

# 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

## Sunday 28th May 2006 Seventh Sunday of Easter



**John 17:21**

### **8am and 10am Eucharist**

*The service begins on page 119 of the Green Prayer book*

Readings:

- Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
- Psalm 1
- 1John 5:9-13
- John 17:6, 17-26

**Hymns at 10.00am: Together in Song:** 477, 560, 468, 134

**Organist/Pianist:** Colin Forbes  
Bach Prelude and Fugue in G# minor.

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

Dear Everyone,

Today is a day with a lot happening — at least in terms of the church. It is the Sunday before Pentecost (**WEAR RED NEXT SUNDAY!!**), it is the Sunday that falls in the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation and Christian Unity and it is the Sunday where we can celebrate the Ascension of our Lord Jesus if we choose. With so much to think about and fit in something has to give. So today's service will focus on Christian Unity —that elusive but vitally important quest.

However, I thought I would take this space to write something about the Ascension. It is a significant happening and it of course pathed the way for the coming of the Holy Spirit. But celebrating or even thinking about the Ascension is a little... difficult. I mean where does Jesus actually go? We no longer believe in a three-tiered universe so the language of a heaven above, an earth in the middle and a hell below no longer resonate with us. However in the Gospel reading about the Ascension Jesus does on the surface appear to be disappearing. It is interesting to note that the disciples do not act as if this were actually true. They do not go away sorrowful and mourning the loss of Jesus. In fact, the text reports they returned worshipping with great joy, praising God in the temple day after day.

Jesus' ascension is not experienced by the early disciples as his leaving or disappearing at all. In fact as the newly baptised disciples gathered around the apostles teaching, the breaking of the bread, and prayer, they experienced the presence of Jesus. Jesus does not go to be some place else and show up again and again capriciously. Jesus is experienced as real and present in scripture, read and explained, in the table fellowship and the prayers on behalf of the world, much in the same way that Christians today experience Jesus presence in these same actions that together mark our communion.

The problem is we think of heaven as another place, as there are places in the world. If Jesus ascends to heaven he must go to that other place. But that need not necessarily be the case. In scripture, the Kingdom of God/the Kingdom of Heaven is portrayed not so much as a reality in a different place but rather is God's future that in Christ's death and resurrection has broken in to the present. Now I don't want to tangle us in metaphysical knots but if we can think of the place where Jesus ascends to as Gods future then we can have perhaps a new understanding of the Ascension and how that ties in

with God's call in our lives. How Jesus sitting at God's right hand is a picture of a brother and friend calling us into a world of possibilities where peace, justice and mercy reigns, where we can be one just as Jesus and God are one, where loving as Jesus loved is the possibility offered to us and where God's gifts are waiting to bless the world through those who are touched by grace. May God's love reach into your lives.

Peace and Blessings  
Rebecca Newland

**Weekly Offering/Income needed to operate our Parish \$1455 per week**

(excluding rental income)

Offerings received 21 May: \$680 + EFT \$400. **Shortfall of \$375**

Church Use \$150, Children's Ministry donation \$100

**Notices**

**WEAR RED NEXT SUNDAY! — PENTECOST!**

**E-mail addresses**

Have you got an email address but not receiving the weekly St Philip's email? Please send your address to [stphil@grapevine.com.au](mailto:stphil@grapevine.com.au) to be included in the Parish mailing.

**Calvary Hospital Ministry**

The team from St Philip's who help with the communion service at Calvary Hospital on the first Sunday of the month need another helper. They set up at 9.30am and the service begins at 10.15am. They would like someone who is able enough to push wheel chairs around! It is a rewarding and very important ministry.

Please contact Rebecca — 6161 7334

**Pandora's**

Pandora's needs some more volunteers. For just a few hours of your time a month, you can get to peruse the merchandise at your leisure, converse with interesting people, develop your sales skills and provide an important ministry. The provision of funky second hand clothes is an essential outreach — seriously. Please contact Rebecca.

**Please check the pin board in the foyer for more notices about events and performances.**

**Web site CD.**

The web master has put together a CD of the web site. (yes, it is still

all on the web, but you might prefer it to be on your computer.) Three years worth of sermons, newsletters and Lenten and Advent Calendars! plus extras. ask Linda for a copy. email: [lindafrd@pcug.org.au](mailto:lindafrd@pcug.org.au)

### **Conference: Thriving Young People, Healthy Communities**

On July 6th & 7th a conference on building communities and helping young people reach their potential will be held at Kippax Uniting Community Centre. Rebecca will be attending some of the conference. If you would be interested in attending please see Rebecca or check out the notice on the board.

### **Ministry teams at St Philip's**

#### **Team**

#### **Co-ordinator**

Pastoral

Denise Manley

Maintenance

Roger Sharpe

Youth and Children

Richard Wade

Liturgy

Rebecca Newland

Social

Ann Munro

### **WE PRAY FOR:**

**The World:** For peace and stability in the Solomon Islands and Nepal and for justice in Myanmar. For unity between all Christians and Christian churches.

**In Australia:** For wisdom for Australian authorities dealing with Asylum Seekers. (See the [Refugee Action Committee](#) web site) and for those recovering from cyclone damage in northern Australia and for reconciliation.

**Northbourne Community Centre:** For Robin and her helpers.

**Those in need of healing:** Noah Palethorpe (recovering from surgery) Michael Cockayne, Roy Ayrton, Anne Morris Bannerman, Tony Kildea, Beryl Collins (Denise's mother), Corey Jansen, June Axelsen, Jill Scott, Yoko and Jutaro Murase, Val Reeves, Jana Combs, John Webley, Ian Wright, Guy Lucas, Linda Kennedy, Ruth Horn, Sarona, Merv McInnes, Mira Barratt, Irmgard Menck, Zana

**The Saints** Justin, martyr at Rome (d.c.167); Martyrs of Uganda (d.1889); Janani Luwum, archbishop of Uganda (d.1977) John XXIII, bishop of Rome, reformer, (d.1963)

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

## TODAY'S ROSTERS:

Cleaning: Volunteers please

Flowers: Colleen Rischbieth

Readers:

8am: 1st Vanessa Tatham, 2nd Shane Woodburn

10am: 1st Linda Anchell, 2nd Brian McKinlay

Sidespersons:

8am: Ian Rischbieth

10am: James Kim, Brian McKinlay & Helen Palethorpe

Morning Tea

10am Ann Munro

## THIS WEEK

- **Monday to Wednesday** 8.30am Morning Prayer, 5pm Evening Prayer
- **Tuesday** 10.30am Kankinya Holy Communion  
5:30 - 6:30pm: Christian Meditation
- **Wednesday** 10am Holy Communion
- **Friday** Rebecca's Day Off
- **Friday** 10am - 1pm Pandora's Open — Barbara Dowley
- **Saturday** 10am-1pm Pandora's Open — Michael F-Clarke & Felicity Maher

## SUNDAY 28th May 2006

### 8.00am & 10.00am Eucharist — PENTECOST

Readings:

- Acts 2:1 - 21
- Psalm 104:26-36
- Romans 8:22-27
- John 15:26-27

**Rosters:**

Cleaning: Leighton and Ruth

Flowers: Kerry-Anne Cousins

Readers:

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

10am: 1st Chris Cheah, 2nd Beryl Holder

Sidespersons:

8am: John Girdlestone

10am: Roger Sharp and Chris Cheah

Morning Tea

10am Volunteers Please.

Children's Ministry

10am Fiona & Ben Dyer

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*Pandora's income from 19 & 20 May: \$198.30 (Reserved for future development of the Parish & Pandora's)*  
Please take a pewsheet home and pass one on to someone else.

Priest: Rev. Rebecca Newland. Ph 6161 7334 Fax 6161 7322  
e-mail [stphil@grapevine.com.au](mailto:stphil@grapevine.com.au) website: <http://www.stphilipsoconnor.org.au/>  
P.O. Box 6022 O'CONNOR A.C.T. 2602  
Wardens: Denise Manley, Elizabeth Allinson and Hardy Palethorpe

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correspondence willingly entered into.

Index page for the site is at <http://www.acay.com.au/~stphil/index.html>