



St. John's Anglican Church Albany Consecrated 1848.

**Sunday 26th July 2026
Ninth Sunday After Pentecost**



Sentence of the Day

'Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

Romans 8.38–39

Collect

O God, the protector of all that trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy, that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we finally lose not the things eternal. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of the Week

O God, the protector of all that trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy, that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we finally lose not the things eternal. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Today's Readings

1st Reading Genesis 29.15-28

⁵ Then Laban said to Jacob, 'Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?' ¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷ Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. ¹⁸ Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, 'I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.' ¹⁹ Laban said, 'It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.' ²⁰ So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. ²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, 'Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.' ²² So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. ²³ But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. ²⁴ (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) ²⁵ When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, 'What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?' ²⁶ Laban said, 'This is not done in our country — giving the younger before the firstborn. ²⁷ Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me for another seven years.' ²⁸ Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

2nd Reading Romans 8.26-39

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect?

It is God who justifies.

³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶ As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Reading Matthew 13.44-58

⁴⁴ 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹ 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' ⁵² And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.' ⁵³ When Jesus had finished these parables, he left that place. ⁵⁴ He came to his home town and began to teach the people in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, 'Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power? ⁵⁵ Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? ⁵⁶ And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all this?' ⁵⁷ And they took offence at him. But Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honour except in their own country and in their own house.' ⁵⁸ And he did not do many deeds of power there, because of their unbelief.

The Psalm for today is Psalm 105, Verses 1-11

¹ O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name:
tell among the peoples what things he has done.
² Sing to him, O sing praises:
and be telling of all his marvellous works.
³ Exult in his holy name:
and let those that seek the Lord be joyful in heart.
⁴ Seek the Lord and his strength:
O seek his face continually.
⁵ Call to mind what wonders he has done:
his marvellous acts, and the judgements of his mouth,
⁶ O seed of Abraham his servant:
O children of Jacob his chosen one.

⁷ For he is the Lord our God:
and his judgements are in all the earth.
⁸ He has remembered his covenant for ever:
the word that he ordained for a thousand generations,
⁹ The covenant that he made with Abraham:
the oath that he swore to Isaac,
¹⁰ And confirmed it to Jacob as a statute:
to Israel as an everlasting covenant,
¹¹ Saying 'I will give you the land of Canaan:
to be the portion of your inheritance',

"Sung version of The Lord's Prayer"

Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.

Next Sunday's Readings

<i>1st Reading</i>	<i>Genesis 32.22-31</i>	<i>P30</i>
<i>2nd Reading</i>	<i>Romans 9.1-8</i>	<i>P151</i>
<i>Gospel Reading</i>	<i>Matthew 14.13-21</i>	<i>P15</i>

HYMNS – EUCHARIST SETTING DUDMAN

TIS 756

	8am	9:30am
Introit		276
Gradual	217	217
Offertory	690	690
Recessional	201	201

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.

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 'The Price is Right.'

Hello Dear Friends

I pray all is well with you.

Our sentence today lets us know that NOTHING can separate us from the love go God in Christ Jesus.

Our readings for this Sunday begin with the love story of Jacob and Rachel: a lesson in patience and great love which contains one of my favourite verses, "So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her." The passage also tells us of Laban's deceit.

Our psalmist celebrates God's absolute faithfulness to the covenant promises. Paul talks of the Holy Spirit's intercession, God's eternal plan and the unbreakable bond of God's love-what assurance and comfort.

In Matthew we read the climax of "The Kingdom" parables - Jesus then transitions into a stark real-world demonstration of the spiritual blindness the parables describe.

Life can deal us great times but it's not really possible to go through life without some painful things happening to us. Some of these things we bring on ourselves: for example, addictions. Others are things we suffer at the hands of others: for example, betrayal. And others are things that happen through nobody's fault at all: for example, an accident.

Wherever these things come from, they may bring us to a stage where we think that there is no redemption. That nothing can be salvaged. That everything has gone down the river and is irretrievably lost. As a result, we can fall prey to feelings of hopelessness and self-doubt, even doubt in God.

Well, for anyone who ever felt like that, Paul has a message. He tells us in our second reading for this morning: that God has a saving plan: a purpose, which everything serves. He can turn everything to the benefit of those who trust in him. He can bring good out of our pain, even out of our sins. This is not to say that God wills bad things to happen to us. But when bad things do happen to us, God helps us, not only to pick up the pieces, but to reap a harvest from the wreckage.

There's a story about a king who owned a very valuable diamond. One day an accident happened and the diamond got deeply scratched. The king consulted experts to see if anything could be done to save the diamond. But

they told him that even if they were to polish it, they would never be able to repair the wound it had suffered.

So the king locked the diamond in his vault where it lay hidden and useless for years. Then one day a very famous diamond cutter arrived in the capital. At the king's invitation he undertook to examine the diamond to see if anything could be done with it. After examining it carefully he said. 'Your Majesty, I will make the diamond look even more beautiful than it was before the accident'.

On hearing this, the other diamond cutters laughed. But the king was delighted and gave him permission to work on the diamond. So, bringing all his artistry to bear on it, he proceeded to engrave a beautiful rose on the diamond, using the deep scratch as the stem of the rose. When the king and the diamond cutters saw what he had done they were filled with admiration. It wasn't just a clever cover-up. He took the diamond's fault and transformed it into something beautiful.

In the same way, God can help us to transform our worst fault into a virtue, our worst misfortune into our greatest blessing: if we put our trust in Him. However, in our pride or foolishness, or just in our sense of hurt, we may throw away the thing that can bring us closer to God and help us to grow. Faith in God's love: can make the difference. From painful experiences and difficult times, we learn that God is faithful to us and can bring good out of anything. If we trust him, and have patience, we will see with our own eyes the truth of what Scripture says: 'God makes all things work together for the good of those who love him'.

And if the difficult times should return, we will remember what we have learned: what God has already done for us, and we will not lose heart. God sees us more clearly and knows us better than anyone else. He sees our wounds and sorrows, the scars we carry in our hearts. He will be good to us in the end, both in this world and in the next.

Life is unintelligible and unbearable without God. A close relationship with God is a real treasure. It gives us a sense of who we are, and where we're going. Only God can give us what we are looking for. With God, we find fulfilment in life.

Blessings

Karen

Prayers for:

The Diocese of Wangaratta - Bishop Clarence Bester, clergy and people.

The Parish of Southern Forests - Saint Martin's (Manjimup), Saint Hilda's (Pemberton), Saint Thomas' (Dingup) and Community Church (Northcliffe).

Please pray for:

*Thanks for Bishop Ian, Archdeacon Geoff and the other visiting ministers.

*For the steadfast love of God and his grace to grow in us as we share and value those across our communities.

*Effective outreach into the local communities, and for God to guide us into the works and ventures he is blessing.

*Wisdom in maintaining parish buildings and use of resources.

*Discipling of new leadership across the range of parochial roles.

Diocesan Ministry - Those preparing for Baptism and Confirmation.

For the World:

*For all who commit to improve the quality of life for others.

*For a greater sharing of the world's resources and knowledge.

*That the leaders of the Nations will be gifted with wisdom and a desire for peace.

*For countries that have not experienced the peace of Christ, that God in his mercies may open their hearts towards seeking peace with their neighbours.

Anglican Church of Kenya - Diocese of Kapsabet.

Diocesan Departmental Heads - Ven. Thomas Sawe (Kenya Anglican Men Association/ Mission Coordinator), Ven. Elijah Rotich (Diocesan Education & Stewardship Secretary), Revd. Margaret Maina (Mothers' Union Coordinator), Revd. Amos Yebei (Diocesan Youth Organiser) and Revd. Erick Kemboi (Children's Ministry Organiser).

St Paul's Kariakoo Parish - Parish Priest: Revd. Nicholas Kosgei and wife Esther.

Please pray for :

*God to give the Departmental Heads the courage to speak up against unjust actions and strive for love and equality in our spheres of influence.

*A financial breakthrough for all parents to enable their children to attain good education.

Diocesan Ministry - Pray For the Steering Committee of the ACK Kapsabet Plaza that God may guide them as they mobilise resources for the completion of the project.

Mothers Union Monthly Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of faith that we have received from you. Please help us to know more deeply for ourselves the transforming power of the Gospel in our own lives. As we draw encouragement from your gracious gift to us, give us a greater desire to share the Good News with the people we meet, so that they, too, may find hope and may know for themselves the riches of your love. Through your Holy Spirit, may our words and actions bear witness to your presence, through Christ our Lord. Amen

Mission of The Month for July is Albany Women's Centre

Albany Women's Centre offers women, with or without children, affected by family and domestic violence a safe refuge and support services.

Services provided at the centre include:

- Safe, secure crisis accommodation
- Case management support.
- Outreach services
- Support Groups.
- Community Education

You can find plenty of information regarding family and domestic violence and how to get assistance at their website [Albany Womens Centre - Centre For Women's Safety and Wellbeing](http://www.albanywomenscentre.org.au)

Some statistics taken from the Albany Womens Centre Website:

1. One in six women in Australia have experienced physical or sexual violence by a current or previous partner since the age of 15.
2. One in four women in Australia have experience emotional abuse by a current or previous partner since the age of 15.

At St Johns we provide much needed toiletry packs to these women in need. This service was initiated by the Ladies Guild and has continued on after the cessation of this group. Your donations will go towards assisting with making sure we are able to continue this service.

Contact details for the Albany Women's Centre are 9845 6000 or awc@anglicare.org.au. The centre services a 50km radius, covering the towns of Mount Barker, Denmark and Albany. Boys up to the age of 15 and girls up to the age of 18 are accepted.

Re: NOMINATIONS FOR OUR NEXT BISHOP

The nomination period has now finished.

The Nomination Committee will consider all the names that have been sent in, check the person's eligibility and ascertain their willingness to be considered for the position.

In due course the Committee will make a short list of no less than three and no more than six names for consideration at the Election Synod.¹

Details of the Election Synod will be issued soon. All current members of Synod will be asked to attend. Please note that the election Synod is a closed Synod, so non-members will not be able to attend. The deliberations of this Synod remain confidential.

Individuals and Parishes are encouraged to pray for God's blessing and guidance during this time of discernment. I encourage you to use the following prayer:

*Eternal God, shepherd and guide,
in your mercy give your church in this Diocese a shepherd after your own heart who
will walk in your ways,
and with loving care watch over your people.
Give us a leader of vision and a teacher of your truth.
So may your Church be built up and your name
glorified;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

(APBA 1995, p211, #35)

The Great Southern Women's Convention is a special day of gathering together to explore the truth of God's Word through Bible teaching, respond to Him in worship, and encourage one another in living for Jesus.

Saturday 22 August 2026 is only a few months away and registrations are open! Tickets can be purchased online through <https://www.trybooking.com/DLNJY> or directly from Albany Christian Book Centre or Albany Baptist office (exact cash payments only).

Standard tickets - \$60
Student/Health Care Card tickets - \$35

For further updates and GSWC news, please follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) — and feel free to like, follow, and share our posts to help spread the word!

Your sisters in Christ,

The Great Southern Women's Convention Committee



The Unexpected Jesus

SATURDAY 22ND AUGUST
9AM - 2.30PM

ALBANY BAPTIST CHURCH
20 BETHEL WAY, YAKAMIA

REGISTER AT



www.trybooking.com/DLNJY

\$50 Early bird (until 5th July)
\$60 Standard
\$35 Concession
(includes morning tea & lunch)

Cash payments
Albany Christian Book Centre or
Albany Baptist Office

Questions?
gswconvention@gmail.com

 [@gs_womensconvention](#)
 [@greatsouthernwomensconvention](#)

NOTICES

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Prepare for Worship Meeting - Monday 4pm in the D/W Hall.

Martha's Soup Kitchen - Mon 12pm-1pm.

Communications Committee Meeting - Tues. 4th August at 4am via Zoom.

Thursday at 3 - It's not too late to join us as we look at the context and meaning of the miracles of Jesus. Each session examines one miracle in depth. Some great conversations and learning have occurred – come along!

RESCHEDULED: Bishop Ian's visit to the Parish - Bishop Ian will now be visiting the parish on **Sunday 16th August** and will be attending both the 8am and 9.30am services.

Thank you - Thank you to Reverend Karen and Parishioners who have sent floral arrangements, cards and phone calls and to those who attended the funeral service for our daughter and sister Cathryne. It has been appreciated by the family.

Bicentennial Fete Update and Reminder - Thank you everyone one that has started making jams, pickles, and preserves for our annual fete. We have also received a donation of some really lovely soft toys. Our fete this year as part of the Albany Bicentennial Celebrations will be held on Saturday October 24th, one day before St Johns 178th birthday. Please start putting plant cuttings in pots as we may be a little short this year. This is a special request from Margaret Benn. I will be stepping down as coordinator this year after 12 years in the role. Pippa Milne has agreed to assist me this year with several "younger members" of St John's cogregation I will also be looking for several committee members to help with the organisation. Thanking you all in advance. Mike Taylor 0417967368.

2026 Lectionaries - 1 left. 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:

- * Egg cartons
- * 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 Fridays from 11am-2pm. If anyone is interested in assisting with this ministry please speak to Revd. Karen or one of our Wardens

St John's Shoe Box Update July 2026

Dear Parishioners,

I would like to thank all the people who were able to attend the WA General Manager's Shoe Box Meeting on Thursday 18th of June. Unfortunately owing to a rather distressing accident the week before this meeting, I have been out of action now for a few weeks. However, things are progressing slowly and I have been able to keep abreast of what has been happening to our 2026 Shoebox Project.

I am delighted to say that everything is progressing really well and contributions of both goods and funding are well and truly up to our usual standard.

Our General Manager, AJ Joubert, was very happy with the WA contributions and efforts made in 2025. Millions of shoebox gifts were distributed throughout the world and Samaritans Purse Organisation wish to thank all for the tremendous participation in this most worthwhile project.

New information on the changes, that are taking place this year, owing to shipping and distribution changes, will mean that our boxes will have to be in Perth by the end of September. So we will have our blessing day sometime about Mid-August. This will depend on The Reverend Karen's commitments and available times, but I will ensure this date is circulated in plenty of time.

Before that date, we will have a packing day in the church hall on a day still to be decided, and it is looking like we will surpass our last years total. Once again thank you all for the time, effort and contributions already made.

Yours Sincerely - Ethel Halliday – St John's OCC representative.

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 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 usually takes less than an hour. 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.

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.

Containers for Change

We are now registered with the "Containers for Change" scheme. Our Member Number is C11770281. Would you kindly consider donating your refunds to St John's?

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

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 so you can watch the recordings.

Normal Worship times:

Sunday 8:00am

Sung Eucharist with Hymns

Sunday 9.30am

Live streamed sung Eucharist with Hymns

Sunday 7.00pm

Live Streamed Compline

Tuesday 12.30 pm

Eucharist

Monday - Friday

Morning and Evening Prayer live streamed at 8am and 5pm.

The next Order of St Luke Healing Service will be held on Thursday 13th of August 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

Safe Church email - safechurch@anglicanchurchalbany.org.au

Wardens:

Email: 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:

admin@anglicanchurchalbany.org.au

Rachel Matthews – 9841 5015

Parish Office Volunteer: Amy Mengler and Kate Britton.

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

Op Shop:

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

Mandatory Reporting Service:

Ph: 1800 708 704. Website: 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.