



St Philip's
Come & See

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Sunday 21 February 2021
First Sunday in Lent

While the COVID19 restrictions are in place St Philip's is delighted to be celebrating the Eucharist online on [Facebook](#) at 8.00am 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



Front cover: Christ in the Wilderness, Ivan Kramskoi (1837–1887)

Dear Friends,

Our journey towards the cross and Easter has begun. This time last year we stepped off not knowing quite what the journey would bring and very quickly we went into lockdown and things changed in ways we had never imagined. This year we are more aware of our obligations, what is being asked of us and how best to ensure that we care for those most vulnerable. With Canberra remaining free of community transmission and with the impending roll out of vaccines ministry will resume to Canberra Aged Care in the coming weeks and I hope that we will soon be able to resume singing. It would be wonderful to be able to sing on Easter morning!

Today and over the coming weeks we will engage in that 'new' part of the Lord's Prayer – 'Save us from the time of Trial.' It is a petition that translators have struggled with over the centuries. The temptations of Jesus in the wilderness are best understood as trials and in Lent we are asked to consider our own trials. When we ask God as father to 'Save us' from trials what we are really

saying is be with us when we are tested, (and sometimes found wanting). We know trials will come and Lent is a time to consider our response in light of our baptismal calling. Jesus went into the wilderness following his baptism and the heavenly declaration 'this is my Son.' The wilderness was the time of trial for Jesus to determine what that might mean. So it is for us in Lent, what does it mean for us to be a child of God? Hence it is a quieter time, a time for prayer and introspection. I hope that you can find time to engage fully in this season.

I hope that you can attend our Annual General Meeting today (which will be held in church) and look back over another year in the life of our parish. The reports give us a snapshot of parish life and we have much to be thankful for. I confess I have struggled to offer a clear strategy for parish life and I am aware that my report doesn't offer any clear path for our future. We have spent much time during the past year creating plans on the run and I know that we will need to move from that mode to a more carefully, prayerfully considered way as we strive together to share our faith and reach into our community. But we continue as, Shakespeare's Ophelia said to pray, love and remember and perhaps these things sum up the essence of the Christian life.

Every blessing *Martin*

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Entrance Antiphon [Introit]

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.

Mark 1:15

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, ✠ and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled and wandered far off.

Let us then ask for mercy, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Merciful God, our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith: pardon you ✠ and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy**

**Holy God,
holy and mighty,
holy and immortal,
have mercy on us**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

God of the new and eternal covenant,
As the forty days of the great flood
swept away the world's corruption
and watered new beginnings of righteousness and life;
grant to us, who are washed clean and born again
in the saving flood of baptism, the well spring of your grace,
that your gift of new life may flourish once again;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever an ever.

Amen.

Today's Readings

A reading from the book of Genesis (9:8-17)

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' ¹²God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' ¹⁷God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

Psalms 25:10

In you, O Lord my God, have I put my hope:
in you have I trusted, let me not be ashamed,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

Let none who wait for you be put to shame:

but let those that break faith be confounded and gain nothing.

Show me your ways, O Lord:
and teach me your paths.

Lead me in the ways of your truth, and teach me:

for you are the God of my salvation.

In you have I hoped all the day long:

because of your goodness, O Lord.

Call to mind your compassion and your loving-kindness:

for they are from of old.

Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions:
but according to your mercy think on me.

Good and upright is the Lord:

therefore will he direct sinners in the way.

The meek he will guide in the path of justice:

and teach the humble his ways.

All the paths of the Lord are faithful and true:

for those who keep his covenant and his commandments.

A reading from the first letter of Peter (3:18-22)

¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a

removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Gradual

Praise to you O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Praise to you O Christ, king of eternal glory!

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Matthew 4:4

Praise to you O Christ, king of eternal glory!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark (1:9-15)

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' ¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

For the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

Let us affirm the faith of the church

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, ✠ and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

In our prayers we remember those in need, particularly: Ros, Ben, Gage, Hugh, Denise, Sarah, Tien, Myrle, Marian, Margot, Philippa, Dawn and David, those unable to gather with us, those in hospital, residential or home care and those from whom we are isolated.

We commend to God the recently departed, those whose anniversaries fall at this time Howard Done (25/2/1987) and all those whose memories are dear to us.

The Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord 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:

Great is the mystery of faith:

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
until you come in glory.**

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.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Happy are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Communion Antiphon

**The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

Psalms 51:18

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>]*

The Sending out of God's People

Let us pray:
God of mercy,
may we who have shared in this holy meal
know your forgiveness in our lives,
bring your reconciliation to others,
and be a sign of your wholeness in this broken world.
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.

Christ our Saviour draw you to himself that you find in him crucified a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sin forgiven
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.

Thanks be to God

For Reflection

Lent is supposed to be a time of honest introspection in which we ritually imitate Christ's journey to Jerusalem and the cross that awaits him there.

The COVID-19 pandemic offers us a fitting chance to reflect theologically on what is going on in this difficult time and how to respond to it in faith.

Some have said God is using this pestilence to judge the nation for its sins. Some are saying it is a test of faith and so we should gather on Easter to demonstrate our faith in God.

Cherry-picking biblical texts and historical precedents is easy, but theologically and practically problematic, if not irresponsible. What other responses in faith might there be? To name and repent of our sins is one response. One sin is our individualistic, self-and nation-centred focus. COVID-19, as a global phenomenon, reminds us of the interdependence of all human life – even of all life, as we are beginning to see self-quarantining is giving creation time to renew itself from the ways we have damaged it. This could be a time to reject finally the fiction of the imperial self, whose seemingly heroic voice we hear in the poem, “Invictus”: “I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul.”

Instead, we can affirm, with Alasdair MacIntyre, that we are, at most, co-authors of our lives and that we are dependent, rational animals. Another sin is placing our trust in neoliberal economic fictions for economic salvation that justify destructive inequities in wealth across the world – inequalities exposed by this event and that have complicated our responses to it.

A second faithful response is to take this opportunity to make technology serve us, not it (or its hidden masterminds). We have all laughed at cartoons that show people together around a table each engrossed in a device rather than talking to one another.

In these days of physical distancing, human and humane interaction is more important, and we see how technology can serve that need for connection, but also its limits. Perhaps when this is over, we will remember technology exists to serve a human way of life, not hinder it.

A third faithful response is to honour, protect and reward the profound sacrifices of people who are mostly invisible and significantly underpaid for what they do: Our front-line health care providers most obviously, but also grocery workers, delivery drivers, garbage collectors, posties and hosts of others.

A fourth faithful response is to make sure the most vulnerable in our society are cared for.

A final one is to use the economic measures as an opportunity to restructure the economy in ways that allow for both reasonable profit and living income for all.

Some are interpreting COVID-19 as God’s judgment and a test of faith. At a superficial level, there may be something to that, but talk of God’s judgment and testing of faith is cheapened by conservatives (and too much ignored by liberals). People who talk that way may claim, like the apostle Paul, that they are simply being fools for Christ. But as one of my mentors is fond of saying, “There’s a difference between being a fool for Christ and a damn fool.”

If the virus is God’s judgment – and that is a big if – it is also the grace of God: an opportunity to repent, to change course, to embrace and live into the good life that God has for us – a good, as H. Richard Niebuhr reminds us is “not the good which we desire, but the good which we would desire if we were good and really wise.”

The virus offers grace: to proceed in trust that the arc of the universe does indeed bend toward resurrection – just as Jesus trusted, though not without struggle, that the way forward to new life was through crucifixion, not around it. May God help us to respond in such trust to the opportunities that God is giving us as we make our own journeys toward Jerusalem this year.

Paul Lewis

Professor of religion in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia US.

News

Lent 2021

The Diocese in conjunction with Anglicare has produced a Lenten Study simply called **God of Compassion**. The study can be downloaded at the following link: <https://anglicancg.org.au/wp-content/uploads/compassion-lentenstudy-ebook.pdf> and can be used individually or in groups. If you would like a copy downloaded and printed for you please let Martin know.

On Tuesday mornings at 10am starting on 2 March, we will gather and say a short office of Morning Prayer followed by reflection on the study. I am hoping that we can begin to gather in small home groups too.

Alternatively if you wish to follow the Lenten readings for Year B Dr Colin Dundon has written some excellent reflections on the Lectionary. These will be loaded on our Website. Those of you who engaged with Colin's Lenten Course in Year C will, I'm sure, be keen to hear what he has to say about Mark's gospel and the other readings in the lectionary.

St Philip's Quiet Day

This year as part of our Lenten journey together we will assemble for a Quiet Day at The Gathering Place at 4 Bancroft Street, Dickson on Saturday, 20 March from 9.30am - 3.30pm. To book in go to the following link. <https://forms.gle/tu1wge5fKCK6Lwu27>

Sometimes we can become so busy that we miss the present moment.

It is important to create space for silence and reflection in our lives, so we can really see the world and people around us. It is in the quiet that we often become aware of God's presence within us.

The Lenten quiet day will include opportunities to get to know each other a little better and to spend some time reflecting, in prayer, and in silence.

The Lenten quiet day is open to anyone who is interested. You do not need to have attended a quiet day before. It is led by Fr Martin Davies, former Director of the St James Institute.

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/2021-02/COVID-](https://health.act.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-02/COVID-19%20Advice%20for%20high%20risk%20settings_18022021.pdf)

[19%20Advice%20for%20high%20risk%20settings_18022021.pdf](https://health.act.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-02/COVID-19%20Advice%20for%20high%20risk%20settings_18022021.pdf) [The latest guidance on this site dated 18 February is in the church foyer]. The situation however can evolve and change very quickly and we ask everyone coming to St Philip's to be aware of current restrictions and alerts.

For the latest information from NSW Health go to: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates#self-isolate-and-get-tested>

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! **School supplies continue to be much appreciated – these include: back packs, lunch boxes, drink bottles and pencil cases.** Also this week there is a need for school lunch snacks, juice poppers, small boxes of sultanas, savoury biscuits and tinned meats. Thank you!

Another edition of **Church Chat** is currently being prepared. If you have any news you'd like to share, a recipe that you've enjoyed or movie you've seen, write up a short article and send it through to Laura Wood at yourlaurawood@gmail.com

This week @ St Philip's

Today	<i>First Sunday in Lent</i>
8am	Eucharist - Livestreamed
10am	Eucharist with Music
11.15am	Parish AGM
Saturday 27 February	<i>George Herbert, parish priest, poet (d.1633)</i>
10am - 1pm	Pandora's - OPEN
Sunday 28 February	<i>Second Sunday in Lent</i>
8am	Eucharist - Livestreamed
10am	Eucharist with Music

Dates for your Diary

Lenten Quiet Day – Saturday 20 March (See news above)

Pre-Easter Working Bee – Saturday 27 March 9am-11am

Good Friday – 2 April

Easter Sunday – 4 April

Diocesan Synod – 10-11 April

Roster

		21-Feb-21	28-Feb-21	7-Mar-21
	Sunday of Month	3rd	4th	1st
	Liturgical Season	1st Sunday in Lent	2nd Sunday in Lent	3rd Sunday in Lent
	Flowers	Flowers Team	nil	<i>nil</i>
8am	Celebrant	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Canon Scott	Rev'd Canon Scott
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)	Rev'd Canon Scott		
	Sidespeople & Welcomer	Vicki L & helpers	Tim & Shane	Tim & Shane
	Liturgical Assistant	Lisa C	Brian McK	Lisa C
	1st Bible reader - OT	volunteer	Shane W	Margaret
	2nd Bible reader - NT	Rebecca P	Julianne S	Russell
10am	Celebrant	Rev'd Canon Scott	Rev'd Canon Scott	Rev'd Martin
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)			Rev'd Canon Scott
	Sidespeople & Welcomer	Janene B, Jeannette Mch & helper	Fred A, Sally A & helper	Denise M, Nirmal F & Fred A
	Liturgical Assistant	Brian McK	Philippa W	
	Musician(s) & Singers/Soloist	Colin F	Colin F	Colin F
	1st Bible reader - OT	Sarah B	David R	Ashton R
	2nd Bible reader - NT	Ashton R	Denise M	Fiona D
	Morning Tea	Jan G	Ann M	Helen P
	Additional details/notes	<i>11.15am AGM</i>		<i>Canberra Day long weekend</i>