



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

FROM THE RECTOR Rev Dr MICHAEL JENSEN



Dear Friends,
One of the most precious images the New Testament gives us for the gospel is that of a baton being passed on in a relay race. Paul says to Timothy: *"What you have heard from me... entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others also"* (2

Timothy 2:2). The Christian faith is never a possession to be hoarded; it is always a gift to be handed on.

Here at St Mark's, we have been given a wonderful opportunity to do just that. Over the coming months, we hope to appoint a new, **full-time Children's and Youth Minister**. This role is not just another staff position - it is at the very heart of our vision to see the next generation grow up knowing and loving the Lord Jesus. We long for our young people to discover that the gospel is not just their parents' faith, nor a relic from a past age, but the living word of God, powerful and life-giving today.

We have seen God's kindness in the steady growth of families and young people in our parish. But growth brings responsibility. We must be intentional about raising up workers who can nurture faith in children and teenagers, walking with them through the joys and challenges of growing up in an increasingly secular world.

Quarterly Newsletter September 2025

Your prayers and support make this possible. Every gift of encouragement, every act of generosity, every prayer you pray helps us place the baton of the gospel firmly in the hands of those who will carry it after us. Thank you for partnering with us in this vital work.

In Christ,
Michael Jensen

FRIENDS OF ST MARK'S (FOSM)

Join us at our next guest speaker event. Melissa Levi will talk about a topic very relevant to many in our community - Big Conversations Every Family Should Have About Ageing, Dementia, and Care. Woollahra Council has kindly subsidised this event through a Community and Cultural Grant. Book now: <https://stmarksdp.org/whats-on/>



Big Conversations
Every family should have about Ageing, Dementia and Care

Thursday 18 September 2025, 6pm
St Mark's Anglican Church, Darling Point

Melissa Levi, Clinical Psychologist, dementia and ageing specialist, and author, is speaking at St Mark's Church on Thursday 18 September at 6pm. Melissa will talk about ageing, future care and dementia, and offer suggestions for how to set your family up for the best possible journey - whether you're fit and well, living with early dementia, or caring for someone you love.

You'll leave feeling calmer, more confident and ready to talk about the future in a way that brings your family closer together.

Book now at <https://stmarksdp.org/whats-on/>



This Friends of St Mark's event is proudly supported by Woollahra Council

We've enjoyed some great FOSM events recently and it's been encouraging to see lots of regulars and welcome new friends too. We've enjoyed the well-loved and uplifting Choral Evensong service (Next service: Sunday 26 October, 3pm) and a fascinating tour of The



Great Synagogue. General (Retd) the Honourable David Hurley AC CVO DSC was a very engaging guest speaker at the annual church service and luncheon. He reminded us of the assurance we have in Jesus, which was both very appropriate and encouraging at this time of such broad world turmoil.

FAREWELL LEUNG FAMILY



In late August we farewelled Stephanie Leung, who has served faithfully as our Children's Minister since 2020. Stephanie has been a wise, creative, and a joyful leader, helping our youngest members grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus. She has now

been appointed Assistant Minister at St Barnabas' Broadway - a wonderful new chapter in her ministry.

We also say goodbye to her husband Brian, who has so ably led the music at our 5:30pm service, and to their children, Maggie and Rory. We thank God for the Leung family and will miss them deeply.

Rev Dr Michael Jenson
Rector

YOUNG ADULTS GROW IN FAITH

In the first half of this year the 5:30pm congregation had the privilege of being the church home of some young naval officers posted to Sydney on a training course. This group attended the first Discover course and



then became the core of a young adult's group, ably disciplined and lead by Jack and Claudia. Prior to graduating and receiving their

postings to new locations, Lucas and Jayden reaffirmed their faith alongside Yasmin who was baptised. We are grateful for God's work in their lives and pray for them as they settle into new locations and new churches. We continue to pray that the young adult's group will be restarted with new members coming to St Mark's.

Rev Michelle Philp
Assistant Minister

ST MARK'S MUSIC SCHOLARS' CONCERT

Scholars' Concert



Featuring St Mark's choral scholarship recipients, performing vocal and instrumental music by Claude Debussy, Roger Quilter, Pauline Viardot, Frank Wildhorn and others

Join us on Sunday 14 September 2025, 2:30pm for our annual Music Scholars' Concert which will showcase the talents of our Choral Scholarship recipients. St Mark's Music has been able to offer these Choir Scholarships thanks to the generosity of Basil Sellers AM. This scholarship program aims to facilitate the development of young musicians and grow St Mark's music ministry.

GROWING SPIRITUALLY AT ST MARK'S

"How do we grow spiritually? How are we transformed by grace?" At St Mark's, we believe the answer to these questions is simple: God transforms us by his Spirit as we grasp the gospel of grace, listen to his Word, respond in prayer, and practise love in community.

Spiritual growth is not about trying harder or doing more; it's about opening ourselves up to the grace of God, and allowing his Spirit to shape us.

But how do we actually live this out in our church family?

That's where our Spiritual Growth Pathway comes in.

Regular Rhythms

Every healthy life has rhythms - like eating, sleeping, or exercising - that keep us alive and well. The same is true of our spiritual life.

- Daily Devotions help us feed on God's Word and pray personally.
- Connect Groups give us a smaller circle of friends to learn with, pray with, and walk alongside
- Sunday Church is our weekly gathering for worship and community, where the gospel is proclaimed and we are reminded that we belong to something bigger than ourselves.

Together, these things give us variety, depth, and balance. And because life is rarely neat, these rhythms flex and adapt across different seasons.

Next Steps

Of course, rhythms alone can feel like maintenance - doing what we've always done. That's why the pathway also invites us to take Next Steps.

- For those exploring Christianity, Discover courses give the chance to ask questions and hear the gospel clearly.
- For those wanting to grow in maturity, Deepen opportunities - courses, conferences, and seminars - equip us in Bible, theology, and Christian living.
- And for those ready to contribute more, Be Deployed encourages us to step into serving, giving, and leadership.

Not every step will be for everyone, and certainly not all at once. But the idea is that there's always another step to take in the direction of knowing Christ more.

Genuine Spiritual Relationships

Finally, this isn't just about activities. What really makes growth possible is genuine spiritual relationships. That means relationships shaped by God's Word, prayer, and love.

We want to be a community where we speak the gospel to one another over coffee, in text messages, and in quiet conversations. Where we pray with each other whenever the opportunity arises. And where we practically love: bearing one another's burdens, forgiving one another, and serving together.

A Clear and Inspiring Path

The great thing about this model is that it's broad enough for anyone to find themselves in it - whether you're just curious about Christianity, a brand-new believer, or someone who's walked with Jesus for decades.

So, as you think about your own place in the St Mark's family this term, ask yourself: What rhythms am I keeping? What next step might God be prompting me to take? And how can I lean into genuine spiritual relationships that point me to Christ?

Rev Dr Tim Escott
Senior Associate Minister

TASTE & SEE COURSE LAUNCH



On Wednesday 13 August we launched our brand new outreach course, Taste and See, and we were thrilled to welcome 43 people on the very first night.

The course is simple but profound: it tells the story of the Bible through four meals. Each evening, participants share food together, hear a short talk that opens up one stage of God's big story, and then have space around the table for conversation and questions.

The opening night was full of energy and warmth - people lingered long after the session finished, enjoying both the food and the company. We are praying that many will come to see how the story of Scripture is good news for their own lives, and that this course will become a natural doorway into the life of our church. Please keep praying for Taste and See as it continues in the coming weeks!

Rev Dr Michael Jenson
Rector

MUSIC TIME MAGIC



"What do you think my name is? I wonder if you know..." Every Monday morning, the upper hall is alive with the sounds of

children playing, singing and generally making a joyful noise at Music Time. As word spreads through the community, we've been welcoming around 45 people every week to this thriving ministry. From humble beginnings, where four church mums restarted the toddler group post-Covid, we've seen countless little

ones with their grownups - and people are spreading the word and bringing their friends.

Kate, Sue, Ann and Liz, our dedicated volunteers, provide a delightful morning tea. Over food and a cup of tea, relationships are formed as we chat about life, celebrating milestones and sharing parenting success and failures while the children play.

As ever, we'd love to invite you to be part of the joy. If you could spare an hour and a half on a Monday morning, we'd love to have you participate in creating a welcoming, safe, enjoyable space for our little Music Time participants and their big people. It's a really special place. If you're interested in helping or finding out more about the group, please email musictime@stmarksdp.org

Claire Fern
Music Time Coordinator

HELP PASS THE BATON



We'd be grateful if you could consider supporting our children's and youth ministry. With the extra staffing recently

committed to this important area, your contribution would be much appreciated. To share in our ministry through your financial giving; including bequests; visit <https://stmarksdp.org/giving/>

