

St Mark's Northbridge Week of Prayer and Fasting 2024 Prayer Points

Sunday Services

- Give thanks for the freedom we have to meet each week. Help us to make the most of our Sunday meetings by listening attentively, singing joyfully, praying earnestly and aiming to encourage one another in conversation.
- Pray that the Word of Christ would dwell in us richly. Pray especially for faithfulness and hard work on the part of those who preach.
- Give thanks for all who serve so faithfully in so many ways on Sundays. Pray that they might experience the blessing of serving, and ask that they might be sustained in their service throughout 2024.
- Ask that God would send visitors to our church, who become grafted into our church family because of our gospel witness, our warm welcome and generous hospitality.

Home Groups

- Give thanks for those who have signed up to join a Home Group this year. Pray that group members would be committed contributors to group life.
- Give thanks for those who faithfully lead, and graciously host groups. Ask that God would sustain them in preparation and leadership.
- Pray that all the groups would be characterised by rich learning, warm laughter, fervent prayer and most importantly, gospel growth.

Kids Church / Minis

- Pray that our children have a deepening knowledge of God's love, Jesus' salvation and the Spirit's presence with them, as they learn together in Kids Church and at home.
- Give thanks for the team of leaders who serve each week. Pray that they will be diligent in preparation, teaching and their love for the children.
- Pray for the Minis children, and for the Minis team. Pray that the team will know how to love these littlest ones and support their parents, and that more families and kids would join the Minis ministry.

Alive Youth

- Pray that the Alive group will have great gospel-centred gatherings each Friday night. Pray that the young people grow in their knowledge and love of Jesus and their desire to follow him wholeheartedly.
- Give thanks to God for raising up the team of Alive leaders, and for Pat and Issy as they lead the team (and ministry). Pray that the leaders would love and serve the kids graciously, and teach the Bible skilfully, truthfully and creatively.
- Pray that lots of new youth will come to Alive this year. Pray that group members will have courage to invite their friends, for everyone to give visitors a warm welcome and for kids to join the group and give themselves to following Jesus.

Outreach

- Pray for our outreach initiatives, especially the Alpha Course which we're running for the first time this term. Pray also for Open House and other services and events, that they will be useful and truthful ways to share the grace and truth of Jesus.
- Pray that each of us would be making connections with people who don't know Jesus, and would be generous in our friendship and bold in our speaking and inviting.
- Pray that 2024 would see a good number of people turn to Christ through our outreach initiatives.

St Mark's Preschool

- Pray that new kids enrolled in the Preschool would settle in quickly, and that new families would feel a part of the community. Pray that the staff and families have a happy partnership.
- Pray for ongoing good working relationship between the Preschool and Church, that the Preschool Management Committee would be an efficient and effective expression of this partnership, and that Preschool families would join our church.
- Thank God that we can teach the kids Bible stories each week, and that Bible Time would be a fun way for kids to learn about the love of God for them.

Mainly Music

- Pray for the Mainly Music ministry, and for wisdom for Brenda Leslie and the other leaders who run the ministry.
- Pray that families who have previously attended Mainly Music would return, and pray that new families will join and feel included.
- Pray that the children who come along to Mainly Music will have a fun time, and that there will be a friendly and relaxed atmosphere for the parents and carers. Pray for the opportunity to have gospel-seasoned conversations, and for deepening ties between the church and families from the community through this ministry.

Scripture (SRE)/SUPA at Northbridge Public School

- Pray that parents will send their children to Scripture and that SRE will continue to be supported by legislation.
- Give thanks for our team of Scripture teachers led by Sue Sheldon, and pray that the SRE conference will inspire and encourage them.
- Pray for a smooth start to classes, especially with an early Easter this year. Pray that these will be engaging presentations of the gospel, and that students will deepen in their understanding of God's love and Jesus' salvation.
- Pray for the SRE teachers' relationships with the students, and with the classroom teachers, who also hear the lesson each week.
- Pray that the lunchtime SUPA group that Pat runs will be a great way for kids to learn about Jesus, but will also forge connections between students and our church & Alive youth group.

Parish Council, wardens & overseers

- Give thanks for our Wardens (Brenda, David and Robert) and our Parish Councillors (Chris, Jo, Carol and Lachie) as they make decisions concerning the direction and stewardship of our church's resources.
- Pray for our Overseers (Ben, Ian, Ray and Andre) as they provide guidance on matters of ministry and pastoral leadership to our congregations.
- Pray that our wardens, parish councillors and overseers work well together, and serve with godliness, diligence and unity.

Property and finances

- Thank God for the site that we have, which enables our worship gatherings, and space for other groups to benefit from.
- Ask God to help us to use our resources as wisely and efficiently as possible, for the spread of the gospel and the good of all. Especially help us to move forward quickly with property maintenance and improvement projects.
- Ask God to supply all that we need for our ministry and mission. Equally, pray that we would all be generous with our money, so that our church can continue to encourage us to follow Jesus wholeheartedly and hold out a gospel light to a Northbridge that needs to know him.

Staff

- Pray for Scott as he provides oversight of all St Mark's ministry. Ask God to protect him from temptation, folly and weariness as he seeks to keep our vision before us, to lead and teach us, to lead the staff team, the Parish Council and the Preschool Management Committee, and all the daily operations of the church.
- Pray for Pat as he does so much ministry among us, from leading the Alive youth group, to preaching and teaching people of all ages, helping pull our services together, and providing pastoral input on many fronts.
- Pray for Kathy as she undertakes much ministry with women across the church, helps with Pathways and Mainly Music ministries, and provides pastoral care and administrative support to St Mark's.
- Pray for Steph as she energetically leads and coordinates our ministry to children at church and the Preschool, as she trains our kids ministry teams and meets up with families.
- Pray for Tally as she commences the second year of her traineeship at St Mark's. Pray that she would be able to build upon the learnings of her first year, and grow in skills and Christian character.
- Pray for Anne as she provides so much useful support to the staff and volunteers of our church.
- Pray that the whole staff team would continue to work well together, collaborating and assisting one another, to the glory of God.