

Universal Prayer

26 July 2026

Presider: *Trusting in God, who works all things together for good for those who love him, let us bring our needs and the needs of our world before the Lord.*

1. **For all leaders in the Church:** that they may be scribes of the Kingdom, drawing from their storeroom things both new and old, and preaching with wisdom, courage, and joy.
[pause] We pray to the Lord.
2. **For our grandparents and the elderly:** especially those in nursing homes and those who are lonely. May they know that they are not forgotten, but treasured by God and by this community.
[pause] We pray to the Lord.
3. **For nations enduring war, poverty, and displacement:** that leaders may seek the wisdom and understanding to do what is just and right.
[pause] We pray to the Lord.
4. **For our local community:** that they may find in this community a place where the Kingdom of God is real, tangible, and near.
[pause] We pray to the Lord.
5. **For all who have died:** especially those we remember in our hearts today — that God, who called them and justified them, may bring them now to glory, as St Paul promises. May they rest in the treasure they sought.
[pause] We pray to the Lord.

Presider: *Gracious God, you have planted the treasure of your Kingdom in the field of our ordinary lives. Hear the prayers we offer with faith, and draw us ever deeper into the joy of belonging entirely to you.*
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

[At the end of Mass]

Thank you to everyone who arrived early today to help us be a single body united in prayer from the very beginning. It makes such a difference to our whole community and celebration together. So, thank you!

Community Greeter | 26 July 2026 (Sunday 17)

Welcome everyone to St John's, as we gather on the lands of the Dharawal people.

- My name is _____
- Our celebrant is Fr John | Fr Richard
- Today Jesus offers us the treasure of the Kingdom —
let us gather with open, listening hearts, ready to find him afresh.

We welcome **every guest** today, especially if you are new.

We are so glad that you are here with us!

✎ 1. If there is Music: ✎

Let us stand and prepare ourselves as one body as together we sing:

✎ or 2. If no Music: ✎

Let us be united as one body as we stand and pray the entrance antiphon together:

God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house;
he himself gives might and strength to his people.

Penitential Act [Priest]

Before we celebrate in the love of the God who is always calling and inviting us,
let us pause and acknowledge our need for healing and life. *[All pause for silent prayer.]*

- Lord Jesus, you are the treasure hidden in the field of our daily lives:
Lord, have mercy.
- Christ Jesus, you bring peace to our restless and searching hearts:
Christ, have mercy.
- Lord Jesus, you are the wisdom we long for in our confusion: Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,
and lead us to the life of the age to come. Amen.