

**ST
MARK'S**
DARLING POINT

Meeting Together

From 31 October 2021.

PREPARED BY
STAFF AND
WARDENS

PRESENTED ON
20 OCTOBER 2021

From Michael Jensen

The Rector

Under God we're planning a return to in person gatherings from 31 October 2021.

This is going to be the first Sunday we will meet together after NSW has reached 80% full vaccination of the eligible population. And there's something fitting about returning to church together on 31 October after 18 Sundays online: 31 October is Reformation Sunday. It's the day in the church calendar when we especially celebrate the foundational truths of the Christian faith that we are right with God by his grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, based on the Bible alone, for the glory of God alone. What an excellent moment to be able to celebrate coming together again as Christ's family.

A return to gathering at this time will be a great joy, albeit with some continued restrictions and precautions in place. It will be an opportunity for all of us to show in our words and actions toward one another what we have been learning in Philippians over these past weeks: that we are those who are not only saved by grace, but completely transformed by grace, as we seek to love one another, serve the city and share Christ.

**OUR CONTINUING
VISION:**

**TO BE
TRANSFORMED BY
GRACE TO LOVE
ONE ANOTHER,
SERVE THE CITY
AND SHARE
CHRIST**

“

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy... be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus....

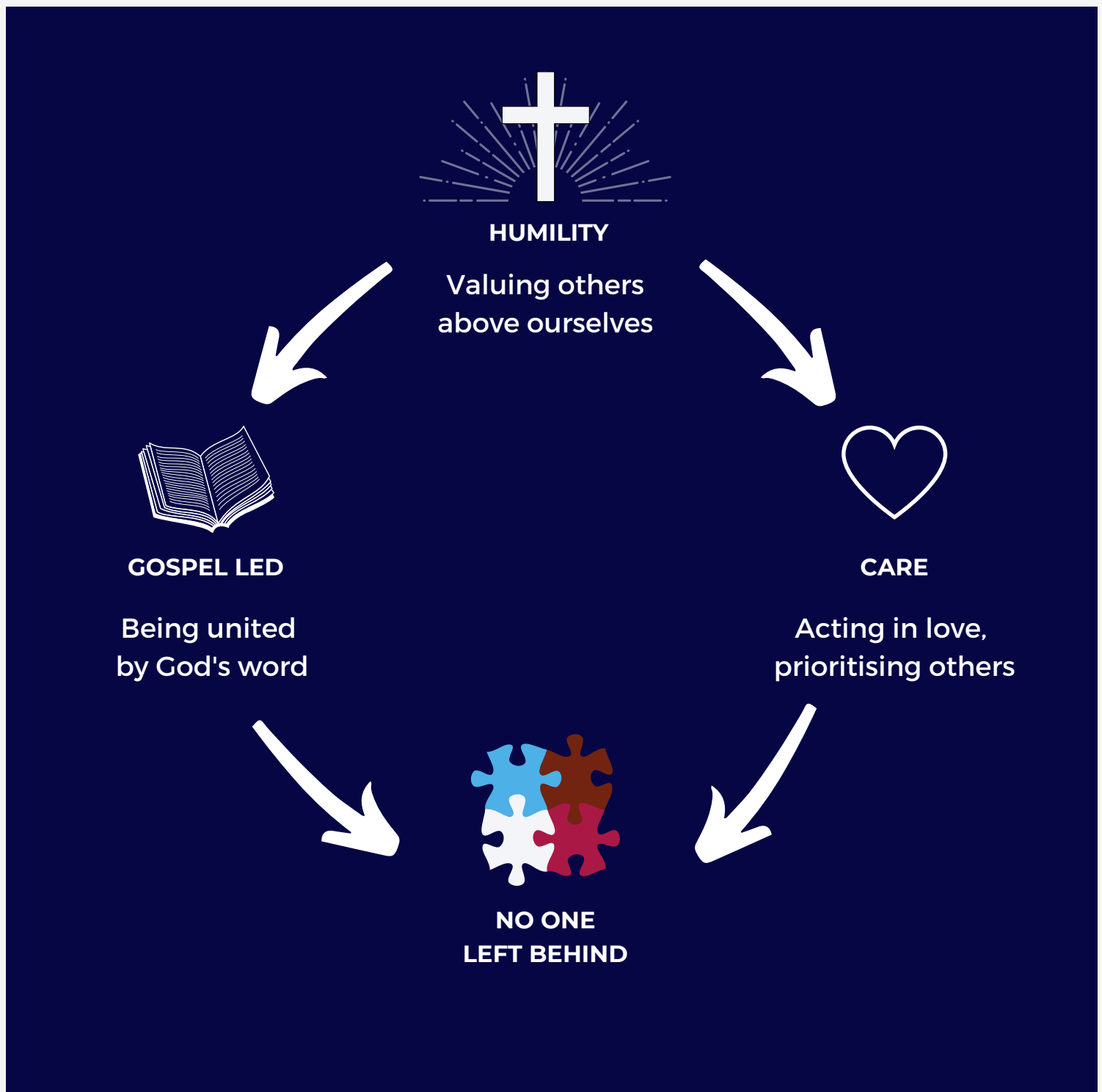
Philippians 2:1-5

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Philippians 2 in action:

No-one Left Behind

As we look forward to meeting face to face once again, pray that we might continue to have the mind and attitude of Christ toward each another. We'll all adjust to "normal" at different speeds, with different anxieties and concerns, and different priorities and energy levels. Treating one another with gentleness and respect during this time will be key in making sure there is *no-one left behind*.



The Road Ahead

Based on information from NSW Health and the Archbishop of Sydney, right now our expectations are:

DATE	MINISTRY	CONDITIONS
18 October 2021	Connect Groups	Homes: 10 double vaccinated adults. Church property: 10+ adults In person meetings determined by each group
31 October 2021	Services 8am, 10am, 5:30pm Kids Church	In person + livestream Double vaxxed adults Masks, check in, distancing, no singing, morning tea Kids: Sign in/out, masks for leaders, concurrent with service.
5 November 2021	St Mark's Youth	Return to in person meetings
5 Dec 2021	All	Further easing of restrictions Return of singing Get ready for Christmas!

Note: While we are excited to prepare to meet together again, we recognise that the current health conditions are beyond our control and could change at any moment. The staff and the wardens will be closely adhering to the most current government and health advice and will advise you of any changes in respect to these conditions going forward.

If you have any questions about these conditions, please contact Rector Michael Jensen for clarification.