ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH ALBANY
CONSECRATED 1848

SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2026
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AND DEFENCE SUNDAY



SENTENCE OF THE DAY

Watch and be ready, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. Matthew 24.42, 44

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Blessed Lord, you have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:
grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that by patience and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

COLLECT

Eternal God,
you have taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand:
keep us awake and alert,
watching for your kingdom,
so that when Christ, the bridegroom, comes we may go out joyfully to meet him,
and with him enter into the marriage feast that you have prepared for all who truly love you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen

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





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.

Today's Readings

1st Reading Joshua 24.1-3a; 24.14-25

1 Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned
the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they
presented themselves before God. 2 And Joshua said to all the people, 'Thus
says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his
sons Abraham and Nahor — lived beyond the Euphrates and served other
gods. 3 Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him
through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him
Isaac; 14 'Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in
faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River
and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. 15 Now if you are unwilling to serve the
Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors
served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose
land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.'
16 Then the people answered, 'Far be it from us that we should forsake the
Lord to serve other gods; 17 for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our
ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did
those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went,
and among all the peoples through whom we passed; 18 and the Lord drove
out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore
we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.' 19 But Joshua said to the
people, 'You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God;
he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. 20 If you forsake the Lord
and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you,
after having done you good.' 21 And the people said to Joshua, 'No, we will
serve the Lord!' 22 Then Joshua said to the people, 'You are witnesses against
yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.' And they said, 'We
are witnesses.' 23 He said, 'Then put away the foreign gods that are among
you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.' 24 The people
said to Joshua, 'The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.' 25 So
Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and
ordinances for them at Shechem.

The Psalm for today is Psalm 78, Verses 1-7

[1] Give heed to my teaching, O my people:
incline your ears to the words of my mouth;
[2] For I will open my mouth in a parable:
and expound the mysteries of former times.
[3] What we have heard and known:
what our forebears have told us,
[4] We will not hide from their children,
but declare to a generation yet to come:
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,
his mighty and wonderful works.
[5] He established a law in Jacob
and made a decree in Israel:
which he commanded our ancestors
to teach their children,
[6] That future generations might know,
and those yet unborn:
that they in turn might teach it to their children;
[7] So that they might put their confidence in God:
and not forget his works, but keep his commandments,

2nd Reading 1 Thessalonians 4.9-18

[9] Now concerning love of the brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anyone write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another; [10] and indeed you do love all the brothers and sisters throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, beloved, to do so more and more, [11] to aspire to live quietly, to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we directed you, [12] so that you may behave properly towards outsiders and be dependent on no one. [13] But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. [14] For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. [15] For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. [16] For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. [18] Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Gospel Reading Matthew 25.1-13

1 ‘Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and
went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 When the
foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with
their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6 But
at midnight there was a shout, “Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.” 7
Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the
wise, “Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.” 9 But the wise replied, “No!
there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy
some for yourselves.” 10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those
who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. 11 Later
the other bridesmaids came also, saying, “Lord, lord, open to us.” 12 But he replied,
“Truly I tell you, I do not know you.” 13 Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the
day nor the hour.

Next Sunday’s Readings

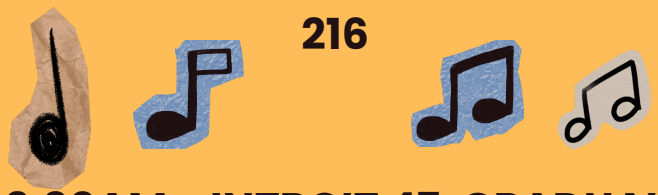
Judges 4.1-10; Psalm 123; 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11; Matthew 25.14-30



Children’s Church is available at our 9:30am service. This week’s Children’s Talk is ‘Parable of the ten bridesmaids’.

HYMNS – EUCHARIST SETTING DUDMAN TIS 756

8AM – GRADUAL 342, OFFERTORY 592, RECESSIONAL 216



9.30AM – INTROIT 47, GRADUAL 342, OFFERTORY 592, RECESSIONAL 216.

Hello Dear Friends

This Sunday, our readings give us great food for thought. The Joshua reading reminds us that we must never think our work for God is done until our life is done. It talks of God’s benefits to those who walked before and Joshua renews the covenant with God. Our Psalm is a portion of the second longest psalm. It’s an extensive poetic account of Israel’s history and this first section asks us to pay attention and teach our children diligently. Thessalonians prompts us to notice the good in others not sorrowing unduly over the death of Godly loved ones but rather celebrate their glorious resurrection and our Gospel asks us to be waiting and ready.

The section from which today’s Gospel is derived has been called the eschatological discourse. The parable of the bridesmaids follows Jesus’s warnings about many falling away from the faith and the world’s hatred of the gospel. In today’s parable, Jesus encourages his disciples to be vigilant so they might endure to the end.

Today’s Gospel theme asks us “are you sure you’re ready?” And can we stay ready!

Jesus tells us the parable about the ten bridesmaids who are awaiting the arrival of the groom. Five of them were not prepared and found themselves locked out of the wedding feast.

In the preceding chapter of Matthew's gospel, Jesus had just left the Temple in Jerusalem and had gone to the Mount of Olives with his disciples. It was there that Jesus began to teach his disciples about the end of the world. Jesus talks about the signs that we will be able to see as the end of the world draws near.

Then in Matthew 25 he talks about Judgment Day when the God will separate the sheep from the goats. And in the middle we have our text for today—the Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids. The message is a simple yet powerful one – be prepared.

According to the Jewish customs of this day when two people were married two ceremonies took place. First, there was a religious ceremony that bound the man and woman together as husband and wife. Then the groom would go off alone and prepare a house for the couple to live in, while the bride remained with her parents.

Then weeks or perhaps even months later the bridegroom went to the bride's house and escorted her back to his home where they would begin living together as husband and wife. When it came time for the bridegroom to get his bride, the bride's attendants would wait for the groom and then join the wedding procession—their lamps providing festive lights for the happy occasion.

Our parable focuses on these ten bridesmaids who were waiting for the bridegroom and teaches us 3 things:

1.You must be spiritually ready.
If there is one thing that Jesus consistently and continually preached it was that we need to be ready. Over and over again we hear him say, "You must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him".

We need to hear thus because a reality of our modern culture is that we live as though there is no tomorrow. Our finances reflect this. The way we eat and treat our bodies reflect this. We very much live in the here and now. But this parable is a reminder to think of the future and prepare ourselves spiritually.

If there is one thing we take away from today it is this: Spiritual readiness, preparation and growth does not just happen. It comes as a result of intentional habits built into one's life. We cannot depend on only a Sunday morning service to provide all our spiritual needs. Spiritual readiness comes through a lifetime of routine, mundane attention to ordinary spiritual disciplines - making time for prayer and being alone with God; reading scripture; acts of service to others; moral faithfulness and loving obedience.

These are the things which enable a person to grow in Christ and be prepared for Christ's coming. Without these things we will not be prepared. We need to develop holy habits in our life which take precedence over other interests in our lives.

2. The second lesson of the parable is: No one can do it for you. No one can wear a parachute in your place. It doesn't work that way. You need your own. The foolish bridesmaids saw that they did not have enough oil, and they asked their wise friends to loan them some of theirs, but that was not possible. What this teaches us is that another person's faith or another's person's character will not help us.

If one cannot borrow someone else's oil, be sure to have some of your own. Character cannot be borrowed. Neither can a relationship with God be borrowed. William Barclay says, "We cannot always be living on the spiritual capital which others have amassed. There are certain things we must acquire for ourselves."

3.A third point of the parable is: There is a time called "Too Late." We don't like to be reminded of today's theme, even though we know it's true, but someday there will be a

reckoning, and no tomorrow. The foolish bridesmaids cried for the door to be opened to them, but their cries were insincere, for even though they said they wanted in, they never made preparation to enter. Their preparation would have been the proof of their true desire. We are to live in constant expectation, because there is coming a day when the future will be a thing of the past — don't ignore the warning.

In the very last chapter of the bible Jesus says, "See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.'And let everyone who hears say, 'Come.'And let everyone who is thirsty come. The one who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon." And John replies, "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"

The bridegroom is coming. One day someone will shout, "Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!" Will we be among the wise bridesmaids who joyously entered into the eternal wedding feast of the Lamb? We will if we consciously prepare ourselves for that unknown time.

Blessings

Karen

Prayers for:

The Diocese of Bunbury - Administrator, Archdeacon and Chair Diocesan Safe Ministry - Ven. Geoff Chadwick, wife Gabby, Registrar - Revd. Nick Freeland, wife Jane, Office Staff, Laura Golding, husband James, Wanese Maloney, husband Justin, Tiffany Della-Vedova, husband Adrian, Kerrie Forrest, husband Don, Revd. Cn. Carol Morgan, husband Chris, Bishop-in-Council, Diocesan Trustees and Members of the Synod.

The Parish of Busselton - Part-time Priest-in-Charge - Revd. Nick Freeland wife Jane and Curate - Revd. Carolyn Ball.

Please pray for:

- Our Parish Volunteers in their Social Outreach.
- Our ministry to families.
- Our ministry to aged care.
- Study groups.
- Our Julian Group.

Diocesan Ministry - The Diocesan Campsite, Eric and Samantha van der Wacht.

For the World:

- For a greater sense of responsibility and accountability for the environment.
- For those suffering from physical, social and spiritual abuse.
- That as a church our lives may be as a light of Christ to the villages around us.

Anglican Church of Kenya - Diocese of Kapsabet.

St. Peter's Ndalat Parish - Parish Priest - Revd. Abraham Lagat and wife Visiline.

All Saints Kapkoimur Parish - Parish Priest Revd. Kenneth Kemboi and wife Nancy and Curate Revd. Lilian Tarus.

Please pray for those who are differently abled that their challenges may be addressed adequately by the relevant authorities.

Diocesan Ministry - That God will bring loving unity in our churches and a deep sense of brotherhood among the Christians of our churches.

Mothers Union Monthly Prayer

God our creator and sustainer,
whose mission brings life and growth to all who call on your name in faith; help and guide us to seek: your vision in our prayers and planning, your wisdom in our practical action, and your power at work within us as we continue to work towards moral, social and economic justice for all. Through your very precious gift of prayer, enable us to reflect your abundant hope and love to those we seek to serve; that they may discover life in all its fullness, finding a place of fefuge and of peace. Amen.

Mission of the Month - The Bishop's Foundation for Ministry Fund.

The feast of Christ the King on the 24th November, 2020 was chosen to re-launch the Bishop's Foundation for Ministry fund to help pay for more mission initiatives and training costs as well as supporting existing ministry. The Foundation for Ministry fund was established over 30 years ago to support ministry and mission in the Bunbury diocese. Over the years, donations have been coming in from people and congregations, and special collections. There is still a need for funding to help with training costs for both ordained clergy and lay people across the Bunbury diocese, ensuring growth of the Church in our own area. The fund has been chosen as our Mission in November and we are pleased to be able to support the fund and help further mission and ministry on our own patch.

NOTICES

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

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

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

Thursday at 3 - We will continue for two more weeks exploring the Bible and our faith using the Living the Questions material. On Thursday 26 November we will commence our Advent study using a guide from Companions on the Way. Our Advent studies will finish on 17 December. We meet in the DW Hall at 3 p.m. Come and join us!

Remembrance Day Memorial Service - Wednesday, 11th November at 10.15am at St John's.

St John's Ladies Fellowship Meeting - Fri., 6th November from 9.30am. Topic will be "Craft with Jill". Venue: Lynnette Highman's home at 70 Morgan Road, Mckail. Ph: 98415179. All welcome.

Finance Committee Meeting - Thurs., 12th November at 10am in St John's Hall.

Parish Council Meeting - Tues., 17th November at 5.30pm in the D/W Hall. **Reports** due to PA via email by 5pm Wed. 11th November.

2027 LECTIONARIES are now available from the office for $17.

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

LOCAL WRITER Amber Wise has written "**My Psalms Through Seasons of Life.**" Amber is a private educator at Bethel Christian School, and a Christ-centred author who has written this book about her journey with the Lord, exploring how God has helped her lean entirely on Him through all times- both times of deep sorrow and times of joy. Prices are Hardback - $40, Paperback - $25. If interested, please email: amber@wisebookcompany.com.au or text:0480 007 630. For further detail, please see the flyer on the notice board in the D/W Hall.

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?

ONLINE DIRECT DEPOSITS- 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.

Free Will Offering for St John's - 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

FETE FUNDRAISING TOTAL TO DATE

TOTAL FETE FUNDRAISING TO DATE
$5,339.60



Flowers and Produce	**$446.00**
Plants	**$937.00**
Jams and Pickles	**$271.00**
Cakes	**$367.00**
Craft	**$208.45**
Books	**$197.20**
Raffle	**$860.00**
Tea & Coffee	**$110.15**
Sausage Sizzle	**$488.80**
Donations	**$711.00**
Sunday Leftovers	**$82.05**
Op Shop	**$265.95**
Stall Proceeds 30.10.2	**$395.00**

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

25TH NOVEMBER - 10 DECEMBER

BUT I WILL SING OF YOUR STRENGTH, IN THE MORNING I WILL SING OF YOUR LOVE; FOR YOU ARE MY FORTRESS, MY REFUGE IN TIMES OF TROUBLE.
PSALM 59:16

R ESPOND
I NFORM
S UPPORT
E MPOWER

U NITE
P RAY



Almighty and everlasting God,
We pray to you for those who suffer from gender-based violence.
We pray for the victims of such abuse and ask that you will heal, renew and guard them.
We ask that they will bring their cares to you who care for them.
We pray that we may see the end to such evil and a new day of peace and sacrificial love.
And this we ask in the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen

ANGLICAN MOTHERS UNION AUSTRALIA

ALBANY CITY WIND ENSEMBLE PRESENTS

Nautical Winds

A MUSICAL VOYAGE ACROSS THE SEAS

MUSIC DIRECTOR **Sandra Woonings**
MASTER OF CEREMONIES **Mike Staude**
A Nod to the Navy, Sea Shanties, Pirates, Childhood Favourites & Much More !!

SATURDAY
21 NOV 2026
2:00 PM

Albany Free Reformed Church
Cnr North Rd & Beaufort Street

$40 ADULT | $35 CONCESSION | $15 UNDER 16
Available from Stamms Emporium OR trybooking.com

Worship at St John's:
Sunday 8:00am - Sung Eucharist
Sunday 9.30am - Live streamed Sung Eucharist
Sunday 7.00pm - Live Streamed Compline
Tuesday 12.30pm - Eucharist in the Lady Chapel.
Monday - Friday - Morning and Evening Prayer live streamed at 8am & 5pm.
Order of St Luke Healing Service is held on the **2nd Thursday of every month at 9.30 am** in the Lady Chapel.
Live streaming access.
Facebook: "Like" the following pages Anglican Parish of Albany and Anglican Parish Albany Service Stream for live services or recordings.
Website: Visit our website www.anglicanchurchalbany.org.au and click on the link for Facebook Livestream

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.