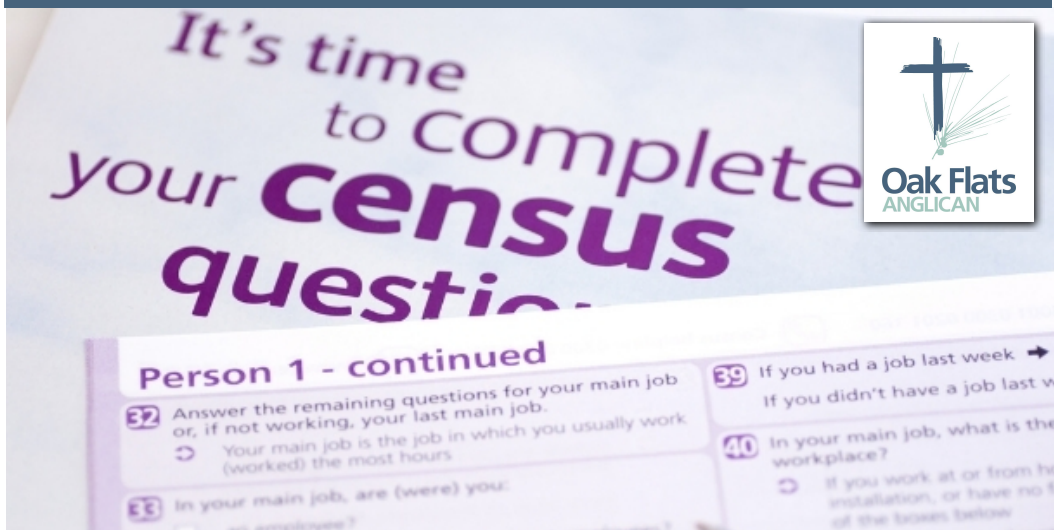




Census 2026 – Religion Question

There is a dedicated campaign (<https://censusnotreligious.org.au/>) to manipulate the census results by persuading people to not to tick one of the denomination / faith group labels on the census unless they are regular practicing members of that denomination or faith. This campaign misrepresents and distorts the intent of the religion question in the census.

According to ABS, the religion question is measuring religious **affiliation**, not religious **practice**. Religious affiliation is the faith group you associate with, even if that differs from your active practice or participation.

You can find out more in this special, short edition of The Pastor's Heart, featuring an interview with Bishop Stead and Mark McCrindle.

<https://www.thepastorsheart.net/podcast/filling-in-census-accurately>

As they explain in the video, the campaign also seeks to steer religious people away from ticking (in our case) the 'Anglican' box and instead writing in a generic label such as 'Christian'. The effect of this is to understate the 'Anglican' numbers in the census. This matters because the government uses census data to make decisions about policy and resourcing matters, including, for example, Chaplaincy funding, on the basis of this information.

It would be ideal if every person attending a Sydney Anglican Church indicated on the census that they are Anglicans. Theologically, of course, we prioritise our identity as Christians. We rightly consider that denomination is a secondary matter. But for the purposes of the census it is most helpful if people attending Anglican churches nominate Anglican, rather than inadvertently dilute this result by a non-specific indicator such as Christian.

In Christ,

Kanishka Raffel (Archbishop of Sydney)

Church News

Pot Luck Lunch

We are gathering together for a Hot Pot Lunch on **Sunday 16th August** after our morning service.
Please sign up to bring a plate of food to share.

Southern Cross Magazine

The latest issue of Southern Cross is available online or you can pick up a copy at the welcoming desk.

Birthdays

Anniversaries

Give Electronically

BANK DETAILS

Name: Oak Flats Anglican

BSB: 633 000

Account: 164 385 841

Serving Roster

Saturday	Sunday	9 th August	9 th August
15 th August	Welcomer:	A Bentink/P Forrester	R Eton & P Moore
Cleaning:	Bible Reader:	D Crook	D Young
D & J Orange/J Evans	Prayer Leader:	P Pratt	H Mills
Mowing:	Morning Tea:	R Hannam/M Klasson	B Irwin/A Kerr
N/A	MT Clean Up:	R Eton	D Orange
	Kids Church:	B Firley	M Klasson

2 Corinthians: Power in Weakness

The ministry of divine power

2 Corinthians 10:1-18

Sam Pursell • 9th August 2026

1. Tearing down pretensions, in Christlikeness (v. 1-6)

2. Building people up in the Lord Jesus (v. 7-11)

3. Boasting in the Lord, not ourselves (v. 12-18)

Next Sunday...

'Don't be led astray' • Sam Pursell • **Readings:** Matthew 7:15-20 & 2 Corinthians 11:1-15

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. 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

Website: oakflatsanglican.com **Livestream:** live.oakflatsanglican.com

Elvanto member website: oakflatsanglican.elvanto.com.au

Minister: Rev Sam Pursell - 0417 711 314 - sam.pursell@oakflatsanglican.com

Parish Administrator: Valerie O'Regan - 0408 271 189 - val.oregan@oakflatsanglican.com

Office Hours: Monday: 9:30am-5pm & Friday: 9:30am-3:30pm

Wardens: Dave Crook - 0404 337 502; Geoff Kyngdon - 0417 044 565;
Ed Stanojevic - 0405 970 434

Pastoral Care: Rhonda Slocombe - 0400 679 703 - rhonda.slocombe@oakflatsanglican.com

Prayer Coordinator: Geoff Kyngdon - 0417 044 565 - geoff.kyngdon@oakflatsanglican.com

Safe Ministry Representative: Harley Mills - 0409 562 932 - harley.mills@oakflatsanglican.com

Prayers

CURRENT PRAYERS

Our Church

All our ministries and volunteers.
Sunday services, preaching, welcoming,
follow-up and newcomers.
SRE, Playmakers, Pantry, youth ministry
planning for 2027, and the Year 6-7
transition.

The Persecuted Church

Safety, encouragement and endurance for
persecuted Christians.
Open doors for the gospel in places where
Christ is little known.

Our World

Peace and justice in the Middle East,
Ukraine and other conflict areas.
Those affected by Ebola, famine, poverty
and bird influenza.
Comfort for grieving families and hope for
vulnerable communities.

Our Nation

Australia's leaders & upcoming state
elections.
Communities facing drought and cost-of-
living pressures.

One Another

Those in ongoing need: Bronwyn Clark,
John Covetz, David & Jan Crook, Jeanette
Dunkeld, Kevin & Ruth Eton, Barrie &
Auriel Hadley, Robert & Raija Hannam,
Pauline Kirby, Lili Kovacevic, Graeme &
Marianne Krout, Pam Moore & family,
Debbie Paget, Phil Pratt, Merv & Nola
Sercombe, Cynthia Smith, Eileen Stokes,
Allan Quinn, John Wilson.
Growing faith, faithful prayer, and
encouragement for one another.

REGULAR PRAYERS (Cycle 3 of 4)

Church ministries

Kids Church, Kids Club, Playmakers
playgroup.
Youth ministry.
School Scripture (SRE).
Bible Study groups.
Pilates & Praise.
Anglicare Community Pantry.
Women's and Men's ministry.
Ministry to seniors.

Members unable to attend church

Those house-bound or living in nursing
homes including Margaret Abrahams, Lily
Lyddiard, Pat Pepper, Merv Sercombe.

Staff & Senior Leadership

Our Minister Sam Pursell, his wife Susan
and their kids Ed, Mary and Angela.
Valerie O'Regan (Parish Administrator).
Wardens and Parish Councillors.

Diocesan Leadership

Archbishop of Sydney, Kanishka Raffel.
Bishop of Wollongong, Peter Hayward.

Church members

Josh, Ann, Emmy & Arthur Stavert
Olga Stoilykovic
Eileen Stokes
Mary Straughan
Peter & Glenda Taylor