



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

**FROM THE RECTOR
Rev Dr MICHAEL JENSEN**



What will the St Mark's of 2035 be like?

This year, we're going to be asking ourselves that question so that we at St Mark's can be more and more like the church that

God is calling us to be in Jesus Christ. We've engaged City to City Australia as our consultants to help lead us through the process of imagining what the next few years have in store for us.

I am very excited about this process, because I know how much St Mark's members love their church and desire to see it flourish to the glory of God's name. The challenges are great, of course, as Australian society continues to move away from the name of Christ for the most part.

**Quarterly Newsletter
March 2024**

But there are so many opportunities we have with the resources that God has blessed us with, both human and material.

Your generous support has enabled us to share Jesus with so many people in the Eastern Suburbs and beyond over the past 10 years. It's such a joy to see people grasp the transforming news of the grace of God for themselves. Whatever steps we take as we consider the next decade, the desire to see people won for Christ will not change!

Michael Jensen



EASTER
AT ST MARK'S

GOOD FRIDAY 29 March

- 8am – Choral Morning Prayer
- 10am – Morning Prayer
- 12–3pm – Jesus' Words from the Cross

EASTER DAY 31 March

- 8am – Choral Communion
- 10am – Communion Service with BBQ and Easter Egg Hunt
- 5.30pm – Communion with BBQ



stmarksdp.org/whats-on



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MORE LIKE CHRIST

"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." (Colossians 2:6–7). Behind this central exhortation in the Apostle Paul's letter lies this basic axiom: growth as a Christian means standing firm on the foundation of Christ and his gospel and living it out in every part of your life. This year we are seeking as a church to grow more like Christ.

Gospel and Life Course

I have been running a course on just this theme: growing in our understanding of the



gospel and how it shapes all of our lives. Our 13 participants were reminded of the fundamental truths of the gospel through key biblical

texts, and we shared ways in which we can respond to what God has done for us. We were encouraged in heart and united more deeply in love and the truth about Christ:

- The gospel is that Jesus is the Lord. So we are called to trust and worship him.
- The gospel is that Christ died and rose to save us. This leads us to rely on him for salvation and live self-giving cross-shaped lives, reflecting the new resurrection life we now have in him.
- The gospel is that we are saved: sinners declared righteous, the holy made holy, alienated people brought into a new humanity by God. So, we live righteous and holy lives, loving and serving one another in unity, and reaching out to our lost world.

Rev Dr Tim Escott

Assistant Minister

More Like Christ Retreat

In April, Michael Jensen will take 25 people away on a More Like Christ retreat. It will be an



opportunity to renew, reset, and refresh your life in Jesus Christ in a peaceful and beautiful environment out of the city. Places on the retreat are strictly

limited and available on a first-come/first-served basis, so book quickly at <https://stmarksdp.org/whats-on/>

PRE-MARRIAGE COURSE



The online Pre-Marriage Course saw eight couples commit to growing together in their relationship over five weeks. It's a pleasure for me to

lead them in this course as I get to know them in the lead up to marrying them at St Mark's. Many of the couples already have a good understanding of each other but having the time to intentionally speak on various aspects of their relationships helped to further their

understanding of each other. The couples were pleasantly surprised at how much they appreciated the intentional time to focus on each other amidst the rush of preparing a wedding.

One participant reported telling his mates at work just how good the church run course has been for his relationship!

The next course starts on Tuesday 28 May. Visit <https://stmarksdp.org/ministries/pre-marriage-course/>

Rev Michael Figueira

Assistant Minister



YOUTH AND KIDS

The big news for our youth and kids ministries this year is that we have welcomed two new student ministers to be involved in leading the ministry. We are really pleased to have them, and so far they are doing excellent work supporting our kids and youth ministries.

Samantha (Sam) Begg is in her second year of Moore College and has come to St Mark's after some time at Engadine Anglican Church in the Sutherland Shire. Sam is working alongside Stephanie Leung in kids ministry, teaching the primary age group at Kids Church and supporting the leaders there. She is also working with Steph to co-ordinate the curriculum and the ministry overall. In youth ministry, Sam is also working alongside Charlotte Herron in a new Bible study group for senior high girls.



Jonathan (Jono) Dunn is in his first year of Moore College, after completing an MTS apprenticeship at Berala Anglican Church, before which he was a software engineer. Jono is focusing on youth ministry. He is leading the



Friday night youth team and running the junior high Bible study group that meets during 10am church.

Thank God for Sam and Jono - for their experience, enthusiasm, and valuable contributions. Pray that they will apply themselves to their studies, learn while they serve among us, and bear great fruit for the kingdom.



Rev Dr Tim Escott
Assistant Minister

HOPE EXPLORED

The Hope Explored course was held over January as we invited those who attended our Christmas services to further discover the hope found in the Christian



HOPE EXPLORED
WHAT'S THE BEST FUTURE
YOU COULD EVER IMAGINE?

message. We had eight guests join us. Hope Explored is a three-week course that explores the life, death and resurrection of Jesus showing how he

offers us hope, peace and purpose. The video content brought up lively discussions as we explored some of the fundamental longings of the human heart. The Bible exploration enabled participants to engage more deeply with the Bible's teaching on the topics and how Jesus fulfils these longings. Many of the guests are continuing their journey of discovery through joining a Connect Group or enrolling in the Gospel and Life course run by Tim Escott. The next Hope Explored course starts on Sunday 14 April. Visit stmarksdp.org/ministries/hope-explored-course/

Rev Michael Figueira
Assistant Minister

WEDDINGS AT ST MARK'S

Many couples begin their marriage journey at St Mark's. The Eastern Suburbs Life newspaper recently included an article sharing reflections

from Reverend Michael Figueira, Assistant Minister about how he supports couples on their marriage preparation journey. [Click here for the full article.](#)



For more information about weddings at St Mark's please visit <https://stmarksdp.org/ministries/weddings/>

Rev Michael Figueira
Assistant Minister

FRIENDS OF ST MARK'S (FOSM)

The Friends recently held a launch luncheon to celebrate the group's 70-year anniversary. [Click here to read a recently published article about the group.](#) Today the group's focus is on *friendraising* – on providing events which appeal to

anybody for whom our beautiful church has a special meaning, regardless of whether or not they attend church. It is our hope that as we introduce and

welcome people into our community, ultimately some friends may then consider the good news of Jesus. Almost 50 people attended the launch, and we were encouraged by the positive feedback. People commented on the welcoming and inclusive atmosphere, the

interesting range of events planned, and how it offers an easy way to invite others to church events.

We encourage you to join The Friends mailing list (to be notified about events) and invite others too. Visit stmarksdp.org/whats-on/

to see the 2024 calendar. We are also interested to hear ideas for future events via fosm@stmarksdp.org or click on the QR code.



CHORAL EVENSONG

The St Mark's Choir is delighted to be offering Choral Evensong services again this year. We encourage anyone who values the services contained in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer to attend. The first service will be held on Sunday 23 June 2024 at 3pm. We look forward to welcoming you at St Mark's for this musical treat and time of reflection. Enquiries: choir@stmarksdp.org



ORGAN RECITAL

St Mark's will present an Organ Recital for the Scholarship Fund on Sunday 26 May 2024 at 3pm. Don't miss this opportunity to hear talented organist Samuel Giddy perform.



Why not invite your family and friends to join you at the recital? To register, please visit stmarksdp.org/whats-on/

SUPPORT OUR MINISTRY

St Mark's relies on the generosity of our community to fund the ministries within our parish and beyond. To find out how you can share in the ministry of St Mark's through your financial giving; including bequests; please visit <https://stmarksdp.org/giving/>

