



St Philip's
Come & See

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Easter Vigil 2021

While the COVID19 restrictions are in place St Philip's is delighted to be celebrating the Eucharist online on [Facebook](#) at 9.30am this morning. It will then be available on either our [YouTube channel](#) or [Facebook](#). All links and details are on our web page www.stphilipsoconnor.org.au



Frank Wesley (Indian, 1923–2002), Mary at the Tomb, before 1993. Watercolor, 25 × 20 cm. Published in "Frank Wesley: Exploring Faith with a Brush" (Auckland: Pace, 1993).

Dear Friends

We have arrived at the great festival of Easter! Thank you to all of you who have contributed to our journey together over these past weeks. We have much to be thankful for as we celebrate the Eucharist together this morning. I have attached Bishop Mark's Easter letter to the Diocese.

Blessing for this great season *Martin*

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Mark's gospel, the earliest of the four New Testament accounts of Jesus' life, ends on a strange, almost anti-climatic note.

'Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.'

On Sunday morning three women go to the tomb where Jesus' dead body was laid just a couple of days earlier. The tomb is empty. A mysterious figure tells them that Jesus has risen and that he will meet with his friends on their home turf in Galilee. Then, it seems, the trail runs cold.

Why were the women afraid to say something? Perhaps they were overwhelmed by all they'd experienced in such a short period. Maybe they were concerned about how this news would be received. One of the other gospels tells us that when the women did eventually share their story with Jesus' male apostles it was dismissed as idle chatter. Nonetheless, as the history of the past two thousand years testifies, this world-changing news got out anyhow.

Recent events in our national life have reminded us how we still fail to listen to women's voices. That is especially true when the news they bring is unexpected or when it threatens to disturb a status quo that serves mostly male interests. Still the news seems to get out anyhow – and perhaps there is something of God in that.

The good news of Easter is this: the God of Jesus Christ not only listens to but also empowers women's voices. He gives them good news to share about a King who came to pull down the mighty from their thrones and raise up the humble in their place. He frees them to speak of a Saviour whose love is stronger than death and who offers us forgiveness for our failures at the cost of his life. He invites all of us, female and male, poor and rich, young and old, to join our voices with them and proclaim 'Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!'

+Mark Short
Anglican Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn

The Service of Light

We gather together in the courtyard.

Beloved in Christ, in this holy dawn, when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life, the Church invites its members throughout the world to come together in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord. We recall his death and resurrection, by hearing his word, celebrating his mysteries, and accepting his promise of life; and we are confident that we shall share his victory over death in his eternal kingdom.

The new fire is blessed

Lord of all creation, we thank you for the gift of fire, in which you revealed your name to Moses, answered the prayer of Elijah, and came upon your Church at Pentecost: bless this new fire to be for us a sign of your presence, that, set aflame with the fire of your love, we may come to the feast of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Paschal Candle is prepared. The cross, the Greek letters Alpha and Omega and the four numbers of the current year are marked on it:

Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega; all time belongs to him and all the ages. To him be glory and power through every age and for ever.

Amen.

The five nails are placed at the extremities of the cross:

By his glorious wounds may Christ the Lord guard us and keep us.

Amen.

The Paschal Candle is lit from the new fire:

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

The lighted candle is carried through the church building in darkness, the bearer pausing three times: at the door, in the middle of the nave, and finally within the sanctuary.

At each pause is sung:

The light of Christ!

Thanks be to God.

The candles carried by the congregation are lit from the Paschal candle which is then set in its place. It is censed, the congregation sit and the Exsultet is sung, during which the congregation responds:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Ministry of the Word

Dear friends in Christ, in this our solemn vigil, let us listen to God's word, recalling how God saved his people throughout history, and in the fullness of time sent his own Son to be our Redeemer who is alive and reigns with you, in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Amen.

First reading Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a

Psalm 33

Response: **The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.**

Upright is the word of the Lord, and all his works are trustworthy.

He loves justice and right;

of the kindness of the Lord the earth is full.

R. The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made;

by the breath of his mouth all their host.

He gathers the waters of the sea as in a flask;

in cellars he confines the deep.

R. The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

Blessed the nation whose God is the Lord,

the people he has chosen for his own inheritance.

From heaven the Lord looks down; he sees all humanity.

R. The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

Our soul waits for the Lord, who is our help and our shield.

May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us

who have put our hope in you.

R. The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

Let us pray

Creator God, you made us wonderfully in your own image, and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature: grant that, as your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, was made in human form so we may be made partakers of divine life; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Second reading Genesis 22:1-18

Psalm 16

Response: **You are my inheritance, O Lord.**

O Lord, my allotted portion and my cup,

you it is who hold fast my lot. I set the Lord ever before me;

with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

R. You are my inheritance, O Lord.

Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices,

my body, too, abides in confidence;

because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld,

nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo corruption.

R. You are my inheritance, O Lord.

You will show me the path to life,
fullness of joys in your presence,
the delights at your right hand forever.

R. You are my inheritance, O Lord.

Let us pray

God of our ancestors, whose chosen servant Abraham faithfully obeyed your call and rejoiced in your promise that, in him, all the families of the earth should be blessed: give us faith like his, that, in us, your promises may be fulfilled; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Third reading Exodus 14:10-31; 15: 20-21

Psalm Exodus 15

Response: **Let us sing to the Lord;
he has covered himself in glory.**

I will sing to the Lord, for he is gloriously triumphant;
horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.
My strength and my courage is the Lord,
and he has been my saviour. He is my God, I praise him;
the God of my father, I extol him.

R. Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

The Lord is a warrior, the Lord is his name!
Pharaoh's chariots and army he hurled into the sea;
the elite of his officers were submerged in the Red Sea.

R. Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

The flood waters covered them, they sank into the depths like a stone.
Your right hand, O Lord, magnificent in power,
your right hand, O Lord, has shattered the enemy.
the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

R. Let us sing to

You brought in the people you redeemed
and planted them on the mountain of your inheritance
the place where you made your seat, O Lord,
the sanctuary, Lord, which your hands established.
The Lord shall reign forever and ever.

R. Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

Let us pray

Lord God our redeemer, who heard the cry of your people and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery: free us from the tyranny of sin and death; and by the leading of your Spirit bring us to our promised land; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Fourth reading Isaiah 54:5-14

Psalm 30

Response: **I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.**

I will extol you, O Lord, for you drew me clear
and did not let my enemies rejoice over me.
O Lord, you brought me up from the netherworld;
you preserved me from among those going down into the pit.

R. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

Sing praise to the Lord, you his faithful ones,
and give thanks to his holy name.
For his anger lasts but a moment; a lifetime, his good will.

At nightfall, weeping enters in, but with the dawn, rejoicing.

R. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

Hear, O Lord, and have pity on me; O Lord, be my helper.

You changed my mourning into dancing;

O Lord, my God, forever will I give you thanks.

R. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

Let us pray

God of steadfast love, in Christ you made a new covenant of peace with your people: fill your Church with the knowledge of your compassion, that we may proclaim with joy the good news of your mercy and forgiveness, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Fifth reading Isaiah 55:1-11

Psalm Isaiah 12

Response: **You will draw water joyfully
from the springs of salvation.**

God indeed is my saviour; I am confident and unafraid.

My strength and my courage is the Lord,

and he has been my saviour. With joy you will draw water
at the fountain of salvation.

R. You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Give thanks to the Lord, acclaim his name;

among the nations make known his deeds,

proclaim how exalted is his name.

R. You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Sing praise to the Lord for his glorious achievement;

let this be known throughout all the earth.

Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst
is the Holy One of Israel!

R. You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Let us pray.

O God, by the power of your Word you have created all things, and by your Spirit you renew the earth: give now the water of life to those who thirst for you, that they may bring forth abundant fruit in your glorious kingdom; through Christ your Lord. **Amen.**

Sixth reading Ezekiel 36:24-28

Psalm 42

Response: **Like a deer that longs for running streams,
my soul longs for you, my God.**

Athirst is my soul for God, the living God.

When shall I go and behold the face of God?

**R. Like a deer that longs for running streams,
my soul longs for you, my God.**

I went with the throng and led them in procession to the house of God,

Amid loud cries of joy and thanksgiving,

with the multitude keeping festival.

**R. Like a deer that longs for running streams,
my soul longs for you, my God.**

Send forth your light and your fidelity; they shall lead me on
and bring me to your holy mountain, to your dwelling-place.

**R. Like a deer that longs for running streams,
my soul longs for you, my God.**

Then will I go in to the altar of God,

the God of my gladness and joy;
then will I give you thanks upon the harp, O God, my God!

**R. Like a deer that longs for running streams,
my soul longs for you, my God.**

Let us pray.

Living God, by the power of your Holy Spirit you give to your faithful people new life in the water of baptism. Guide and strengthen us by that same Spirit, that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love, and grow into the full stature of your Son Jesus Christ; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Pause for silent prayer.

The lights in the church are put on, we extinguish our candles and the Gloria is sung!

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray that we may live Christ's risen life.

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Christ Jesus, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and for ever.

Amen.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (6:3-11)

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the

glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We

know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 114

When Israel came out of Egypt :
and the house of Jacob from among a people of an alien tongue,

**Judah became his sanctuary:
and Israel his dominion.**

The sea saw that, and fled:

Jordan was driven back.

**The mountains skipped like rams:
and the little hills like young sheep.**

What ailed you, O sea, that you fled:

O Jordan, that you were driven back?

**You mountains, that you skipped like rams:
and you little hills like young sheep?**

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord:

at the presence of the God of Jacob,

**Who turned the rock into a pool of water:
and the flint-stone into a welling spring.**

The Gradual

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his mercy endures for ever.

Let the house of Israel say, "His mercy endures for ever".

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The right hand of the Lord has struck with power;
the right hand of the Lord is exalted. I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.
By the Lord has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (28:1-10)

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

The ministers process to the font with the Paschal candle.

The people's candles or tapers are lit again.

Dear friends, in baptism through the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection, we have died and been buried with Christ, so that we may rise with him to new life. Now that we have completed the observance of Lent, let us renew the promises made in our baptism, when we rejected the devil and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully as members of his holy catholic Church.

Water is poured into the font:

My sisters and brothers let us ask the Lord our God to bless this water he has created, which we shall use to recall our baptism. May he renew us and keep us faithful to the Spirit we have all received.

Amen.

Lord our God, this dawn your people keep prayerful vigil. Be with us as we recall the wonder of our creation and the greater wonder of our redemption. Bless this water: it makes the seed to grow, it refreshes us and makes us clean. You have made of it a servant of your loving kindness: through water you set your people free, and quenched their thirst in the desert. With water the prophets announced a new covenant that you would make with humanity. By water, made holy by Christ in the Jordan, you made our sinful nature anew in the font that gives rebirth. Let this water remind us

of our own baptism; let us share the joys of our brothers and sisters who are baptised this Easter.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Springs of water, bless the Lord. Give glory and praise to our God, who lives and reigns for ever!

Do you believe in God the Father, who made the world?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Son, Jesus Christ,
who redeemed our human race?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the church

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil
and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

I do.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and,
when you fail, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example
the good news of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek to serve Christ by loving your neighbour as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

Will you work and pray for justice and peace among all people
and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

The congregation is sprinkled with water from the font.

Water of life cleanse and refresh us,
raise us to life in Christ Jesus.

**Water of life cleanse and refresh us,
raise us to life in Christ Jesus.**

All you who thirst come to the water,
where you will never be thirsty again.

**Water of life cleanse and refresh us,
raise us to life in Christ Jesus.**

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and
the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace,
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen

The Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord, crucified and risen be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Offertory

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.

Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.

It will become the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.

Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.

It will become our spiritual drink.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

After the Preface:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth and full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Great Thanksgiving continues:

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Great Thanksgiving concludes:

...we worship you, Father eternal, in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours
for ever and ever. Amen.**

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.**

The Breaking of Bread and Communion

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body,

for we all share in the one bread.

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Communion Antiphon

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

The Sending out of God's People

Let us pray:

Eternal God, giver of life,
in the breaking of the bread we know the risen Lord.
May we who celebrate this holy feast
walk in his risen light
and bring new life to all creation.

Most loving God, **you send us into the world you love. Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage in the power of your Spirit.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you what is pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, ✠ the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

For Reflection

The original disciples were shocked into bliss by the Resurrection--
and they never recovered.

-- Dom Sebastian Moore O.S.B.

At the entrance to the Jerusalem's Church of All Nations, next to the Garden of Gethsemane, there is a sign warning every visitor:

NO EXPLANATIONS INSIDE THE CHURCH

This was intended to discourage talkative tour guides from disturbing the church's prayerful ambience with shouted lectures, but it has always struck me as very good advice for preachers on Easter Sunday. Confronted by a room full of people who spend most of their time in the secular social imaginary where the dead stay dead and God – if there is one – does not intervene in the natural order, preachers are tempted to mount a defence of the Resurrection within the plausibility structures of the modern mindset. In doing so, they not only tame a dangerous mystery into a manageable – and rather harmless – assumption, but they also waste a valuable opportunity to bring the assembly into confrontation with the transformative presence of the living Christ.

There is nothing wrong with addressing people's doubts, or wondering what facts might lie behind the "painfully untidy stories" of the Easter narratives. But that is work for another day. Easter Sunday is for proclamation, not explanation. It is a time to meet the One who changes everything.

The central question of Easter is not, "What happened to Jesus way back then?" but rather, "Where is Jesus now--for us?" Or even more strikingly, "*When* is Jesus? *When* is Jesus *for us*?" So Easter becomes not a matter of our questioning the Resurrection, but of allowing the Resurrection to question us. *Who are we now, and what must we become, in the light of the risen Christ?*

If I were preaching on Easter Sunday, I wouldn't want to convince so much as to invite-- to invite the mixed crowd of believers, seekers and doubters to embrace the Easter experience and consent to its transformative effects. In order to connect the risenness of Jesus with the risenness of us and all creation, I would pursue two fundamental themes: *Easter is now!*
And, *Resurrection has consequences!*

Easter is now!

Since it only occurs once a year, Easter Sunday is sometimes mistaken for a commemorative anniversary of a past event. In fact, the earliest churches treated the Paschal mystery of Christ's death and resurrection as the timeless (or *time-full*) subject of every eucharistic liturgy. The establishment of an annual observance of "Easter Day" was a later development.

The Resurrection, although breaking into history on a specific temporal occasion, is not the property of the past. As God's future showing itself in our present, it belongs to all times and seasons. Jesus is alive, still showing up as a transfiguring presence in a world fraught with absences. Jesus is not over, and his story is not over. It will only be completed in the divinization of the cosmos, when God is in all and all are in God. Easter isn't something we remember. It's something we live and breathe.

Resurrection has consequences

The Resurrection is more than an idea we talk about or believe propositionally. It's something we *become*, something we "prove" in the living of our stories. Rowan Williams describes it this way:

"The believer's life is a testimony to the risen-ness of Jesus: he or she demonstrates that Jesus is not dead by living a life in which Jesus is the never-failing source of affirmation, challenge, enrichment and enlargement--a pattern, a dance, intelligible as a pattern only when its pivot and heart become manifest. The believer shows Jesus as the centre of his or her life."

In the Orthodox icon of the Resurrection, Jesus is never by himself. He is always depicted taking the dead by the hand and pulling them out of their own tombs. Christ's hand snatching us from death is a vivid image, and George Herbert, the seventeenth-century poet-priest, employs it artfully in 'Easter':

Sing his praise
Without delays,
Who takes thee by the hand,
that thou likewise
With him mayst rise . . .

But the things that are killing us exert a powerful gravity. We sag under the weight of our despair, we resist the hand that pulls us upward. Nevertheless, Christ persists. "Arise, sad heart," says Herbert in 'The Dawning':

if thou dost not withstand,
Christ's resurrection thine may be;
Do not by hanging down break from the hand
Which, as it riseth, raiseth thee.

Do not by hanging down break from Christ's hand. Christ came to save us from our least selves. That's the gift – and the challenge – of the Resurrection, and it applies to our common life as well as to our private selves. The first disciples, so scattered and shamed by the events of the Passion, made this perfectly clear when their broken and bewildered community was restored to life. And so it is for all of us who follow.

Resurrection is about the healing and restoration of wounded and severed relationships: relationships between God and humanity, between human persons and, ultimately, among all the elements of creation. An Orthodox theologian puts the case in the widest possible terms: "The Resurrection is not the resuscitation of a body; it is the beginning of the transfiguration of the world." May the whole world one day see and know a church which has been shocked into bliss-- and has never recovered!

News

The ACT Chief Health Officer regularly updates information regarding interstate COVID19 outbreaks. The web site offers the latest information on restrictions and regulations.
https://health.act.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-04/COVID-19%20Advice%20for%20high%20risk%20settings_010421_final.pdf [The latest guidance on this site dated 1 April is in the church foyer]. The situation however is evolving again and changing very quickly and we ask everyone coming to St Philip's to be aware of current restrictions and alerts.

ACT Health require all worshippers to use the **CBR APP** as they come into church. If you use a Smartphone can you please download the App and use the QR code as you enter. An iPad has been installed in the foyer to assist in enabling us all to be scanned in as we come into the church.

News from Parish Council

- **Special General Meeting** A short Special General Meeting (SGM) will be held in the church at 11:15am on Sunday 2 May 2021 to:
 - a) approve the Parish's 2021 budget;
 - b) appoint a Parish Safety Officer;
 - c) elect a People's Warden; and d) note the Rector's appointment of a Parish Council Member.
- **Parish Safety Officer** Laura Wood has been put forward by Parish Council for the position of Parish Safety Officer. The role of the Parish Safety Officer is to implement the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (ACT) into our Parish. Under the Act, the nature of health and safety includes both physical and psychological safety. Under Diocesan guidelines, if anyone has any objections, they should lodge them with Revd. Martin at least two weeks before the Special General Meeting on May 2. Subject to receiving no objections, the appointment of Laura will be ratified at the SGM.

Maurice Neville announces a new book. I am delighted to announce the publication of 'Joy and Compassion: Stories and Prayers for a Life of Faith' (Coventry Press, Melb. 384 pages), written by my late wife Revd Susan Joy Neville. Susan Joy was a deacon and writes from her extensive experience as a hospice/hospital pastoral carer, school chaplain, and family minister. In Susan Joy's words, the book is "my voice, on faith and how to live as a person of faith in this world". It is a collection of 86 story-oriented reflections, each focussed on a specific aspect of faith life (e.g. 'Called', 'Hope', 'Peace', 'Searching', 'Scarred'). Each reflection is accompanied by a directly-related prayer, and ends with a question or comment for thought or action. Stories are from the Bible, but also from life, literature, movies, and beyond. After Susan Joy passed away in August 2018, I discovered the extent of her writings and realised their nature and potential. I compiled, edited, organised, and prepared them as a coherent text for publication. You can see details about the book and Susan Joy at her website <https://susanjoyneville.net/>. If you would like to buy a copy please see Maurice who can offer a significant author discount.

This year's sitting of the **Diocesan Synod** will take place next Saturday 10 April at Canberra Grammar School, beginning at 9am. The sitting has been reduced to one day and moved to Canberra to enable the Synod to meet under COVID SAFE guidelines.

This year's Easter celebrations are particularly poignant given last year's lockdown and will be particularly joyful with the news that we are able to sing. **The church has been decorated with a splendid flower display to express our joy**, if you would like to contribute towards the flower fund envelopes are available at the back of the church.

Our National Mission for 2021 and 2022 is an ABM project with Wontulp-Bi-Buya College in Cairns. This project continues our support for indigenous Australians and our value for education, we supported this Mission in 2015 and 2016.
<https://www.wontulp.qld.edu.au/>

The Wontulp-Bi-Buya College provides support services in the form of:

- Assistance for Indigenous church and community leaders through study programs (as mentioned above);
- Regional visits by staff to provide training (where permitted);
- Provision of college-owned devices that can be loaned out to students; and
- Provision of online course delivery.

In 2019, the College had 156 enrolments, with roughly two thirds women and one third men. The overall completion rate from the College was 92% and the participation rate for 2020 remained

high, even with the challenges of COVID-19. The College continued to provide remote learning opportunities when face-to-face learning could not be offered. We believe that this mission will be a great opportunity to support education assistance for Indigenous Peoples and increase necessary equipment supplies.

Envelopes are available at the rear of the church for your offering. Many thanks to those of you who donated writing pens, colouring equipment & notebooks. Laura Wood is in Cairns this week meeting with members of the College and has taken a suitcase full of writing material with her.

Bridging the Gap – Breaking the Cycle. Each week St Philip's donates non-perishable food items to **St John's Care** in Reid. The baskets at the back of the church are ready to receive your donations! This week there is a need for cereal, biscuits, packeted Cup-a-Soup, olive oil, dry pulses, dishwashing liquid, honey, tins of tuna, tinned vegetables and tinned meat. Thank you!

This week @ St Philip's

Today	<i>Easter Day</i>
6am	Lighting of the New Fire, Vigil & Eucharist
8am	Easter Breakfast
9.30am	Festal Eucharist – Livestreamed
Tuesday 6 April	<i>Easter Tuesday</i>
2pm	Eucharist Sir Leslie Morshead Manor
Thursday 8 April	<i>Easter Thursday</i>
10am	Eucharist
Saturday 10 April	<i>Easter Saturday</i>
10am-1pm	Pandora's - OPEN
9am	Diocesan Synod – Canberra Grammar School
Sunday 11 April	<i>Second Sunday of Easter</i>
8am	Eucharist
10am	Eucharist with Hymns

Dates for your Diary

Parish Council – Wednesday 14 April, 7pm

Special Parish General Meeting – Sunday 2 May, 11.15am

Next Sunday – Second Sunday of Easter (11 April 2021)

Readings: Acts 4:32-37, Psalm 133, 1 John 1.1-2.2, John 20:19-31

Roster

			4-Apr-21		11-Apr-21	18-Apr-21
	Sunday of Month		1st		2nd	3rd
	Liturgical Season		Easter Day		2nd Sunday of Easter	3rd Sunday of Easter
	Flowers		Flower team		Flower team	Flower team
8am	Celebrant	6am: Lighting of the new Fire, Vigil & Eucharist	Rev'd Martin	8am	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)					Rev'd Canon Scott
	Sidespeople & Welcomer		Fred A, Shane & Tim W		Alison & Alistair	<i>volunteers</i>
	Liturgical Assistant		LA: Lisa C Deacon: Robin		Ellie P	Lisa C
	1st Bible reader - OT		Julianne S		Alison D	Rebecca P
	2nd Bible reader - NT		Brian McK		Alistair D	Brian McK
10am	Celebrant	9.30am: Festal Eucharist	Rev'd Martin	10am	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Canon Scott
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)					
	Sidespeople & Welcomer		Denise M, Nirmal F & helpers		Helen & Hardy P & Laura W	Janene B, Jeannette McH & Richard G
	Liturgical Assistant		Crucifer: Zara Server: Leighton Deacon: Robin		Rebecca K	
	Musician(s) & Singers/Soloist		Colin F		Colin F	Colin F
	1st Bible reader - OT		Richard G		Tim G	Sarah B
	2nd Bible reader - NT		Ashton R		Colin D	David R
	Morning Tea		<i>no morning tea, Easter Breakfast between services</i>		Jan G	Janene B
	Additional details/notes		<i>8am - 9.30 Easter Breakfast</i>		<i>School holidays</i>	<i>School holidays</i>