



THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF  
ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, GORDON

FOR THE DAYS BEFORE AND AFTER  
5 JULY 2020



**Come unto me,  
all ye that labour and are heavy laden,  
and I will give you rest.**

**Matthew 11:28**

The **SUNDAY 8:00AM SERVICE** has re-commenced.

As attendance numbers are limited by law,  
advance registration is required,  
health declarations must be made  
and admittance is by invitation.

There are no standing reservations.

Persons wishing to attend should e-mail or telephone the church office  
each week, the earlier the better, to avoid disappointment.

The **SUNDAY 9:30AM SERVICE**  
continues to be live-streamed on Facebook.

To the best of our knowledge,  
all interested parishioners are receiving orders of service  
by mail or e-mail.

Please advise if others wish to receive.

The **THURSDAY 10:00AM SERVICE** remains in recess.



"Like" and follow  
St. John's, Gordon  
on Facebook.

Scan this QR code  
to go to  
the church website.



## COVID-19 UPDATE

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30 June 2020

The Churchwardens are pleased that some semblance of normality has returned to our Sunday worship with the slotting into place of our modified 8:00AM BCP service. Whilst not yet able to follow our normal service liturgy including congregational responses and singing—it is providing an opportunity for in-person participation in the Eucharist service as well as a weekly community contact (if socially distanced!). The Churchwardens are comfortable that their adopted COVID-19 safety plan has struck the right balance between the desire for us to worship together at church and uncompromising practical protocols required to ensure the health and safety of our parishioners.

If you are well and not in a vulnerable group, please join us each Sunday as we wean ourselves off the on-line alternative. You will need to make the COVID-19 declarations when you apply each week by Thursday noon, preferably by e-mail ([office@stjohnsgordon.org.au](mailto:office@stjohnsgordon.org.au)) or via phone (9498 2744—leave a message if no answer).

We will be continuing to maintain the 9:30AM on-line service for the time being as an alternative for those who need to maintain social isolation from the community. However, it is very much a “second best alternative” to our traditional parish community worship in-person—to which we will return in full health as soon as Churchwardens (and NSW Public Health advice) determine it is safe and appropriate to do so.

Thank you again to our volunteer sidespersons Alex, Cynthia and our former registered nurse—Janet Long—who are working with the Churchwardens on the day to facilitate the process. We are also very much blessed to have Meg and Cynthia in the office—ensuring the prerequisite protocols in the Churchwardens’ COVID-19 safety plan are strictly observed for all of our protection—with minimum intrusion into the worship of the parish.

As from 1 July—the 50 person minimum limit on services ends and a four square metre per person rule applies. The effect of this is to raise the limit on attendees to 63 (based on the area of the nave of St John's). So there is currently plenty of capacity to increase our attendance and we encourage you to join us once again.

There has been some inquiry to Father Ernest as regards the Thursday Communion service—however, given the increased sidesperson requirements from within our limited non-working pool of non-vulnerable parishioners, unfortunately this service will not be recommencing for the time being.

### [The Annual Vestry Meeting](#)

As advised previously, Sunday, 19 July is confirmed as the date for this year's delayed AVM. This meeting will be a combination of an in-person (based on pre-application) and on-line Zoom meeting. The AVM will simply meet the governance requirements of the Ordinance and agenda items will be limited to the reports and elections as laid down in the Ordinance. The Archbishop has advised Father Ernest that there will be no election of parish nominators as they are mid-process and their term has been extended by him for a further year.

Father Ernest has asked me (Chris Russell) to Chair the meeting as his Warden and it will be approximately one hour in duration. If you have any questions relating to the reports as permitted at an AVM, these should be lodged in advance by e-mail to the church office and given the complication of the combined format, they will be read out or summarised at the meeting from the Chair without the need for the questioner to re-iterate the question. There will be an opportunity for further strategic planning discussions at a later meeting when restrictions permit and the new Rector is appointed. As defined in the Parish Ordinance, if you have attended church either on-line or in-person in the last three months you are entitled to attend and vote at the AVM.

The reports prepared for the abandoned April meeting should be updated as necessary and provided to the church office no later than 30 June for availability on 5 July.

(continues on the next page)

### Financially ...

The Treasurer will be lodging his annual report with the church by 5 July and this will be distributed by e-mail or mail (if no e-mail) in time for the AVM on 19 July.

If you are not already using our direct debit system—we encourage you to transfer your weekly offertory to the St John's account which is listed on the back page of the bulletin. You can also deposit your weekly offering in cash, if you prefer, at any branch of any bank using the BSB and account number on the back page of the pew bulletin.

### Meanwhile ...

Bishop Michael's Thursday night discussion group is underway away again by Zoom at 7:30PM. A separate invitation with the Zoom link will be e-mailed to you early this week along with the notes to assist you on the night. As we further explore the illuminating imagery of Revelation—we encourage you to join us from the comfort of your own lounge room. We encourage you to put this in your diary and join us—just click on the link in the separate invitation e-mail at 7:30PM Thursday.

Note that due to changes in Zoom protocols you will receive a new invitation this week with a password which you will need to enter as you join.

If you don't have e-mail—you can dial in from any phone on 02 8015 6011 and enter Meeting ID: 873 2592 3391 when prompted ...

or if you are interstate dial

08 7150 1149 (SA, WA, NT);

03 7018 2004 (VIC, TAS);

07 3185 3730 (QLD).

[If you are going overseas, then ring Meg in the church office and she can give you the phone number in your destination if you can't access Zoom meetings on your computer.]

The Churchwardens intend to maintain this on-line group into the future in addition to the return of in-person Bible studies to the church in the future.

The “Helping Us Group” is in place with four volunteer handymen from within our community on standby if you need a hand for small maintenance tasks—please ring Meg at the church office to let her know of your needs. Similarly, the “Have a Yarn” (HAY) programme is in full operation and if you would like to be part of that or would just like a chat—please ring Cynthia at the church office.

### Finally ...

Thank you for your patience and prayerful support of the ministry team, Churchwardens, Parish Council and office team as well as Brett and Nicola in preparing the music for our services. We look forward to continuing to move forward and if there is anything the parish can help you with—we have the support infrastructure in place thanks to our staff and supporting volunteers. All you have to do is let Father Ernest, the church office or any of the Churchwardens know.

### **The Churchwardens**

Chris Russell AM      JK Seo      James Winter

## **--- C A L E N D A R ---**

**Sunday 8:00AM in-person services** have resumed—within parameters set by the government and church authorities, by reservation, e-mail or telephone church office

**Sundays 9:30AM Eucharist, live-streamed** via Facebook continues

### **Bishop Michael’s Lectio Bible Study**

Thursdays at 7:30PM via Zoom, contact Chris Russell to attend

Next **Evensong** Sunday, 12 July, 4:00PM, live-streamed via Facebook

**Annual Vestry Meeting** to be held Sunday, 19 July, 11:00AM, a combination of in—person in the church hall, reservations required, and via Zoom



## B I B L E R E A D I N G S

**Sunday, 5 July** Zechariah 9:9-10 Psalm 145:1-2, 8-11, 13-14 Romans 8:9, 11-13  
Matthew 11:25-30

**Monday, 6 July** Hosea 2:16-18, 21-22 Psalm 145:2-9 Matthew 9:18-26

**Tuesday, 7 July** Hosea 8:4-7, 11-13 Psalm 115:3-10 Matthew 9:32-38

**Wednesday, 8 July** Hosea 10:1-3, 7-8, 12 Psalm 105:2-7 Matthew 10:1-7

**Thursday, 9 July** Hosea 11:1-4, 8-9 Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16 Matthew 10:7-15

**Friday, 10 July** Hosea 14:2-10 Psalm 51:3-4, 8-9, 12-14, 17 Matthew 10:16-23

**Saturday, 11 July St Benedict** Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 93:1-2, 5 Matthew 10:24-33  
or for St Benedict Proverbs 2:1-9 Psalm 34:2-11 Matthew 19:27-29

**Sunday, 12 July** Isaiah 55:10-11 Psalm 65:10-14 Romans 8:18-23

Matthew 13:1-23 or 13:1-19

**Monday, 13 July** Isaiah 1:10-17 Psalm 50:8-9, 16-17, 21, 23 Matthew 10:34-11:1

**Tuesday, 14 July** Isaiah 7:1-19 Psalm 48:2-8 Mathew 11:20-24

**Wednesday, 15 July** Isaiah 10:5-7, 13-16 Psalm 94:5-10, 14-15 Matthew 11:25-27

**Thursday, 16 July** Isaiah 26:7-9, 12, 16-19 Psalm 102:13-21 Matthew 11:28-30

**Friday, 17 July** Isaiah 238:1-6, 21-22, 7-8 Isaiah 38:10-12, 16 Matthew 12:1-8

**Saturday, 18 July** Micah 2:1-5 Psalm 10:1-4, 7-8, 14 Matthew 12:14-21

Readings are from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, [uscbb.org/bible/readings](http://uscbb.org/bible/readings).

It is possible to have the daily readings e-mailed to you.

Note that the readings arrive around 8:00PM Sydney time.

You may not have been reading **ETERNITY MAGAZINE** these last few months, unable during social isolation to pick up a copy in the narthex. It is available on-line at [www.etsnitynews.com.au](http://www.etsnitynews.com.au); you may subscribe to what they describe as “seriously good news delivered every Friday”.

Jen Lum wishes to draw our attention to a recent article mentioning St John’s, “Weird Christians Is A New Movement That Likes Old Stuff”; the link is below. The article will be included in the weekly “church in an envelope” mailing for parishioners without Internet access.

[https://www.etsnitynews.com.au/culture/weird-christians-is-a-new-movement-that-likes-old-stuff/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=ENW26062020&utm\\_content=ENW26062020+CID\\_b5640a58861140ee5432d5f1e0f724ec&utm\\_source=Email&utm\\_term=Weird%20Christians%20is%20a%20new%20movement%20that%20likes%20old%20stuff](https://www.etsnitynews.com.au/culture/weird-christians-is-a-new-movement-that-likes-old-stuff/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ENW26062020&utm_content=ENW26062020+CID_b5640a58861140ee5432d5f1e0f724ec&utm_source=Email&utm_term=Weird%20Christians%20is%20a%20new%20movement%20that%20likes%20old%20stuff)

# POSSUMS IN THE CHURCH (Still)— AND PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH (Again)



Should you pass or enter the church some evening and **SEE STROBE LIGHTS** or **HEAR STRANGE NOISES**, fear not. Bill Killinger has recently overseen the installation of a **POSSUM REPELLING SYSTEM** which emits “sound for human ears, stroboscopic light and ultrasonic emissions”. It will operate only after dark, which is when the possums who like our church so much frolic and use the place as

their bathroom. The possums will not be trapped or injured, merely encouraged to take their party elsewhere. There are three strategically placed repellents inside the church, which should only be touched by Bill or a person trained by him and in instances where evening church activities are being disturbed.

## NOTES AFTER TWO 8:00AM IN-PERSON SERVICES—

\*There are **no standing reservations** for the 8:00AM in-person service. To avoid disappointment (some have been disappointed), e-mail or telephone the church office early to mid-week, to ensure your (socially distanced) spot in the pews.

\***Check-in was quicker** this past Sunday, as returning worshippers did not need to hear and confirm their contact details, merely affirm their health declarations (no exposure to coronavirus patients, no symptoms, et cetera) were still true.

\*There is **no offertory collection** during the service and the wooden bowl used for retiring collections will remain in the church office. The Treasurer requests direct debit or a deposit made at your bank rather than bringing an envelope to church.

\* Please take your **order of service** home with you.

\*To avoid crowding, any **after-church visiting** needs to happen outside in the fresh air (still socially distanced) rather than in the narthex or on the porch.

\*The assembled are **doing a fine job in strange times**, pausing for check-in, using hand sanitizer, sitting as directed by the sidesmen, keeping the sadly necessary silence during the service, maintaining good spacing approaching the chancel steps to receive Communion. **Thank you for your patience and good cheer** as we obey regulations and keep each other safe.

The **PRAYER LIST** begins anew mid-year and at year's end. Submit names by e-mailing [pastoralcarestjohnsgordon@gmail.com](mailto:pastoralcarestjohnsgordon@gmail.com) or telephoning the church office. First names are generally sufficient, but sometimes there are multiples of extremely common names, so you may wish to also specify the first letter of the surname.

The prayer list is not always read aloud at Sunday services and the Friday morning prayer group disbanded several years ago. Over the past three months, seven appeals for **PRAY WITHOUT CEASING** have run in these pages with zero response beyond the handful who started doing it last year. Is it possible to, every day, have "someone somewhere" praying for the people on our prayer list?

## ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH DIRECTORY



754 Pacific Highway (P.O. Box 295) Gordon NSW 2072  
Telephone 9498 2744

Website [www.stjohnsgordon.org.au](http://www.stjohnsgordon.org.au)  
Facebook [www.facebook.com/stjohnsgordon](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnsgordon)  
and [www.facebook.com/musicatstjohnsgordon](http://www.facebook.com/musicatstjohnsgordon)

**Church office hours — Meg Mondays and Thursdays, Cynthia Wednesdays**

|                           |  |  |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| Interim Rector            | <b>Rev'd Ernest Chau</b>                       | Mobile 0414 549 082<br><a href="mailto:rector@stjohnsgordon.org.au">rector@stjohnsgordon.org.au</a>            |
| Honorary Assistant        | <b>The Ven Rob Sutherland CSC</b>              | 0406 767 757, <a href="mailto:revrob@ozemail.com.au">revrob@ozemail.com.au</a>                                 |
| Parish Missioner          | <b>Rt Rev'd Dr Michael Hough</b>               | <a href="mailto:anathoth.hough@gmail.com">anathoth.hough@gmail.com</a>   |
| Director of Music         | <b>Dr Brett McKern</b>                         | 0408 303 225, <a href="mailto:music@stjohnsgordon.org.au">music@stjohnsgordon.org.au</a>                       |
| Asst Dir of Music         | <b>Nicola Chau</b>                             |  |
| People's Warden           | <b>JK Seo</b>                                  | <a href="mailto:good2bfree@gmail.com">good2bfree@gmail.com</a>   |
| Rector's Warden           | <b>Chris Russell AM</b>                        | <a href="mailto:chris@clRussell.com.au">chris@clRussell.com.au</a>   |
| Warden, Treasurer         | <b>James Winter</b>                            | <a href="mailto:james.winter@au.gt.com">james.winter@au.gt.com</a>   |
| Parish Council            | <b>Dr Janet Long, Parish Council Secretary</b> | <a href="mailto:parishcouncil@stjohnsgordon.org.au">parishcouncil@stjohnsgordon.org.au</a>                     |
| Pastoral Care             | <b>Cynthia Keithly</b>                         | <a href="mailto:pastoralcarestjohnsgordon@gmail.com">pastoralcarestjohnsgordon@gmail.com</a>                   |
| Pastoral Chaplain         | <b>Jennifer Lum</b>                            | <a href="mailto:jennifer.lum@bigpond.com">jennifer.lum@bigpond.com</a>   |
| Safe Ministry             | <b>Jan McLachlan</b>                           | <a href="mailto:janmclachlan@bigpond.com">janmclachlan@bigpond.com</a> , 0408 641 037                          |
| Parish Administrator      | <b>Meg McDonald</b>                            | <a href="mailto:office@stjohnsgordon.org.au">office@stjohnsgordon.org.au</a>                                   |
| Pew Bulletin Editor       | <b>Cynthia Keithly</b>                         | <a href="mailto:sjgpewbulletin@gmail.com">sjgpewbulletin@gmail.com</a>   |
| Organ Replacement Project | <b>Dennis Wood</b>                             | 0414 462 201, <a href="mailto:musicassociation@stjohnsgordon.org.au">musicassociation@stjohnsgordon.org.au</a> |

Westpac Bank Account Name: St Johns Church Gordon / BSB: 032083 / A/C: 810231

Our **OP SHOP** is closed until further notice.

No donations at this time, please, as no sales are scheduled.

The **ANGLICARE** bins in our parking area are being emptied weekly.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL, HORNSBY** is accepting donations

at their back gate daily from 9:00AM to 3:30PM.

The **SALVATION ARMY, GORDON** has a donation pick-up service,  
telephone 9498 4290.