



1. A Message from the Priest's Heart: Walking Together in Faith

Dear all,
Loving Greetings!

Two years ago, I left my home country of India to come to Australia and serve in this parish. It was a move filled with both excitement and uncertainty. I still remember the day I boarded the plane, leaving behind familiar faces, my family, my cultural roots, and the traditions I had lived with for many years. I didn't know what exactly awaited me here, but I came with the deep conviction that it was God who was calling.

In many ways, my journey reminds me of the story of Abraham that we read in Hebrews 11:8-10:

"By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise... for he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God."

Just as Abraham stepped into the unknown, trusting solely in God's promise, our family too have had to trust that the Lord knew what He was doing when He called me here.

And I have seen His faithfulness every step of the way. Our family have found in you a welcoming family of faith, and together we have been witnessing a community rooted in Christ's love.

On behalf of my family and myself, I want to sincerely thank each of you for the love, warmth, support, and patience you have shown since my arrival. You have been more than a congregation and you have been a family. Your kindness has made this new land feel like home, and your faith has been a constant source of encouragement in my ministry.

Moreover, this move has taught me that God's plans are always bigger than our own, and often, they require us to let go of what is familiar so that we may discover His greater purpose. My prayer is that each of us may have the courage to follow God's call—whether it leads us across the world or simply across the street—to wherever He wants us to serve.

With love and prayers,
Stephan

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2.1 Worship Service Details 17th August

Church	Service Start Time	Celebrant	Readings
Holy Rood	Sunday 8:00am	Stephan	Isaiah 6. 1-7; Psalm 80. 1-2, 8-19; Hebrews 11. 29. 12.2; Luke 12. 49-59
St James	Sunday 8:30am	Medha	
	Wednesday (13 th August) 9:30am	Gary	
St Matthew's	Sunday 10:00am		

2.2 Worship Service Details 24th August

Church	Service Start Time	Celebrant	Readings
Holy Rood	Sunday 8:00am	Len	Jeremiah 1. 4-10; Psalm 71. 1-6; Hebrews 12. 18-29; Luke 13. 10-17
St James	Sunday 8:30am	Stephan	
	Wednesday (27 th August) 9:30am	Medha	
St Matthew's	Sunday 10:00am		

2.2 Worship Service Details 31st August

Church	Service Start Time	Celebrant	Readings
Holy Rood	Sunday 8:00am	Gary	Jeremiah 2. 4-13; Psalm 81. 1, 10-16; Hebrews 13. 1-8; 15-16; Luke 14. 1, 7-14
St James	Sunday 8:30am	Stephan	
	Wednesday (3 rd Sept) 9:30am		
St Matthew's	Sunday 10:00am	Ron	

3. News from Parish Office

Would You Like to Contribute to the E-News?

We invite you all to send us anything you would like to be featured here in the E-News, whether it's a small group promotion, photos you've taken from a recent service or event, a wonderful prayer you found online, or even something exciting and special happening in your own life.

Please email your contribution to comms@goldcoastnorth.org.au.

Shoe Box Ministry Donations

Dear Parishioners,


As we continue our mission of spreading Christ's love through our shoe box ministry, we express our sincere gratitude for all your generous contributions. We encourage you to kindly support by direct deposit to our church bank account with the description, for "shoe box ministry". Since all donations are to be accounted, we encourage you to avoid cash donations to individuals. You can also support by offering gifts based on the lists provided in our E-News.

The Parish Administration

EVER CATCH YOURSELF THINKING...

What's even the point of all this?
Can I actually make a difference?
Who am I really? And what do I believe in?
Is it okay to not fit in—or should I just blend with the crowd?
Is God even real... and if He is, is He actually good?

You're not alone in asking those questions.

 ALPHAYOUTH.IO is coming....

8 super chill, interactive sessions (online or in person) where you can be real, ask the big stuff, and figure out what you believe.

No filters. No pressure. Just a safe space to explore life, faith, and meaning—with people who get it.
Are you in?

Sunday 3 August 11:30am
St Matthews church, Coomera
RSVP Peter 0493 637 419



Pastoral Care Service Availability

Anyone requiring a pastoral care visit for Prayers, Home Communion, Counselling, Rev. Stephan will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am-2pm. Please contact him via pic@goldcoastnorth.org.au or 0493 783 635

Request for Donations

Our parish is saving up to purchase a rectory. We kindly request donations to help us with the deposit. For those paying via bank transfer, please label the transaction as "Rectory Donation". There are payment forms available at each Church and at our office.

Bank details are below.

BSB: 704 901

Account Number: 00015482

4. Notices

Fashion Parade

We are once again holding our GCNA fund raising Op Shop Fashion Parade - Saturday 20 September at 1.30pm at St Matthews. Tickets are \$15, and \$6 for children 6-12 years, and include a complimentary drink on arrival, live music, fabulous fashions plus a sumptuous afternoon tea. Tickets will be available at each centre [please indicate number required on the lists]. Raffle tickets will also be available at each centre. Please Note: tickets to be purchased before the day. To help with catering could you please bring a plate to share and fill out the list at each centre.

Further information please text Dee on 0414 444 753 or email drelph@ozemail.com.au



Family Sunday Service

3rd Sunday of the Month - St James

41 Brighton Street, Biggera Waters

4th Sunday of the Month - St Matthew's

142 Billingham Crescent, Upper Coomera

HIGHLIGHTS

- Interactive Scripture Reading
- Intergenerational Worship Songs
- Sharing Testimonies
- Skits / Short Enactments by Families or Combined
- Kids Videos
- And More!

Contact Us;
reception@goldcoastnorth.org.au
5580 5814



Monday Morning Bible Study

Monday, at 9:15am in the Meeting Room at St Matthew's, undertaking studies on a particular book of the bible prepared by EV Church. People from all centres attend to learn what God is saying through his word and to learn more about following Jesus. There is prayer and mutual encouragement.



Cottage Prayer Ministry

Cottage Prayer Ministry – Be Part of It!

Who can host?

Anyone in our parish—or even a friend of a parishioner.

How often?

Once a month.

If I host, is it every month?

No! Just once every 2–3 years, unless you'd like to do it more often.

When?

Usually the 2nd or 3rd Thursday, 5–6 pm. But you can reschedule if needed.

Do I need to provide food?

No—just open your home for worship and prayer.

Who leads?

Any priest from our parish, a liturgical assistant, wardens, parish members—or even you!

Who can come?

Family, friends, neighbours, parish members.

Do I have to invite everyone personally?

No—CPM details will be announced at church, by email, or in the e-news.

3. News from Parish Office (continued)



St James Craft Group

Every Friday morning about 9.15 the Ladies start arriving for their morning of craft, sharing their stories of the week and enjoying a delicious morning tea. Heads down every one has a project some for our twice a year stall, some Sea Farers missions and Christmas boxes. The money we get from our work goes towards the monthly missions and the finances of the Church a fun time and sometimes we go and have Fish and Chips together for lunch.



Holy Rood Craft and Conversation Group

Holy Rood Craft and Conversation Group meets on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Wednesdays of each month from 9.30am until midday at the Holy Rood Family Centre. We warmly welcome, men, women and friends. Our ministry outreach to the local community is through craft lovingly created by members. Even if you feel you have little or no craft skills to offer, please do join us for companionship and conversation over a cuppa.

Contact: Lyn Dunn 0418 528 670 OR Sandy Eacott 0407 965 900



Coomera Craft Circle

Join us at St Matthew's Church every second Tuesday 9:00am - 12md for conversation and companionship and non-stop morning tea as we knit and crochet for charities of our choosing with a primary focus on rugs for St John's Crisis Centre, Southport. Free wool supplies available.

Gatherings coming up: 5th & 19th August

Ring Jean for further information on 0409 322 011.



4. Notices (continued)

ALL WELCOME



To come to 8 sessions of inspiring video talks by
Lisa Harper on

“GUT-LEVEL COMPASSION”

found in the Gospel of Luke, a literary masterpiece
that embraces the outcasts and the overlooked.

Where? St Matthew's Anglican Church
142 Billingham Crescent, Upper Coomera.

When? Consecutive Wednesday evenings at
6.30pm beginning 3rd September 2025

*Lisa Harper is described as both a hilarious
storyteller and theological scholar. Videos
run for half an hour then discussion.*



For more information **and to register**, contact Lurline Campbell.

Phone: 0412 277 737 Email: dlcampbe@onthenet.com.au

Volunteers Needed for Primary School Chaplaincy Breakfast Club

We're looking for a few helping hands to assist with
the Upper Coomera State School Chaplaincy
Breakfast Club on Tuesdays and Fridays from 8:00
to 8:30 AM.

This is a wonderful opportunity to support young
children by helping serve breakfast and ensure they
have a welcoming and nourishing start to their day.

If you're available and would like to get involved,
just once a week or even once in a while, we'd love
to hear from you!

Please note that a Blue Card is required.

Please reach out to Trudi at
trudi.charlesworth@suchaplaincy.org.au if you can
help.

Poem - *How to Give your Heart to God* By David Glazier

*"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and
renew a right spirit within me." (Psalm 51:10)*

You must die first to be reborn.
You must choose to close the door
on all you were before.

You must search yourself deep inside.
You must choose to live without any lies.
Face the truth wherever it hides.

You must learn to forgive and to let go of
spite.
You must choose to live and breathe God's
light.
Change your ways, make things right.

You must pull yourself out of the mud.
You must choose to set your sights on what is
above.
The questions you ask are all answered by
love.

You must bear the pain and know it will pass.
You must choose to not be overwhelmed by
the dark.
Surrender to God and give God your heart.

You must be the one you are longing to be.
You must choose the path to set yourself free.
God waits for you, patiently.

You must give your heart, your body, your
mind.
You must choose to leave your old self behind.
God is with you, and you will arise.

You must trust in God and all God's ways.
You must choose to believe and choose to
have faith.
Hope and joy will sustain you every day.

You must understand the power of the cross.
You must choose to be a witness and know the
cost.
With Jesus beside you, you will never be lost.

*"You will seek me and find me, when you seek
me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:13)*

4. Notices (continued)



NORTHERN REGION LAY RETREAT

Friday, November 28th 6pm until
after lunch on Sunday, November 30th

OR option to attend Saturday 29th November from 9am - 5pm

SANTA TERESA SPIRITUALITY CENTRE
267 WELLINGTON STREET, ORMISTON QLD 4160

This is a silent retreat with Christian meditation daily, morning and evening prayer on Saturday, and opportunity for individual spiritual direction if desired. All meals provided. Cost outlined below.

Full Weekend	Single Room	\$500 per person
	Couples Sharing a Room	\$430 per person
Saturday Only (9am - 5pm)	No Room	\$120 per peson

[LINK TO REGISTRATION & PAYMENT](#)

4. Notices (continued)

Cottage Prayer Meeting

Dear Beloved Parishioners,
Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!
I hope this message finds you well and blessed. As we continue to grow together in faith and fellowship, I am excited to invite you to be part of a special opportunity to deepen our spiritual connection as a church family.

We are looking for volunteers to host Cottage Prayer Meetings in their homes. These gatherings are a beautiful way to bring the church into our neighbourhoods, creating a space for prayer, worship, and encouragement in a more intimate setting. They offer a chance to build stronger relationships, share testimonies, and lift one another up in prayer. As the term 'cottage prayer meeting' may be unfamiliar to some, I feel it is necessary to offer a brief explanation.

What is a Cottage Prayer Meeting?

A Cottage Prayer Meeting is a small, informal Christian gathering held in the home of a parishioner, usually on a weekday evening. The word "cottage" signifies that this prayer service takes place in a private home rather than in the church building. Families voluntarily open their homes, inviting neighbours, friends, and fellow members to join in a time of prayer, worship, and spiritual encouragement. These meetings are often rotational, with different families hosting on different weeks, and are typically led by a priest, elder, or lay leader from the local church.

The Purpose and Objectives

The objectives of cottage prayer meetings are both spiritual and relational:

- To build strong fellowship among church members and neighbours.
- To grow in faith through shared scripture and testimony.
- To strengthen households in prayer and worship.
- To support one another through intercession and personal sharing.
- To spread the Gospel in the local community by welcoming non-Christians into a warm, non-threatening environment.

Benefits of Cottage Prayer Meetings

- These gatherings offer several powerful advantages:
- Deepens spiritual life in the home, turning living rooms into worship place.
- Encourages lay participation, allowing members to lead in prayer, song, or sharing.
- Strengthens church unity by building personal relationships among members.
- Provides outreach opportunities, as non-Christian neighbours are often invited to observe or participate.

- Fosters pastoral care, especially for the elderly, sick, or isolated who may struggle to attend church regularly.

In essence, it is a model of "the church in the home"—not unlike the early Christian gatherings described in Acts and Paul's letters.

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The Typical Flow of a Cottage Prayer Meeting

While formats may vary by denomination or region, most cottage prayer meetings follow a familiar pattern:

- Opening Prayer
 - A short prayer to welcome the Holy Spirit and bless the gathering.
- Congregational Singing
 - A time of joyful singing—hymns or local Christian songs—led by a participant or family member.
- Scripture Reading
 - A passage from the Bible is read aloud, often by the host or a child from the family, emphasising shared participation.
- Brief Thought or Devotion
 - A pastor or lay leader shares a short reflection or thought based on the passage, typically no more than 10 minutes, encouraging the group with a practical and spiritual message. Testimony sharing from the participants is also encouraged.
- Intercessory Prayer
 - This is a central part of the meeting. Participants pray for one another, the church, the sick, local concerns, the nation, and often for the global Church as well.
- Closing Song and Benediction
 - The meeting concludes with a final song and a benediction—usually offered by the pastor or the leaders present.

In general, Holy Communion is avoided, keeping in mind the non-Christian neighbours, if in case they turn up for such meeting. Tea and fellowship often follow, creating a warm and hospitable environment.

Dear friends, hosting a Cottage Prayer Meeting is simple and deeply rewarding. You don't need a large home or special preparations—just a heart willing to welcome others and a desire to see God move in your community. Our pastoral team will support you with guidance and resources to make the experience smooth and meaningful.

If you feel led to open your home for one of these gatherings, or if you'd like to learn more, please reach out to me through email pic@goldcoastnorth.org.au or mobile 0493783635. I would love to partner with you in this ministry.

With love and prayers,
Stephan

4. Notices (continued)



Synod Report 2025 - your representatives **Kim Kimber & Chris Tracey-Patte**

The last weekend of June, starting on the Friday night with soup and a roll at the Cathedral and a sermon on 'Follow Me', was spent listening to and voting on the motions presented to Synod.

Archbishop Jeremy's address to Synod reflected on the current needs of the church as compared to 100 years ago, and how it is important to not get bogged down in the if only, but focus first on the plans and possibilities and discover the resources in time, people, processes and money second.

The business of Synod included items about the;

175th Anniversary of ABM, and the Queensland Celebratory Dinner on 26th September.

The 40th Anniversary of Cursillo on 8th November at St John's Cathedral celebrating the ongoing ministry of this movement in the Diocese with 3,874 Anglicans having participated in 182 weekends and seen the growth of both lay and clergy in many of its 130+ parishes.

Positive reports were relayed about the impact of HOPE 25, which focuses on the proclamation of Christ throughout Australia and the continued focus on this integral part of our ministry and mission.

The concern with Online Gambling Advertising were examined with a call to the Federal Government to legislate for a comprehensive ban.

The church's actions on and continued calls for Climate Action at all levels was endorsed.

Issues of Equitable Access by the employment of a person with lived experience to assist the church. The creation of a working group to assist the Archbishop in responding to issues and reports related to the care of the veteran community, especially suicide and associated mental health. Gender Equality in the church, Housing in the form of Home share, Anglicare's construction of targeted social housing at Beenleigh, and the continuation of the urban farm at St Francis College all were discussed and actioned appropriately.

Reports were received from Anglicare, the schools commission, the Ministry Education Commission, the Diocesan Council, the Cathedral, Mission agencies, Finance and Diocesan services, as well as other agencies attached to the church.

We were blessed with good weather and great food and the opportunity to fellowship with Anglicans from around the Diocese.

5. Events

Confirmation Service

On Sunday, 3rd August, we held our Confirmation service at Coomera Anglican College with Bishop John Roundhill. Congratulations to Ianto, Lucy, and Tiana.



5. Events

Alpha Youth

We had 9 youth participants at the Alpha Youth, on Sunday, 3rd August, and it was a lovely time of sharing and fellowship.



Baby Shower

Shirley & Obaid are expecting their first child and all their family is in Pakistan so the ladies of St James joined together to welcome them to our family with a Baby Shower in early August. Baby (gender unknown) is due in September.



6. Mission of the Month: Church Missionary Society & Link Missionaries

Not only is the Mission of the Month
the Church Missionary Society,
But we are to have our

Link Missionaries – the Ramsay Family visit the parish!!!

Please see the details below and make one of the 3 Pot luck meals a priority for you to come to, as well as one of the three usual church services on Sunday August 12



Adam and Helane Ramsay, Leo, Elle and Albert, our Church Missionary Society Link Missionaries in Japan.

Adam and Helane partner with a local church in Chiba Japan to reach out with the Good News of God's love. They are developing children's ministry resources and training to equip leaders to reach the next generation for Jesus.

The Ramsays will be in this parish for the following

Saturday August 11. Adam will share at the Men's Breakfast at Holy Rood 7.00am. RSVP to Adrian Dunster 0400 189 320

Sunday August 12. The Ramsays will be sharing in the service at 8.00am at Holy Rood then the 8.30 service at St James (as well as the 9.30 service at St James on Wednesday August 13) then the 10.00am service at St Matthew's.

AND..... There will be 3 Pot luck meals in the parish at each centre when we can meet the family informally and listen, talk, learn and encourage them.

Sunday August 12, Holy Rood. Pot Luck Lunch at 11.30am

Monday August 13 St Matthews. Pot Luck Dinner at 6.00pm

Wednesday August 13 St James. Pot Luck Brunch 11.30am

Not only will this family enthuse and challenge us but this will encourage them and you will be able to pray for them much more effectively.

There are envelopes at the back of each church centre so you can support the family financially as well as in prayer.

More details from Don Campbell 0422 606 394

7. Kids Corner



Meet Abigail: The Peacemaker of the Bible

Today's video is from the show *VeggieTales*, where we'll learn about the Bible story of Abigail and Nabal.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjZI0QBb7CM>

8. Diocesan News

Community rallies around Yeronga rectory residents after the Queenslander was destroyed in a fire on the weekend

By Michelle McDonald for *Anglican Focus*

The local community has rallied around the residents of the Christ Church, Yeronga rectory after the century-old Queenslander was destroyed in a fire on the weekend.

Community members have donated clothing, linen and other items to the church for the residents, all of whom survived the fire.

The residents are clients of *Communify*, a community organisation that provides housing and homelessness services, including on church properties.

Priest-in-Charge of The Parish of Yeronga, Rebecca King, said she is grateful for offers of assistance and the prompt response of emergency services, who are not treating the fire as suspicious.

"I am very grateful to the whole community for their offers of support and to the emergency services crews who responded so quickly," The Rev'd Rebecca said.

"Many people are asking how they can help the residents — the best way folk can help is by donating to the Communify gift fund, so the monies go to assisting the residents who escaped with just the clothes on their backs."

"I am also grateful to the wider Anglican Church Southern Queensland community, including clergy, staff members from the Archbishop's office and volunteers who have helped in different ways."

"Anglican Church Southern Queensland clergy and staff and *Communify* worked together over the weekend to ensure the residents were cared for."

"A number of additional services are now supporting the residents, whose privacy needs to be respected at this time."

One resident was taken to Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital via ambulance on Saturday with minor burns, but did not stay overnight.

The church hall and church were protected by the swift and effective response of the Queensland Fire Department.

Read more [HERE](#).

9. Prayer

Lord God,
your Son left the riches of heaven
and became poor for our sake:
when we prosper save us from pride,
when we are needy save us from despair,
that we may trust in you alone;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer/todays-prayer>



10. Parish Information

Offertory

DIRECT DEBIT GIVING at GCNA for ongoing weekly ministry.

Please use this account
BSB 704 901 A/C 00015081

Our sincere thanks to all those who support our parish in all possible ways. We are so grateful and thankful for your commitment and generosity.

Parish Office Address

Gold Coast North Anglican Church, 142 Billinghamurst Crescent, Upper Coomera, Qld 4209, Australia.
Ph. 5580 5814

Postal Address

P.O. Box 810, Oxenford. Q. 4210

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 09.00am to 01.00 pm

Coomera Anglican College

At GCNA, we work with and support Coomera Anglican College. Learn more about CAC:
<https://www.cac.qld.edu.au/>

10. Parish Information (continued)

Change of Email Addresses

There have been some changes to the email addresses used by wardens and office staff. Below are the up to date email addresses.

Stephan

Priest in Charge

pic@goldcoastnorth.org.au

Wardens

Holy Rood

hrwarden@goldcoastnorth.org.au

St James

sjwarden@goldcoastnorth.org.au

St Matthew's

smwarden@goldcoastnorth.org.au

Meraki Community Garden

meraki@goldcoastnorth.org.au

Office Staff Team

Karen

Office Manager

office@goldcoastnorth.org.au

Claudia

Digital Media Officer

comms@goldcoastnorth.org.au

Siggi

Front Office

reception@goldcoastnorth.org.au

Medha

Pastoral Care Counsellor

pccslm@goldcoastnorth.org.au

Voluntary Service

Geoffrey

WHS Administrator, Small Groups, Safeguarding

safeguarding@goldcoastnorth.org.au

Pam

Payments

accounts@goldcoastnorth.org.au

Pat

Treasurer

treasurer@goldcoastnorth.org.au

Warren

Finance / Budget

warren@goldcoastnorth.org.au

Safe Churches

The Anglican Diocese of Brisbane takes allegations of abuse and harm seriously. The Professional Standards Canon and the Protocol for Responding to Sexual Abuse of a Child and Sexual Misconduct provide clear and transparent processes for the management of complaints of abuse. Persons who may have been harmed by a Church worker, or who know of someone else who has, are encouraged to come forward. All complaints will be treated sensitively and confidentially. The Director of Safe Ministry will respond to all complaints and will assist you to understand the processes involved. Please contact Office of Safe Ministry, St Martin's House, 373 Ann Street, Brisbane 4000 (GPO Box 421, Brisbane 4001): Phone 1800 242 544; Email safeministry@anglicanchurchsq.org.au To view hard copies of policies and procedures refer to the Blue Safeguarding folder in each Church or click [HERE](#)

Lest We Forget

"We, the people of Australia, respect and give thanks to all who have served in our defence force and their families.

"We acknowledge the unique nature of military service and the sacrifice demanded of all who commit to defend our nation.

"We undertake to preserve the memory and deeds of all who have served and promise to welcome, embrace and support all military veterans as respected and valued members of our community.

"For what they have done, this we will do."

The GCNA family, affirm this oath declared in *The Australian Veterans' Recognition (Putting Veterans and their Families First) Act of 2019* which received Royal Assent on 30 October 2019.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and pay respect to the Yugambeh Language people, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather today. We acknowledge their continued spiritual connection to country and surrounding land, sky and water. We pay our respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging and pray that we may continue to learn from and nurture one another in the spirit of Reconciliation.