



Week 7

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Song
- Bible Readings: Matthew 14:13-21 & Psalm 145
- Sermon
- Vision Spot
- Prayers
- Song
- Conclusion

Most St Stephen's collection is received electronically.
BSB: 062 272
Account Number: 00490436

If you are a visitor please don't feel obliged to contribute financially.

Sunday 15 March 2026

Our 9:30am service is live streamed to our YouTube and Facebook Channels.

Welcome! We're glad you're with us as we continue our series 'Learning to Pray Like Jesus'. Our hope throughout this term has been simple but bold—that we would be supercharged in our prayer lives as we learn to depend on God more deeply.



Connect Card

This week we're thinking about the relationship between our material needs and prayer. In Matthew 14, Jesus feeds the crowd with just a few loaves and fish, reminding us that God sees our needs and delights to provide. Psalm 145 echoes that confidence: "You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing."

Prayer invites us to bring our real, everyday needs to our generous Father. As we do, He grows our trust in Him and our care for one another.

We long to be a church made beautiful, diverse and large by the gracious work of Christ—a community that depends on God together and reflects His generosity in the world.

Next Steps

Are you new? We would love to meet you. Hear a brief intro on the life of our church at our next [Newish Morning Tea](#) on 22 February. It runs for ½ an hour straight after the service.

Been regularly coming? If you are a regular member of our church, we encourage you to attend our next [Belonging Course](#) which runs on 1 March from 12-3pm. Belonging is the gateway to our GaP Groups, serving and deeper connection with the community. Or if you'd like to learn more at another time, you can arrange a coffee with Prash or Jill. Simply reach out – they'd love to chat.

Prayers for the Service

These prayers are used during the service. Prayer is a privilege we are given because Christ died for us. His death & resurrection means we can confidently approach God seeking forgiveness (Hebrews 10:22). If you believe that Christ died to deal with your failings then you should be confident to pray with us. If you are still exploring who Christ is then feel free to listen in.

A Prayer of Confession

Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Words of Assurance

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

The Lord's Prayer

This is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray (Matthew 6:5-14).

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
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever
Amen.

Sermon Notes

Material Needs, Generosity and Prayer

Matthew 14:13-21 & Psalm 145

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

- Lacking things
- Finding true riches
- Experiencing generosity

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

Discuss together

What's something you love so much you find yourself recommending it to others? Why do you think humans naturally praise things we find amazing?

Going deep in God's Word

Read Psalm 145

1. From the psalm, fill out the mind-map below with all the reasons in the psalm why the LORD is worthy of praise.

WHY THE LORD IS WORTHY OF PRAISE

2. How does this context of (v. 15-35) shed light on what Jesus says in verse 19 and 20? How does this challenge your natural posture towards church community and relationships?

Read Matthew 14:13-24

3. How does Jesus bless/praise/acknowledge His Father in this passage? And how does He show Himself to be praiseworthy as God Himself?

Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

In light of God's word, reflect and pray together using the following questions as aids:

1. What characteristic of God in our passages brought you most joy and gladness?

1. In what ways can you more incorporate praise into your daily life? What could help you cultivate a heart of praise for God everyday?

Spend time with God each day!

As we go through Matthew on Sundays, we want to help you spend time with God each day. The Psalms are song-prayers about Jesus. He prayed these words as a man, and they speak about Him as the Messiah, the Son of David.

Use these questions to guide your reflection and prayer:

1. What stands out to you about Jesus when you imagine Him praying this Psalm on earth?

2. What does this Psalm show you about God your Father?

3. How can the Spirit use this Psalm to shape your prayers now?

- what you confess to God,
- what you thank Him for,
- what you ask Him for

Monday - [Psalm 36](#)

Tuesday - [Psalm 37](#)

Wednesday - [Psalm 38](#)

Thursday - [Psalm 39](#)

Friday - [Psalm 40](#)

Notices

Alpha - What is it & who is it for?

A poster for the Alpha course. At the top, the word 'explore' is in large white letters, followed by 'life faith meaning' in red. A red Alpha logo is on the right. The background shows a person with a backpack walking towards a sunset over mountains. Text in the center says 'COME & SEE MONDAYS 7-9PM at St Stephen's Willoughby FREE DINNER INCLUDED!'. A QR code is on the right. At the bottom, a list of topics and dates is provided: Mon 23 Feb (Lunar New Year Banquet) 'Is there more to life?', Mon 2 Mar 'Who is Jesus?', Mon 9 Mar 'Why did Jesus die?', Mon 16 Mar 'How can I have faith?', Mon 23 Mar 'Why & how do I pray?', and Mon 30 Mar 'How do I read the Bible?'. The St Stephen's Willoughby logo and 'TryAlpha' text are at the bottom.

The Alpha course continues after the Lunar New Year Banquet on every Monday night in March.

Our prayer is that many guests who come to the banquet will be curious and open to discovering for themselves the life that Jesus offers.

The Alpha course walks through the basics of the Christian faith in a warm, welcoming space for honest questions.

No prior experience nor knowledge needed.

It's free, includes dinner and drinks.

Who could you bring along?

Big Day Out

One week to go! Please can you help the team out by registering so we can finalise catering. If you are on the fence about coming - take the leap and experience the green grass of church community. If finances are an issue - please talk to Prash who can sort out a solution.

A colorful poster for the 'Morning Church Big Day Out'. The title is in large, bold, yellow letters with blue outlines. Below it, the text says 'Join us on Saturday 21st March 10am-7pm St Faith's Narrabeen'. A guest speaker, Chris Edwards, is mentioned. A QR code is at the bottom left. The right side of the poster features four circular photos: two elderly women sitting, a group of people on a slide, a group of people at a table, and two young girls smiling.

Notices

SRE

Each week we have the wonderful privilege of teaching 158 students about Jesus through SRE at Willoughby Public School. Many of these children don't come from Christian homes.

Recently, one student came to our Christmas service for the very first time after being invited by their SRE teacher—what a joy to see that step!

Please pray that God would be working in these students' hearts as they hear the Bible, and that 8 SRE families might join us at church this Easter.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Every year we hold our Annual General Meeting on the final Monday of March. If you are baptised and have been attending our church for 3 months or more you are entitled to attend and vote. Come hear about the ministry, needs and opportunities that lie ahead for 2026/27. We will be considering such things as the church refurbishment, new staffing, office holders and plans for the year ahead - Monday 30 March at 7:30pm in the Church.

Easter - Save The Date

This year our Easter celebrations are earlier - the 1st weekend in April. We kick off with an organ concert helping us remember the night of Jesus's arrest on Maundy Thursday (2 April). This is a night that is designed for visitors who would like to taste Christianity without committing. We will have a light meal after.

Good Friday will be marked by a 9:30 Service and Easter Day will have our usual Sunday Services. Please pray for many many guests.



What's Coming Up

16, 23, 30 March	Alpha Course
21 March	Big Day Out
29 March	Newish Morning Tea
2 April	Maundy Thursday
3 April	Good Friday
5 April	Easter Sunday

For more on what's happening this summer at St Stephen's, visit
st-stephens.com.au/summer

Our Staff - Contact Us!



Prashanth Colombage
Senior Minister & Sunday Services
M: 0432 314 466
E: prash@st-stephens.com.au



Gordon Luk
Outreach & GaP Groups
E: gordon@st-stephens.com.au



Pippie Krebs
Kids & Youth Minister & Training
E: pippie@st-stephens.com.au



Jill Chilton
Membership Minister
E: jill@st-stephens.com.au



Danielle Smith
Off-site Administrator
E: office@st-stephens.com.au