



St John's Camden

8 January 23...

Dear Church

Looking forward to seeing you all on Sunday.

A couple of things to bring to your attention.

Firstly, we are starting a new sermon series on Sunday called *Permission to speak freely - Sex, Life, Gender, Marriage and Meaning*. The goal of the series is to help us understand the times in which we live and how to be faithful to Jesus when the church is now increasingly perceived as the perpetrator of oppression to minority groups. We will be streaming the first half of the service but not the sermon, though the sermon will still be recorded for those who wish to listen but are unable to be with us at 10am. Just contact the office if that's you!

Secondly, our week of prayer and fasting will be held from Monday 23 - Friday, 27 January. I will send a letter next week explaining more about how you might want to be involved - but primarily - the week is an opportunity and encouragement to pray, both individually and corporately. I love what Charles Spurgeon once said

"Prayer is the slender nerve that moves the muscle of omnipotence."

Finally, 29 January is sign-up Sunday. Signing-up for what? Two things. Firstly, a St John's community group. I am convinced that being a member of a community group is vital for our spiritual growth. For in those groups, we become known, we are shaped and developed spiritually, we are prayed for, loved and encouraged to follow Jesus with increasing devotion. Let me urge you to consider joining a group - or even trailing one - in 2023.

But also, as you know, our church is run by a small army of volunteers. On the 29th, there will be an opportunity to commit to using your gifts for the strengthening of our church. I will give some more details as to what's involved in each of the areas we need people helping in next week's email.

Friends, we are getting the building blocks in place for a great year of ministry together. Your support and prayers are most appreciated.

God bless,
Matt Stedman

Who can we pray for this week...

The Church family

- Pray for a fruitful year together in 2023.
- Pray that we have opportunities to connect with our community and share with them the goodness of God.

Chris and Kristy Galea in Malta

- Give Thanks to God for sustaining them in Malta for another year, that their children are doing well in their schooling, and Kristy and Chris have continued developing in their language and cultural studies.
- For their families in Australia who continue to encourage and support them to bear witness for Jesus among the Maltese.

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

What's happening...

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

29th January - Sign-up Sunday

29th January - Newcomers' lunch 12noon

The Galea Family Serving with CMS in Malta

Our family have been serving in Malta for 2 years and have just celebrated our 2nd Christmas here. We are so thankful for how God has gone before us and sustained us to live cross-culturally. He has brought many new people into our lives, who we are privileged and blessed to know.

Christmas time in Malta is very different. No one travels far to visit family, as the island is only 26 km long. It's winter and there are no bushfires. Whilst many things are different here, the wonderful, good news story of God sending his Son Jesus into the world to save it, is something we can take wherever we go.

Christmas Eve was spent with friends we'd invited to our home singing Christmas carols in Maltese and English, Bible readings, praying and eating. It was enjoyed by all and a time to encourage the faith of those following Jesus, and an invitation to those who are yet to. On Christmas Day we hosted lunch with friends. Whilst family life might not be that great for them, these amazing people extended a warm welcome to us when we were strangers. It was a privilege to be able to return some of that warmth to them in this season.



The graphic has a dark blue background with a world map silhouette. In the top left is the CMS logo. In the center is a circular photo of a family of five. To the right of the photo is the text 'Pray for the Galeas in Malta' in a white script font. Below the text is a white QR code. At the bottom right, on a red diagonal background, is the URL 'cms.org.au/galeack' in white text.

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

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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

