

This week @ St Philip's

Monday		St Philip's Care @ Northbourne Community Centre - including Lunch
Thursday	10am 11am	Holy Communion Lenten Study - Rev'd Colin will conduct a Lenten study on Psalms 120-134, sometimes called the Psalms of ascents. All are invited, Lamerton Centre Meeting room, for about an hour.
Friday	10am - 1pm 7 - 8.30pm	Pandora's Pre-loved Fashion - OPEN St Pip's Youth Group
Saturday	10am - 1pm	Pandora's Pre-loved Fashion - OPEN
Sunday	12pm	Home Group at the Lamerton Centre

Prayer Points

For those in need: Grace Barnes; Betty Heaton; Roberta; Margaret Woodbridge

Those we remember: Merryn Kathleen Bannerman, Daphne Lois Hall, David Greville Gowty

Next Sunday - Fifth Sunday in Lent

8am	Holy Communion
10am	Holy Communion

Readings: Joshua 5.2-12; Psalm 32; 2Corinthians 5.16-21; Luke 15.11-32

Rosters: Preaching & Presiding: Rev'd Dr Colin Dundon

8am Sidesperson: Vicki Luker; Bible reader: Rhonda Evans
10am Welcomer: Davidson family; Sidespeople: Fred Anchell & Manjuni Gregory; Liturgical assistant: Rev Linda Anchell; Music: Colin Forbes; Bible readers: Linda Anchell (OT), Kerry-Anne Cousins (NT); Communion Servers: Hardy Palethorpe & Doreen Odom; Morning Tea: Odom family

St Philip's Calendar <http://stphilipsoconnor.org.au/calendar.php>

Saturday 19 March	9am	St Philip's March Markets
		<i>Holy Week</i>
Sunday 20 March		Passion / Palm Sunday
Thursday 24 March	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Service
		Footwashing, last supper & solemn stripping of the sanctuary
Friday 25 March	12pm - 3pm	Good Friday Service
Saturday 26 March	5pm	Children's Easter service
	7.30pm	Lighting of the new Fire
Sunday 27 March	7.30 am	Holy Communion
	8.30-9.30am	Easter Celebration Breakfast
	10am	Sung Eucharist



St Philip's Come & See

www.stphilipsoconnor.org.au

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Sunday 6 March 2016

Fourth Sunday in Lent

10am Music

Hymns: 242, 233, 545 & 179

Sentence

God has reconciled us to himself through Christ, and given us the ministry of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5.18

Prayer of the day

God of compassion, you are slow to anger and full of mercy, welcoming sinners who return to you with penitent hearts: receive in your loving embrace all who come home to you, and seat them at your bountiful table, that, with all your children, they may feast with delight on all that satisfies the hungry heart. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Today's Readings

Joshua 5.2-12; 2 Corinthians 5.16-21; Luke 15.11-32

Today's Rosters

Preaching & Presiding: Rev'd Dr Colin Dundon

8am Liturgical Assistant: Elizabeth Allinson; Sidesperson: John Girdlestone; Bible reader: John Girdlestone

10am Welcomer: Denise Manley; Sidespeople: Sally Adams & Roger Sharp; Liturgical assistant: Philippa Wicks; Music: Colin Forbes; Bible readers: Denise Manley (OT), Fred Anchell (NT); Communion Servers: Denise Manley & James Kim; Morning Tea: Rebecca Palethorpe & family

Pewsheets deadline: Thursday 12noon. Please forward notices and prayer points

Psalm 32



Response: O shout for joy who are true of heart.

- 1 Blessed are those whose sin is forgiven:
whose iniquity is put away.
- 2 Blessed are those to whom the Lord imputes no blame:
and in whose spirit there is no guile.
- 3 For whilst I held my tongue:
my bones wasted away with my daily complaining.
- 4 Your hand was heavy upon me day and night:
and my moisture was dried up like a drought in summer. **R**
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you:
and my iniquity I did not hide;
- 6 I said `I will confess my transgressions to the Lord':
and so you forgave the wickedness of my sin.
- 7 For this cause shall everyone that is faithful make their prayer to you in the
day of trouble:
and in the time of the great water-flood, it shall not come near them.
- 8 You are a place to hide me in, you will preserve me from trouble:
you will surround me with deliverance on every side. **R**
- 9 I will instruct you, and direct you in the way that you should go:
I will fasten my eye upon you, and give you counsel.
- 10 Be not like horse or mule that have no understanding:
whose forward course must be curbed with bit and bridle.
- 11 Great tribulations remain for the ungodly:
but whoever puts their trust in the Lord, mercy embraces them on every
side.
- 12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, and be glad:
and shout for joy, all you that are true of heart. **R**

From the Locum Tenens Rector

Psalm 32

Psalm 32 must be one of the better-known Psalms. Its theme, the joy of forgiveness, strongly resonates with Christian theology and experience. It also recalls Psalm 1 with its "Happy are those..." beginning. Traditionally, Ps.32 has been called the second of the penitential psalms (6; 38; 51; 102; 130; 143).

The Psalm begins with two beatitudes that recall Psalm 1 (1-2). Happiness lies in the way of forgiveness. The psalm uses three words for sin: Transgression denotes wilful rebellion, sin means to miss the mark and iniquity/guilt suggest the enduring, destructive effects of disobedience. This is Israel's basic vocabulary for sin. Despite the psalm being about sin it is a song of thanksgiving and joy. That again characterises Israel's understanding of sin and forgiveness.

The psalmist's life is characterised by all three and the results are very real, even physical (3-4). The psalmist's silence, the human incapacity to confess to God and take responsibility for wrongdoing, is the real problem and it is the solution that sets free the healing power of forgiveness and restoration. Silence before God on these matters is rejection of grace. Disintegration is the result; the human being slowly unravels.

God's forgiveness on the other hand encompasses sin, transgression and guilt thus setting the recipient free to live once again; to integrate and bind the strands of life back into a whole (5). Human transparency in the presence of God is the key. We are so used to deceiving ourselves and others that it becomes a habit. The psalmist reminds us just how destructive a habit deceit is.

The psalmist witnesses to God's surrounding him and encompassing him, as well as hiding him. After the release from sin and deceit the psalmist is free to pray and enjoy the presence of God in any situation whatever, no matter how dire (6-7).

It might be God or the psalmist who teaches in vss. 8-9 but both point to the learning process that must follow restoration. Human sin brings great torment to human life (10) but God's everlasting steadfast love surrounds the forgiven and gives great joy that is worth shouting about. Praise and worship are the best response to the new-found freedom of forgiveness. We can only teach one another or witness to one another not from high moral ground but out of the humility appropriate to grace. We are set free; we do not set ourselves free. It is the divine love and steadfastness that surrounds and upholds us not some inner resource of our own.

Question: What is your experience of sin? Does forgiveness make you shout for joy? What is your witness to others?

Colin

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St Philip's Lenten Calendar

Week Five: 6 March - 12 March

www.stphilipsoconnor.org.au

Poems of Wendell Berry

Twentieth Century flower paintings | Singing in the Orthodox tradition

St Philip's March Markets

9am – 12noon, Saturday 19 March

- Donate items to the Garage Sale – household items, books, anything (no electrical appliances). You can bring them next Sunday 13 March or on the day.
- Contributions will be greatly appreciated for the Cooking & Produce stall - baking, preserves, surplus produce. Stall Co-ordinators: Pat Forbes & Ethel McInnes.
- Plants for the Plant Stall. Co-ordinator: Elizabeth Allinson
- Lots of Helpers needed on the day, from 7am setup through to 12noon pack up. Even just one hour would be great. Tasks include: unpacking and displaying garage sale items, selling, packing & cleaning up.
- Spaces available if you would like to run your own stall or car boot stall.
- Please talk to Leighton for any further details.