



## Christian Rights and Redemption in India

In some parts of India, people who convert from Hinduism to Christianity are often called 'Rice Bags.' The derogatory comment implies that it is only because of Christian food distribution that the person changed their religion. But many Indian Christians point to two areas of teaching which are far more significant – rights and redemption.

The first contrast is probably better put under the heading of anthropology—what does it mean to be human—though the day-to-day outworking can be observed in the area of rights. As opposed to a Hindu system of karma (cause and effect), dharma (religion), and samsara (reincarnation) whereby rigid hierarchies of society are reinforced as outcomes of good or bad behaviour in past lives, and some people are considered less than human; Christianity teaches that all people are made in the image of God. This doctrine completely transforms one's self-conception and self-worth. It also changes how we think of and treat one another, for every person is created in God's likeness. Christianity forms the basis for giving certain rights to all people.

The second contrast is in the area of redemption. In Hinduism, offerings and extreme practices by some gurus are needed to get the attention of the gods. Furthermore, atonement is self-directed and administered until a person has peace of mind—which may never come. Christianity teaches that we don't need to grab God's ear for our prayers, nor can we atone for our sins. Rather, in love, God has reached out to all of us, sending Christ to die and rise for our salvation, and declares that he loves to hear our prayers.

Christianity in India reportedly extends back to the 1st century with the apostle Thomas. With certainty we know that churches were present in the 6th century. God's love and concern for Indians is ever present, and even today he draws Indians to himself from all castes.

- Sam Pursell

# Church News

## Church Member Directory & Photos

We will be producing a new hard copy Church Member Directory soon.

Please head to [bit.ly/3AfPtYX](https://bit.ly/3AfPtYX) to update your details or check the printed copy available on the welcome desk.

Over the next couple of weeks, Val will also be taking photos for the online directory (Elvanto). Please let her know if you do not wish to have your photo taken.

## Southern Cross Magazine

The latest issue of Southern Cross is available online at [magazine.sydneyanglicans.net](https://magazine.sydneyanglicans.net) or you can pick up a copy at the welcoming desk.

## Birthdays

22<sup>nd</sup> Angela Pursell

26<sup>th</sup> Zacharie Firley

## Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our AGM will be held on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March** after the morning service, at 11am in the church.

We will be electing representatives for Wardens, Parish Council, Synod Representatives & Parish Nominators.

**Note:** Wardens & Parish Councillors seeking election are required to have **completed Safe Ministry training**.

A pot-luck lunch will be held afterwards - please see sign-up sheet for details.



## Give Electronically

### BANK DETAILS

**Name:** Oak Flats Anglican

**BSB:** 633 000

**Account:** 164 385 841

## Serving Roster

*Saturday*

**28<sup>th</sup> February**

**Cleaning:**

P & C Pratt/R Hannam

**Mowing:**

J Klasson/A Peters

*Sunday*

**22<sup>nd</sup> February**

**Welcomer:**

E & R Stanojevic

**Bible Reader:**

J Evans

**Prayer Leader:**

D Young

**Morning Tea:**

P Forrester/B Irwin

**MT Clean Up:**

A Peters

**Kids Church:**

V O'Regan

**1<sup>st</sup> March**

A Kerr & V O'Regan

H Mills

M Peters

C Bonnici/R Hannam

P Pratt

R Slocombe

*Luke's Gospel*

# **Receive the kingdom like a child**

**Luke 18:15-17**

**Sam Pursell • 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026**

1. Do not hinder children from God's kingdom (v. 15-16)

2. You must receive the kingdom like a child (v. 17)

***Next Sunday...***

*'The impossibility of self-salvation'* • Sam Pursell • Readings: Isaiah 55:1-7 & Luke 18:18-30

# Information about our Church

## Your kids are welcome

Children are welcome to stay with you during church. Kids church starts roughly 15 mins into the service (during school terms).

## Check out our bookstall

View our quality selection of Christian books for sale at the bookstall located at the rear of the church.

## Join a Bible study group

Our midweek Bible study groups are great for connecting with others. To join a group, contact the office.

## We are filming church

For those unable to attend, we are streaming and recording video at [live.oakflatsanglican.com](http://live.oakflatsanglican.com). You may be filmed.

## Kids and Youth programs

In school terms, we offer a range of midweek programs for toddlers, children and youth.

## Weekly prayer meeting

*Saturday, 7:30am (online via Zoom)*

A time to share, to encourage, and to pray for one another. Come join us and experience and power of prayer!

Contact Geoff Kyngdon for details.



*Scan for the online 'Contact Us' form*

35 Fisher Street, Oak Flats NSW 2529

**Phone:** 4256 6464 **Email:** [office@oakflatsanglican.com](mailto:office@oakflatsanglican.com)

**Website:** [oakflatsanglican.com](http://oakflatsanglican.com) **Livestream:** [live.oakflatsanglican.com](http://live.oakflatsanglican.com)

**Elvanto member website:** [oakflatsanglican.elvanto.com.au](http://oakflatsanglican.elvanto.com.au)

**Minister:** Rev Sam Pursell - 0417 711 314 - [sam.pursell@oakflatsanglican.com](mailto:sam.pursell@oakflatsanglican.com)

**Parish Administrator:** Valerie O'Regan - 0408 271 189 - [val.oregan@oakflatsanglican.com](mailto:val.oregan@oakflatsanglican.com)

**Office Hours:** Mon & Fri: 9am-5pm

**Wardens:** Geoff Kyngdon - 0417 044 565;  
Andy Peters - 0414 799 001; Ed Stanojevic - 0405 970 434

**Pastoral Care:** Rhonda Slocombe - 0400 679 703 - [rhonda.slocombe@oakflatsanglican.com](mailto:rhonda.slocombe@oakflatsanglican.com)

**Prayer Coordinator:** Geoff Kyngdon - 0417 044 565 - [geoff.kyngdon@oakflatsanglican.com](mailto:geoff.kyngdon@oakflatsanglican.com)

**Safe Ministry Representative:** Harley Mills - 0409 562 932 - [harley.mills@oakflatsanglican.com](mailto:harley.mills@oakflatsanglican.com)

# Prayers

## CURRENT PRAYERS

### Local Mission Endeavours

Give thanks for opportunities through Playmakers, Pantry, Kids Club & Refuge, Ladies Dinner & Craft, one-on-one ministry, the bookstall and SRE.

Pray for open hearts, faithful follow-up, and wisdom about new opportunities.

### Weekly Services

For services that are welcoming, orderly and centred on Christ.

Uphold Sam and others who preach.

Pray for visitors, fringe folk and newcomers.

### Our Leaders

Pray for Sam, Parish Council and Wardens - for unity and wisdom.

Uphold preparations for the AGM next month.

Ask God to raise up more willing servants.

### Our Families

For those facing financial, housing, schooling or health pressures.

Ask for generosity, hospitality, practical support and regular prayer in homes.

### One Another

Pray for encouragement, kindness, faithful devotions, and wisdom in life's challenges.

**People in need:** Carmen Bonnici, Bronwyn Clark, John & Olga Covetz, David & Jan Crook, Kevin & Ruth Eton, Barrie & Auriel Hadley, Robert & Raija Hannam, Pauline Kirby, Graeme & Marianne Krout, Pam Moore & family, Debbie Paget, O'Regan family, Merv & Nola Sercombe, Eileen Stokes, Allan Quinn, Helen Wagemans, John Wilson.

## REGULAR PRAYERS (Cycle 4 of 4)

### *Making Disciples of Jesus in Oak Flats*

#### Engage

That we would engage people from our community with the grace and love God has shown to us.

#### Evangelise

That we would share the good news about Jesus with all people and see conversion.

#### Establish

That we would teach people to know and obey Christ's teaching.

That we would be true friends with people in our church.

That we would love one another and support one another in life's challenges.

#### Equip

That we would raise up workers for the gospel harvest.

That we would train people to various ministry roles, giving them skills, encouragement and space to flourish.

#### Church members

Merv & Nola Sercombe

David & Rhonda Slocombe

Cynthea Smith

Ed & Resh Stanojevic

Josh, Ann, Emmy & Arthur Stavert