



***Transformed by Grace to Love  
One Another, to Serve the City,  
and to Share Christ***

**FROM THE RECTOR  
Rev Dr MICHAEL JENSEN**



Earlier this year, Catherine and I had the great privilege of 11 weeks long service leave. For the first part of that time, we led a tour 'in the footsteps of St Paul' and the early church in Turkey, Greece, and Rome.

I was struck by the energy and courage of the apostle Paul in taking the gospel of a little-known Jewish man called Jesus to the bustling, cosmopolitan cities of the Roman Empire. He faced hardship and hostility and in Ephesus even caused a riot! Yet what an impact he made as people of all nations turned away from their idols to serve the true and living God. In Jesus, the rich and the poor, Jew and Gentile alike found freedom and forgiveness; and found in each other a new people, marked by love for one another.

This was the beginning of a great story of which the story of St Mark's Darling Point is but one of many streams. Like churches everywhere, we follow today 'in the footsteps of St Paul' in sharing Christ and in living for him, so that the lost may be found.

It was wonderful to return refreshed and to see anew what God is doing, with your generous help, in and through our church. We've been very busy setting up the St Mark's Cultural Trust so that tax deductible donations can be made in support of our wonderful music at St Mark's. With the help of Mr Basil Sellers, we've also been able to launch a St Mark's Choral

## Quarterly Newsletter September 2023

Scholarship programme, and to invite gifted young musicians to serve us in the choir. Our Share Jesus course, led by Rev Michael Figueira, has helped us to witness more effectively for Christ with our neighbours. We've continued to see the growth of our Youth and Children's ministries.

In this newsletter, you'll learn more about the St Mark's Cultural Trust. Visit <https://stmarksdp.org/giving/> for more details. I would love to commend this to you as a way in which you can continue to help St Mark's follow 'in the footsteps of St Paul', and shine with the light of Jesus Christ.

**Michael Jensen**

## HOPE EXPLORED



There are few emotions more powerful than hope. But these days, hope often feels hard to come by. Where can we find a hope that won't disappoint us?

You're invited to 'Hope Explored' over three Thursday nights to ask the big questions together, led by Michael Figueira our Assistant Minister. Each session, we'll watch a short video, look at a section of the Bible, ask the big questions and explore together how Jesus offers us hope. The course starts on 12 October 2023, 7.30pm – 9pm in the Howard Lea Hall. Register at <https://stmarksdp.org/whats-on/>

## BASECAMP 2023



BASECAMP 2023, the Men's Ministry arm of Katoomba Christian Convention, was held recently at the University of NSW Roundhouse.

A group of men across the St Mark's congregations joined several hundred other men enjoying powerful and encouraging corporate worship and fellowship together. The theme was "Unravelling Emotions" with two key speakers - Alasdair Groves (Executive Director, Christian Counselling and Education foundation, Northern New England USA) and Peter Sondergeld (Lead Pastor, Restoration Church, Toowoomba QLD). We spent time looking at three Bible passages - Genesis 3, John 11 and Psalm 62. A take-away for me was our Psalm 62 study where the psalmist expressed a range of honest emotions in his prayer to God. This reminded me that honesty in prayer and honesty with our emotions allow us to engage more genuinely to our heavenly Father. BASECAMP is also a good time to see some old Christian mates, meet some new ones and be encouraged by some personal testimonies.

**John Best**

## CHORAL EVENSONG



What a joy it was to once again have the option to attend a Choral Evensong service at St Mark's. The service most certainly did not disappoint! Attendance was better than anticipated (Annette had to run off 20 extra orders

of service to meet the demand!). People came from across our congregations, with many visitors present too. It was a chilly June afternoon and people might have chosen to watch it from home, but a number commented that the time (3pm) was perfect and they were looking forward to the next one (on Sunday 29 October). But the service flowed with beauty and warmth as we joined together in worship of our great God.

Dr Bill Clark once again led the choir and their outstanding gifts and hard work were clearly on display to enhance the service. From the opening hymn to the Psalms, canticles and anthems they raised the roof giving glory to God. We heard God's word read and Rev Dr Tim Escott reminded us of the reason, given in the introduction of the Book of Common Prayer, for producing a prayer book that the people could read and understand. He preached on the importance of listening to God speaking and telling others of the good news of Jesus.

I have spoken to several people who were present and they, with one voice, commented on the excellence of the occasion and their delight in having evensong reinstated even if periodically! One asked me, somewhat hopefully, if it was going to be on every week?

Come and join us in October and experience this grand form of worship!

**Alicia Watson**



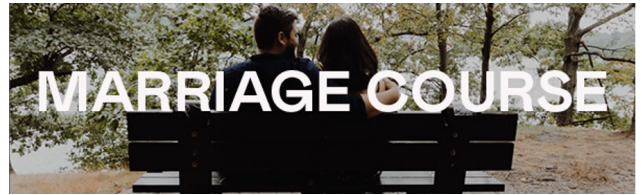
## PRE-MARRIAGE COURSE (ONLINE)



A wedding takes a day. A marriage lasts a lifetime. Our next course will be held online starting on Tuesday 12 September, 7:00pm – 9:00pm. Visit <https://stmarksdp.org/whats-on/> Feedback from the previous course has been very encouraging:

- "A wonderful opportunity for us to sit down and have an open and honest discussion about our relationship and perspectives."
- "The leaders shared really useful techniques to help us improve our relationship. The course is useful in that we both commit time each week to talk about relationship. It was also comforting to know that we weren't alone and other couples experience the same challenges."
- "I was little unsure about it being via Zoom initially, but I think it works well as you are in your own environment and able to speak candidly and privately with each other. We also found it quite fun!"

**Rev Michael Figueira**  
**Assistant Minister**

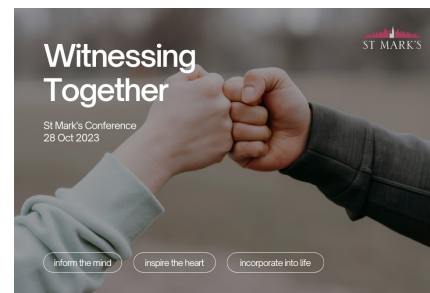


## MARRIAGE COURSE

If you're looking for some practical tools and techniques to keep the spark alive in your relationship and stay connected, then consider attending the Marriage Course. Our next course starts on Tuesday 24 October 2023, 6.30pm – 9pm in the Canopy Room of the Sheaf Hotel in Double Bay and runs for seven consecutive weeks. We'd love for you to join us! Visit <https://stmarksdp.org/whats-on/>

## ST MARK'S CONFERENCE

Everyone is invited to come to the St Mark's Conference. Register now at <https://stmarksdp.org/whats-on/>



## SHARE JESUS COURSE

Although many of us want to share Jesus with others, it can be challenging. I recently ran the Share Jesus Course, which equipped us to be hope-filled, humble and hospitable in sharing our faith. We heard many stories of the ways that God continues to use our efforts to draw others to himself. We were trained and given ideas on how to speak about Jesus in a real and natural way. I'm grateful for the shared encouragement and fellowship as we seek to witness as a church together.

**Rev Michael Figueira**  
**Assistant Minister**



## ST MARK'S CULTURAL TRUST

I am very excited to tell you about the inauguration of the St Mark's Cultural Trust. The Trust has been set up with tax deductible status as a means of funding 'cultural' ministries – especially music – at St Mark's.

We can now accept tax deductible gifts in support of music and musicians. This means that we don't have to pay for them from money given for the ministry of the word and discipleship through the main offertory of St Mark's; but also that we can grow and expand our music ministry for the benefit of the community and to the glory of God. The Trust will fund the Director of Music, sheet music, musical instruments (and their tuning and repair), maintenance of the organ, the extra musicians we employ at special events, and more besides.

My prayer is that, with the help of the Trust, St Mark's would become known even more as a centre for excellent, beautiful, and Christ-focused music.

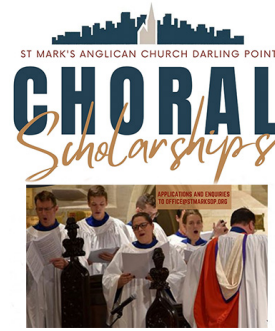
Already, through the facility of the Trust and through the kindness of Mr Basil Sellers, we've been able to begin our St Mark's Choral Scholarships. The first recipient of the scholarship is Matthew Lee, who is in Year 10 at Cranbrook School. Matthew's fine tenor voice is now heard each Sunday morning at 8am! We are expecting to award more of these scholarships very soon.

We will also be able to support our successful organ scholarship programme via the Trust.

My prayer is that we will be able to establish a core fund within the Trust that will be able to bless not only our own but also future generations with music made *solī gloria deo* – to the glory of God alone! I commend it to your prayerful consideration.

**Michael Jensen**  
**Rector**

## CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS



Applications are open for these scholarships which represent a wonderful opportunity for gifted musicians aged between 16 - 24 years. Visit

[www.stmarksmusic.org](http://www.stmarksmusic.org)

## SUPPORT OUR CHORAL MUSIC MINISTRY

The St Mark's Darling Point Cultural Trust is a Registered Cultural Organisation and supports our worshipful Choral Music ministry. Donations to this fund (ABN [42719170351](http://42719170351)) are tax deductible. Please make gifts to:

Account Name: St Mark's Darling Point Cultural Trust

BSB: 032 054

Account Number: 542071

Ref: Your name

To find out more about how you can share in the ministry of St Mark's through your financial giving, please visit <https://stmarksdp.org/giving/>

## CHOIR CONCERT

Save the date: Choir Concert

Sunday 26 November 2023 at 2pm.

Visit <https://stmarksdp.org/whats-on/>

### MESSIAH

**A SACRED ORATORIO**

BY

**GEORGE FREDERIC HANDEL**

PRESENTED BY

**ST MARK'S CHOIR**

AND SOLOISTS

ON

**SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER, 2PM**