



# St. John's Anglican Church Albany Consecrated 1848.

**Sunday, 28th December 2025  
First Sunday after Christmas**



## Sentence of the Day

**'Because Jesus himself  
suffered, he is able to  
help those who are being  
tested.'**

**Hebrews 2.18**

## Collect

**Almighty God,  
who wonderfully created,  
and yet more wonderfully  
restored,  
the dignity of human  
nature:  
in your mercy,  
bring us to share the  
divine life of Jesus Christ,  
who came to share our  
human life,  
and who now lives and  
reigns with you and the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## Prayer of the Week

**Almighty God, you  
have shed upon us  
the light of your  
incarnate Word:  
may this light,  
kindled in our hearts,  
shine forth in our  
lives;  
through Jesus Christ  
our Lord, who lives  
and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for  
ever. Amen.**

## Today's Readings

### *1st Reading Isaiah 63.7-9*

<sup>7</sup> I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,  
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,  
because of all that the Lord has done for us,  
and the great favour to the house of Israel  
that he has shown them according to his mercy,  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.  
<sup>8</sup> For he said, 'Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely'; and he became their saviour  
<sup>9</sup> in all their distress.  
It was no messenger or angel  
but his presence that saved them;  
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;  
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

### *2nd Reading Hebrews 2.10-18*

<sup>10</sup> It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.  
<sup>11</sup> For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters,  
<sup>12</sup> saying,  
'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.'  
<sup>13</sup> And again,  
'I will put my trust in him.' And again,  
'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.'  
<sup>14</sup> Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,  
<sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.  
<sup>16</sup> For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham.  
<sup>17</sup> Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that

he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.

<sup>18</sup> Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

### *Gospel Reading Matthew 2.13-23*

<sup>13</sup> Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.'  
<sup>14</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt,  
<sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'  
<sup>16</sup> When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.  
<sup>17</sup> Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:  
<sup>18</sup> 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'  
<sup>19</sup> When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said,  
<sup>20</sup> 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.'  
<sup>21</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.  
<sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee.  
<sup>23</sup> There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

### *The Psalm for today is Psalm 148*

- <sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord, praise the Lord from heaven:  
O praise him in the heights.
- <sup>2</sup> Praise him, all his angels:  
O praise him, all his host.
- <sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon:  
praise him, all you stars of light.
- <sup>4</sup> Praise him, you highest heaven:  
and you waters that are above the heavens.
- <sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord:  
for he commanded and they were made.
- <sup>6</sup> He established them for ever and ever:  
he made an ordinance which shall not pass away.
- <sup>7</sup> O praise the Lord from the earth:  
praise him, you sea-monsters and all deeps;
- <sup>8</sup> Fire and hail, mist and snow:  
and storm-wind fulfilling his command;
- <sup>9</sup> Mountains and all hills:  
fruit trees and all cedars;
- <sup>10</sup> Beasts of the wild, and all cattle:  
creeping things and winged birds;
- <sup>11</sup> Kings of the earth, and all peoples:  
princes, and all rulers of the world;
- <sup>12</sup> Young men and maidens:  
old folk and children together.
- <sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord:  
for his name alone is exalted.
- <sup>14</sup> His glory is above earth and heaven:  
and he has lifted high the horn of his people.
- <sup>15</sup> Therefore he is the praise of all his servants:  
of the children of Israel, a people that is near him. Praise the Lord.

### Next Sunday's Readings

*1st Reading Isaiah 60.1-6*

*P707*

*2nd Reading Ephesians 3.1-12*

*P185*

*Gospel Reading Matthew 2.1-12*

*P1*

### **HYMNS – EUCHARIST SETTING DUDMAN TIS 756**

	8am	9.30am
Introit		268
Gradual	313	313
Offertory	306	306
Recessional	431	431

We respectfully acknowledge the Menang Noongar people as the traditional custodians of the land on which we worship and minister, and pay respect to elders past and present.

**Children's Church is available at our 9:30am service. This week's Children's Talk is 'Angels Watching Over Me.'**

**A WARM WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS** - All are welcome at the Lord's table. Baptised, communicant members of all Christian denominations, are very welcome to receive Holy Communion and any person welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. If you are unable to come to the altar rail and wish to receive the Sacrament in your pew, please speak to a sides person.

Hello Dear Friends

I pray you all had a lovely Christmas. I very much enjoyed mine in the company of family - both parish and my family and of course Henry. Our reading for this Sunday focusses on the role of the family.

A tree planted in an exposed place is vulnerable. It's at the mercy of every wind that blows. So, if you want a tree to grow to its full potential, you must plant it in a more sheltered place: and you must not plant it on its own. You must plant some other trees with it.

It's also of vital importance to get the space between those trees right. They must be close enough to be able to provide shelter and protection for one another. Yet they must not be so close that they will stifle one another. They must be planted far enough apart to ensure that they each have room to grow to their full potential.

In the same way that it's not good for a tree to be alone. So, it is with each of us! For our wholeness, and for our mental health, we need ties of love and friendship with other human beings. God made us not for isolation, but for community. We are not complete in ourselves. We need other people in order to become what God intended us to be.

This is where the family comes in. Trees planted in the form of a little grove, is a good image of the family. In the ideal family there is both closeness and space. The closeness means the members are able to provide support for one another. The space ensures that they do not stifle one another. Each member has the closeness, intimacy, and warmth that he or she needs: yet also has the space to grow to his or her full potential. This is one of the great challenges that all families face.

In the community of the family, we make room for others in our lives. Here we learn to share with one another and become responsible to and for one another.

It's within the family that a child learns to use the word 'we' for the first time. Without the word 'we' there would be no community, no sharing, no togetherness. But of course, being so close also involves risk! While we have the possibility of nurturing and healing one another: we also have the possibility of hindering and hurting one another.

Harmony in family can be achieved by the practice of: "kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, mutual forgiveness, and above all, love". These are the virtues which build and foster community. But they are not easy virtues to practice with consistency. To do that we need to have the love of God in our hearts! It was by living in a small community of love: with Mary and Joseph at Nazareth, that Jesus was able to grow in wisdom and in favour with God and people.

At the end of this calendar year, I give thanks that we are planted together in this St. John's Parish family, and I look forward to a great year together of ministry to our beautiful city of Albany.

May God Bless us all and Happy New Year to you all.

Blessings

Karen

### Prayers for:

**MU Australia** - Provincial President - Robin Ray, Diocesan President - Wendy Mabey, MU.

**The Parish of Williams** – Holy Trinity (Williams), St. Boniface's (Quindanning), St Alban's (Marradong), St. Paul's (Arthur River), Darkan Uniting Church, St. Martin's (Wandering) and Boddington - Priest - Revd. Paul Bartley and wife Peggy.

### Please pray for:

\*Fruitfulness in our mission 'to form a rich community, making known the gospel of Christ and sharing generous hospitality.'

\*For cohesion and love from Wandering to Arthur River, esp. through our parish WhatsApp chat, church camp, AMP, and Hope25.

\*For Bodd – our biggest parish town, yet without an Anglican church.

\*For healing in the community from past clergy misconduct.

**Diocesan Ministry:** Diocesan Trustees.

### For the World: -

\*That people might learn to value their relationships more highly.

\*Those who suffer from depression and stress, and therefore despair of life itself.

\*All who work for world peace and improved relationships between Nations.

\*That all children might have proper access to education and learning.

\*All unwanted children and those who take them in and care for them.

\*Pray for those who wrestle with sorrow that they may know that God has won their victory.

### Prayers for:

**Anglican Church of Kenya - Diocese of Kapsabet.**

**St Mark's Kapkeringon Parish - Parish**

**Priest** - Revd. Margaret Maina and husband David.

**Emmanuel Kiborgok Parish - Parish Priest**

- Revd. Henry Yego and wife Dorcas.

### Please pray for:

\*Those struggling with ill health and terminal diseases and for those who are providing support in so many ways.

\* Our members to grow in having gospel conversations with unbelievers. Be courageous to have those conversations with one another for encouragement and prayer .

**Diocesan Ministry** - Pray for those seeking medical services from the Kimng'oror Health Centre that they feel the love of God from the ministry of the staff.

# HOPE25

HOPE IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD

We give thanks to God today for Hope25.

Right across our country  
from the north to south,  
from the east to the west,  
Anglicans have been proclaiming  
the hope we have in Jesus.

*People have been bold in giving invitations  
courageous in sharing their stories,  
and faithful in speaking about hope.  
Many people have heard about Jesus.  
and have taken steps towards faith.*

*We praise God for the many who have heard  
of our hope,  
for those who we have welcomed into our  
churches  
and for those who have believed in Jesus.  
We ask God to continue to bless our church  
as we live in hope.*

### Mothers Union Monthly Prayer

**'Gracious God, we gladly accept and give thanks for your invitation to venture with you through this season of Advent. As we await in anticipation the promises foretold by the prophets 'behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son', may we be ready at his birth, to recognise the gift of your Son and be well prepared to love and serve him. Amen.**

### Upcoming Meetings and Events

**Martha's Soup Kitchen** - Monday 12pm-1pm.

**Outdoor Markets** recommenced on Saturday 6th December in the gardens at St. John's, and will continue to be held each Saturday in Dec. and Jan

**Order of St Luke Services** will recommence in February 2026, there is no scheduled service for January 2026.

**2026 Lectionaries** are still available from the Office for \$12.50.

**Emergency Relief** - Hi everyone Thanks for your previous donations which we very much appreciated. We urgently require the following items:

\* 1 litre full cream long life milk.

\* 1kg plain or self-raising flour.

\* 1kg white rice.

Thank you and best wishes from the ER team.

**Ministry opportunities** - The Church cleaning team and Op Shop are looking for extra volunteers to join them. Please contact our Op Shop Manager, Wardens or Revd. Karen.

**Church Watch** is now up and running again on Fridays from 11am-2pm. If anyone is interested in assisting with this ministry please speak to Revd. Karen.

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### **PEACE OF MIND**

Regardless of age, an enduring power of attorney (EPA) , an enduring power of guardianship (EPG) and an advanced

health directive (AHD) can be accessed at <https://www.wa.gov.au/service/justice/civil-law/enduring-power-of-attorney> and are recommended to be in place to provide peace of mind to our families. Do you have a will?

**AND FUNERALS** - Information to assist you make your wishes known re funeral arrangements can be accessed via the Parish Office. The completed information is for your family and/or support persons to ensure your wishes are carried out.

**Prayer Chain** - A parish prayer chain has been re-established. If you have prayer requests **please contact Revd Karen (0434 702 343)**, who will communicate with other members of the team. Prayer requests will not be discussed by prayer chain members and will be kept in confidence. If you wish for prayers to continue for more than one week, please contact Rev. Karen again. The importance and power of prayer is intrinsic in our faith. Prayer is an act of worship that glorifies God and reinforces our need for God. "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7(NRSV).

### **CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER.**

A contemplative prayer service is held in the Lady Chapel every Tuesday of the month at 11am. The format is flexible, but follows The Rhythm of Life: Celtic Daily Prayer by David Adam and includes a time of silent prayer, up to 20 minutes for regulars. The service is chosen as a result of discussion about matters on the hearts of those attending, and the contemplation based on a mantra taken from the psalm. The service takes less than an hour usually, and it is followed for those who wish to stay, by the regular Tuesday 12.30 Eucharist. The books are supplied, and contemplative time can be modified for those new to this form of prayer. You are most welcome to come and try a new experience! Cherry O'Donnell.



### Direct Giving via Electronic Banking -

Thanks again to those who are continuing to support the church in one form or another. Could I please ask that those that are electronically transferring money to the church follow the following instructions.

**Ordinary Direct giving - quote the word "Donation" in the reference section and deposit into Anglican Community Fund.**

**BSB: 706-001  
Acc: 3000 3081**

**Mission giving should be deposited into the Parish Holding Account using the word "Mission" as a reference.**

**Banking details are:  
BSB: 706-001  
Acc: 3000 8763**

## PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CLOSURES OVER CHRISTMAS

**Parish Office - Thurs. 1st Jan.  
Emergency Relief - Thurs., 1st Jan.  
Op Shop - Mon. 22nd Dec-Fri 2nd Jan.**

**THE PARISH ADMINISTRATOR IS ON LEAVE FROM THURSDAY 18TH DECEMBER TO FRIDAY 5TH JANUARY.**

### Planning for our Annual Meeting of Parishioners 2026

Our AMP will be held on **Sunday 22nd February 2026**. In order to prepare for this please find detailed the timeline of events.

Forms are now available in the Parish Office and at the back of Church for you to register as a **voting parishioner**. You will not need to register again if you did so last year. Registration will be available until end of January. (a list of those already registered is available with the registration forms).

From 9th December 2025 until 24th January 2026, **nomination forms for elections** to an office in the parish will be available. The following positions will be elected:

Parish Councillor x 6.

Please hand these completed forms to Revd. Karen.

**Voting** will take place on 15th February 2026 and 22nd February 2026 and end before the AMP.

All **Ministry reports** should be completed and send to Parish Office before 9th January 2026.

Please pray for those called to serve as Parish Councillors.

Thank you and Blessings.

Revd. Karen.



**Christmas Bowl**

**Mission of The Month for December is Christmas Bowl, part of Act for Peace.**

The following excerpt has been taken from the Christmas Bowl website which you can visit here <https://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au>

'For 76 years, Australians have given to the Christmas Bowl as an act of faith, generosity, and hope. Born in the aftermath of World War II, it began as a simple idea: churches across the country joining together at Christmas to share what they could so that others, far away, could have food, shelter, and safety.

Decades later, the Bowl still carries the prayers, gifts, and compassion of Christians across generations. It is a tradition that has quietly reshaped lives in places most of us will never see. Year after year, ordinary believers step forward in love, often unseen.

Their gifts have supported refugees, rebuilt homes after disaster, and reminded people in crisis that they are not forgotten. From Gaza to Ethiopia, from remote Pacific islands to communities recovering from natural disasters, the Christmas Bowl is more than an appeal. It is the church's legacy of love in action.

Please join us in praying and acting for peace in the world. Because everyone deserves a safe place to belong.'

### Services at St John's.

We have implemented live streaming of services on Facebook - If you use Facebook please "like" the following pages Anglican Parish of Albany and Anglican Parish Albany Service Stream for live services or recordings. We will also put a link on the website [www.anglicanchurchalbany.org.au](http://www.anglicanchurchalbany.org.au) so you can watch the recordings.

### Normal Worship times:

<b>Sunday 8:00am</b>	<b>Sung Eucharist with Hymns</b>
<b>Sunday 9.30am</b>	<b>Live streamed sung Eucharist with Hymns</b>
<b>Sunday 7.00pm</b>	<b>Live Streamed Compline</b>
<b>Tuesday 12.30 pm</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>
<b>Monday - Friday</b>	<b>Morning and Evening Prayer live streamed at 8am and 5pm.</b>

**The next Order of St Luke Healing Service will be held on Thursday 12th of February at 9.30am in the Lady Chapel.**

### CONTACT DETAILS

**Priest-in-Charge:** Reverend Canon Karen Cave - Mob: 0434 702 343

Email: [priest@anglicanchurchalbany.org.au](mailto:priest@anglicanchurchalbany.org.au)

Safe Church email - [safechurch@anglicanchurchalbany.org.au](mailto:safechurch@anglicanchurchalbany.org.au)

### **Wardens:**

Email: [wardens@anglicanchurchalbany.org.au](mailto:wardens@anglicanchurchalbany.org.au)

Mike Taylor: Mob: 0417 967 368

John Blake: Mob: 0438 761 950, (H) 9844 4587

Georgie Walker: Mob: 0428 425 293

### **Parish Office:**

**Parish Administrator:** [admin@anglicanchurchalbany.org.au](mailto:admin@anglicanchurchalbany.org.au)

Rachel Matthews – 9841 5015

**Parish Office Volunteer:** Kate Britton.

**Office Hours** – Mon - Thurs 9am to 12pm and Fri 9am –5pm.

### **Op Shop:**

**Mob:** 0474 265 500

**Manager** - Ann Robinson

**Trading Hrs** are 10am-2pm Mon-Fri.

### **Director of Professional Standards:**

Ms Davina Goldthorpe - Ph: 9425 7203. Email:

[safeministry@perth.anglican.org](mailto:safeministry@perth.anglican.org)

### **Mandatory Reporting Service:**

Ph: 1800 708 704. Website: [www.mandatoryreporting.dcp.wa.gov.au](http://www.mandatoryreporting.dcp.wa.gov.au)

**Please check out our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages at Anglican Parish of Albany and encourage your friends to follow us.**