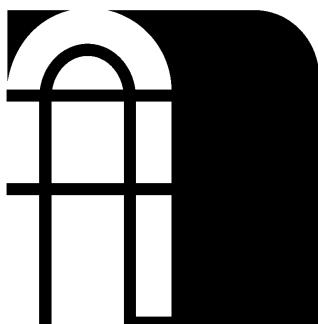


St James' Old Cathedral

25th January 2026 at 10:00am
Feast of the Conversion of Paul

Acts 9:1-22

*Service of Holy Communion from
A Prayer Book for Australia (1995)*



St James' Old Cathedral

Acknowledgement of Country

We worship our creator God on the ancestral lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. We acknowledge them as the traditional and continuing custodians of this land and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

Child Safety Officer

We are committed to continuous improvement in a safe culture for all, and especially vulnerable persons. Our parish's Child Safety Officer is Una Ebsworth. Una is an accredited specialist in criminal law. All correspondence and questions relating to safety checks should be forwarded to her at safety@sjoc.org.au

The Old Cathedral Voices

Formed in March 2009 from some of Melbourne's finest choral soloists, The OCV are a consort choir directed by Alex Ritter.

The choir is on leave, returning next Sunday.

Solos are sung today by Jenny George and Spencer Chapman.

The Organ

The present organ was built in 1991 by Australian Pipe Organs, restoring and expanding the 1866 Fincham organ. 2 manuals, 18 speaking stops, 8 couplers. Gt: 8.8.4.4.2.III. Sw: 8.8.8.4.2.III.8. Ped: 16.16.10-2/3.8.4.

The Old Cathedral's organist is David Brown. David undertook studies as an organ scholar at the Universities of Cambridge and St Andrews. He also serves as College Organist for Scotch College.

The Bells

Melbourne's first peal of bells were the six bells hung in St James' Cathedral in 1853, replacing an old ship's bell. Two more were added in 1885. All were cast by Mears and Stainbank of Whitechapel Road, London, and are reputed to be the finest ever cast there. They are still rung regularly by a team of volunteers.

Processional (All Stand)

Jenny & Spencer (Duet)

O Come Hither (Ps 66:14,17)

M. Greene (1695-1755)

*O come hither, and hearken, all ye that fear God,
and I will tell you what he hath done for my soul:
God hath heard me, and considered the voice of my prayer.*

Sonnet: Apostle

Canon Matt Williams

An enemy whom God has made a friend,
A righteous man discounting righteousness,
Last to believe and first for God to send,
He found the fountain in the wilderness.

Thrown to the ground and raised at the same moment,
A prisoner who set his captors free,
A naked man with love his only garment,
A blinded man who helped the world to see,
A Jew who had been perfect in the law,
Blesses the flesh of every other race
And helps them see what the apostles saw;
The glory of the Lord in Jesus' face.
Strong in his weakness, joyful in his pains,
And bound by love, he freed us from our chains.

by Malcolm Guite (2012)

Sentence and Preparation

Canon Matt Williams

(The churches in Judea) only heard it said,
“The one who formerly was persecuting us
is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy.”

And they glorified God because of me. *Galatians 1:23-24*

Blessed be God, Father Son and Holy Spirit:

Blessed be God’s Kingdom, now and for ever.

The Lord be with you:

And also with you.

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn 42 (Lasst Uns Erfreuen)

I. Watts (1674-1748)

**From all who dwell below the skies;
let the Creator's praise arise;
Hallelujah!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung,
through every land, by every tongue,
Hallelujah!**

**Eternal are your mercies, Lord,
eternal truth attends your word:
Hallelujah!
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore,
till suns shall rise and set no more.
Hallelujah!**

The Commandments

Canon Matt Williams

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one;
you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul,
and with all your mind,
and with all your strength.’

Jesus said: ‘This is the great and first commandment.
And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.’

Gloria

Canon Matt Williams

**Glory to God in the highest
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One;
you alone are the Lord;
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Collect*Canon Matt Williams*

O God, by the preaching of Paul your apostle
you have caused the light of the Gospel
to shine throughout the world:
grant that, as we remember his wonderful conversion,
we may show ourselves thankful to you
by following his teaching;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Ministry of the Word*Canon Matt Williams*

Heavenly Father,
give us wisdom and understanding.
As we listen to your Word,
may we know you better,
love you more,
and learn to please you in all we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gathering for Children's Chapel

Bridget Chapman

We offer an age-appropriate experience of the Ministry of the Word for children, led today by Bridget Chapman. They are invited to process out to the conference centre, as the following hymn is sung.

Childsafe Policy: Children's Chapel is supervised at all times by at least two unrelated adults with current Working with Children Check approvals.

Anthem

Jenny George (Solo)

A thorn was given to me

A. Anderson (b. 1971)

Commissioned for St James' Old Cathedral. Premiered 20th June 2021.

Andrew Anderson is our composer-in-residence.

*A thorn was given to me in the flesh,
a messenger of Satan to torment me,
a thorn to keep me from being too elated.*

*Three times I appealed to the Lord,
that it would leave me,
But he said to me:
"My grace is sufficient for you,
for power is made perfect in weakness."*

*So I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses,
so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.*

*I am content with weaknesses, insults,
hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ,
for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.*

2 Corinthians 12:7b-10

First Reading: Acts 9:1-22

Rachelle Gilmour

^{9:1} Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.

⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

⁵ He asked, “Who are you, Lord?”

The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.

⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.”

⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one.

⁸ Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing;

so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.

⁹ For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias.

The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.”

He answered, “Here I am, Lord.”

¹¹ The Lord said to him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul.

At this moment he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.”

¹³ But Ananias answered,

“Lord, I have heard from many about this man,

how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem,

¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests

to bind all who invoke your name.”

¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is an instrument

whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles

and kings and before the people of Israel;

¹⁶ I myself will show him how much he must suffer

for the sake of my name.”

¹⁷ So Ananias went and entered the house.

He laid his hands on Saul and said,

“Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus,

who appeared to you on your way here,

has sent me so that you may regain your sight

and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes,

and his sight was restored.

Then he got up and was baptized,

¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus,

²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues,

saying, “He is the Son of God.”

²¹ All who heard him were amazed and said,

“Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem

among those who invoked this name?

And has he not come here for the purpose

of bringing them bound before the chief priests?”

²² Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

Hear the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 117

Canon Matt Williams

O praise the Lord, all you nations:

O praise him, all you peoples.

For great is his loving-kindness toward us:

and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever.

Praise the Lord.

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-24

Ruth Champion

¹¹ For I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin,

¹² for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

¹³ You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism.

I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it.

¹⁴ I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors.

¹⁵ But when the one who had set me apart before I was born
and called me through his grace

was pleased ¹⁶ to reveal his Son to me,

so that I might proclaim him among the gentiles,
I did not confer with any human,

¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those
who were already apostles before me,
but I went away at once into Arabia,
and afterward I returned to Damascus.

¹⁸ Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas
and stayed with him fifteen days,

¹⁹ but I did not see any other apostle
except James the Lord's brother.

²⁰ In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!

²¹ Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia,
²² and I was still unknown by sight

to the churches of Judea that are in Christ;

²³ they only heard it said, "The one who formerly was persecuting us
is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy."

²⁴ And they glorified God because of me.

Hear the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 56 (Amazing Grace)

J. Newton (1725-1807)

**Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come:
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**

**The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 28:16-20*Canon Matt Williams*

The gospel is written in the twenty-eighth chapter of the Gospel according to St Matthew, beginning at the sixteenth verse.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee,

to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.

17 When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted.

18 And Jesus came and said to them,

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,

baptizing them in the name of the Father

and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.

And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

For the gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon*Rev. Mike Raiter***Anthem (from “Messiah”)***Spencer Chapman (Tenor)***How beautiful are the feet***G. F. Handel (1685-1759)*

*How beautiful are the feet of them
that preach the gospel of peace,
and bring glad tidings of good things. Isaiah 52:7; Romans 10:15*

The Apostle's Creed (All Stand.)

Canon Matt Williams

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Intercessions

Owen Billington

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who taught us to pray:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

Preparation

Canon Matt Williams

Let us pray.

We do not presume to come to your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.

We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.

But you are the same Lord,
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink his blood,
that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Confession***Canon Matt Williams***

Knowing the goodness of God
and our failure to respond with love and obedience,
let us confess our sins, saying together,

Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution***Canon Matt Williams***

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Greeting of Peace***Canon Matt Williams***

We are the body of Christ:
His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Remaining in our pews, we greet those around us:
“Peace be with you.”

The children's chapel rejoin us as the following hymn is sung.

Hymn 173 v1-4 (Hyfrydol)

F. H. Rowley (1854-1952)

I will sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me,
how he left the realms of glory
for the cross on Calvary.

Refrain: *Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me,
sing it with his saints in glory,
gathered by the crystal sea.*

I was lost: but Jesus found me,
found the sheep that went astray,
raised me up and gently led me
back into the narrow way... **Refrain**

Faint was I, and fears possessed me,
bruised was I from many a fall,
hope was gone, and shame distressed me:
but his love has pardoned all... **Refrain**

Days of darkness still may meet me,
sorrow's paths I oft may tread;
but his presence still is with me,
by his guiding hand I'm led... **Refrain**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.

You anointed him as Messiah,
the light of the nations,
and revealed him as the hope
of all who thirst for righteousness and peace.

By his death on the cross
and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
with Saint Paul and all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

And now we thank you
for these gifts of bread and wine;
may we who receive them,
as Jesus said,
share his body and his blood.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread
and gave you thanks.
He broke the bread and gave it to his friends, and said,
'Take and eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup
and gave you thanks.
He shared the cup with them and said,
'This is my blood poured out
so that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

You have gathered us together
to feed on Christ
and to remember all he has done for us:
Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory.

Fill us with your Spirit
that we may follow Jesus
in all we do and say,
working for justice and bringing your peace
to this world that you have made.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

Come, let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ
in remembrance that he died for us,
and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*All baptised believers in the Lord Jesus Christ
including children at their parents' discretion
are welcome to join us at the Lord's Table.*

Gluten free wafers are available on request.

*If you prefer an individual cup of grape juice,
simply decline the common cup of wine when it is offered to you.*

During Communion

Give me Jesus

Spencer Chapman (Tenor)

Spiritual arr. L. Anderson

1. *In the morning when I rise, Give me Jesus.*

Refrain: *Give me Jesus, Give me Jesus,*
You can have all this world, Give me Jesus.

2. *And when I am alone, Give me Jesus.* *Refrain*

3. *And when I come to die, Give me Jesus.* *Refrain*

After Communion

Canon Matt Williams

Father of all

we give you thanks and praise
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.

Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.

May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.

Keep us in this hope that we have grasped;
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name.

Notices

Canon Matt Williams

**O thou who camest from above
the pure celestial fire to impart,
kindle a flame of sacred love
on the mean altar of my heart.**

**There let it for thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze
and trembling to its source return,
in humble prayer and fervent praise.**

**Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work, and speak, and think for thee;
still let me guard the holy fire,
and still stir up thy gift in me,**

**Ready for all thy perfect will,
my acts of faith and love repeat,
till death thy endless mercies seal,
and make the sacrifice complete.**

Blessing & Dismissal***Canon Matt Williams***

May Christ the Son of God be manifest to you,
that your lives may be a light to the world;
And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Recessional***David Brown (Organ)***

PLEASE STAY FOR MORNING TEA
IN THE CONFERENCE CENTRE NEXT DOOR
AFTER THE SERVICE

Instead of collecting offertories during the service, we gratefully receive offerings made at the exit, where a tap and go facility is provided. Bank transfers may be directed to:

St James' Old Cathedral

BSB: 013 377

Acc. No.: 008 684 064

Tax deductible giving to support our music program is also possible through the St James' Gift Fund:

Melbourne West ITF Gift Fund

BSB: 013 377

Acc. No.: 526 890 909

National Trust Appeal: Roof Replacement

In 2010 a Heritage Review identified the replacement of our slate roof as an urgent work for the next two years.

We have not been able to fund this, and have continued to tolerate regular leaks in the rain, which are damaging other parts of the church in turn.

Parish Council and the National Trust have authorised an appeal. **We are seeking to raise \$500,000** for the full replacement of the slate roof and the restoration of other things which are urgent or best done at the same time. We have engaged Extent Heritage to guide this process and optimise outcomes.

Just before Tony died, Tony and Wendy Greenwood donated the first \$200,000 to this appeal. They hoped to inspire others.

Donations through the National Trust are Tax Deductible. The National Trust take an 8% administration fee.

Please direct Tax Deductible Donations to:

National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

BSB: 033000

Account number: 937419

Description: St James Old Cathedral

Please follow up any donations with an email to both accounts@nattrust.com.au and office@sjoc.org.au so that we can track donations.

Should we raise more than is needed for urgent works, we are approved to use donations to repay the outstanding loan for the 2011 Tower Restoration.

St James' Old Cathedral

Commitment to Child Safety

Jesus said:

“Anyone who welcomes a little child in my name welcomes me. But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to stumble – it would be better for him if a heavy millstone were hung around his neck and he were drowned in the depths of the sea.”

Matthew 18:5-6

As we meet together to worship God,
we seek to honour him by the diligent protection of children.

We are committed to creating a culture of safety for all,
and undergoing regular training to do so.

We seek to normalise routine submission
to Police Checks and Working With Children Checks
for all members of the community.

If anyone sees any behaviour
related to child safety that strikes them as odd,
they should not investigate the matter themselves,
but call the independent Professional Standards Hotline
(Kooyoora Ltd) for expert guidance:

1800 135 246

or our local police (313 Spencer Street, Docklands):

03 8690 4444

Child Safe Culture Principle of the Week

2. Kooyoora is your friend.

If you become aware of current child abuse, please call the police.

Our local police are on 03 8690 4444.

But lots of other situations are more grey areas. You might be unsure whether escalation is warranted, or feel out of your depth reading a situation, and you know you shouldn't investigate (principle 3). You may observe behaviour in church workers or volunteers which is not illegal but sits outside of our code of conduct, Faithfulness in Service. You may want to make the church aware of something without making a statement to the police. Or you may want professional support to make a police report.

For all these times, Kooyoora Ltd is your friend.

Kooyoora is a fully independent standards body funded by the Anglican church. It is staffed by professionals able to record your concerns and collate them with any other reports they may have. They can undertake investigations and liaise carefully with police to ensure they do not compromise any police investigations.

It is never the wrong thing to call Kooyoora and relate a concern.

You can call Kooyoora on 1800 135 246.

1. Insist on two unrelated adults

3. Don't look into it.

4. Make grooming look odd.

5. Make allies not accusations.

6. Do paperwork with thanksgiving!

Intercessions

We pray for: Our West Melbourne Community; Haileybury College; Mike Raiter and The Centre for Biblical Preaching; Emma Payne (CMS); Chris & Sarah Griffioen and family (OM); Australian Indigenous Churches; Ridley College; Trinity College; the Overseas Chinese Christian Church; Janette Wells; Neil; Diane and Roger Smith and family; Beverly Stephenson; Sergio Altin; The Hamilton Family; Jean Ely; Neil Hawthorn; Lorraine Hedley; Jamie Chisholm; Stuart; Jenny Swain; Kim Boulton; Tony Billington; Ken McAlpine; Anne Ellison; Faye Moses; Gillian Williams; Mavis Payne; Lisa Thompson; Warren Mills; Chris & Roselee Jones; Wendy Greenwood; those who mourn Amodha Ratnayeke; Sharon Goldby.

Notices

- Parish Council meets today at 12pm.
- Youth Group returns this Friday January 30th at 7pm.
- A new Tuesday night dinner & bible study group will begin at Canon Matt's house from February 17th: 96 Roden Street, West Melbourne.
- Zoom prayer services will return from January 27th.
- Our National Trust fundraiser is up to \$262,000 – past half way!
Thank you to those who have given so generously.

Contact Details

Vicar:	Rev. Canon Matt Williams	0403 770 867
Associate Minister:	Rev. Mike Raiter	0425 211 058
Lay Minister:	Ms. Bei-En Zou	0434 899 839
Student Minister:	Ms. Bridget Chapman	0406 320 940
On-Site Manager:	Ms. Lisa Wardell	0417 624 915
Child Safety Officer:	Ms. Una Ebsworth	0400 717 571
Churchwardens:		
Mr David Spriggs		0417 190 319
Ms Elizabeth Blades-Hamilton		0423 100 677
Mr Andrew Watkins		0451 128 788

www.sjoc.org.au