

Welcome to St Philip's

The Anglican Church of St Philip's O'Connor, Canberra, ACT, Australia
We are delighted you are here (especially visitors on the web!)

Visitors are welcome to receive Holy Communion

At 10.00am Communion bread is administered first, then the small cup for intinction (dipping). The two common cups for sipping follow.

Services on Sunday: 8am and 10am Eucharist, 5-30pm Evening Service. Wednesday HC 10am

[Advent Calendar](#)

**Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th December 2005
CHRISTMAS EVE and CHRISTMAS DAY**



**Christmas Eve 7pm Children's Service
11pm Carols 11.30pm Sung Eucharist "Midnight Mass"**

Readings:

- Isaiah 9:2-7

- Psalm 96, page 323
- Titus 2:11-14
- Luke 2:1-14

Organist: Colin Forbes

Christmas Day – 9am Holy Communion

Readings:

- Isaiah 52:7-10
- Psalm 98, page 325
- Hebrews 1:1-14
- John 1:1-14

Organist: Colin Forbes

Greetings Everyone

I really do enjoy Christmas as a time of celebration, reflection, and thanksgiving! The worldliness of our Australian observance can be a little distracting but at least it is still called "Christmas"! Even for those who have no belief it is a reminder that there are those who want to celebrate the mystery of God made flesh or the blending of divinity and humanity in the life of Christ — and indeed in all of us! It seems to me that Christmas reminds us that as God shares our humanity we too share God's divinity — that we are all potentially like Jesus — so in touch with God that we rattle the cages of all that is rotten in our human condition — racism, prejudice, greed, injustice etc. etc. The joy and celebration we attempt to create among ourselves is a reminder that it is this joy and celebration (not just the frivolity) that is so needed in so much of the world! At this time the Christmas Bowl Appeal asks us to "Fill the future with hope" and I encourage your generosity to that appeal or any of the recognized aid agency appeals.

I feel rather strange celebrating Christmas on a Sunday but it is a habit I could get used to! It makes for a much more orderly Christmas celebration especially for clergy and there isn't the

confusion of holiday arrangements. We could do something like All Saints Day where the observance is often moved to the closest Sunday. The same is done with other observances also! It would solve all the haggling over the various holiday and leave loadings etc... I might have stumbled onto something that the Church, Government, Business and Union leaders could at last agree on! And it would make my life easier as well! We could start a political party and call it "A Sunday for Christmas Party"! The plan would be approved by psychologists and counsellors because it would relieve stress at a very stressful time of year. I could be nominated as "Australian of the Year" for services to the "health and well-being of all Australians" ...In my dreams!

Oh well it is something to think about in my spare time! Of course there would be those who would complain because we weren't celebrating Jesus' Birthday on its actual day.... "you know — Jesus was born on the 25th December in the year 00 wasn't he?". Then someone would ask "How did they know he was going to be born and set the calendar to 00?" and the conversation would continue along such learned lines. Christmas Day as an observance on 25th December was a practical way of associating the Christian festival with the Roman festival of "Natalis Solis Invicti" (The birth of the unconquerable sun) in about 336AD.

We celebrate the birth of the Christ child! As we do so may we be moved to respond to his call to follow as his disciple and to make a difference wherever we might be! I wish you all the Joy and Peace of the Christ at his coming!

Rob Lamerton



Weekly offering/income needed to operate our Parish \$1455 (Excluding rental income)

Offerings received 18/12/05: \$790.20, EFT \$400, Messiah Donation \$1000, Missions \$40,

Also received: Christmas Bowl \$40, Christmas Cards \$20, Northbourne Christmas Party \$20

Notices

Anglicare Christmas Appeal

Anglicare Angels, Angel Pens, Flashing Angels and Silver pens are still available! Please pay for your cards by putting the money in the box with the pens etc.

These would make great gifts for that someone special in your life!

from Janet and Tony Brian-Davis

G'day to one and all! We trust this finds you in good health and spirits and we hope you've had a fruitful year.

Well, what a year: we've moved again! So, if we didn't wish you the very best last year, our sincere apologies. Our move was very early in the year and we were very busy at that time.

We've settled into Gawler in South Australia. It's about 50 kilometres from Adelaide. Being on the edge of the Barossa Valley — a premier wine growing area — we have been exploring the many culinary delights of the area. We've also had a houseboat holiday on the Murray River. That's a great way to relax and unwind.

The year has flown by, but as it disappears over the horizon we can catch our breath and say, "Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year to One and All!"

Our new postal address is: PO Box 1239, Gawler, South Australia, 5118.

Over the next few weeks!

Sunday 1st January (for those who are awake) services will be as usual.

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion and the Baptism of Phoebe Cardell

I will be on leave from Tuesday 3rd Jan until Tuesday 17th

On Sunday 8th January The Rev'd Jeanette McHugh will be presiding and preaching. That day will be our observance of Epiphany!

On Sunday 15th January The Rev'd Doug Bannerman will preside and preach at the Eucharist at 8am and 10am

PLEASE NOTE!!

**Throughout January
The Morning Tea Roster and the Children's Church Roster will be
taking a break
and so there are NO arrangements for Morning Tea and Children's
Church.
Informal arrangements may be made from time to time.**

Food for food parcels may be placed in the basket! With thanks!

WE PRAY FOR:

The World We give thanks for peaceful and well-attended elections in Iraq and pray for steps to lasting peace. We continue to pray for those suffering as a result of disaster — the Asian Tsunami, Hurricanes in the USA and Caribbean and Earthquake victims in Kashmir. We pray for wisdom to bring an end to racism and violence in Australia.

Northbourne Community Centre: For Robin and Liz and other helpers.

Those in need of healing: : Ron Grimshaw, Clive Lowes, June Axelsen, Jill Scott, Yoko Murase, Noah Palethorpe, Rhyan Bloor, Val Reeves, Jana Combs, John Webley, Rebecca Bowman, Phoebe Gordon, Ian Wright, Guy Lucas, Linda Kennedy, Ruth Horn, Sarona, Merv McInnes, Paul Mitchell, Mira Barratt, Jutaro Murase.

Those mourning: Ravi and Ranji Lawrence and their two sons Kishan and Beniyei and Ravi's mother Mrs Lawrence following the death of Sheeba in the Tsunami.

The departed: Sheeba Lawrence and Ravi's brothers Pious and Christopher (shot by the Sri Lankan army c. 1984)

THIS WEEK

- **Monday & Tuesday** Rob's day off
- **Wednesday, Thursday & Friday** Home Communion
- **Friday** 10am-1pm Pandora's Open — Sandra Lamerton
- **Saturday** 10am-1pm Pandora's Open — Sandra

SUNDAY 25 December 2005 9.00am
8am & 10am Eucharist 5.30pm Evening Service

Readings:

- Numbers 6:22-27
- Psalm 8, page 229
- Galatians 4:4-7
- Luke 2:15-21

Rosters:

Cleaning: volunteer

Flowers: Kerry-Anne Cousins

Readers:

8am: 1st John Girdlestone 2nd Devin Combs-Bowles

10am: 1st Chris Cheah 2nd Beryl Holder

Sidespersons:

8am: John Girdlestone

10am: Chris Cheah & Roger Sharp

Morning Tea 10am: in recess until February

Pandora's income last week: \$233 — reserved for future development of the parish and Pandora's

Please take a pewsheet home and pass one on to someone else.



christian world service/the national council of churches in australia.
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Index page for the site is at <http://www.acay.com.au/~stphil/index.html>