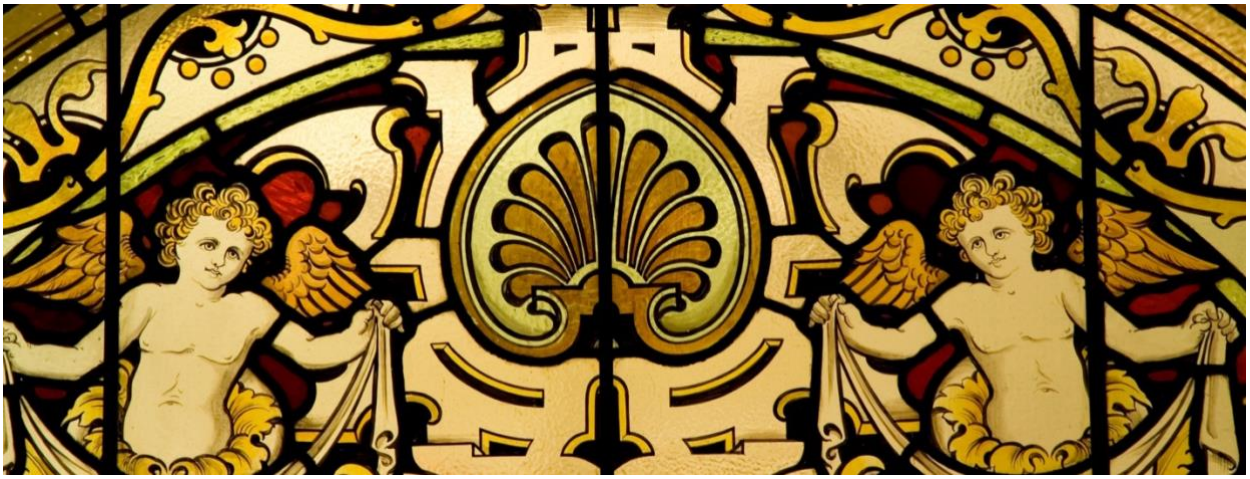

# St James' Institute

# 2026 Programme

The St James' Institute creates spaces for exploring faith, spirituality, and all matters of interest and concern to our community, the city, and the broader church. Part of St James' King Street, the oldest church in the City of Sydney, the Institute is a searching community in the heart of the city – a place of safety, diversity, curiosity, and dialogue.

## Lectures

*Evenings at St James' King Street, and streamed online*

**Who Is This? Seeing Jesus in the Gospel of Mark**
Thursday 19th February, 6:30–8pm
Dr Paula Gooder
Canon Chancellor, St Paul's Cathedral London

**A Manifesto for Biblically-Based Cultural Theory**
Wednesday 8th April, 7:30–9pm
Dr Christopher Watkin
Associate Professor of French Studies, Monash University

**The Seventh Sharwood Lecture in Church Law: Constitutional Anglicanism and the Synodal Governance Journey**
Wednesday 13th May, 7:15–9pm
The Most Rev'd Dr Philip Freier
Former Archbishop of Melbourne and Chancellor, Federation University

**The Austin James Public Lecture: Liturgy Under the Southern Cross**
Monday 28th September, 6–7:30pm
Rev'd Canon Aunty Di Langham
Inaugural Director of Reconciliation, Newcastle Anglican Diocese, and Secretary of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council. A collaboration with the Australian Academy of Liturgy.

ST JAMES' INSTITUTE

## Discussions and Debates

*Typically Thursday evenings, 6.30–8pm, St James' King Street, and streamed online*

**The Shape of Australian History**
Thursday 26th March, 6:30–8pm
Professor Mark McKenna (Australian National University) & Dr Jamie Dunk (St James')

**Passion for Nothing: Explorations in Negative Theology**
Thursday 25th June, 6:30–8pm
Professor Vrasidas Karalis (University of Sydney), Associate Professor Peter Kline (St Francis College) and Jonathna McKeown

**Indigenous Scholars–Imagining Christianity Without Dominance**
Sunday 12th July, 2–4pm, *Pitt Street Uniting Church* (and online)
Amy N. Allan (Choctaw & Cherokee; NAIITS) and Dr Naomi Wolfe (Trawlwoolway; ACU).
A collaboration with Pitt Street Uniting, the Eremos Institute, Wellspring Community & United Theological College, featuring the St James' Singers.

## Progress and Purpose

*A special series exploring profound problems for our world. Evenings at St James' King Street, and streamed online*

**Facing Climate Change**
Thursday 22nd October, 6:30–8pm
Rev'd Dr Andrew Errington
Rector, Newtown & Erskineville Anglican Church & Social Issues Committee, Diocese of Sydney

**The Future of Welfare**
Thursday 29th October, 6:30–8pm
&
**Science and Religion**
Friday 30th October, 12.30–2pm (with Nick Ingram)
Dr Nick Spencer
Senior Research Fellow, Theos Think Tank (London)

**The End of Progress?**
Wednesday 4th November, 7:30–9pm
Rev'd Dr Greg Boyd
Theologian & Senior Pastor, Woodland Hills Church, St. Paul, Minnesota

**Out of Balance: *Koyaanisqatsi***
Friday 6th November, 6pm–
A St James' Film Society screening of Godfrey Reggio's landmark 1982 film, with introduction by Phil Walker-Harding and discussion to follow

## Seminars

*Typically Sundays, 2–4pm, St James' Hall*

Sunday 15th March | **Skin and Wetness: West Papuan Stories and Theories of Hunger**
Dr Sophie Chao, Anthropology, University of Sydney; author of *Land of Famished Beings*

Sunday 26th April | **Theology and Art: On the Road to Emmaus**
Rev'd Christopher Waterhouse, Rector, St

James' King Street

Sunday 3rd May | **Building Climate Resilient Communities**
Ken Yeh and Carol Marra, Principals, Marra + Yeh Architects

Sunday 7th June | **A.D. Hope: Poet and Philosopher**
Professor Susan Lever, Literary Studies; formerly UNSW Canberra; author of *A.D. Hope: A Life*

Sunday 5th July | **Lower than the Angels: Humanity and the Problem of Dominion**
Rev'd Dr Michael Jensen
Rector, St Mark's Darling Point; author of *Subjects and Citizens: The Politics of the Gospel*

Sunday 2nd August | **Revisiting Mission Histories: Annie Lock**
Dr Catherine Bishop
Historian; author of *Too Much Cabbage and Jesus Christ* & *Minding Her Own Business: Colonial Businesswomen in Sydney*

Thursday 20th August, 5:30pm | **Beauty and the Law**
Dr Mark Fowler (with Justice Keith Mason AC KC)
Principal, Fowler Charity Law; a collaboration with the New South Wales Christian Legal Society.

Sunday 23rd August | **The Monuments of Westminster Abbey**
Professor Peter Sherlock (with Rev'd Christopher Waterhouse)
Executive Director, Australian Centre for Christianity & Culture, Charles Sturt University

Sunday 6th September | **Water Politics in the Murray Darling Basin**
Professor Katie Holmes
History, La Trobe University; author of *Telling Environmental Histories: Intersections of Memory, Narrative and Environment* and *Oral History and Australian Generations*

Sunday 20th September | **Playtime: Histories of Australian Childhood**
Dr Emily Gallagher
History, Australian National University; author of *Playtime: A History of Australian Childhood*

Thursday 8th October, 6:30pm | **All Creatures Great and Small: Faith and Nature Education in New South Wales**
Dr Ruby Ekkel
Religious History Fellow, State Library of New South Wales

## Quiet Afternoons

*Sundays 4–5.30pm in St James' Crypt*

1st March | *Dust to Dust*
with Fr Ron Henderson (poetry)
19th July | *Beauty in the Ordinary*
with Asher Graieg-Morrison (soundscape art)
23rd August | *God of the Cup and Planet*
with Mthr Jorie Ryan (poetry & music)
20th September | *Sweet Darkness*
with Ivan Foo (Baroque flute)

## Online Short Courses

*Weekday evenings, via Zoom*

*Theology & Art*
Mondays 7.30pm, 31st August – 21st Sept.
with Rev'd Christopher Waterhouse

*Shall All Really Be Saved?*
*Exploring Christian Universalism*
Tuesdays 7:30pm, 29th Sept. – 3rd Nov.
with Dr Lucas Thompson & Simon Perini

ST JAMES' INSTITUTE

## St James' Film Society

28th March | *The Gospel of St Matthew* (1964)
29th August | *The Night of the Hunter* (1955)
6th November | *Koyaanisqatsi* (1982)

## Poetry in the Crypt

3rd June | Ann-Marie Blanchard
12th August | Jonathan McKeown
18th November | Lyn McCredden

## Other Events

Sunday 15th February, 2–4pm | **Launch: St James Institute 2026**

26th April, 10th & 24th May, 14th & 28th June, 19th & 26th July, 2–3.30pm | **Koine Greek: Reading the Gospel of St John** with Professor Vrasidas Karalis (University of Sydney).

Sunday 4th October, 2–4pm | **Tour: The Women of the Walls of St James'**
Led by Associate Professor Michael Horsburgh, this tour will explore the life of the women whose names feature on the memorial plaques of the walls of St James' King Street.

Sunday 18th October, 2–4pm | **Beating the Bounds**
A medieval tradition: we walk the parish boundaries praying for the city's institutions, professions, and communities, recalling that God's redemptive purposes encompass all creation.

## Trinity in Sydney

*St James' Institute partners with Trinity College Theological School to promote classical theological education in Sydney. Subscribers are encouraged to audit Trinity units at the special rate of $400 (normally $550) or to enrol for credit with approval from their home institutions.*

Saturday 28th February, 3–5pm | **Paul the Letter-Writer**
Saturday 18th April, 3–5pm | **Paul the Theologian**
Rev'd Canon Associate Professor Robert (Bob) Derrenbacker, Dean of Theological School

Semester 2 | **Forming the Faith**, taught remotely by Rev'd Professor Mark Lindsay, with an in-person weekly tutorial in Sydney led by Rev'd Dr Mark Harding

14th November, 3–5pm | **The Kingdom of God is Near: The Readings for Year B**
Presented by Dr Rachelle Gilmour and Rev'd Associate Professor Robert Derrenbacker

## Subscriptions

Subscribing allows entry to the full Institute programme for the year as well as priority access to smaller events such as tours.

A half-year subscription is available for the remainder of 2026 at $120 ($100 concession). Subscribe via QR code, or by calling the parish office: (02) 8227 1300.

## Director

The Institute is directed by Dr Jamie Dunk, a historian with expertise in Australian history, environmental history, and the history of mental health and psychology.

e: jamie.dunk@sjks.org.au
St James' Hall
Level 1, 169 Phillip St, Sydney
(02) 8227 1300

ST JAMES' INSTITUTE