all it's why Jesus came. You may like to adopt this prayer for yourself and your family during this season;

“Loving Heavenly Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be your children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake, Amen!”

Keep trusting Jesus Grace Anglican Network,

Simon (Senior Associate Pastor)

[PS: don't forget to pick-up your copy of the 'Advent Prayer and Reading Guide']



Prayer Points

Special Needs: Raymond Wong, Joy Blanch & Daniel, Judy & Ian Black

Prayer focus: Terror in Paris, Beirut, Baghdad and our world

- pray that we would trust that Jesus has truly won the victory over sin and death at the Cross, and that this message is the message of hope and victory that the world needs to hear
- pray for the governments who are deciding how to respond to these terror attacks that you would equip them to break the cycle of hate, to respond with justice, compelled by love.
- pray for our Muslim neighbors who may be caught up in reprisals, or viewed as complicit in these attacks though most do not share the same beliefs as the attackers
- pray that Christians would respond to hatred with love, in a way that makes your Gospel clear.
- pray for those inspired by these attacks, who share the beliefs of the attackers, that you would move in their hearts and change their view of victory in the light of Jesus' ultimate victory.
- pray that God would bring comfort to the grieving, and that Jesus would return soon to make all things new, to make the defeat of sin and death our experience as well as our reality.

Community Notices

St Bart's Special Vestry Meeting

A special vestry meeting will be held at 11:30am on Sunday 29 November to consider proposed changes to the church area. See the church notice board for details of the proposal.

2016 A Year of new beginnings

If you did not receive the handout last week – *A year of new beginnings – Joint Council Endorsement* – please pick up a copy at Info-Central.

TEAR useful gift's shop

There will be a TEAR useful gift shop running this year from St Matt's. The shop will start operating on Sunday 22 November.

Compassion BBQ

Thank you to all who supported the Compassion BBQ last Sunday. Just over \$200 was raised to support the work of Compassion.

Knitted Squares

Thanks to all knitters. Please bring your squares to the St Matt's office or to St Bart's by early December. Refugees will be arriving just before Christmas. Remember squares are to be 25cm. For more information contact Rowena Dunk (8362 6409).

St Matt's Thanksgiving Day

On December 6 we will be having a special focus of thanksgiving at our services at St Matt's. It is an opportunity to focus on the goodness of God to us over this year. It is also an opportunity for a thanksgiving offertory in response to God's goodness and in support of the ministry He has called us to. Our thanksgiving offertory will be used to support the work of our ministries and the maintenance program. Please consider how you can respond to God's goodness over this last year.

Magdalene Centre donations for Christmas hampers and gifts

As we are getting closer to Christmas we are hoping to increase our giving of food items to the Mag Centre and also donate gifts, the food and gifts will be given to disadvantaged individuals and families this Christmas. Food items include: tinned ham and tuna, canned veg, canned fruit, cordial, treats, Christmas cake, biscuits, long life milk, coffee, milo, tea, spreads and jams, pasta and pasta sauce. Gift ideas include: dolls, art and craft sets, tennis balls, Lego kits, tea sets, books, DVD's, stationery, jigsaws, jewellery, balls, board games. Please drop donations in the labelled red bin in the foyer of St Matt's church (for more suggestions of food or gift donations please contact the office).

Christmas Cards

In the St Matt's hall there are Anglicare Christmas cards on display which can be ordered by filling in one of the order forms found next to the cards and placing it in the office door slot. For more information contact Glenys Gould 8364 1117.

BICC Prayer Breakfast

The next Inter-Church prayer breakfast will be held at St Matt's on Saturday 5 December from 7.30-9am.

