

2019 ANGLICARE SUNDAY SPEAKING NOTES

Your speaking notes for Anglicare Sunday 2019 are designed as a guide to assist you in your church presentation.

1. The headings in the notes correspond to the slides in the supporting PowerPoint slidedeck.
2. These notes include:
 - updated information about Anglicare's services and performance during the past financial year,
 - and a brief sermon message which can link to the liturgical readings.
3. You can change the order of the slides or remove any slides you feel you won't need or won't have time to use.

Above all, we want you to feel as comfortable as possible about your presentation. Using anecdotes from your own experience, and using your own words are powerful ways to engage a congregation.

Thank you for being part of Anglicare Sunday!



INTRO

- My name is _____ and I'm [how you are connected to Anglicare].
- I'm really passionate about the work of Anglicare because ... [i.e. I love the ways in which Anglicare reaches out to people in need in our community.]

THANK YOU

- Today is Anglicare Sunday and I want to thank you for the opportunity to share today.
- We know the individuals and churches across the community contribute so much in prayers, volunteering and finances to support people through the work of Anglicare.

ABOUT ANGLICARE

- Anglicare is the mission arm of the Anglican church with the aim is to help the most disadvantaged children and families to hope, heal and thrive so they can lead lives free from poverty.
- This is no small mission and certainly one that calls for the support of individuals, churches and the community.
- Anglicare is fortunate to receive government funding for particular programs, however this funding is not enough to cover the full scope of our services.

ABOUT OUR SERVICES

- Our services range from emergency relief to foster care, housing, disability services, early learning education centres, Retirement Living and youth & family services.
- In the last 12 months alone, over 9000 people have been assisted through our emergency relief services right across the region. These are people who have visited our centres to receive food or help with bills.

WHERE WE WORK

- Anglicare's main offices include Canberra, Wagga, Orange, Liverpool and Moruya.
- With over 50 locations across the region, we have a presence in communities from Dubbo to Albury to Eden and Nowra.



ABOUT ANTI-POVERTY WEEK

- As with previous years, Anglicare Sunday is being run around national Anti-Poverty Week.
- This Sunday marks the end of the week, which is a time for communities around Australia to focus on issues of local poverty and look at ways they can make a difference.

THE 2019 THEME OF ANTI-POVERTY WEEK

- The theme for this year's Anti-Poverty Week is "Raise the Rate" to support the campaign to see Newstart allowance raise by \$75 per week, just \$10 a day, to prevent more and more Australians being trapped into poverty.
- Homelessness Australia have recorded a 75% increase in the number of clients who are Newstart recipients seeking emergency relief. They have said they now turn away hundreds of people a day without help because they don't have
- Our desire to not just offer emergency relief but also offer "wrap-around" services to offer additional support to families in order to break the cycle of inter-generational poverty.

POVERTY IN AUSTRALIA

- The Australian Council of Social Services estimates the nearly 3 million people in Australia live below the poverty line.
- 900,000 people in NSW alone, live in poverty.
- These are heartbreaking and challenging statistics, but throughout Anglicare's history advocating and assisting those in need has been the focus. And it's a focus we will continue, showing Christ's love in action.

WHY RAISE THE RATE?

- Australia's income support system was designed to help people when they are going through tough times to support them into suitable paid work. But Newstart is not working – the rate has not been increased in real terms for 25 years while living costs have gone through the roof.
- Nearly 1 million Australians are relying income support through Youth Allowance or Newstart. It is their only means of survival while they search for work or continue their studies. Newstart is less than half the minimum wage.
- The current rate of \$39 per day is too low to give people the support they need to scrape by and get through tough times. Instead of supporting people, the current



Newstart rate forces them into a cycle of debt, social isolation and humiliation that undermines their efforts and risks them slipping through the cracks into a cycle of poverty.

- Homelessness Australia has reported a 75% increase in Newstart recipients accessing their services in the past 6 years. The support they receive just even enough to keep a roof over their heads and to have 3 meals a day – how are they supposed to meet the job application requirements in those conditions?

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR 20 OCTOBER

- Jeremiah 37:27-34
- Psalm 119:97-104
- 2 Timothy 3:10-4:5
- Luke 18:1-14

[or choose your preferred readings & remove this slide from the PowerPoint]

SUMMARY OF LUKE READINGS FROM PREVIOUS WEEKS

It would seem that the lectionary gospel readings from Luke have, for the last few weeks, been a good introduction to Anglicare Sunday.

It started in Luke chapter 14 with the lessons in kingdom etiquette – the story the man Jesus healed on the sabbath, then the parables of the wedding feast and banquet. These speak of hospitality in generous terms not known in the Israelites (or the Romans) normal social settings. They also speak of humility on the part of the host – to offer inclusion to all and to allow them to sit at your table means you have to radically rethink who you yourself are.

Then Luke chapter 15 continues this theme of inclusion with parables of being lost – a sheep, a coin and finally a son. The two small stories of the sheep and coin are an introduction to the idea of the joy of finding something valued and lost. There is a repetition of language in the stories emphasising the effort the owner takes to recover their possession and the rejoicing and celebration when it is found.

Luke chapter 16 still has the underlying theme of generosity, but moves into a discussion of loving money – how hard is it to be generous if you wealthy. It seems a puzzle, surely with wealth you can give, but Jesus warns that it we can't serve two masters – for we will be devoted to one and hate the other – we can't serve both money and wealth. This lesson is then aptly illustrated with the story of Lazarus and the rich man following their deaths.

Luke chapter 17 teaches us of the demands of our faith, and the joys and possibilities it will bring. We can move mountains! We can also see those around us in need and will be able to



offer them hope and healing, even though 9 out of 10 won't come back to find out how or why it happened.

This is the Christian message. This reflects Anglicare's mandate of hoping, healing and thriving.

Then we come to today's gospel of the 'judge who neither feared God nor had a respect for people'. There are so many ways we could speak about this – the biblical responsibility to care for widows, orphans and strangers. We could focus on the importance of prayer and persistence, or on the nature of faith. All of these would fit into the theme of Anglicare Sunday.

But let's look specifically at the unjust judge. Here is a character representing much we can see in the world, who it seems has no care or compassion for the needy. But even this person will eventually respond, even if it is for selfish reasons, so he can get a good night's sleep.

I'm definitely not wanting to say that care agencies who don't operate from a Christian mandate do so for the wrong reasons, but this judge does give us the opportunity to reflect not so much on *why* Anglicare is part of our church community, but on what makes Anglicare *different* from all other care agencies.

You see, if the world will eventually give to those in desperate need, how much more would an organisation who operates with God's generosity and care.

ANGLICARE'S MANDATE

- As part of the church we know we have a biblical mandate to care for those in need.
- This is part of the reason I am so delighted that we have a day like Anglicare Sunday to truly focus on this issue.
- Often we think of poverty as being an issue affecting other communities and other countries.
- It's quite a shock to be confronted with the tragic reality of the real poverty right here in our communities. We can fix the system and prevent more Australians being stuck in the trap of poverty by raising the Newstart allowance.

THE WORK OF ANGLICARE – Helping People in Crisis (Short Term Services)

- Hundreds of families access Anglicare's support every month across the region.
- While Anglicare runs many services, ones which often see families present with the most needs include the Homelessness and Housing service, the No-Interest Loans



Scheme operating across most of the region, and emergency relief services in Canberra, Wagga Wagga, Moruya, Orange and Parkes.

THE WORK OF ANGLICARE – Breaking the Cycle of Poverty (Long Term Support)

- The ‘thrive’ aspect of our services. How we support individuals and families beyond times of crisis.
- Our staff and volunteers are able to offer referral services to clients and as well as operating other local services such as playgroups, the Youth Education Program, financial counselling, gambling help and others.

JOHN 10:10

Anglicare is fortunate to get government funding for much of its work, but it strives to go beyond just what is necessary. Anglicare doesn’t want people just to survive, they want them to thrive!

John 10.10 (in the middle of the Jesus being the shepherd and gate discourse, the great I am statements) says ‘The their comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.’

Anglicare helps because we, God’s people, know that much has been stolen and destroyed from so many people. We know that God’s kingdom welcomes all and offers life to all, and it is our place to help that to happen. We share Jesus’ joy when someone lost is found, when we can share the banquet, but recognise that even if they simply walk away, they still deserve our help.

What makes Anglicare different, and where it partners with parishes to see this come to fruition, is the knowledge that Jesus came to give not just adequate life, not even just ordinary life, but ABUNDANT life.

Government funding is designed for adequate life – it doesn’t even get to ordinary life as most of us would know it here today. But Anglicare aims for more, for abundance, and for that it needs your help, because that’s not covered in government funding. So where they are paid to walk a mile, they try to walk two. They try to help people thrive. Staff and volunteers can refer clients to other services, and can offer local services such as playgroups, financial counselling, gambling help, English conversation classes, youth education programs. It can get involved in projects such as raising the age of foster care funding to 21 to stop the cycle of 50% of young people formerly in care becoming homeless in the first 12 months after their 18th birthday. Often young people leaving care are the most vulnerable and raising the rate of Newstart would also ensure they are supported through the transition of leaving care.

We could argue that these things should be seen as ordinary, but striving for more is the beginning of abundance that Jesus offers!



ANGLICARE AND YOUR CHURCH **(VIDEO)**

We'd like to show this short video that includes testimonies from different people connected to the work of Anglicare.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- If you would like to be involved further with the work of Anglicare we would really encourage you to consider it. (The feedback form that you should have on your seat will list the ways which makes getting involved really easy. Simply fill this in and hand it to me or the Anglicare representative in your church.)
 - Donate – become a care partner, donate to an appeal
 - Pray – subscribe to Thrive Magazine and be updated with Anglicare news and our current prayed needs.
 - Volunteer – Retail or fill other roles
 - Leave a Gift in Your Will
 - Get Your Church Involved – Pantry Appeal, Christmas Appeal

THANK YOU

- Thank you again for you time today.
- We hope that you have been informed and inspired.

HOW TO STAY CONNECTED

- We want to help you stay connected with the work of Anglicare so we can update and encourage you. There are many ways to stay connected. These include:
 - eNewsletters – Community Connections
 - Social Media – follow us on Facebook
 - Join our THRIVE quarterly newsletter mailing list

