

ST TOM'S AND ST ED'S

# NOVEMBER NEWS

*'Give thanks to the LORD,  
for he is good;  
his love endures forever.'*





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## NOVEMBER SERMON SERIES

November will bring us the close of our sermon series on 2 Corinthians! We have had many different preachers teach us in depth about Paul's letter to the church in Corinth and bring us many practical applications to 2023 life in Melbourne eastern suburbs.

Our annual thanksgiving service is held in November. At St Tom's we've received many videos and notes from throughout all our congregations, or people expressing their thanks to God. We look forward to sharing these with everyone!

And as we approach our Annual General Meeting, a reminder from Bishop Paul: *As we consider leadership, and roles in this annual meeting season, it is good to remember that all leadership, by clergy as well as parish officebearers, is under God's authority, is to model God's own godly character, is to complement other leadership roles and work together for the people of God.*

How wonderful that we can serve God and serve each other in our church community!

DATE	SERIES	TITLE / INFO	SCRIPTURE
5 Nov	2 Corinthians	God Knows I Love You	2 Cor 11:1-28
12 Nov	St Tom's	St Tom's Combined Thanksgiving Service (& AGM)	1 Thes 5:16-18
	St Ed's	Grace is Sufficient	2 Cor 11:30-12:10
19 Nov	St Tom's	Grace is Sufficient	2 Cor 11:30-12:10
	St Ed's	St Ed's Thanksgiving Service (& AGM)	1 Thes 5:16-18
26 Nov	2 Corinthians	Examine & Test Yourselves	2 Cor 13:1-13
3 Dec	Advent	What We Were Waiting For	Micah 3:9-4:7

For additional readings see [2023 Planner & Sermon Series](#) on Elvanto  
or request a copy by emailing [admin@sttoms.org](mailto:admin@sttoms.org)

## REFLECTION - JOEY

As I prepare for my sermon series on 2 Corinthians, I came across the title of Chapter 8: "Eager Generosity," and it caught my attention as something extraordinary. Usually, people are eager to pursue something when they lack it. However, the uniqueness of this title lies in the fact that the Macedonian believers were eager to give, rather than to acquire. What makes it even more extraordinary is that the Macedonians were not wealthy; the Bible tells us that they were in great affliction and extremely impoverished. Yet they demonstrated generosity beyond the ordinary by earnestly pleading (eager) with Paul for the opportunity to participate in the offering (generosity).

I found myself thinking, "Wow! This extraordinary spirit of sacrificial giving is remarkable!" However, Paul redirects our focus to the abundance of God's grace rather than solely on the spirit of generosity exhibited by the Macedonians.

November is the month of thanksgiving at our Church, and for the past month, we have been encouraging brothers and sisters to reflect on God's guidance throughout the past year and offer words of thanksgiving. As we collected testimonies from our members, I realized even more profoundly how God's grace has touched the lives of our brothers and sisters, becoming a blessing to our church. It truly reflects the essence of fellowship in Christ – a fellowship of abundance. This abundance, however, is not defined by material wealth but by the richness of inner life. The former is temporary, while the latter is eternal. All

this is made possible because Jesus Christ took on our "poverty" (separation from God due to sin) so that we may be enriched (reconciled with God). All of this is revealed through the selfless act of Jesus on the cross, showing the inner heart of God's love. In other words, the love of God is transparent through the redemption of Jesus Christ, enabling us to see God's grace.

I believe that the fellowship of the church is built on the foundation of this redeeming grace, inspiring us to imitate Christ by offering ourselves to manifest the grace of Christ. It is not hindered by external challenges or poverty, just as it was with the Macedonian believers. Rather, these external challenges serve as a catalyst that compresses our generous hearts even more.

In conclusion, I would like to borrow a poem by Watchman Nee as a fitting end to this reflection:

Unless the olive is crushed to pulp,  
it cannot become oil;  
Unless the grapes are pressed into the winepress,  
they cannot turn into wine;  
Unless the lavender is distilled,  
it cannot release its fragrance;  
Lord, do I also need to experience the challenges You  
allow?

Every strike is a true benefit,  
For what You take away, You replace with Yourself.  
Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!  
2 Corinthians 9:15

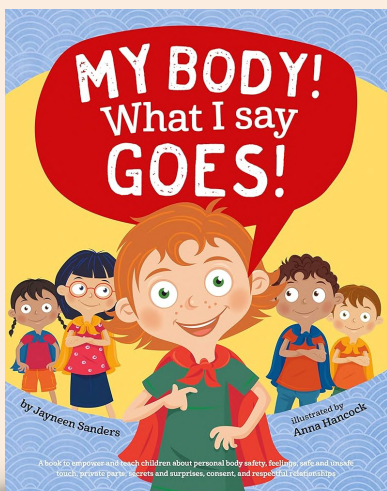
*Joey*

## BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Over Term 3, St Tom's staff read through the ADOM Action Plan for Meeting the New Victorian Child Safe Standards, in place to ensure that the safety and wellbeing of children is promoted, child abuse is prevented, and allegations of child abuse are responded to properly and promptly.

As a church, we have been challenged in thinking how we work towards meeting these standards, and what it means on a day to day basis in all our programs and services.

To help parents engage with children on personal body safety, we have purchased 2 books:

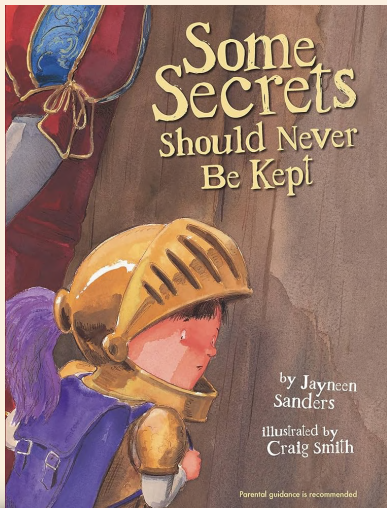


### ***My Body! What I Say Goes!***

Jayneen Sanders

Non-fiction book with age appropriate illustrations and questions to engage children in conversation:

- Feelings
- Feeling Safe & Unsafe
- Talking to a Trusted Adult (Safety Network)
- Private Parts
- Secrets vs Surprises



### ***Some Secrets Should Never Be Kept***

Jayneen Sanders

Fiction book that tells the story of a young boy called Sir Alfred, who is keeping a terrible secret. A person Sir Alfred used to trust, now makes him feel unsafe and he is not sure what to do. Finally, Sir Alfred is brave and tells someone on his Safety Network.

There are 3 copies of **My Body! What I Say Goes!** and 2 copies of **Some Secrets Should Never Be Kept** in St Tom's Library. We would like 1 of each book to stay at St Tom's, the other copies can be borrowed and read at home, don't forget to sign out the book!

If you have any questions about Child Safe at St Tom's, please get in touch with our Child Safe Officer, Catherine at [admin@sttoms.org](mailto:admin@sttoms.org).

## MISSION NEWS - BCA

Written by Rick Brown



Since the mid-1990s the fastest growing group in terms of religious adherence in Australia has been no religion. The major denominations have been ineffective in responding to this opportunity or challenge, and the 2021 census spells out the consequences this. Between 1996 and 2021, the proportion of census respondents declaring no religion increased from 16.6 per cent to 38.9 per cent. The proportion nominating a Christian allegiance fell from 70.9 per cent to 43.9 per cent. On this basis no religion will overtake Christianity in 2026.

For us, these statistics are disturbing, but, at a personal level, merely inconvenient. The consequence of a church's closing is an extra 5 to 10 minutes' drive on Sunday. In the outer suburbs and on the metropolitan fringes the cost is greater. However, it is regional and rural areas where the consequence of declining church allegiance take its greatest toll.

Take the Central Queensland Diocese, which is based on Rockhampton, as an example. It has a population of 220,000 people and covers 570,000 square kilometres. It takes 15 hours to drive the 1268 kilometres across the diocese. To service the Diocese there are five stipendiary clerics including the Bishop and the Registrar. In bureaucratic parlance the Diocese has 4.2 FTE staff. The staff is supplemented by 9 active retired clergy, 15 people with permission to officiate, a locum, a deacon and 99 authorised lay ministers.

Jen Hercott has been in the Diocese for eight years and is the longest-serving cleric.

The Diocese has been under-funded from the day it was created. Today the financial position is parlous. The Bishop's stipend is being paid out of the See Endowment Fund. This fund is able to sustain him at the current rate until September 2026. A couple of years ago the Diocese obtained legal advice about winding up because of the impact of redress claims.

To put this in perspective, in the 60-70s the Diocese had approximately 27 incumbents, 12 curates, a full time Registrar, two Archdeacons and a Bishop all fully remunerated.

We have decided to give our relationship with BCA a more intentional focus by supporting the Registrar of this Diocese, Jen Hercott, who is being supported by BCA.

Jen will provide us with regular insights into life in a regional and rural environment and a presentation Jen made to a Queensland BCA conference about the Diocese earlier this year will be put on elvanto and Facebook pages.

In addition, Bishop Grice will be the speaker at BCA Victoria's annual general meeting and dinner on the 20th April next year and we are hoping that he will be able to join us while he is in Melbourne to acquaint us personally with what life is like in the mission field of Central Queensland where, according to the 2021 census, in Rockhampton, Anglicans finish third behind Roman Catholics and No Religion in terms of religious affiliation.



## WHAT'S ON AT ST EDWARD'S

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - ST ED'S



St Edward's Annual General meeting will be held on  
19 November 2023 11.30am  
(after the service)

Nominations are open for positions of Parish Council, Warden & Incumbency Committee Members. Nominations for election must be in by **Sunday 12 November 10.15am**. Electoral Roll enrolments must be in by 5 November 2023. If you're not sure if you're on the electoral roll, please contact Jenny Lynch.

### WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Our Wednesday Bible Study continues to meet each week 1pm-2.30pm in the foyer at St Edward's.

### CRAFT GROUP

Wednesdays 10.30am - 12 noon  
St Edward's Craft group in the foyer. Bring your own projects or join in making fabric Christmas stars. All welcome.



### LOVE IN A CUP CAFE

Thursday 23rd November 1pm - 2.30pm at St Ed's

Join us for great food, good conversation and the monthly quiz. Cost is a gold coin donation. All welcome.

## Advent & Christmas



- **Advent #1** - 3 Dec 10.15 at St Ed's
- **Advent #2** - 10 Dec 10.15 at St Ed's
- **Advent #3** - Yarra Gospel Choir - Sunday 17 December Combined 10.30am at St Tom's (no St Ed's service)
- **Advent #4** - Morning Service for Christmas Eve - Sunday 24 December 8.15am at St Tom's (no 10.30 St Tom's Eng or 10.15 St Ed's service)
- **Christmas Day** - Monday 25 December 9am at St Ed's

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - ST TOM'S



St Thomas' Annual General meeting will be held on  
12 November 2023 11.45am  
(after the 10.30 combined service)

The AGM is the annual governance meeting for our church. We nominate and elect our parish lay-leaders, and look forward to our coming year.

Nominations are open for positions of Parish Council, Warden & Incumbency Committee Members. Nominations for election must be in by **Sunday 5 November 8.15am**.

The electoral roll has been finalised, you can find a copy of the roll on the whiteboard next to the name tags.

### PRAYER MEETINGS

**November prayer meeting: 2 November 2023, 7.30pm at St Tom's**  
December prayer meeting: 7 December 2023, 7.30pm at St Ed's

## Advent & Christmas



- **Advent #1** - 2 December services as usual
- **Advent #2** - 10 December services as usual
- **Christmas Carnival** - Sunday 10 December 3.30pm - 6.30pm
- **Advent #3 Yarra Gospel Choir** - Sunday 17 December Combined 10.30am
- **Advent #4 Morning Service for Christmas Eve** - Sunday 24 December 8.15am (no 10.30 St Tom's Eng)
- **Kids Christmas Eve** - Sunday 24 December 6pm
- **Midnight Christmas Eve** - Sunday 24 December 11pm
- **Christmas Day**
  - Monday 25 December English 9am
  - Monday 25 December Chinese 10.30am





## JOEY'S ORDINATION

Tzeh Yi (Joey) Chan will be ordained priest on Saturday 25 November 2023 9.30am at St Paul's Cathedral in Melbourne! We invite everyone to come along to support Joey in this next step. If you want a good seat, make sure you get there early!



## HOLY COMMUNION SERVICES

A service of Holy Communion occurs monthly at several Aged Care Centres around St Tom's and St Ed's. All residents are welcome to join.



**Fountain Court.** 4th Thursday of the month at 11 am.

Next service: 11 am Thursday 23 November

**John Flynn.** 3rd Tuesday of the month at 11 am.

Next service: 11 am Tuesday 21 November

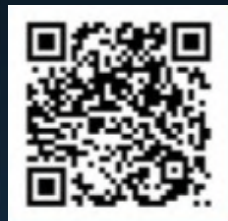
**Blackburn Lake Regis.** 1st Wednesday of the month at 11:15 am.

Next service: not running

**Inala Regis.** 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10.30 am.

Next service: 10.30 am Tuesday 15 November

*Amahl and the Night Visitors*  
Opera by Gian Carlo Menotti



*A delightful Christmas Opera with a touch of fantasy!*

**Cameo Community Opera**

**A Fundraiser for the World Vision Ukraine Appeal**

**Performances at  
St Tom's on 24  
& 25 Nov!**

# FINANCES



Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7 NIV

If you consider St Tom's your church then please prayerfully consider giving financially to its ministry. The running of St Tom's relies upon the generosity of its members. Below you can see the amounts which are required on a monthly basis for running our church. Most people find giving either by Direct Debit, or online, the most convenient way and setting their giving to reoccur monthly or weekly.

There are many ways to give financially, such as:



Direct Debit  
(see account details below)



Online with a Credit / Debit Card - go to [sttoms.org/give](http://sttoms.org/give) or via tithe scan



Cash or Cheque, into the offering taken up during our services

St Tom's encourage giving electronically:

	Account Name	BSB	Account No.	Monthly Required
General Account	St Thomas Burwood	063-112	1039 7091	\$ 38,200
Building Fund	St Thomas ADF Building Fund	703-122	0500 5091	\$ 3,800
Necessitous Circumstances (TAX-DEDUCTIBLE)	St Thomas Burwood	063-112	1054 9390	
St Tom's Hope (TAX-DEDUCTIBLE)	St Toms Hope LTD	633-000	159591023	\$ 1,000

## CONTACT DETAILS

	Coordinator	Email	Mobile
Small Groups	Denise Clarke	denisec@sttoms.org	0438 595 527
Meals	Lyndie Gebert	meals@sttoms.org	0417 304 894
Handy Help	Peter Crandle	handyhelp@sttoms.org	
Pastoral Care	Annette Ward	pastoralcare@sttoms.org	0411 624 573
Prayer Circle (prayer requests)	Yvonne Edwards	prayer@sttoms.org	0432 477 766
Women's Mentoring	Position vacant		

## CHILD SAFETY OFFICERS

Catherine Hallyburton is our Child Safety Officers. Contact details back page.

## FAMILY SAFETY CHAMPION

Lyndie Gebert	gebertll@gmail.com	0417 304 894
Ida Mak 麥趙淑貞	idascmak@gmail.com	0488 332 438

## WARDENS

Ida Mak 麥趙淑貞	idascmak@gmail.com	0488 332 438
Ruth Kernebone	ruthk@ozemail.com.au	0408 345 136
Steve Tong	tongsyc@gmail.com	0459 453 847

## ST TOM'S HOPE

Josephine Armstrong	English Class Coordinator	josephinea@sttomshope.org	0488 022 103
Melinda van der Westhuizen	Kids Hope Coordinator	mva66253@gmail.com	0403 182 654
Paula Adams- Grant	Coach Coordinator   Hope Filled Bags	paulaa@sttomshope.org	0438 899 630





## STAFF &amp; MINISTRY TEAM

John Carrick	Lead Minister	johnc@sttoms.org	0412 438 021
WORK DAYS: MON, TUE, THU, FRI, SAT, SUN			
Ros Armstrong <small>On leave until 19 Nov</small>	Congregations Minister (8:15   10:15 St Edward's)	rosa@sttoms.org	0438 706 815
WORK DAYS: MON (ST), WED (SE), THU (SE), SUN			
Joshua Millard	Assistant Minister	joshuam@sttoms.org	0450 638 890
WORK DAYS: MON, TUE, THU, FRI, SAT, SUN			
Rachel Gijbbers Hayman	Children & Families Coordinator	rachelgh@sttoms.org	0413 158 010
WORK DAYS: MON, TUE, THU, SUN			
Joey Chan	Chinese Congregations Minister	joeyc@sttoms.org	0481 238 631
WORK DAYS: MON, TUE, THU, FRI, SAT, SUN			
Karen Morris	Evangelistic Ministries Coordinator	karenm@sttoms.org	0417 765 210
WORK DAYS: MON, TUE			
Tracy Chen	Chinese Admin/Pastoral Care Intern	tracyc@sttoms.org	0430 656 456
WORK DAYS: MON, TUE, THU, SUN			
Denise Clarke	Small Groups Ministry	denisec@sttoms.org	0438 595 527
WORK DAYS: NO PARTICULAR DAY			
Catherine Hallyburton	Admin Assistant / Child Safe Officer	admin@sttoms.org	9808 3250 0481 830 261 SMS
MON, TUE, THU			