



St John's Camden

22 January 23...

Dear Church

I hope you're all well!

This Thursday we will be celebrating Australia Day—I love it. There was a season in my life when a mate of mine would invite a group of people around for a BBQ and cricket in his back yard. It would always end with jumping off a mini tramp with an Australian flag flying behind us into the pool. Great times!

There's a countless list of reasons why it's great to live in Australia: the opportunities, freedoms, political and social peace, democracy, social welfare, relative safety, amazing health-care facilities. Really, what we have couldn't have been imagined 200 years ago.

But it's not a happy day for everyone. Invasion day, or so it's sometimes called, is not just a 'woke' term used by hard-core lefties. It's a description of how many people, both First Nation's people and others, feel about the day. The day when life started to unravel for those who had lived in this place for generations.

I'm not for a second arguing against the truth that many benefits have flowed to First Nation's people since European arrival - but let's not dismiss the grief and pain that was and still is caused by our interactions. I would encourage people to learn about our painful past rather than to dismiss or ignore it altogether.

A friend of mine once suggested a way forward which recognised both the pain and joy of the day. In a similar way to Easter, when Friday is mournful and Sunday is jubilant, perhaps we could think of Australia Day morning as a time to reflect, pray and remember the pain First Nations people have felt and then from lunchtime, celebrate all the blessings we enjoy in this nation. It's a bit clunky, but I think it works. Perhaps you might like to try it.

St John's will be participating in the street parade down Argyle St as well as hosting a prayer meeting (not the week of prayer and fasting prayer meeting - another one...) with other Camden churches at 8.30am at the Camden Civic Centre. So, on the 26th, there will be a prayer meeting at 7am AND 8.30am, finishing at 9am for the street parade. You'd be welcome to come to both, either or none at all.

Finally, if you are keen to sign-up to an area of ministry or service in 2023, please use the link in the weekly email or clipboard available after church today to let us know what you're keen to help with. If you're already helping somewhere, you don't need to let us know you're keen to continue - unless we hear from you, you will remain serving in that area. Trust that makes sense!

God bless

Matt Stedman

What's happening...

22nd January - Visioning Meeting 11.30am. St John's hall.

23rd-27th January - Week of Prayer and Fasting. (7am daily prayer meeting, 7.30pm Wed 25th Prayer and Praise evening)

26th January - Camden combined Christian churches prayer meeting.

Camden Civic Centre 8.30-9am

29th January - Visioning Meeting 2pm. St John's hall.

29th January - Sign-up Sunday

29th January - Newcomers' lunch 12noon. St John's hall.

RSVP to office@stjohnscamden.net.au

Who can we pray for this week...

Community

- Pray for our country as we celebrate our nation on Australia Day
 - Pray that we will both remember the treatment of First Nations people with sadness and celebrate the opportunities afforded to us now.
 - Pray for those who mourn during this time, and that they will be comforted by your love.
 - Pray that God's Spirit will be on us all during this time and that we can remember all God has given us in Christ.

Ministry

- Pray for the church as we begin our week of fasting and prayer.
 - Pray that God will use this week to draw us closer to him.
 - Pray that we will see God's strength in our moments of weakness and be empowered by the grace of Jesus Christ.
 - Pray that, as a community, we will draw closer to one another this week.

Congregation

- Pray for the teachers among us as they prepare to return to school.
 - Pray for wisdom and opportunities amongst those in Christian schools to share and model Christ's love with those that they teach.
 - Pray for courage and wisdom for those in the public school system as they navigate the secular working environment.
 - Pray for all as they navigate the many responsibilities and time constraints upon them in their lives.

The world

- Pray for those you have put in place in institutions to lead us.
 - Pray for our federal representative Angus Taylor, our State representative Peter Sidgreaves, mayor Therese Fedeli and all our local council members.
 - Pray for wisdom and integrity as they govern us in this country.
 - Pray for safety in their lives and in their homes as they work.

Do you need prayer? Add a note to a connect card during the service and pop it in the collection plate.

Our Missionaries...

Imli & Heather Jamir Arnhem land, NT - Pioneers

Murray & Liz Benn Rural Mongolia - Pioneers

Jim & Linda Macintosh James O.Fraser Centre, Thailand - OMF

Jo The Middle East - CMS

Daniel & Rebecca Faricy Kununurra, WA - BCA

Chris & Kristy Galea Malta - CMS

Neil and Cheryl - Mission Aviation Fellowship

Service Times...

St Johns Camden: 8am, 10am, 6pm Sunday

Women's Church: 9:30am Thursday (during school terms)

St Paul's Mt Hunter: 10am Sunday except 9am 1st Sunday of the month

St Barnabas' Werombi: 10:30am 1st Sunday of the month

Contact...

Office hours: Mon-Fri 8.30am-4pm

Phone: 4655 1675

Email: office@stjohnscamden.net.au

Website: www.stjohnscamden.org.au

Postal: PO Box 87 Camden 2570

Location: 6 Menangle Rd Camden

Staff: Matt Stedman (Rector), Tim Ash (Assistant), Matt Carmody (Kids & Youth)

Karina Edgerton (Women's Church),

Tennille Davies (office)

Safe Ministry:

Marilyn Noonan; 0419441595;
safe.m@stjohnscamden.net.au

Parish Councilors & Wardens

St Barnabas': Greg, Mark, Peter.

St John's: Alix, Andrew, Bev, Charles, Daniel, Ian, John, Karen, Keith, Ross, Ryan, Steve, Ted, Tim.

St Paul's: Anne, Brett, Graham.

Giving...

We are deeply thankful for your generosity.

BSB: 032 717

Account no: 220 090

Account name: Camden Anglican Parish

