



# St Philip's Come & See

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## Sunday 23 August 2020

### Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

**8am Eucharist**

**10am Eucharist with music**

The 8.00am Eucharist 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](http://www.stphilipsoconnor.org.au)

Dear Friends,

The biographical section in any bookshop is often quite a large one. Folk are fascinated with the lives of the good and the great, the mad and the bad, and it makes me wonder why the gospels don't seem to hold the same fascination. Okay, so the gospels are not strictly speaking biographies but they can function in that way, at least for the first read. But subsequent reads, well, perhaps strangely enough they are almost even more biographical because they tell our story, they draw us in to the narrative, we can find ourselves mirrored in the parables and the discourse between Jesus and his followers. Today we are asked the question on which the gospels seem to pivot: 'who do you say that I am?' - the response to this question sets the scene for the journey to Jerusalem and the events that form the very heart of Christian faith. So back to the question why don't the gospels hold the same fascination?

There is no simple answer to that question. But what I would suggest to those who are seeking is that the gospels are an account of our own living and dying which do justice to both our fragility and loveliness. They make us choose between the rather bleak, valueless world that many seem to inhabit and the world of human significance, where love and forgiveness and celebration are possibilities. When we are asked to choose, it is a little like the question that Jesus puts to Peter in today's gospel. The correct answer causes us to face the real nature of Jesus and his work, it means facing up to his death. That means facing up to our own, but it means that we can do so in such a way that gives meaning and purpose. It is not so much a choice as a gift.

It is my hope that in these extraordinary times we can draw more fully on our faith, engage more deeply with it, rest in it. In a time where there seems to be little to cheer about, it really is Good News indeed!

Blessings to you all *Martin*

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*Entrance Antiphon [Introit]*

**Jesus said to them 'Who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'**

*Matthew 16:15-16*

## *Prayer of the Day*

O God, fount of all wisdom,  
in the humble witness of the apostle Peter  
you have shown the foundation of our faith:  
give us the light of your Spirit,  
that, recognising in Jesus of Nazareth  
the Son of the living God,  
we may be living stones  
for the building up of your holy Church;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## *Today's Readings*

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah (51:1-6)*

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,  
you that seek the Lord.  
Look to the rock from which you were hewn,  
and to the quarry from which you were dug.  
<sup>2</sup> Look to Abraham your father  
and to Sarah who bore you;  
for he was but one when I called him,  
but I blessed him and made him many.  
<sup>3</sup> For the Lord will comfort Zion;  
he will comfort all her waste places,  
and will make her wilderness like Eden,  
her desert like the garden of the Lord;  
joy and gladness will be found in her,  
thanksgiving and the voice of song.  
<sup>4</sup> Listen to me, my people,  
and give heed to me, my nation;  
for a teaching will go out from me,  
and my justice for a light to the peoples.  
<sup>5</sup> I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,  
my salvation has gone out  
and my arms will rule the peoples;  
the coastlands wait for me,  
and for my arm they hope.  
<sup>6</sup> Lift up your eyes to the heavens,  
and look at the earth beneath;  
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,  
the earth will wear out like a garment,  
and those who live on it will die like gnats;  
but my salvation will be for ever,  
and my deliverance will never be ended.

## *Psalms 138*

I will give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart:  
even before the gods will I sing your praises.

**I will bow down toward your holy temple  
and give thanks to your name:  
because of your faithfulness and your loving-kindness,  
for you have made your name and your word  
supreme over all things.**

At a time when I called to you, you gave me answer:  
and put new strength within my soul.

**All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord:  
for they have heard the words of your mouth;**

And they shall sing of the ways of the Lord :  
that the glory of the Lord is great.

**For though the Lord is exalted, he looks upon the lowly:  
but he humbles the proud from afar.**

Though I walk in the midst of danger,  
yet will you preserve my life :  
you will stretch out your hand against the fury of my enemies,  
and your right hand shall save me.

**The Lord will complete his purpose for me:  
your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever;  
do not forsake the work of your own hands.**

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (12:1-8)*

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. <sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup>We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup>ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

### *The Gradual*

Alleluia! **Alleluia!** God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. **Alleluia!**

*2 Corinthians 5:19*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (16:13-20)*

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' <sup>14</sup>And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' <sup>15</sup>He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' <sup>20</sup>Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

*For the Gospel of the Lord,*

**praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

### *Prayer of the people*

In our prayers we remember those in need, particularly: Roger, Ros, Sam, Ben, Gage, Hugh, Beryl, Joan, Margaret and Sarah.

We commend to God the recently departed and all whose memories are dear to us: Susan Joy Nevile, Deacon, (8/2018)

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us**

**from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever.  
Amen.**

### *Communion Antiphon*

**You bring food out of the earth: wine that gladdens our heart, and bread to strengthen our heart.**

*See Psalm 104:16,17*

### *A Prayer of Spiritual Communion*

*[When the clergy make their communion if you are watching from home 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.

*[If you are interested in the history and the theology behind Spiritual Communion this YouTube clip is helpful. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9uBiqbTY7oA&feature=youtu.be>]*

### *For Reflection*

If Jesus were to appear before you and ask, "But who do you say that I am?" how would you go about answering him?

Well, the obvious approach might be just to fall back on Peter's answer which we have the benefit of. Remember, Peter answers by saying, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God."

At first this sounds pretty good because, after all, Peter is specifically commended as being right and maybe this gets us out of having to think any further for ourselves. One immediate problem though is that if we just rely on Peter's answer then we are really only answering the other question that Jesus asked — which was "Who do [other] people say that I am?" An important reason why I think Jesus posed the question was to make sure that we understood the difference between being able to parrot other people's answers, and giving our own personal view — which is what he seems to be really interested in.

A second reason for being cautious in simply adopting Peter's answer is that it turns out that Peter didn't actually know what his own answer meant! It's a pity our gospel reading didn't continue because in the very next passage in Matthew, Jesus starts to tell the disciples he is going to Jerusalem to be tortured and killed and rise again. Hearing this Peter emphatically tries to stop this kind of talk by saying "God forbid it, Lord!" and Jesus, after having just said Peter is to be the Rock on which the church will be founded, now has to say "get behind me, Satan!" Peter clearly had some pretty wrong views about what being a Messiah meant.

No, the really useful thing to do, as usual, is to focus on what Jesus says and listen hard. Put ourselves in Peter's position and treat the questions as directed towards us individually. "Who do you say that I am?" really is a very intimate thing to ask — in fact the more I think about it, I'm finding it hard to think of a more intimate question. If a good friend whom I thought I knew fairly well asked me "who do you say that I am?" I think I would probably be rather non-plussed, to say the least. Certainly this is not the sort of thing casual acquaintances do, and it would probably be one of those turning points in a friendship when it either deepens or is allowed to drop away.

Jesus was a man like us. He was a human being we become increasingly familiar with as we come to know his stories. In my book, proclamation of the gospel is not so much the exposition of a theological system with neatly fitting components, it's mainly the telling and retelling of Jesus' story and reflecting on it intimately. Christianity is, uniquely, a religion that says salvation can be obtained by getting to know a person.

Fr. Laurence Freeman in his book 'The teacher within' writes this about the question at the heart of the gospel: The answer to a question is the way it is asked. We can hardly not be moved, beyond words, by its gentleness, its innocence, the peaceful humility of self-knowledge it carries; by its being addressed directly to *me*. If the answer could be put into words I would suggest here that we might respond to his question by saying "*You* must help me to know who you are. But *I* say that you, Jesus, are the humility, the humanity, of God."

## News

### St Philip's National Mission - Australia Youth Engagement

Our National Mission Project for 2020 is Australia Youth Engagement. AYE supports Church initiatives which engage young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) people. This Project has come out of a desire to support and guide vulnerable ATSI youth around Australia, most particularly in the Northern Territory. Your funds go towards producing culturally relevant Sunday School resources for these communities which are then incorporated in their existing programs and church services. In the last few years, such funds donated have also enabled interested Aboriginal Christians to travel to church and read the Bible in their own language. The Anglican Board of Mission (ABM) further assists such Christians with their Bible studies. Please give generously by donating in the envelopes provided at St Philip's.

in the Sanctuary and at the Votive Table were given by Fred Anchell in memory of Linda.

**Many ANU students in the Residential Halls and Colleges** from interstate or overseas are isolated from loved ones. The Chaplains at the University are increasingly being called upon to offer care alongside the other supports that ANU provide. This is an important development and we look forward to the Chaplains at the university having a greater profile in the lives of the students.

**Saturday 22 August was Earth Overshoot Day** which if you are unaware of it, it is the day when humans will have collectively consumed the Earth's resources for the year. Churches all over Australia were invited to mark this solemn milestone on Friday 21 August shortly before midday by tolling their bells, lighting a candle and/or holding a prayer service. Prayers were offered at St Philip's during Evening Prayer. For more information check out [bit.ly/earthovershoot2020](http://bit.ly/earthovershoot2020). Plans are afoot to celebrate St Francis' Day on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October. We will encourage folk to bring their pets for blessing, but also importantly we will be praying for the created order and its preservation.

**I hope the latest edition of *Church Chat***, our occasional newsletter arrived in your inbox. Thank you to all who contributed and thanks to Laura Wood our Editor for putting it all together. 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](mailto:yourlaurawood@gmail.com) with your content and ideas for the next issue.

## Calendar @ St Philip's

Today	<i>Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost</i>
8am	<b>Eucharist</b> - Livestreamed
10am	<b>Eucharist</b> with Music
Thursday 27 August	<i>Monica, mother of Augustine</i>

10am

**Eucharist**

Friday 28 August  
5pm - 6pm

*Augustine of Hippo, bishop and teacher*  
Happy Hour online, for those who wish to catch up.  
[St Philip's Happy Hour link](#)

Saturday 29 August  
10am – 1pm

*The Beheading of John the Baptist*  
Pandoras Preloved Fashion - OPEN

Sunday 30 August  
8am  
10am

*Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*  
**Eucharist** - Livestreamed  
**Eucharist** with Music

	<b>September</b>	<b>23-Aug-20</b>	<b>30-Aug-20</b>	<b>6-Sep-20</b>
	Sunday of Month	<b>4th</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>1st</b>
	Liturgical Season	12th Sunday after Pentecost	13th Sunday after Pentecost	9th Sunday after Pentecost
	Flowers			
<b>8am</b>	Celebrant	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Canon Scott
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)			
	Sidespeople & Welcomer	Tim & Shane	Nirmal F & helper	Margaret & Russell
	Liturgical Assistant	Peter W		Lisa C
	Bible Reader	Shane W	Margaret or Russell	Margaret or Russell
<b>10am</b>	Celebrant	Rev'd Martin Johnson	Rev'd Martin Johnson	Rev'd Martin Johnson
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)			
	Sidespeople & Welcomer	Sally A, Denise M & Fred A	Hardy & Helen P, helper	Nirmal F, Denise M & Fred A
	Liturgical Assistant	Philippa W	Tim G	Crucifer: Zara
	Musician(s) & Singers/Soloist	Colin F	Colin F	Colin F
	Bible reader	Peter L	Richard G	kids?
	Additional details/notes			<i>10am Sunday Zone</i>