

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, Wednesday HC 10am

The vision of St. Philip's is to **be** a caring, Christian community which honours and embraces difference, and offers a place to celebrate and grow spiritually in the Anglican tradition.

| [Advent Calendar](#) |

Sunday 24th December 2006 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT



8am Eucharist

10am Eucharist

The service begins on page 119 of the Green Prayer book

Readings:

- Micah 5:2-5
- Song of Mary - page 31
- Hebrews 10:5-10
- Luke 1:39-45

10am Hymns: [TIS](#) 310, 317, 614, 161

Organist/Pianist: Colin Forbes

Soloist: Denise Manley

"Magnificat"
"Blessed Mary Wanders Through the Thorn"

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

Dear Everyone,

Welcome to St. Philips!

Firstly a special welcome to Linda Anchell who is our preacher for this fourth Sunday of Advent. Our theme today is "Love" and what a wonderful theme! John writes in his first epistle, "God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them" (1John 4:16b). The translation from the Message version is, "God is love. When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and God lives in us."

How we actually do that is of course another matter! However so much of what we think about God is largely unconscious and like it or not it will influence our feelings and actions. If we deep down believe God is like a hard to please parent ready to pounce on our every mistake, then guess what? We will be insecure, fearful and have no confidence in our faith. If we think deep down God is largely irrelevant and has no real power in the world then we will naturally dismiss his call in our lives and neglect to spend time cultivating our relationship with God. It has been said that what we believe about God is the single most important aspect of our faith. What ever belief we have, it determines everything else.

Therefore, the simple statement, "God is love", has the potential to be truly transforming. Of course as they teach you in theology 101, all statements and beliefs about God can only approximate God's divine mystery. Love is itself a mystery. Who can really fathom its depths and its power? Of course if you are a biological determinist you would probably come up with something to do with 'selfish genes'. However, as a universal explanation for everything, that leaves me somewhat cold and dissatisfied. It might be logical in its own framework but next to useless as I experience the transforming power of love in my life... and it has been utterly transforming.

One spiritual practice one of my spiritual directors once recommended was to think/meditate on one scripture verse for a week. In the shower, in the car, lying in bed, chopping the vegetables and weeding the garden. What better thing to ponder this Christmas season! "God is love" — let it sink down into the depths of your being and let it flow out to the world around you. Be liberated by love.

Between Christmas and New Year the Wednesday Eucharist will not be conducted and for Tuesday Meditation has now finished.

Peace and Blessings

Rebecca Newland

Weekly Offering/Income needed to operate our Parish \$1455 per week,
excluding rental income.

Offerings received 17th December: \$1514.75 + EFT \$400=\$1914.75 **No Shortfall**

Notices

CHRISTMAS AT St Philip's

- Thursday 21 December 7.30pm Carol Service and supper
Followed by supper in the courtyard. Please bring a plate of food to share.
- Friday 22nd December 8pm CAMRA presents a recital by *Amanda Forbes*
(Amanda's only 2006 Australian performance.)
- Sunday 24th December Christmas Eve
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT:
8am & 10am Holy Communion
CHRISTMAS EVE
7pm Children's Christmas Service
11pm Carols
11.30pm Midnight Mass
- CHRISTMAS DAY
9am Holy Communion

Volunteers required for sidespeople — Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

Food at St Philip's (Messiah Suppers)

Thanks to those who came and served and cleaned up. Thanks to Betty for the fruit mince tarts. Total takings were \$796.85. After purchasing some equipment (coffee machines, thermal jugs, floodlight stand) and

supplies, **\$381.85** was raised for our parish mission projects. Thank you.

2007:

January 7th
Rebecca's last services

January 14th
Rob's return & Rebecca's farewell

January 27th
8am to 12 noon Garage Sale

February 17th
Rebecca's induction at St Alban's

Jerusalem & Middle East Appeal

At this year's Synod a motion was passed affirming the diocese's support for the bishops, priests and people of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. So this was more than just sentiment, it was agreed to raise \$30,000 for the church there. To reach that target each church in our diocese would have to raise at least \$500. Parish Council has sent \$500 to the ABM Gaza Hospital appeal as our contribution. To balance our budget we will be running a retiring collection throughout December. Please help us support this extraordinarily worthwhile appeal. The basket will be at the back of the church.

Ministry teams at St Philip's

Priest: Rev's Rebecca Newland

Wardens: Denise ManleyJP, Elizabeth Allinson & Hardy Palethorpe

Team

Pastoral

Maintenance

Youth and Children

Liturgy

Co-ordinator

Denise Manley(JP)

Roger Sharpe

Richard Wade

Rebecca Newland

WE PRAY FOR:

The World: For peace and stability in Palestine and Israel, Iraq, Afghanistan, and for justice in Myanmar. For all refugees. For a consensus and way to deal with climate change. For unity between all Christians and Christian churches. For interfaith dialogue and understanding.

In Australia: For wisdom for Australian authorities dealing with Asylum Seekers. (See the [Refugee Action Committee](#) web site) For Aboriginal communities and for reconciliation. For rural communities affected by drought.

Northbourne Community Centre: For Robin and her helpers, and those who attend the centre.

Those in need of healing: Michael Cockayne, Roy Ayrton, Tony Kildea, Corey Jansen, Jill Scott, Yoko and Jutaro Murase, Ian Wright, Guy Lucas, Linda Kennedy, Sarena, Merv McInnes, Mira Barratt, John Cunliffe, Ruth Newland, Kitty Junior, Michael Ellis, David, Marion, Vicki, Moya, Judy and Denis Daly and Joyce Braithwaite, Peter Andersson

The Departed: Alice Saylor (d.20/12/88)

The Saints: Stephen, Deacon and Martyr; John, Apostle and Evangelist; Holy Innocents; Thomas Becket, archbishop of Canterbury, martyr, (d.1170); Josephine Butler, social reformer (d.1905)

"May the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace and rise in glory."

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

THIS WEEK

- **Monday to Wednesday** 8.30am Morning Prayer, 5pm Evening Prayer
- **Tuesday** 10.30am Kankinya Holy Communion
- **Wednesday**

- **Friday** Rebecca's Day Off
- **Friday** 10am - 1pm Pandora's **CLOSED**
- **Saturday** 10am-1pm Pandora's **CLOSED**

SUNDAY 31st December 2006
8.00am & 10.00am Eucharist

Readings:

- 1Samuel 2:18-20, 26
- Psalm 148
- Colossians 3:12-17
- Luke 2:41-52

Rosters:

Cleaning: Volunteers please

Flowers: Val Reeves

8am:

Sidespersons: Volunteer

Reader: Clive Lowes

10am:

Sidespersons: Grace Barnes & Hardy Palethorpe

Readers: 1st Helen Palethorpe, 2nd Ann Morris Bannerman

Children's Ministry: *school holidays*

Morning Tea: Ann Munro

Pandora's income from 15th & 16th December: \$108.15 (Reserved for future development of the Parish & Pandora's)

Priest-in-charge: Rev. Rebecca Newland. Ph 6161 7334 Fax 6161 7322

e-mail stphil@grapevine.com.au

Hon. Priests: Rev Doug Bannerman & Rev Jeanette McHugh Hon Deacon: Rev Linda Anchell

website: <http://www.stphilipsoconnor.org.au/>

P.O. Box 6022 O'CONNOR A.C.T. 2602

Wardens: Denise Manley, Elizabeth Allinson and Hardy Palethorpe
