



## FROM THE RECTOR

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

Dear Friends,

It's been an exciting and exhausting year at St Mark's - but God is at work! I want to thank you all for your ongoing and generous support of the vision of St Mark's, and your prayerful partnership in the gospel.

For me, a real highlight of the year has been our Pentecost services, where we celebrated the confirmation and the reaffirmation of several of our parishioners. What a great way to mark the coming of God's Holy Spirit on his people! It was so encouraging to hear of God's work in people's lives - members of our congregation ranging in age from 15 to 91. We heard how God has extraordinarily healed people, and how he has preserved them through very dark days of loss and grief. It was a marvellous testimony to what St Mark's is all about.

The message of God's grace to us in Christ Jesus has never been a more urgent or important one for Australia. We are an increasingly divided nation, and the quality of public debate continues to be rancorous and nasty. We are also an isolated people. We have never been a more lonely place than we are today. And add to that the soaring rates of anxiety. For all our prosperity, we are divided, anxious, and lonely.

What could be done to change this? You could name any number of social programmes that might make some difference. But what is needed more than ever is a spiritual renewal - a renewal that comes from the heart. When people understand the gospel of God's love for us in Christ Jesus, things start to change. When people are filled with gratitude to God for his amazing kindness to us, they

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start to be generous and kind. They start to experience the joy and peace of God. When people know forgiveness by the blood of Christ, they become less judgemental of others. Wouldn't that be an amazing society to live in?

That's what we are called to be at St Mark's Darling Point. With your help, we are building a community of gracious difference. We are together working to pass on this glorious news to the next generation. We are building, in faith and in God's strength, for the future. We are actively and generously welcoming people into our midst in the name of Jesus Christ.



The challenges we face - particularly of handing on the gospel to the next generation - need our financial commitment. With your help we have been able to employ a Youth Minister, Fili Lolohea, and a Children's Minister, Rachael Bell. Fili and Rachael are capable and inspiring servants of the gospel, but we need to keep supporting them in their work. We also need to be making sure that the quality of our facilities matches our aspiration to be a welcoming church that loves to share food as it shares Christ.

I look forward to seeing what God will do among us next as, with him, you and I partner in his wonderful work.

Michael.

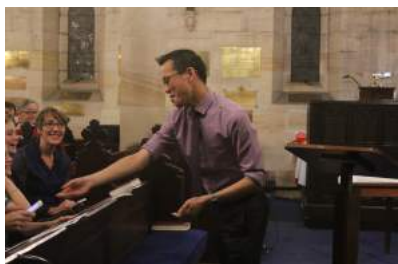
### THE ST. MARK'S LECTURE



THE ST. MARK'S LECTURE drew over a hundred people to sit at the feet of Eddie Woo, many of whom were not normal church attendees. Eddie is a brilliant communicator. He cares

deeply about young people developing their full potential in both education and life. He shared insight into his own journey of

becoming an educator. Then he presented some of the Christian roots of systematic education, an



analysis of the rise of secularism in education, and a reasons for Christians to teach and be a

light in the public education system. It was a really exciting evening, and another great



sign that being Christian can stimulate insights into the things that matter for human flourishing.



### MICHAEL'S TRIP TO MALAYSIA

On the 21st May, I flew to Kuala Lumpur for my fourth ministry trip in partnership with St Mary's Cathedral, KL. My friend the Dean, Rev Dr Andrew Cheah, invited me to speak at the congregation's weekend away (with 250+ attending) and to teach a course in theology with the Malaysian Bible Seminary.

It is always an eye-opening experience to be teaching about Jesus in a Muslim majority



culture - especially during Ramadan. One is constantly reminded that things are not easy for Christians, even

though there are a number of good churches there. They do not enjoy the friendly relations with the government that we do here. It is still very difficult for people of Malay background to convert to Christianity. At the same time, Malaysia is a prosperous country, and as in Australia, worship of money is prevalent.

And yet, the ministry there is vigorously multicultural. At the Cathedral, there are services in Iban, English, Mandarin, and Nepali. There are many Tamil and Chinese members. I taught a student from Liberia and two from Sarawak.

I am extremely grateful to the wardens and the parish council for the opportunity to

serve the cause of Christ in another setting. It was exciting to see that Jesus



Christ makes a difference in a very different culture to our own.



## ST MARK'S GARDENS

Many visitors to St Mark's comment on the



beautiful gardens around the Church. Wedding couples comment on the beautiful surroundings that add to

their special day. This can only be achieved by the hard and consistent work of a number of volunteers, led by Di Coates, who work hard each Friday morning cutting back, watering, feeding and generally



tidying up not only the Church gardens but the Rectory as well.



## ST MARK'S SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING MISSIONS

**Sophia Cameron** has just moved to Pokhara in Nepal where she trains teachers and is supported through CMS NSW.

**Living Water Fellowship** in Redfern is a ministry to the indigenous community.

**The Mandarin Fellowship** is under the umbrella of Focus Churches at UNSW and ministers to the Chinese student community.

**Dave and Leoni Painter** live in Cambodia where they teach at Phnom Penh Bible School and Dave works on translating the bible into Khmer. The Painters are supported through CMS NSW. Dave and Leoni are on home leave.

**Rough Edges** is part of St John's Church in Darlinghurst ministering to, and feeding the homeless and marginalised in Sydney.



## KIDS HOLIDAY CLUB



Our St Mark's Kids Holiday Club is coming! The dates are in the last week of the school holidays, from 17-19 July, with a Celebration Sunday event on Sunday 21 July at the 10am service. Holiday Club will run from 9am to 3pm on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and will be filled with loads of fun activities. Stay tuned for more details.

We are also in need of a few more hands to make it run smoothly. If you could help with preparing food for morning teas and/or lunches



(Rachael is happy to plan menus and buy food if people are willing to prepare it),

or if you have one or more of the days free or even a few hours to help set up or clean up, or if you could help prepare or run an activity, Rachael would love to hear from you. Please contact her on 0412 791 903 or send her an email at [rachael.bell@stmarksdp.org](mailto:rachael.bell@stmarksdp.org).



## JOIN WITH US TODAY BY CONTRIBUTING TO ST MARK'S

You may like to make a Tax Deductible donation to St Mark's National Trust at this time. In the past, Tax Deductible offerings have enabled us to purchase new carpet and revitalise our sound system.

Here are some items you may like to consider:

- TV screens for the sides of the church (internal) \$5,000
- maintenance of stonework \$10,000
- polishing of the brass plaques \$10,000

### For **tax-deductible** donations for the maintenance of the Church

Name of account - National Trust of Aust  
St Mark's Anglican Church Conservation Appeal  
BSB - 032 044 Account # 273066

Ref : Your name

If donating by cheque -

Payable to National Trust of Australia

Post to St Mark's Church

1 Greenoaks Ave

Darling Point 2027

Suggestions for **non tax-deductible** donations :

- \$1000 - Alpha Course
- \$1000 - Children's Holiday Club
- \$250 - Bibles to give away
- \$3000 - Choir

To make a gift to St Mark's by bank transfer go to - [www.stmarksdp.org/give](http://www.stmarksdp.org/give)

If donating by cheque -

Payable to St Mark's Church Darling Point

1 Greenoaks Avenue, Darling Point 2027