

God's Church

Sermons on the book of Ephesians



Week 1

Sunday 11 October 2026

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Spotlight
- Prayer for children
- Song
- Bible Reading:
Ephesians 1:1-14
(p.1173)
- Sermon
- Song
- Confession &
Assurance
- Prayers
- Vision Spot
- Song
- Closing Prayer

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.

Welcome to St Stephen's! It's great to have you with us as we begin our new series in Ephesians: God's Church.



Connect Card

We often think of being “blessed” in terms of the things that are going well — family, health, work, friendships or opportunities. But Ephesians begins somewhere much deeper. Paul says that, in Christ, God has already blessed his people “with every spiritual blessing.” Before we have done anything for God, he has chosen, adopted, forgiven and redeemed us through Jesus. That changes how we see ourselves — and how we see the church. The church isn't primarily a collection of people who have got life together. It is a people gathered by God's extraordinary grace.

As we begin Ephesians, our hope is that we'll see afresh just how much God has given us in Christ — and become a church increasingly shaped by wonder, gratitude and praise.

Next Steps

Are you new? Catch up with Prash or Jill to share your story and hear about St Stephen's church life.

Been regularly coming? If you are a regular member of our church, we encourage you to attend our next [Belonging Course](#) which runs on November 22 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 sooner, you may also like to arrange a coffee with Prash or Jill. Simply reach out – they'd love to chat.

Prayers for the Service

Prayer is a privilege we have because of Christ's death and resurrection. Through him, we can confidently approach God for forgiveness (Hebrews 10:22). If you trust in Christ, please pray with us. If you are still exploring who Jesus is, feel free to listen in.

A Prayer of Confession

Heavenly Father,
we praise you for adopting us as your children
and making us heirs of eternal life.
In your mercy you have washed us from our sins
and made us clean in your sight.
Yet we still fail to love you as we should
and serve you as we ought.
Forgive us our sins and renew us by your grace,
that we may continue to grow as members of Christ,
in whom alone is our salvation. Amen.

Words of Assurance

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

Ephesians 1:7

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.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, you have blessed us in your Son
and sealed us with your Holy Spirit: give us thankful hearts,
that we may rest in your redeeming love and live to the praise of your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sermon Notes

The Blessed Church | Ephesians 1:1-14

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

The Blessings

The Response

The Help

Going Deeper During The Week

Opening Reflection

What was something you enjoyed, learned, or were challenged by from Sunday's sermon?

Going deep in God's Word

Read the passage from Sunday

1. What stands out to you in this passage? (ie. Are there any repeated words, surprising details, commands, promises, or questions that feel significant?)
2. Try to break down the passage into different sections.
3. What would be missing if we didn't have this passage in the Bible? What does it reveal about who God is and who we are?
4. What aspect of the gospel is shown and magnified by this passage? How does this passage make you delight in and worship your Lord Jesus?

🙏 Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

In light of this passage, reflect and pray using the ACTS framework as your guide.

1. **Adoration** – what is something from this passage that makes you praise God?

2. **Confession** – has the Spirit convicted you of a particular sin that you need to confess to God and ask for His forgiveness?

3. **Thanksgiving** – what are all the things you can give thanks to God for that this passage has shown to you?

4. **Supplication** (eg. Asking) - what is something you can ask God to help you in or give you?

Read the Bible with us!

After reading each passage, use ACTS framework to help you listen carefully to God's Word and respond to Him in prayer:

1. Adoration: What does this passage show you about God? Praise him for it.
2. Confession: Where does it challenge your thoughts or actions? Bring that honestly to God.
3. Thanksgiving: What comfort, promise or gift can you thank God for that He has shown you in this passage?
4. Supplication: What help do you need to live out what you've read today? Ask God for it

Monday – [Ephesians 1:1-10](#)
Tuesday – [Ephesians 1:11-14](#)
Wednesday – [Ephesians 1:15-23](#)
Thursday – [Ephesians 2:1-10](#)
Friday – [Ephesians 2:11-22](#)

Notices

Prayer Week: Come Pray With Us

Come pray with us please! With the appointment of Tim Young we need prayer! We are taking a big step and need the Lord's blessing and leadership. We hope every member will come pray with us this week.

Week Of Prayer

Praying for our friends
to come to know **Christ**

— 12 - 16 OCTOBER —

MONDAY - THURSDAY	FRIDAY
7:30 - 8:30 PM	1 - 2 PM



Carols - Save the Date (5 December)

Carols is back on again this year. It will be held on Saturday 5 December. Please put the date in your diary and start praying for people to invite. We hope over 500 people will join us. We have made significant changes to the day to reduce serving workload and free people up to invite. We have also chosen new items to bring a fresh flavour to the Carols.



CAROLS

on the grass

211 Mowbray Road, Willoughby

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday 5 December
4:30pm until 8pm

A wonderful afternoon and evening for the whole community



TWILIGHT
MARKETS



CHRISTMAS
CAROLS



KIDS
ACTIVITIES



FOOD
TRUCKS



PETTING
ZOO



AND
MORE!

Notices

Ministry Fair

A growing church needs gospel minded, courageous leaders. Ministry to the lost, the young, the seeking must be done by the whole of Christ's church. Come with a heart ready to serve and see what God leads you to do in 2027.



A New Step in 2027

Estimated weekly church participation

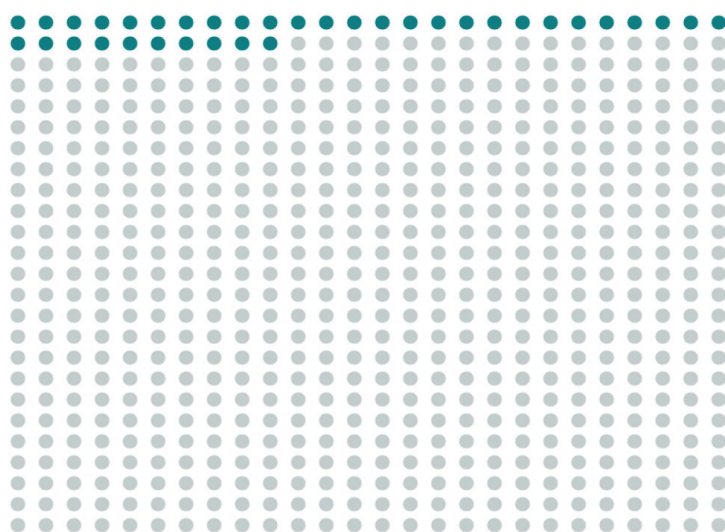
A state-rate illustration applied to our neighbourhood

61,400

not attending that week

3,600

attending that week



● Attending ● Not attending that week

Each dot represents 100 residents; dots are rounded.

5.5% weekly attendance benchmark: NSW/ACT, 2024.

Covers all Christian churches, including Catholic churches.

Not a measured local rate or a measure of saving faith.

Recently we announced the appointment of Rev. Tim Young to a new role: Membership & Youth Ministry. Tim will start in January 2027. The new role will cost our church an additional \$140k per year.

We estimate less than 5% of the surrounding 65k people go attend church on a Sunday. We pray God might grow our Youth Ministry and Sunday Congregations over the coming 4 years. Please commit Tim and his family, our ministry and God's work in our area to prayer.

What's Coming Up

12 - 16 October Week of Prayer

12 October Come and See

13 October Crafternoon

15 October Encounter

16-17 October Youth Sleepover

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

Our Staff - Contact Us!



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