2026 Anglicare Sunday | Speaking notes

These speaking notes for Anglicare Sunday, 25 October 2026, are designed as a flexible guide to assist with your parish presentation.

1. 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.

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!

Introduction

- 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 that 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 NSW South, NSW West & ACT is the charitable arm of the Anglican Church in our region. Its mission is to tackle disadvantage and social injustice in partnership with the Church, offering practical, locally responsive support so individuals, families and communities can move towards hope, stability and flourishing.
- This is a substantial mission. Poverty and disadvantage are complex, so Anglicare works holistically and in partnership with parishes, communities, volunteers, supporters and government to respond to immediate needs and strengthen long-term wellbeing.
- Anglicare is fortunate to receive government funding for particular programs, however this funding is not enough to cover the full scope of our services or the ongoing and emerging need. Donations, parish partnerships and volunteer service help Anglicare respond where funding is limited, demand exceeds capacity, or a person needs support that sits beyond a funded program.

About our services

- Anglicare provides care across every stage of life. We operate early learning centres, support children and young people through our Permanency Support Program, Foster Care, Intensive Therapeutic Care, and Child, Youth, Family and Health Services, and provide Disability Services and Retirement Living communities where people are known, valued and connected.

- We also deliver Housing, Homelessness and Domestic and Family Violence services across Goulburn, Yass, Canberra, Wagga Wagga and Moruya. Through these services, we provide safe, practical and hope-filled pathways for people

experiencing homelessness, housing insecurity, domestic and family violence, or other forms of crisis, while promoting dignity, stability, independence and wellbeing.

- As cost-of-living pressures continue to place unprecedented strain on households across our region, Anglicare's Emergency Relief Hubs remain a vital source of practical support, connection and hope. During the past year alone, our Canberra Emergency Relief service assisted 9,500 people, reflecting the growing number of individuals and families struggling with rising housing, food and utility costs.

- Our approach is more than meeting immediate needs. Anglicare's Emergency Relief Hubs are built on a relational model of care. We do not simply provide food parcels or financial assistance; we listen, connect and walk alongside people, helping them access broader supports such as financial wellbeing services, housing assistance, community connections and other programs that strengthen long-term stability and wellbeing.

Where we work

- Anglicare's major service hubs are located in Canberra, Wagga Wagga, Goulburn, Liverpool and Moruya, supporting communities across a geographic footprint of more than 374,500 square kilometres.
- With a workforce of 700 staff and 359 volunteers, we deliver a broad range of services across metropolitan, regional, rural and remote communities throughout southern NSW and the ACT.

About Anti-poverty Week

- Anti-Poverty Week 2026 was held from 11 to 17 October, around the United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.
- Although Anglicare Sunday follows the national week this year, it continues the same call: to understand poverty, listen to people with lived experience, advocate for change and take practical action in our own communities.

The 2026 Anti-poverty Week call to action

- Measure poverty and set targets: In 2026, Anti-Poverty Week is calling on the Australian Government to establish standard monetary and multidimensional measures of poverty, report publicly each year, and set targets to reduce poverty.
- Alongside this call, Anti-Poverty Week continues to support action to end child poverty and urges governments to adopt a nationally agreed definition, transparent reporting and measurable reduction targets.
- Raise the Rate: Income support should provide a genuine safety net. The

campaign calls for JobSeeker, Youth Allowance and related payments to be increased so people are not forced to choose between rent, food, medicine and other essentials.
- A fair housing future: Everybody's Home advocates for more social and affordable housing, stronger protections for renters, adequate income support and reforms that make safe, secure housing possible for everyone.

Poverty in Australia

- The latest ACOSS and UNSW estimate finds that 3.7 million people in Australia—one in seven—live below the poverty line.
- This includes 757,000 children, or one in six Australian children.
- Behind every statistic is a person, family and community. Anglicare's response is both practical and hopeful: meeting immediate need, advocating for fairer systems, and embodying Christ's love in action.

Homelessness services

- Anglicare's housing and homelessness teams continue to support far more people than funded capacity allows. People seeking help include families, older people, young people leaving care, people escaping domestic and family violence, and those sleeping in cars or other unsafe places.
- Without secure, suitable housing, it is much harder to maintain health, education, employment, relationships and connection to community. A safe home is not only shelter; it is a foundation for dignity, stability and hope.

Lectionary readings for 25 October 2026

- Deuteronomy 34.1-12
- Psalm 90.1-6; 90.13-17
- 1 Thessalonians 2.1-13
- Matthew 22.34-46

[or choose your preferred readings]

Theological reflection: loving God and loving our neighbour

Today's readings draw our attention to faithful leadership, the shortness and preciousness of human life, courageous ministry and the inseparable commandments to love God and love our neighbour.

In Deuteronomy, Moses looks across the land at the end of a long journey of service. His life reminds us that faithful ministry is larger than any one person. We may not see every

outcome for which we have worked and prayed, yet God continues the work through the community that follows. Anglicare's ministry is likewise sustained across generations by staff, volunteers, parishes, donors and people who share their courage and lived experience.

Psalm 90 prays, "Teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom," and asks God to prosper the work of our hands. This is not a call to anxious busyness, but to use our time wisely and compassionately. When people face poverty, homelessness, violence or isolation, love must become tangible—in food, safe housing, patient listening, skilled support and advocacy for justice.

In 1 Thessalonians, Paul describes ministry marked by courage, integrity, gentleness and a desire to share not only the gospel but his own life. This offers a helpful picture of Christian service. Anglicare's work is not simply the delivery of programs; at its best, it is relationship, trust and accompaniment—walking with people rather than treating them as problems to be solved.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus first brings faith and action together: love God with all your heart, soul and mind, and love your neighbour as yourself. These are not competing duties. Love of God is made visible in the way we recognise and respond to our neighbour. The neighbour is not an abstract idea, but the child whose family has run out of food, the young person leaving care, the person sleeping in a car, the older person facing loneliness, and the family rebuilding after violence or crisis.

The passage then turns to Jesus' question about the Messiah as both David's son and David's Lord. Jesus is more than a teacher offering an admirable ethic; he is the Lord whose authority reshapes our loyalties and our life together. Christian service therefore begins not simply in goodwill, but in discipleship. Because Christ is Lord, love of neighbour becomes part of our worship and obedience.

Anglicare Sunday invites us to embody both movements of this Gospel: to confess Christ as Lord and to love the neighbour placed before us. We pray, give, volunteer, advocate and build partnerships because our devotion to God turns us towards others. Together, these ordinary acts can become signs of Christ's reign, God's abundant life and enduring hope.

Anglicare's mandate

- As part of the Church, Anglicare shares a biblical mandate to uphold dignity, seek justice and care for people experiencing hardship.
- Anglicare Sunday gives parishes an opportunity to listen, pray, learn and renew their partnership in this ministry.
- Poverty is present in cities, towns and rural communities across our region. It is often hidden behind closed doors, in insecure housing, skipped meals,

unpaid bills and the quiet distress of people who do not know where to turn.
- Our response must combine compassionate service with advocacy for systems that provide adequate income, safe housing and genuine opportunities for every person to flourish.

The work of Anglicare – Helping people in crisis (short term services)

- Hundreds of families access Anglicare's services and supports across the region each month.
- Families experiencing complex challenges often connect with Anglicare through our Homelessness and Housing and Emergency Relief services, which operate in Canberra, Wagga Wagga, Moruya, Goulburn and Eden. These services provide important entry points into a broader network of supports designed to improve family wellbeing and stability.

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 can provide referrals and warm connections to a wide range of supports, as well as direct access to other Anglicare programs and services, including playgroups, financial counselling, disability services, emergency relief and other community-based programs, enabling a more holistic response to individual and family needs.

Matthew 22.34–46

When Jesus is asked which commandment is the greatest, he answers by joining together love of God and love of neighbour. We are to love God with all our heart, soul and mind, and to love our neighbour as ourselves. For Jesus, these two forms of love cannot be separated.

This commandment gives Anglicare's ministry its shape. Love of neighbour becomes practical when people are offered food in a crisis, assistance to find safe housing, support after violence, financial counselling, companionship and pathways towards stability. Such care is not an optional addition to Christian faith; it is one of the ways our love for God is made visible.

The neighbour Jesus calls us to love is not an abstract idea. The neighbour is the child whose family has run out of food, the young person leaving care, the person sleeping in a

car, the older person experiencing loneliness, and the family rebuilding after violence or crisis. Each person is worthy of dignity, compassion and hope.

The passage then turns to the identity of the Messiah. Jesus asks how the Messiah can be both David's son and David's Lord. The question reminds us that Jesus is more than a teacher offering an admirable ethic: he is Lord. His authority reshapes our priorities, our relationships and our shared life.

Anglicare's work therefore begins not simply in goodwill, but in discipleship. Because Christ is Lord, serving our neighbour becomes part of our worship and obedience. Public funding is essential, but the support of parishes, donors and volunteers enables Anglicare to respond more flexibly and accompany people beyond immediate crisis.

Through prayer, giving, volunteering, advocacy and partnership, the Church embodies both movements of this Gospel: confessing Christ as Lord and loving the neighbour placed before us. In these practical acts, faith becomes visible and communities are strengthened in dignity, justice and hope.

How you can help

- If you would like to become more involved in Anglicare's work, please consider one of the practical options below. Your parish may also choose one or two local actions to develop during the coming year.
    - Pray – include Anglicare's clients, staff, volunteers and communities in parish intercessions, and use current prayer needs shared through Anglicare communications.
    - Volunteer – explore opportunities in community programs, emergency relief, retail, pastoral care or other roles.
    - Leave a Gift in Your Will
    - Involve your parish – support a pantry or seasonal appeal, host a speaker, learn about local needs, or develop a partnership with a nearby Anglicare service.

Thank you

- Thank you again for your 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:
    - Pray for the work and people dedicated to the work of Anglicare
    - Volunteer – Retail or fill other roles
    - Jump online – Anglicare.com.au
    - Sign up to our *Thrive* monthly e-newsletter
    - Social Media – follow us on Facebook
    - Join our *Together* magazine mailing list
    - Donate – become a regular giver or donate to an Anglicare appeal
    - Leave a Gift in Your Will
    - Get Involved – Pantry Appeal, Christmas Appeal