



St Philip's Come & See

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Sunday 26 April 2020

Third Sunday of Easter

Today the Eucharist will be celebrated at **8.00am** and will be live on [Facebook](#). Then it will be available on either our [YouTube](#) channel or [Facebook](#). All links and details are on our web page www.stphilipsoconnor.org.au

Dear Friends,

Another week passes in which we maintain the discipline of distance, of isolation and mindfulness. There appears to be some light at the end of the tunnel - I wish it were a little brighter! I have been trying to reflect on our plight and I'm finding it difficult. In the past 'plagues' were generally considered to be God's punishment on the rebellious and 'stiff-necked.' I'm glad that theologically, for most of us, those days are past. My mood has tended to have a 'Holy Saturday' feel about it, a sense of waiting. The message of the resurrection is that things can never be the same again. It brings with it a new order and a new way of living and I guess this is where my reflecting has been taking me. When this season finally ends what kind of world will emerge, indeed what kind of nation, community or Church will be recreated from the uncertainty, the fear and the anxiety...are we not being offered an opportunity to grow and find new ways of living? Are there not things and ways of being that we need to leave behind?

My grand three year plan has, on one level, rather been overwhelmed by our circumstances, but perhaps the opposite is true. Perhaps this is a time when we can consider what it is to live as a community of faith, sharing each other's fears and joys, being patient with one another. Are we not being forced to live more simply and to consider our care of that entrusted to us? Our current situation continues to be something of a test of patience and our ability to wait, yes it is indeed a little like a very long Holy Saturday.

I hope you are all keeping well, finding new ways to do things and perhaps reviving some long lost ways. I'm looking forward to hearing about your exploits in the next edition of the Parish newsletter, it'll be in your inbox/letterbox during the week.

Blessings to all of you

Martin

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Introit Hymn

Christ is alive, with joy we sing;
We celebrate our risen Lord,
Praising the glory of his name.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

He is the grain of wheat that died,
Sown in distress and reaped in joy,
Yielding a harvest of new life.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

He is the bread which comes from God,
Broken to feed us in our need,
Given to bring eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Sentence

Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38-39

Prayer of the day

O God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of the bread:
open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Today's Readings

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (2:14a-32)

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them ³⁶Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.' ³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' ³⁸Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Psalm 116 1-4, 11-18

1 I love the Lord, because he heard my voice:
the voice of my supplication;

**2 Because he inclined his ear to me:
in the day that I called to him.**

3 The cords of death encompassed me, the snares of the grave took hold on me:
I was in anguish and sorrow.

**4 Then I called upon the name of the Lord:
'O Lord, I beseech you, deliver me !'**

11 How shall I repay the Lord:
for all his benefits to me?

**12 I will take up the cup of salvation:
and call upon the name of the Lord.**

13 I will pay my vows to the Lord:
in the presence of all his people.

**14 Grievous in the sight of the Lord:
is the death of his faithful ones.**

15 O Lord, I am your servant, your servant and the child of your handmaid:
you have unloosed my bonds.

**16 I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving:
and call upon the name of the Lord.**

17 I will pay my vows to the Lord:
in the presence of all his people,

**18 In the courts of the house of the Lord:
even in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord.**

A reading from the first letter of Peter (1:13-25)

¹³Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. ¹⁴Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. ¹⁵Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; ¹⁶for it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'
¹⁷If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. ²²Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴For

'All flesh is like grass

and all its glory like the flower of grass.

The grass withers,

and the flower falls,

²⁵ but the word of the Lord endures for ever.'

That word is the good news that was announced to you.

The gospel according to Luke (24:13-35)

¹³Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' ¹⁹He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.'
²⁵Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

For reflection

Emmaus 2 – Sonnet by Malcolm Guite

We thought that everything was lost and gone,
Disaster on disaster overtook us
The night we left our Jesus all alone
And we were scattered, and our faith forsook us.
But oh that foul Friday proved far worse,
For we had hoped that he had been the one,
Till crucifixion proved he was a curse,
And on the cross our hopes were all undone.

*Oh foolish foolish heart why do you grieve?
Here is good news and comfort to your soul:
Open your mind to scripture and believe
He bore the curse for you to make you whole
The living God was numbered with the dead
That He might bring you Life in broken bread.*

Ultimately that is what the resurrection challenges us to do, to go back to Galilee, to return to the dream, the hope, and the discipleship that had once inflamed us but that now is crucified.

This too is what it means to "be on the road to Emmaus." In Luke's gospel (Lk 24:13), we are told that on the day of the resurrection two disciples were walking away from Jerusalem towards Emmaus, their faces downcast. That single line contains an entire spirituality. For Luke, Jerusalem, like Galilee for the other gospel writers, means the dream, the hope, the kingdom, the centre from which all is to begin and where ultimately all is to culminate. And the disciples are "walking away" from this, away from the dream, towards Emmaus. Emmaus was a Roman Spa—a Las Vegas and Monte Carlo of human consolation. Their dream has been crucified and the disciples, discouraged and hope-emptied, are walking away from it, towards human consolation, muttering: "But we had hoped!" They never get to Emmaus. Jesus appears to them on the road, reshapes their hope in the light of the crucifixion, and turns them back towards Jerusalem.

One of the essential messages of Easter is this: whenever we are discouraged in our faith, whenever our hopes seem to be crucified, we need to go back to Galilee and Jerusalem, that is, to the dream, to the road of discipleship that we had embarked upon before everything went wrong. The temptation, of course, is, whenever we feel this way, whenever the kingdom doesn't seem to work, the temptation is to abandon discipleship for human consolation, to set out instead for Emmaus, for the consolation of Las Vegas and Monte Carlo.

But, as we already know, we never quite get to Emmaus. In one guise or another, Christ always meets us on the road, burns holes in our hearts, explains the latest crucifixion to us, and sends us back—to Galilee and to our abandoned discipleship.

Once there, it all makes sense again.

Ron Rolheiser

Prayers

Priest: Let us pray for World and for the Church.

Risen One, like those disciples on the road to Emmaus, we struggle to recognize you in the everyday journey of our lives. Help us to see you in those around us, in the created order and particularly those most in need in our world. We pray for those nations and peoples struggling to contain the Pandemic afflicting our world. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Open our eyes, Light of the World, to your work of transformation in and around us. As we walk with you day by day, may your new life be made manifest in what we do and say. We pray for all involved in the art and science of healing, for wisdom, compassion and expertise. We pray for the well-being and safety of health care professionals. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

You were known to the disciples in the breaking of the bread. Be with those who are concerned for their futures, those with children, the homeless and the unemployed. We pray for our community and those who lead us. For the work of St John's Care and agencies of care and relief. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

As you opened the scriptures to the disciples and taught them everything, open our eyes to behold you in your Word. We pray for the Church throughout this nation and the world seeking to bring the Word of life to all people. For a strengthening of faith and hope among all God's people. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We bring to you in prayer those close to us: Roger, Ros, Ben, Gage, Sam, Hugh, Sarah and Barry and for them we ask your healing love and the calm of your Spirit. We pray too for all who are anxious or concerned for themselves or others. May our hearts burn within us as we sense your presence in our need. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Almighty God you invite us to abide with you; to have our lives hidden in you. We thank you that you travel with us in our joys and our concerns. Be with us all and gather us together that we and all who have gone before us in faith may know fully your joy and peace. We pray for those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries fall at this time, especially Alfred Johnson (27 April 2018) eternal grant unto them O Lord, **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Priest: All-powerful God, in your mercy inflame our hearts and raise our spirits, so that we may journey towards your kingdom with renewed hope. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A prayer of Spiritual Communion

[When the clergy make their communion, you may like to privately make the following prayer. It was believed from earliest times that Christians could receive the benefits of Holy Communion even if they were unable to be present at the Eucharist. This teaching was of particular comfort to so-called Confessors of the Faith, who were imprisoned and deprived of access to the sacraments].

Jesus, you have given us in the Holy Eucharist
your Body and Blood to be our spiritual nourishment
through which we may have life everlasting.

I desire, with all my heart, to receive this living Bread
which came down from Heaven.
Send your Spirit upon me, come and refresh my soul.
That, whilst I may be isolated from your sacramental presence
and from your Body, gathered;
I may know the peace and joy of communion with you

and your body the Church, in my heart.

Increase my faith,
strengthen my hope,
kindle my love,
that I may die to self and live but for you. Amen.

Recessional Hymn

The head that once was crowned with thorns
is crowned with glory now;
a royal diadem adorns
the mighty Victor's brow.

The highest place that heaven affords
is his, is his by right,
the King of kings and Lord of lords,
and heaven's eternal Light:

The cross he bore is life and health,
though shame and death to him;
his people's hope, his people's wealth,
their everlasting theme.

Calendar @ St Philip's

Sunday 26 April, following 8am Eucharist – **Breakfast chat:** catch up over coffee and toast with other parishioners on Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89160697310>

Friday 1 May 5pm -7pm **Happy Hour online**, for those who wish to catch up.
[St Philip's Happy Hour link](#)

Sunday 3 May 8am **St Philip's Day** - Patronal Festival, Philip and James
Eucharist: streamed live on [Facebook](#). Then will be available on either our [YouTube](#) channel or [Facebook](#). All links and details are on our web page:
www.stphilipsoconnor.org.au

Wednesday 6 7pm Parish Council meeting via zoom

News

Following the 8.00am Eucharist you can catch up over coffee and toast with other parishioners on the following Zoom link. [Breakfast chat link](#) looking forward to seeing you all.



Thank you to those who liked, shared or made comments on the live streams on our Facebook page. If you managed to worship via the live stream or on our YouTube Channel please let us know how we might improve this project to enable you to engage as fully as possible. As you may have noticed we did have some sound problems early in the 'broadcast.' We are experimenting with microphones to improve the sound quality, which is a problem for some. We'll keep trying!



I have been asking our folk what they have found useful for their spiritual nourishment:

Sarah Bachelard - one of our Canberra Anglicans, but one who now runs a non-denominational contemplative Christian worship called Benedictus - is giving some streamed-to-the-world talks on Tuesday evenings via the World Community for Christian Meditation that look topical:

<http://acontemplativepath-wccm.org/2020/04/14/a-living-hope-the-shape-of-christian-virtue/>
<http://acontemplativepath-wccm.org/2020/04/14/a-living-hope-the-shape-of-christian-virtue/>

I hope you are finding something to nurture your faith during this Easter time.



From the Bishop:

The latest in my weekly reflections on the Gospel reading for this Sunday is available on

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jd5VbhuKhts&t=8s>

There is also a link to the video on the Diocesan website on the 'Keep Connected at a Distance' page: <https://anglicancg.org.au/keep-connected/>

Attached to this email is my latest reflection 'Love and truth in time of COVID.' I hope you find it helpful.

I have also found this a useful resource, it is very ecumenical with resources from many different Christian traditions: <https://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/covid-19-and-worship-resources-for-churches-adapting-to-social-isolation#Easter>

I continue to be grateful for your fellowship and your service,

In Jesus, +Mark



Laura Wood the Editor in Chief of the 'St Philip's Times' writes:

"In an effort to keep our social lives afloat during the COVID-19 distancing measures, we are publishing a fortnightly newsletter. It will contain puzzles, recipes, updates from parishioners and a kid's corner. In addition to suggestions on reading, cooking, exercise and new skills. We would love to receive input from as many people as possible and are open to any suggestions. Please email Laura at yourlaurawood@gmail.com with your content and ideas."

PS. It's not called the 'St Philip's Times' really. What do you think it should be called?



***During this time when we are unable to gather please consider giving to St. Philip's using electronic transfer.
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