

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



The (Kingdom) Reign of God in time of drought!

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost 24th July 2005

8am and 10am Eucharist, 5-30pm Evening Service
The Eucharist begins on page 119 of the Green Prayer Book

Readings:

- Genesis 29: 15-28
- Psalm 105.1-11 page 332
- Romans 8: 26-39
- Matthew 13: 44-58

Hymns 10am: Together in Song 164, 401, 494 (at prayers), 498, 100

Greetings Everyone,

In spite of recent good rains the greater portion of Australia is still in the grip of drought! In response to the gradually worsening situation the National Council of Churches of Australia, the Australian Prayer Network and the Evangelical Alliance have combined to encourage a united approach to praying for our country and for all aspects of the drought problem. Rather than calling it prayer for rain the process is called "PRAYER IN THE FACE OF DROUGHT" and so it involves ALL the aspects of drought. It is more than just asking God for rain it is about wisdom to deal with drought and manage our water. It is about the struggle of towns to provide adequate water and just survive. It is about the productivity of our agricultural and farming. It is about the use of water and other resources used in industry. It is therefore about economics and providing for our country. It is about livelihood of people about families and children!

Simple logic tells me that the average rainfall for Australia over the next 30 to 50 years will not substantially increase and yet we expect the growth of our population and standard of living to continue. The problem to provide for our day to day washing and consumption as well as to grow crops to keep animals fed and allow industry to operate will become an ever increasing headache. It may well become a nightmare! While all the "fresh water creation" ideas have some merit the more important will be the development of more efficient water use and recycling. We will really need to examine just what industries are water efficient; or if they are just not suited to this country. Because it is not just as simple as praying for rain and is about repentance (examining our own attitude) about God's gift of water we need to pray and seek the guidance of God's Holy Spirit!

I encourage you to enter into the 40 days of PRAYER IN THE FACE OF DROUGHT by using the prayers from APBA reproduced on the insert. Take time to also reflect on some practical action for yourself and for those more desperately affected. I suggest you conclude with the Lord's Prayer which of course asks God to "Give us today our daily bread" and "Forgive us" etc. Let's hear how you are going and how you feel about the situation as we go!

I was heartened to discover that our Prime Minister John Howard with Mrs Howard and President George Bush with Mrs Bush attended church last Sunday! They received Holy Communion, prayed and

heard a sermon about sorting the "weeds from the flowers in life". What was interesting and heartening to discover was that the readings (or at least the gospel reading) were same as was read here! I find it encouraging to know that around the world most Anglican congregations along with Roman Catholic people and many Uniting Church and other denominations will have read and thought about similar themes! It is sign of our unity in a very special way and I find it really interesting to hear from my RC and UC friends how the readings are interpreted each week.

This week we continue to hear about Jacob's "Personal Growth through Disappointment Program" otherwise known as "Never argue with your father-in-law!" Paul's words in the letter to the Romans remind us that God's Spirit enables our feeble efforts at prayer, that we are called, and that nothing separates us from the love of Christ. The parables of Jesus in Matthew remind us that the Kingdom of Heaven starts with the tiniest seed, that it permeates all that it touches, that we can encounter it by surprise or by deliberate search, that it is inclusive and that ultimately only God is judge!

Rob Lamerton

Notices

Sunday Evening Services at St Philip's 5.30pm

Worship tonight will be led by Chris Cheah

Next week was to have special music. But that is now postponed.

Cleaners are needed for St Philip's Cleaning Roster!

There are gaps on the weekends 30th July (next week!) Please contact Janine Studholme 6241 5894

Pandora's at O'Connor Fashion Parade on 24th September 2005.

Models Required! Many would pay for this opportunity!!!

Apply by phone to 61618606 or speak to Sandra Lamerton.

Twilight Fair

[November 5th]

Team leaders are needed for Promotions, Entertainment, and Raffles!

To enable proper planning and organization of these aspects of the Fair without last minute panic. All support will be provided by members of the church council and you can recruit your friends to assist. By sharing the jobs involved in planning this event we can make the load easy for everyone. Please consider if you would like to take on one or other of these tasks. If you want to know what's involved check out the Twilight Fair board or speak to Helen 6248 8030(h) or paletho@pcug.org.au

July is Book Month — The books are rolling in but more are needed! Please start selecting and dusting off your books for the book stall!

At its latest meeting, Parish Council approved spending for ingredients for those kind people who would make **Christmas Cakes and Puddings** and other food items for sale at the Fair. If you have these skills and could make some cakes and puddings (of various sizes), please contact Denise Manley ph: 6254 2838.

Preliminary gathering for the "Integrity For Living - retreat in daily life"

Sunday 31 July, 3-4.30pm at St Marks in Barton. Please let us know if you are coming. Susanna Pain 6248 6465

PILGRIMAGE OF RECONCILIATION - BY BIKE TO ULURU

To mark his 40 years as a priest, Dominican friar Peter Murnane is making a 40-day bike pilgrimage to Uluru. Six others will accompany him, including Aboriginal story-teller Phillip Yubbagurri Brown, who works for reconciliation between indigenous and white Australians.

Learn more about the Pilgrimage at its website:

<http://www.users.bigpond.com/lexicon/uluru.htm>

or contact Peter Murnane: pmopnz@yahoo.com.au

Weekly offering/income required to operate our Parish \$1455

(Excluding rental income)

Offerings received ../7/05: \$791.70, EFT \$345, Missions \$15

Shortfall this week: \$303.30

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

WE PRAY FOR:

The World

For order and stability in London following further bombings. For resolve in Iraq and Afghanistan to overcome terrorism and intimidation. In Australia for a genuine desire to face the issues of water management and to deal with the social, agricultural and economic effects of drought. Our leaders dealing with security issues.

Thanksgiving for healing: Jean Pound, Faye Pankhurst, Luke Tarlington. **Those in need of healing:** Emily Colman, Rebecca Bowman, Phoebe Gordon, Stella Cheah, Chris Nicol, Ian Wright, Guy Lucas, Glen Burns, Linda Kennedy, Bryan Little, Ruth Horn, Sarona, Merv McInnes, Paul Mitchell, Mira Barratt, Jutaro Murase, Anna.

Those who mourn: Sue Lynskey and the friends of Ed Austrums.

The departed: Ed Austrums, Dot Mayo (d.22/7/02), Michael Gamble (d.24/7/97)

The Saints: Mary Magdalene.

On the web: [Anglican Cycle of Prayer](#) and the [Diocesan Cycle of Prayer](#)

TODAY'S ROSTER:

Cleaning: ?

Flowers: Colleen Rischbieth

Readers:

8am: 1st Eloise Wright 2nd Shane Woodburn

10am: 1st Fred Anchell 2nd Linda Anchell

Sidespersons:

8am: Ian Rischbieth

10am: Helen, Brian & James

Morning Tea 10am: Ann Munro & Helper

THIS WEEK

- **Tuesday – Saturday** 7.15am & 5pm
Morning/Evening Prayer
- **Tuesday** 10.30am Holy Communion at
Kankinya
- **Wednesday** 10.00am Holy Communion
- **Thursday** Meal, Study and Meditation Group
- **Friday** 10am-1pm Pandora's Open – Sandra
Lamerton
- **Saturday** 10am-1pm Pandora's Open – Michael
Fitzgerald-Clarke

SUNDAY 31st July 2005 8am & 10am Eucharist 5.30pm Evening Service

Readings:

- Genesis 32: 22-31
- Psalm 17: 1-7 & 16 - page 235
- Romans 9: 1-8
- Matthew 14: 13-21

Rosters:

Cleaning: ?

Flowers: Sandra Lamerton

Readers:

8am: Clive Lowes

10am: 1st Pat Forbes 2nd Denise Manley

Sidespersons:

8am: Clive Lowes

10am: Hardy & Grace

Morning Tea 10am: Kerry-Anne & Ian

Banked from Pandora's last week \$156.

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

Priest: Rev. Rob Lamerton. Ph 62478004 Fax 62307775

P.O. Box 6022 O'CONNOR A.C.T. 2602
Wardens: Devin Combs Bowles, Richard Wade, Sarah Gowty

Additional Leaflet distributed with the pew sheet.

AUSTRALIA-WIDE CALL FOR PRAYER IN THE FACE OF DROUGHT

In a remarkable expression of unity across the church, the leaders of three broad networks have issued a call inviting Australia's Christians to engage in "40 days of prayer in the face of drought". The National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA), the Australian Prayer Network (APN), and the Evangelical Alliance (EA), have joined forces to invite Churches right across the country to engage in prayer concerning the present drought.

They are calling Christians to a national Day of Prayer on Sunday 24 July as the first of 40 days in which individuals and groups would pray about the issues raised by severe drought. In a joint statement, Revd John Henderson (NCCA), Brian Pickering (APN), and Tom Slater (EA) said:

"Despite recent rainfall, some of it above average, we think this season of prayer is still relevant as the drought has by no means yet been broken, and its lessons remain. Along with the drought, the floods that have accompanied heavy falls in some areas show our continuing vulnerability to the weather, and our reliance on the most basic cycles of nature. Christians see all of life not just in material terms, but in spiritual terms. Drought and flood remind us of our total dependence on God. Reflecting on the present drought and responding in faith will include a whole range of responses. One of

these will be compassion for rural communities bearing the brunt of environmental extremes. Another will be a greater sense of proportion, as we reflect on the fact that in other parts of the world millions go without even clean drinking water every day.

Alongside prayer for the breaking of the drought will no doubt be prayers of repentance for our wasteful use of limited resources, and prayer for greater responsibility and wisdom in the way we use and manage our water resources as a nation, and address issues such as global warming. Prayer reminds us not to take God for granted.

In this season of prayer we will join both with those still waiting for rain and those who have recently had good or above average rainfall, turning to God with our thanks and our requests for all of Australia."

Resources for churches, small groups, and individuals, will be made available through the websites of the sponsoring networks:

<http://www.ncca.org.au>

<http://www.ausprayernet.org.au/>

<http://www.ea.org.au/>

For further information contact:

John Henderson (NCCA) 02 9299 2215 or 0419 224 935

Brian Pickering (APN) 02 9876 2419 or 0409 779 870

Tom Slater (EA) (03) 9890 0633 or 0438 335 640

Prayers for use during the Forty Days of Prayer

Pray for the preservation of the earth

Give thanks for the beauty and abundance of the earth.

Pray for ourselves and all peoples for grace to live in harmony with God's creation, wisdom and generosity in our use of its bounty.

Pray for peace and shared prosperity

Give thanks for all who serve the common good.

Pray for wisdom to those who have responsibility and authority in every land, that we may share with justice the resources of the world, and work together in trust.

In time of drought or flood

All things look to you, O Lord,
to give them their food in due season;
look in mercy on your people,
and hear our prayer for those whose lives and possessions
are threatened [*have been destroyed*] by drought [*flood*].
In your mercy restore your creation and heal our land.
So guide and bless your people,
that we may enjoy the fruits of the earth
and give you thanks with grateful hearts,
through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Rain

God our heavenly Father
through your Son you promised
to those seeking first your kingdom
and your righteousness
all things necessary for bodily welfare:
send us, we pray, in this time of need,
rain to water the earth,
that we may receive its produce
to strengthen and sustain us
and always praise you for your bounty;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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