



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH TOORAK

The Eagle

Issue #1 May 2024

FROM THE VICAR

On the Patronal Festival of St. John the Evangelist, and in this season of Easter - welcome to the newly resurrected parish newsletter! Our parish has published such a newsletter intermittently for more than one hundred years and my hope is that this is a nice way for our community to keep up with what is happening at St. John's, aside, of course, our weekly pewsheets. Take a look at the front page of one of the oldest previous newsletters that we have in our archives, from 1909, included in this edition.

We've decided to name the newsletter 'The Eagle' as this is the traditional symbol of St. John, a nod towards our beautiful lectern, as well as a reference to Isaiah 40 and these uplifting words: "Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

This month we celebrate our Patronal Festival and remember the life and witness of one of the great apostles. We, like John, are called to spread the good news of Jesus to all those whom we meet in a world very different to that of the gospels, yet one that desires the same blessings of peace, security, justice and mercy that have echoed down through the centuries.

I am constantly reminded that we have much to celebrate at St. John's and much to look forward to. Our church and parish family is now in its 165th year. In those years we have seen and survived much great hardship and sacrifice and enjoyed many blessings and wonderful moments of faith. It is my hope and prayer that our faithful, prayerful and joyful witness to Jesus continues and each of us plays our part in building up the kingdom of God in this place.

I hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones well and I look forward to seeing you in our beautiful church.

Peace and blessings,

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Sunday 5 May

Patronal Festival &
Visit from Bishop
Kate Prowd

Tuesday 7 May

Parish Council
Meeting

Monday 27 May

Church Wardens'
meeting

Thursday 30 May

Prayers for Christian
Unity

Monday 29 April- Thursday 16 May

The Revd Lydia
Thangadurai is on
leave



Sunday 2 June

The Melbourne
Anglican print
edition release

Tuesday 11 June

Parish Council
Meeting

Sunday 9 June

King's Birthday with
Visit from the
Commonwealth
Societies

ST JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST

What do you know about our patron Saint?

St. John the Apostle, the son of Zebedee, was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus and believed to be the author of the Gospel of John as well as many other books in the New Testament. He is also known as *John the Evangelist* and the *Beloved Disciple*. John and his older brother, St. James the Great, were among the first disciples called by Jesus. Jesus referred to the brothers as "Boanerges," meaning "sons of thunder." John, along with his brother James and another disciple, Peter, formed an informal triumvirate among the Twelve Apostles in the Gospels. They were the only apostles present at three particular occasions during Jesus' public ministry: the Raising of Jairus' daughter (Mark 5:21-43, Matthew 9:18-26 and Luke 8:40-56), the Transfiguration of Jesus (Mark 9:2-13; Matthew 17:1-13; Luke 9:28-36) and the Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-56; Mark 14:32-50; Luke 22:39-53, and John 18:1-12). John was the only one of the Twelve Apostles who did not forsake our Saviour in the hour of his Passion. He stood faithfully at the cross when Jesus made him the guardian of his Mother. John is believed to be the longest living apostle and the only one not to die a martyr's death.

He is reputedly buried in Selcuk, Turkiye, where, in the sixth century, The Emperor Justinian I erected a basilica in his honour, the remains of which can be visited to this day. St. John is the patron saint of love, loyalty, friendships, and authors. He is often depicted in art as the author of the Gospel with an eagle, symbolising his connection to God, and the heights of his theological insight. In other icons, he is shown looking up into heaven and dictating his Gospel to his disciples.

*Prayer for the day of St. John,
Apostle & Evangelist*

Shed upon your Church, O Lord, the brightness of your light, so that we, being illumined by the teaching of John the evangelist, may walk in the light of your truth, and be brought to the fullness of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.



WHY IS OUR LECTERN SHAPED LIKE AN EAGLE?

A similar question was asked of The Revd. Harold Webb of Surrey, UK, who replied: “The flying eagle is the symbol of John the Evangelist who proclaimed Christ as 'the Word of God' at the beginning of his Gospel. The flying eagle is thus a suitable emblem from which God's word is read, reaching (we hope) the ends of the earth. The eagle is also thought of as the bird which flies nearest to heaven. I am not sure such lecterns are confined just to the Anglican church. It was not until the Reformation that the lectern became prominent in ordinary parish churches of the reformed tradition, carrying the open bible. Reformed churches other than the Anglican have perhaps eschewed this type of lectern as a 'graven image'. Since Vatican II the Roman Catholic church has made the bible reading more prominent in the services, but the lectern used is likely to be of a light, moveable sort.”

BAPTISMS

Congratulations to all those who have been baptised at St. John's so far this year!

Hamish Bell
Matthew Jordan
James Tyers
Vivien Fenlon
Austin Griffiths
Louis Turner
Thomas Whaley
Tom Simmons
Mona Kartalaei
Elsbeth 'Bunny'
Andrews
Olivia Nitsou
Willow Godson
Charlie Garrick

Ceremonies & Blessings

Natalie & Sam Nolan
Joseph Napoleone & Perri Gould

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May
Sue Kincaid

June
John Horan
Amanda Bagot
Jocelyn Elsey
James Griffith

July
Doug Harrah
Alicia Groves

IN MEMORIAM

Funerals, Memorials & Interments

Christine Horan
Debra Moore
Alan Mackay
Suzanne Collister
Trevor Craddock
Jill Patterson
Clive Watson
Dr Anne Myers
Elaine Shmith
Shirley Gray
Garry Van Egmond
John Rowe
David Mackay
Andrew Wells
Judyth Edquist
John Fregon
Ross Thornton
Margot Isaksson

WEDDINGS

NEWS ABOUT OUR CURATE

In May Lydia is visiting her home country of India, travelling and seeing family and friends. During her time there she will be presiding at the baptism of her nephew Ebenezer at another St. John's church, in Tamil Nadu. This is of particular significance to Lydia, and indeed this St. John's, as Lydia herself was baptised in the very same font that Ebenezer shall be baptised in! Congratulations to them both.



MEET OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST,
ZACHARY HAMILTON-RUSSELL

Zachary is a Melbourne-based musician with a focus in piano accompaniment, choral music, and pipe organ. He studied his Bachelor of Music (Honours) at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, where he majored in classical piano performance under Max Cooke OAM. During his time at university, he was a choral scholar with the Choir of Trinity College, The University of Melbourne, with which he toured the U.K. and France and recorded three albums. He was appointed as Director of Music at St. John's in February, having previously been the Director of Music at St. Martin's, Hawksburn, and the organ scholar at St. Andrew's Church, Brighton under Dr. Calvin Bowman. Zachary maintains a busy schedule, working as the college accompanist at Kingswood College, Box Hill South; a piano and music theory tutor at St Catherine's School in Toorak; a tutor with the Australian Boys Choir; the musical director of Mosaic Community Choir; and other freelance work, including accompanying, singing, teaching, and conducting work around Melbourne. Welcome Zac!



Celebrating Volunteers in Volunteers Week

The Toorak Ecumenical Council invites all volunteers who give their time to join us at St Peter's Parish Centre



Wednesday 22nd May 5-7pm



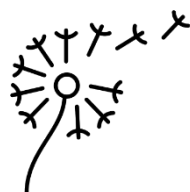
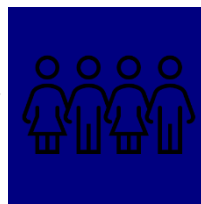
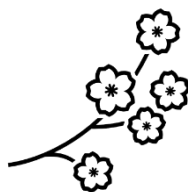
RSVP to your church office or Op Shop

Monday 20th May

Op Shop, pastoral care,


readers, church committees, flowers

Food for Friends, communion assistants, cleaning, stewards



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The below image is the front cover of the 29th edition of St. John's Quarterly Paper, published in July of 1909.



St. John's Quarterly Paper,

TOORAK.

"That we may be fellow workers with the Truth."—St. John, 3rd Epistle, 8th verse.

No. 29.
TRINITY SEASON, 1909.
For Free Distribution.

Clergy REV. C. E. DROUGHT. REV. H. P. FINNIS.
Sunday School—3 p.m., Corner of Grange Road and Jackson Street.
Children's Service last Sunday in each month, at 3 p.m., in Church.

S. John's Guild—Meetings, 1st and 3rd Fridays, 2.30.
Mothers' Union—Meetings Quarterly.
Girls' Friendly Society—Meetings 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 7.30 p.m.
St. John's Men's Club—Tuesday Evenings, 7.30.
Boys' Gymnasium—Monday evenings.
Teachers' Preparation Class—1st Wednesday in each month, after Evensong.
Choir Practice—Boys, Tuesday Evenings. Men and , Friday Evenings.
Organist—Mr. Laidlay.

Verges—Mr. R. ...

Services.

SUNDAY—
Morning Prayer, 11 a.m.
Evensong, 7 p.m.

WEEK DAYS—
Morning Prayer daily at 10 o'clock, except on Saturday.

WEDNESDAY—
Evensong, 8 o'clock.

HOLY COMMUNION.

There is a celebration of Holy Communion each Sunday at 8 a.m., *except* on the 1st Sunday in the month, when it is at the 11 o'clock service.

	Communicants.	Offerories.
1909.		
Feb. 21—Quinquagesima	... 39	... £12 8 6
" 24—Ash Wednesday	... —	... —
" 28—1st Sunday in Lent	... 21	... 10 3 7
March 7—2nd " "	... 60	... 11 13 0
" 14—3rd " "	... 18	... 10 15 0
" 21—4th " " (Clergy Provident Fund)	... 36	... 32 0 0
" 25—Feast of the Annunciation	8	... 0 5 0
" 28—5th Sunday in Lent	... 28	... 10 10 5
April 4—Palm Sunday	... 65	... 9 7 0
" 8—Maundy Thursday	... 9	... 0 4 6
" 9—Good Friday...	... —	... 8 10 6
" 11—Easter Day 266	... 27 1 4
" 18—1st Sunday after Easter	12	... 9 9 2
" 25—2nd " "	12	... 9 4 8

May 2—3rd " "	39	... 10 7 7
" 9—4th " "	19	... 10 10 0
" 11—Special Thanksgiving	8	... 1 3 10
" 16—5th Sunday after Easter	26	... 11 12 5
" 20—Ascension Day	... 10	... 0 6 6
" 23—Sunday after Ascension (Australian Missions).	24	... 31 2 8
" 30—Whitsun Day	... 41	... 9 18 8
June 6—Trinity Sunday	... 67	... 10 7 1
" 20—1st Sunday after Trinity	8	... 10 1 9
" 15—2nd " "	21	... 10 8 1
" 24—Nativity of St. John Baptist	6	... 0 3 6
" 27—3rd Sunday after Trinity (First Communion).	124	... 12 16 1

Holy Baptism.

"Ye are to take care that these Children be brought to be confirmed by the Bishop" (From the Baptismal Service).

1909.

March 4—John William Boyle Hungerford
4—Elaine Mary McKenzie Henry
25—George Patrick Fairbairn
April 4—William Barrell Hunter
5—Dorothy Mary Dolan
5—Harold Duffus Dolan
18—Stanley Bryan Pape
May 2—Edwin Tivey
15—Walter Fellows
June 12—Edwin Austin Ure
27—Leonard George Nelson



ST. JOHN'S
ANGLICAN
CHURCH
TOORAK
EST. 1859

Parish Office

Open 9am - 5pm | Monday - Friday
9826 1765 or 9826 1434
enquiries@saintjohnstoorak.org

Wardens

Mr Keith Beecher OAM,
Mr Adriaan den Dulk,
Ms Vivienne Randall

Parish Council

Mr Andrew Ankers,
Ms Leanne Blanckenberg, Mr Rob Condon,
Mr Craig Cooper, Ms Hsinhui Huang,
Ms Carolyn Mackenzie, Ms Fiona McLeay,
Mr Jason Pennell

Vicar

The Revd Dr Peter French
vicar@saintjohnstoorak.org

Assistant Priest

The Revd Dr Wendy Crouch
assistantpriest@saintjohnstoorak.org

Assistant Curate

The Revd Lydia Thangadurai
curate@saintjohnstoorak.org

Director of Music & Organist

Mr Zachary Hamilton-Russell

**Parish Administrator
& Child Safe Compliance**

Ms Alicia Groves
enquiries@saintjohnstoorak.org

Child Safe Officer

Mr Clive Wright

Archivist

Professor Geoff Quail OAM
geoffrey.quail@monash.edu