



St John's Wahroonga Uniting Church Newsletter



16 August 2026

St John's Weekly Newsletter

Each week, we gather stories, reflections, and updates that celebrate the life of our church community. Whether you're a long-time member or a first-time reader, we hope this newsletter inspires, informs, and invites you to connect more deeply with our shared journey of faith, service, and fellowship.

🌿 You're warmly invited to worship with us online! 🌿

St John's is delighted to welcome you to our Sunday Morning on Zoom.

🕊️ Sunday

🕒 9:30 AM

Join us from home as we gather in prayer, reflection, and community.

🔗 Zoom Link:

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/4747345102>

Meeting ID: 474 734 5102

We look forward to worshipping with you.

ZOOM LINK

A Prayer

We choose love.

We choose compassion.

We choose non-violence.

We choose equality.

And we choose to dedicate our lives to creating cultures of peace, justice and healing.

We choose to follow you, Jesus, Prince of Peace. Send your Holy Spirit to fill us with hearts brimming over with love for one another and the planet and all its component plants, resources and creatures which you have created for each one of us to enjoy and have our needs not our wants met.

God of grace, you invite the despised,
you touch the unclean,
you lift the head
of those who are brought low.

Give us that hope against all hope
for a world transformed
by your healing touch;
through Jesus Christ,
the mercy of God. Amen.



PRAYER ALERT – COLOMBIAN EARTHQUAKE

Dear Friends,

In the following week, may we join in prayer to ask God to rescue the thousands still missing in the Colombian earthquake, which has already killed hundreds, and injured thousands.

An image on our Tv screens captured the heartbreaking moment of a newborn baby being lifted from the father's hands, as he lay trapped and broken, under the rubble.

Lord Jesus – we ask You to guide rescuers and volunteers to find every person still alive.

Release the power of Your love, Lord God – and comfort all who mourn. Provide and restore, through those who are Your hands and feet, on the ground.

Every prayer matters – prayers joined together in unity are especially powerful. God bless you all.

ROSTER for **16 August 2026**

Service Leader: Rev Manas Ghosh

Duty Elder: Morna Buys

Communion: Ruth Barwick

Bible Reading: Mary Smith

Prayer: Bob Cowan

Door Duty: Cowans

Tea Duty: Tim & May Etheridge

AV: Jack Cambridge

Organist: Chris Wagstaff



ROSTER for **23 August 2026**

Service Leader: Rev Manas Ghosh

Duty Elder: Mary Smith

Bible Reading: Elly Cowan

Prayer: Ian Paterson

Door Duty: Ted Metcalf

Tea Duty: Ruth & Robin

AV: Jack Cambridge

Organist: Rosie Blake



SUNDAY SCHOOL

JESUS
LOVES ME
THIS I KNOW
FOR THE
BIBLE
TELLS ME SO

🌻 **Sunday School @ St John's Uniting Church**

Kids come, enjoy kids church with Nathan in the lower hall



On Sunday 9 August 2026, 30 members of the Affinity Intercultural Foundation, the Turkish Islamic organization cantered around Liverpool, joined the congregation of St John's Wahroonga at its Sunday Service. Rev Dr Manas Ghosh works with the Foundation as part of his ecumenical work with a number of faiths. The service was full of goodwill and cheer. It gave all of us the opportunity to discuss and reflect upon our different forms of service. They brought a wonderful morning tea, including servings of Noah's pudding, said to be derived from one of the oldest recipes known to man, a dish prepared from the grains left in Noah's ark after the waters receded.

In sharing this pudding together, we were reminded by Mr Ahmet Polat, the Executive Director of Affinity Intercultural Foundation, that we are all part of the Abrahamic faiths being the Jewish, Christian and Islam faiths, which highlighted that, notwithstanding our differences, friendship and understanding can bring us together. We have invited them to return next year.

(Report by Mr James Loxton, Chairperson of St John's Church Council)



Please see below a reflection from Elly Cowan and a letter of thanks from the Executive Director of Affinity.

On Sunday 9th of August, we had the privilege of hosting a visit from the Affinity Intercultural and Galaxy Foundations at St John's. Thirty members of the Turkish Muslim community joined our service and we shared a morning tea afterward.

Our guests had brought abundant tasty treats to share and a highlight was the Noah's Pudding (Asura) which not only tastes delicious but reminds us that, just like each ingredient retains its own distinct character and flavour, but contributes to the whole, so we too are better walking together with respect and in harmony. I personally always look forward to the Sunday when Affinity and Galaxy visit. Our friendships are warm and our opportunities to build connection are things I treasure. This year, I had the chance to chat with a group of women for whom this was their first visit and, for some, their first time inside a church. I found these women and their willingness to share and seek to connect with us so inspiring. It takes courage to put yourself in a new space among new people. I am so grateful that they took the time to come. I look forward to getting to know them better as time goes on and I have reflected all week on some of the ideas they shared with me. I found the idea that "prayer humbles my arrogance" inspirational. (Dr Elly Cowan)

**Dear Uncle Manas,
Peace and Salaam.**

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for such a beautiful and meaningful gathering today. It was truly wonderful to come together once again with you and the St John's Church family in such a warm spirit of friendship, faith and fellowship.

Everyone who joined us from our community was very happy and deeply appreciative. Some were visiting St John's for the first time, while others had joined us before, but they all spoke so warmly about you, your congregation and the wonderful hospitality they received.

I especially want to thank you for your beautiful sermon. I was deeply touched by the way you connected the story of Prophet Joseph with the themes of today's gathering. It was such a meaningful and powerful connection.

I have attached a copy of my speech for you. If you feel comfortable, I would also be very grateful if you could share your sermon with me. I would love to read it again and reflect more deeply on the beautiful themes you shared with us today.

Please also convey my heartfelt thanks to esteemed Cousin Nabanita, your daughter, and the entire St John's Church family for welcoming us with such warmth and generosity.

Thank you once again, Uncle Manas, for your friendship, kindness and for making today so special and meaningful for all of us. Please do let me know if there is anything else you need from my side.

May God Almighty bless you, your family and the entire St John's community.

With warmest regards and gratitude,

Cousin Ahmet

Ahmet Polat

Executive Director

Affinity Intercultural Foundation



THANK YOU!

We are so excited to share this update.

A huge thank-you to Knox and WPS for our new sound system. We've been working hard to improve the audio experience in the Church, and their generosity has made a real difference. Knox and their technical team have gifted us both their time and a new sound board, helping us take a big step forward.

If you have any feedback, please let Vanessa know.



Hi all,

Our remaining 2026 dates are (all Fridays)

- 11 September
- 13 November

And Friday 8 January 2027!

Thanks all,

Edwiina

edwina.loxton@gmail.com

Join the Dish's Facebook page and see what great work is being done for the community ([Click Here](#))



St John's Wahroonga Bible Study

Bible Study meets on Zoom every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month at 10am.
We'd love you to join us.

Please contact Wendy on

0410 504 104 for the Zoom link, if you'd like to be a part of the study group.



Art @ St John's

Art @ St John's meets every Wednesday morning at 9.30am during the State school term. New members are most welcome. Please contact Wendy Verco if you'd like more information, on 0410 504 104.

St John's members wishing to make Direct Deposits to St John's can use either of the following Investment/(Bank) Accounts. THANK YOU

For **identifiable deposits (note no apostrophe in St Johns)**

- St Johns UC Wahroonga
- BSB 634634
- Investment Number 100020571

For **confidential deposits (note no apostrophe in St Johns)**

- St Johns UC Wahroonga-Giving Direct
- BSB 634634
- Investment Number 100026453

Please contact the Treasurer (John Cameron) with your queries.



Office Hours Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9am - 2pm

02 9487 2941

[Unsubscribe](#)