

Universal Prayer

16 August 2026

Presider: *God's house is a house of prayer for all peoples. With confidence in his boundless mercy, let us bring our needs and the needs of our world before him.*

1. **For our leaders:** that they may lead the Church with courage and openness, continually widening the circle of Christ's welcome.
[pause] We pray to the Lord.
2. **For world leaders and civic authorities:** that they may work tirelessly to dismantle discrimination, promote peace, and protect the dignity of every human person, especially refugees and migrants. [pause] We pray to the Lord.
3. **For our local community:** that our neighbourhoods may be places of hospitality, safety, and mutual respect among all cultures.
[pause] We pray to the Lord.
4. **For those who feel excluded, unworthy, or far from God:** that through the warmth of our parish community, they may encounter the loving face of Jesus.
[pause] We pray to the Lord.
5. **For an increase in vocations:** that young people will answer the Lord's call to serve. [pause] We pray to the Lord.
6. **For all who have died,** especially those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: that they may know eternal life.
[pause] We pray to the Lord.

Presider: *O God, creator and ruler of all nations, hear the prayers of your faithful people. Grant us the persistent faith of the Canaanite woman, that we may always trust in your saving grace. We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

[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 | 16 August 2026 (Sunday 20)

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
- God's grace knows no boundaries,
drawing every culture, language, and heart into his loving embrace.

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:

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one;
one day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

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 open door in our locked hearts: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you bring peace to the stranger and the outsider: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the mercy of God in our brokenness: 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.