



St John's Camden

28 May 23...

Dear Church

Some of you might have heard New York Presbyterian pastor, Tim Keller, died last week after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 72.

Pastor Keller was enigmatic in a number of ways. Deliberately and genuinely nonpartisan in politics, radically committed to the Scriptures in one of the most secular places on earth, an incredibly sharp mind yet a pastor at the same time. But, perhaps the most surprising thing about Keller was he was a humble, mega-church pastor.

I don't think I'm over-egging the pudding to say Keller has been the person who's had the greatest impact on my ministry to date. I've read his books, listened to countless sermons and studied with City-to-City Australia (affiliated with Keller's Redeemer Presbyterian Church). Many of you have also been encouraged by his ministry. Chiefly, Keller impacted my understanding of how the gospel changes us - not just saves for eternity but transforms us in the present too. While I never met Pastor Keller, he has been a mentor of mine for over a decade or more.

Like many, I felt that Pastor Keller died too soon. There were more books to be written, sermons to be preached and conferences to attend. But in God's timing he's been taken to eternity. Pastor Keller's son, Michael, said his father prayed the following prayer in the final days of his life:

"I'm thankful for all the people who've prayed for me over the years. I'm thankful for my family, that loves me. I'm thankful for the time God has given me, but I'm ready to see Jesus. I can't wait to see Jesus. Send me home."

May more of us pray prayers like that! Here's a couple of my favourite Keller sermons for those interested.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=poswQjoLG6l> (The Gospel According to Abraham)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Tc4VIQrXdE&t=2026s>
(Spiritual Friendship)

Finally, for our Super Sunday service this Sunday at 10am, we will be slightly changing the angle of the pews to create some more space for the children to sit down the front. We will reposition them before Sunday week. And, the staff will be undertaking some first aid training in June just so we're prepared if anything goes wrong at any of our ministries. Thought you might like to know.

God bless,
Matt

Women Giving Back Fundraiser...

This is your last weekend to book...Don't miss your opportunity to enjoy great fellowship and delicious food, all while supporting Turning Point, a wonderful local charity. This is also a great opportunity to invite a friend to a relaxed St John's event. 2pm Saturday 3rd June, St John's hall. Contact the office or book online using the QR code.



Save the date...

Saturday 4th November - let's join together for St John's inaugural Thanksgiving Dinner to give thanks to God for all that he has done amongst us. Don't miss this opportunity to share and hear from one another stories of grace, stories of coming to faith and stories of how God has sustained us through various trials.

Office Update...

Tennille will be working remotely this coming week, 29th May - 2nd June. She will be able to assist with all enquiries by email or phone 4655 1675.

What's Happening...

31st May - State of Origin in the hall. From 7pm. BYO drinks and a mate.

1st June - Thursday Morning Prayer meeting, 7.30am in the church.

3rd June - Women Giving Back fundraiser, 2pm in the hall.

3rd June - Monthly Saturday Prayer Meeting 8am, St John's hall.

3rd June - Working bee 9am, St John's grounds.

4th June - Online Safe Ministry training, 12noon, St John's hall.

For Prayer This Week...

Community

- Pray for Turning Point in Camden.
 - Give thanks for their kindness and generosity as they serve and empower those less fortunate in our community.
 - Give thanks for Davina Smith and the many volunteers running and supporting Turning Point.
 - Pray that God will provide them with all they need to continue their service.
 - Pray for the well-being of their volunteers and those who help run it. Keep them safe from harm and help them to know God's love.

Ministry

- Pray for our youth and children's ministries.
 - Thank God for Matt Carmody and his team of volunteers that serve and nurture the children of St John's.
 - Pray for energy and excitement amongst leaders and children alike as they serve, teach and grow.
 - Pray for continued safety among all as they lead and participate together.
 - Pray that the Spirit will work through the children and youth this year to grow in love for Christ.

Congregation

- Pray for those among us who run and own small businesses.
 - Pray that God will calm their worries and burdens as they work and manage others and their business.
 - Pray for wisdom and encouragement as they make decisions about their business.
 - Pray that they will be able to show Christ's love in how they treat and manage those who work under them and those they serve.

The World

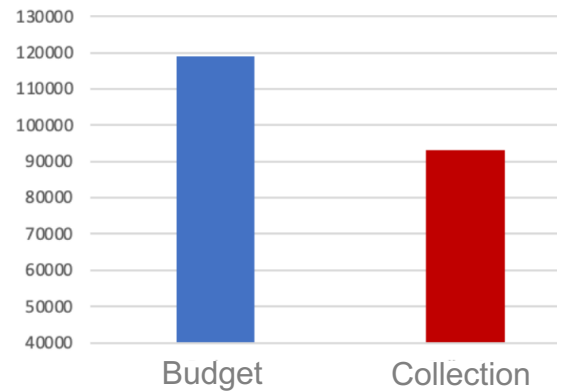
- Pray for those in our police force.
 - Pray for safety and protection as they work in service to their community.
 - Pray for their families as they deal with the stresses placed upon them.
 - Pray that God will give them what they need to work through the stresses their workplaces put on them mentally and physically.

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

Financial Update...

For the first three months of the year, we estimated and budgeted for receiving \$119 000. We have gratefully received \$93 000 which means we are \$26 000 behind budget. While we are blessed to have other sources of income, we would love to close the gap between our budget and our current level of financial support. Please do pray about this and by all means, speak to one of the Parish Council members for more information. Thank you for your ongoing financial partnership.

Budget vs Collection Q1 2023



Service Times...

St John's Camden: 8am, 10am, 6pm Sunday

Women on Thursday: 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), Tennille Davies (Office),
Christine Smith (Weddings)

Safe Ministry:

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

Parish Councilors & Wardens

St Barnabas': Greg, Mark,
Peter.

St John's: Bec, Howard, Ian,
John, Keith, Mike, 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

