



St Philip's *Come & See*

email: comeandsee@stphilipsoconnor.org.au

www.stphilipsoconnor.org.au

ph: 02 6161 7334

 [@stphilipsoconnor](https://www.facebook.com/stphilipsoconnor)

Sunday 24 May 2020 *The Ascension of the Lord*

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



Georgia O'Keeffe, Ladder to the Moon, 1958.

Dear Friends,

As I mentioned last Sunday, Bishop Mark has written to all the parishes in the Diocese giving guidelines for the gradual return of gatherings for worship, study, meetings etc. We are limited to 10 congregants and while we might see a small increase in that number I envisage that we be constrained for some time to come. I am planning with the Wardens how we might meet the requirements to enable us to enjoy some corporate worship, albeit limited. Next Sunday is the Feast of Pentecost, it marks the beginning of a new season. It is my prayer that in this new season, the season of the Church in the Spirit, we may see the beginnings of life emerging once more.

I am increasingly getting out and about. I fully appreciate that some of you may not be ready to have visits, but if you would like me to call by, please don't hesitate to ring. I am more than happy to visit and if you wish, bring the sacrament to you.

From Thursday the Church keeps a week of prayer for Christian unity and for reconciliation more generally (See News below). At the centre of the week of prayer is the feast of Pentecost which is *the* festival of unity the recognition that despite our cultural, geographical and linguistic differences we are indeed, in the Spirit, all one. The question of state and national borders is a vexed one. It has been said that good fences make for good neighbours. It is perhaps the only way in which we can hold to important cultural differences and identity. But parochialism and nationalism always lurk nearby.

So while perhaps borders have their place it is important for there to be a balance. It is in the idea of the Spirit of Pentecost that we can see the importance of unity in diversity. Our borders are proving useful in stemming the tide of the spread of COVID19, but they must not be a barrier to the sharing of research, information and yes, concern, care and fellowship amongst all peoples and nations.

Blessings to you all,

Martin

0478 619 911

rector@stphilipsoconnor.org.au

Introit Hymn

God is gone up on high,
with a triumphant noise;
the clarions of the sky
proclaim the angelic joys!

*Join all on earth, rejoice and sing;
glory ascribe to glory's king.*

God in the flesh below,
for us he reigns above:
let all the nations know
our Jesus' conquering love! *[Refrain]*

His foes and ours are one,
Satan, the world, and sin;
but he shall tread them down
and bring his kingdom in: *[Refrain]*

till all the earth, renewed
in righteousness divine,
with all the hosts of God
in one great chorus join. *[Refrain]*

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Sentence

'Go and make disciples of all nations,' Jesus commands; 'I am with you always to the end of the age.'

Matthew 28:19-20

Prayer of the day

God of majesty,
you led the messiah through suffering into risen life,
and took him up into the glory of heaven:
clothe us with power promised from on high,
and send us forth to the ends of the earth
as heralds of repentance and witnesses of Jesus Christ,
the firstborn from the dead,
who lives with you now and always,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Today's Readings

A reading from the book of Acts (1:1-11)

¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.' ⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' ⁷He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Psalm 47

O clap your hands, all you peoples:
and cry aloud to God with shouts of joy.

**For the Lord Most High is to be feared:
he is a great King over all the earth.**

He cast down peoples under us:
and the nations beneath our feet.

**He chose us a land for our possession:
that was the pride of Jacob, whom he loved.**

God has gone up with the sound of rejoicing:
and the Lord to the blast of the horn.

**O sing praises, sing praises to God:
O sing praises, sing praises to our King.**

For God is the King of all the earth:
O praise him in a well-wrought psalm.

**God has become the King of the nations:
he has taken his seat upon his holy throne.**

The princes of the peoples are gathered together:
with the people of the God of Abraham.

For the mighty ones of the earth are become the servants of God:

and he is greatly exalted.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians (1:15-23)

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Gospel according to Matthew (28:16-20)

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

Prayers

Priest: Let us join our prayers with those of our Saviour Christ, seeking the Father's blessing and for the coming of the Spirit.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
you have exalted your Son Christ Jesus to your right hand,
and made him the head over all things for his body the Church:
hear us as we pray for the Church throughout the world, in this nation, diocese and parish.
Make us and all your people receptive to the gifts he pours upon us,
and make of us one in the Spirit.
Lord, in your mercy:
All hear our prayer.

Lord God Almighty, you have given your Son all authority in heaven and on earth:
hear us as we pray for the world he came to redeem, for the people of Brazil
and all nations struggling with pandemic, poverty and political instability.
Grant that we may know even in this time the things that make for peace,
and may strive for the reconciliation of all people in his kingdom of justice and love.
Lord, in your mercy:
All hear our prayer.

Father of all, whose Son has promised to be with us always,
hear us as we pray for those among whom we live and work, learn and play.
Grant that we may be so aware of his presence with us,
that we may see him in those around us, those who rely on us
and those upon whom we depend.
Lord, in your mercy:
All hear our prayer.

O God our Redeemer, whose Son ever lives to make intercession for us:
hear us as we pray for those in any kind of need,
particularly those who have sought our prayers.
Roger, Ros, Hugh, Ben, Gage, Sam and Sarah.

May he who has borne our infirmities strengthen and heal them,
Lord, in your mercy:

All hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, whose Son has borne our humanity into the heavenly realms,
hear us as we remember before you those whose earthly sojourn is over,
and whose life is now hidden in him with you.

We remember the recently departed and those whose anniversaries fall at this time:
Charlotte Joseph (24/5/2002) and Joyce Miller (28/5/2004).

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord; **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers,
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. 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.

[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>]

Recessional Hymn

Hail, our once-despised Jesus!
hail, thou Galilean King!
by your suffering you released us;
and did free salvation bring.
friend and universal Saviour,
bearer of our sin and shame,
By your merits we find favour:
Life is given through thy Name.

Paschal Lamb, by God appointed,
All our sins on you were laid:
by Almighty Love anointed,
you have full atonement made.
all your people are forgiven
through the virtue of your blood:

opened is the gate of heaven,
reconciled are we to God.

Jesus, hail! enthroned in glory,
there for ever to abide;
all the heavenly host adore you,
seated at your Father's side,
there for sinners you are pleading:
there you now our place prepare;
ever for us interceding
till in glory we appear.

John Bakewell (1721-1819)

For reflection

Today, Ascension Day, the friends of Jesus face the fact that they are going to have to get used to living in a world without Jesus – or at least, living in a world without the Jesus they have known. After those frightening and exhilarating few weeks of Easter, when – amazed and confused – they have almost got used to the possibility of meeting Jesus in unexpected faces and places, he is now saying to them, 'It's going to be different. Don't expect to see me around in the old way.' They must have felt deeply disoriented, even fearful.

According to St John's gospel, he'd already said to them, 'It's better for you if I go away.' What kind of sense does that make, though? In what way can it be better for us to live in a world from which the visible signs of God's love seem to be absent? Not only the signs of love or joy that might persuade us to believe, but the greatest sign of all, the actual presence of Jesus, risen from the dead in his flesh and blood? If Jesus' friends are feeling apprehensive at the thought of his going away, we can identify with that, because we know what it's like to live in a world where it so often looks as if God has withdrawn and left us to it.

Jesus hasn't just gone away. He has gone deeper into the heart of reality – our reality and God's. He has become far more than a visible friend and companion; he has shown himself to be the very centre of our life, the source of our loving energy in the world and the source of our prayerful, trustful waiting on God. He has made us able to be a new kind of human being, silently and patiently trusting God as a loving parent, actively and hopefully at work to make a difference in the world, to make the kind of difference love makes.

So if the world looks and feels like a world without God, the Christian doesn't try to say, 'It's not as bad as all that', or seek to point to clear signs of God's presence that make everything all right. The Christian will acknowledge that the situation is harsh, even apparently hopeless – but will dare to say that they are willing to bring hope by what they offer in terms of compassion and service. And their own willingness and capacity for this is nourished by the prayer that the Spirit of Jesus has made possible for them.

The friends of Jesus are called, in other words, to offer *themselves* as signs of God in the world – to live in such a way that the underlying all-pervading energy of God begins to come through them and make a difference. If we are challenged as to where God is in the world, our answer must be to ask ourselves how we can live, pray and act so as to bring to light the energy at the heart of all things – to bring the face of Jesus to life in our faces, and to do this by turning again and again to the deep well of trust and prayer that the Spirit opens for us.

Rowan Williams

Baron Williams of Oystermouth, PC, FBA, FRSL, FLSW (born 14 June 1950) is Welsh Anglican bishop, theologian and poet. He was the 104th Archbishop of Canterbury, a position he held from December 2002 to December 2012. Previously the Bishop of Monmouth and Archbishop of Wales.

Calendar @ St Philip's

Today - Sunday 24 May

Following 8am Eucharist – **Breakfast chat**: catch up over coffee and toast with other parishioners on Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84148832169>

Tuesday 26 May 2pm

Prayer and Counsel (Zoom) – Leslie Morshead Manor

Thursday 28 May

Start of the week of prayer for Christian Unity (until 3 June)

Friday 29 May 5pm -7pm

Happy Hour online, for those who wish to catch up.
[St Philip's Happy Hour link](#)

Sunday 31 May 8am

Pentecost **Eucharist**: streamed live on [Facebook](#) and then available on either our [YouTube](#) channel or [Facebook](#). All links and details are on our web page:
www.stphilipsoconnor.org.au

News

I am fully aware that the pew sheet seems to get bigger and bigger! I am sure many of us have very busy email inboxes, it is difficult, if not impossible to read everything. Even if you skip over some things don't forget to use the *latest* links for Zoom and other things in the pew sheet, they do change week to week, this is to ensure security and privacy.



Christians from churches across the ACT are gathering together this afternoon - Sunday 24 May at 3pm for a service of worship and celebration as part of the 2020 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The hosting church is St Christopher's Cathedral, Manuka, and the service is led by ministers from the Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Baptist and Lutheran traditions, with music and intercessions from a wide range of local churches. The preacher is the Rev'd Dr Tim Watson, Rector of Holy Cross Anglican Church, Hackett.

By taking part in this service, worshippers will also have the chance to participate in "Thy Kingdom Come", a global wave of prayer calling all Christians to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know the love and peace of Jesus Christ. For more details, visit <https://thykingdomcome.global>

The service will be live streamed at 3pm on Sunday 24 May on the [Catholic Voice YouTube Channel](#), and can also be viewed on the web sites of participating churches. YouTube's Live Chat will enable worshippers to interact with each other during the live stream.



CALL FOR DONATIONS. Toora is a womens' refuge in our neighbourhood. We have helped Toora for many years through our donations of Pandora vouchers and everyday household necessities. Toora is asking for donations of linen such as bedlinen and towels, dining and cookware and office and school equipment for those working at home. If you have been cleaning out cupboards and have any of these items in good condition you could leave them with Susan at the Rectory or Valerie Kirk (m) 0450 840021/ (h) 5248 9059 and they will see that they get to the right place. As you will understand it is necessary to maintain discretion about Toora because of the sensitive nature of its work in the community.

Kerry-Anne



From the Bishop:

The latest in my weekly reflections on the Gospel reading for this Sunday is available on [YouTube](#). There is also a link to the video on the Diocesan website on the [Keep Connected at a Distance](#) page.

The [Diocesan Cycle of Prayer](#) as at April 2020 is available on the website.
I continue to be grateful for your fellowship and your service.
In Jesus, +Mark



I hope you are enjoying *Church Chat*. 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 with your content and ideas."



***During this time when we are unable to gather please
consider giving to St. Philip's using electronic transfer.
EFT details: Account Name – St Philip's Anglican Church
BSB Number: 702-389 Account No: 05202512
Reference/description: St Phil Offering
Thank you***