

This coming week @ St Philip's

Monday	St Philip's Care @ Northbourne Community Centre	- including Lunch
Tue – Fri	8am	Morning Prayer
	5.30pm	Evening Prayer
Thursday	10am	Eucharist and Morning Tea
		- Lamerton Centre
Friday	10am - 1pm	Pandora's Pre-loved Fashions - OPEN
Saturday	10am – 1pm	Pandora's Pre-loved Fashions - OPEN
	10.30am	Eucharist @ Kankinya

Prayer Points

For those in need: Roger Sharp, James Kim, Ken Smith; Rosemary Lohmann; Chris Hudlass; Cath Holt; Grace Barnes; Roberta; Margaret Woodbridge; Barbara Dowley.

Those we remember: Peter Blaseotto (10/12/03); Dorothy Moore (12/12/84); Joe Heaton (13/12/88).

Roof restoration work on the Rectory, has commenced. The Church building and the Kindergarten will be started next week and will take at least a week. During this time there will be limited carpark and toilet access at times. Please speak to a Parish Councillor for more information if needed.

Next Sunday – Third Sunday in Advent

Readings: Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5.12-28; John 1.6-8, 19-28

Presiding & Preaching: The Rev'd Martin Johnson

8am: Sidesperson: Vicki Luker
Liturgical Assistant: Elizabeth Allinson
Readers: Volunteers

10am: Family Service
Welcomer: Erika Langman
Sidespeople: Kerry-Anne Cousins & Peter Andersson
Music: Colin Forbes
Liturgical Assistant: Elizabeth Allinson
Readers: Gail Langendorf (OT)
Ann Munro (NT)
Chalice Servers: Tim Gulliver & Denise Manley
Morning tea: Anne Mahony & Jan Gulliver

Pewsheets deadline: Thursday 12noon. Please forward notices and prayer points to pewsheets@stphilipsoconnor.org.au or 0414 309469



St Philip's Come & See

e: comeandsee@stphilipsoconnor.org.au p: 6161 7334

www.stphilipsoconnor.org.au  [@stphilipsoconnor](https://www.facebook.com/stphilipsoconnor)

Sunday 10 December 2017

Second Sunday in Advent

10am Music

Hymns: 271, 289 (v 1, 2 & Refrain), 270, 272 & 201

Introit: O My Dear Heart – Herbert Howells
During Communion: 'Behold, a virgin shall conceive' & 'O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion' from Messiah – GF Handel, sung by Catriona Bryce

Sentence

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together.

Luke 3.4; Isaiah 40.5a

Prayer of the day

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Today's Readings

Isaiah 40.1-11; Psalm 85.1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3.8-15a; Mark 1.1-8

Today's Rosters

Preaching & Presiding: Rev'd Martin Johnson

8am Sidesperson; Vicki Luker; Readers: Joseph & Dominic Lloyd;

10am Sidespeople: Alison & Alistair Davidson; Welcomer: Davidson Family; Music: Colin Forbes; Liturgical Assistant: Linda Anchell; Crucifer: Leighton Mann; Readers: Louise McKay (OT) & Denise Manley (NT);

Chalice Servers: Doreen Odom & James Kim; Morning tea: Candace & Kenny Sheppard

EFTPOS available in the foyer to assist with your giving.

Psalm: 85.1-2, 8-13

- 1 O Lord, you were gracious to your land:
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- 2 You forgave the iniquity of your people:
and covered all their sin.
- 8 I will hear what the Lord God will speak:
for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful ones, whose hearts are turned to him.
- 9 Truly his salvation is near to those that fear him:
and his glory shall dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth are met together:
righteousness and peace have kissed each other;
- 11 Truth shall flourish out of the earth:
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- 12 The Lord will also give us all that is good:
and our land shall yield its plenty.
- 13 For righteousness shall go before him:
and tread the path before his feet.

From the Rector

Dear Friends

I have been enjoying Handel's Oratorio Messiah this week, finding inspiration in that wonderful music. As you might have seen in last week's letter I have been trying to avoid the frantic Christmas build up and I went as far as bypassing the scriptures altogether let alone Rudolph and his cohort! But this week it is not possible. After Handel sets the scene with the overture Messiah begins with those words that we hear this morning from Isaiah chapter 40 - Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. With these words the prophet encapsulates the very essence of the Advent season. God is coming to bring God's people home and we are to prepare a way for that homecoming to occur.

A poet was once asked if he could put into simple language what he meant in a particular poem. 'If I could do that' he responded 'I wouldn't have written the poetry.' This part of the Book of Isaiah is predominantly poetry and it describes the movement of people from exile to freedom. What Isaiah does is give his people back their faith by retelling the old story, the narrative that undergirds their faith, from exile to freedom; it is the same for us. This wonderful poetry, it is sometimes a little tricky to grasp but it describes the return from exile of the people of Israel, a generation returning from Babylon, Isaiah gives them back their faith.

I read a commentator this week who said: It is the despair of exile—from one's homeland and one's self—that is addressed in Second Isaiah's "Book of Consolation." And if the prophet's is a living word, it speaks not only to a people over twenty-five centuries ago. It confronts us. This is what it means to appropriate Holy Scripture as our own: not a disembodied historical text, but a message that penetrates our own reality.

What then of us? Advent is a time to consider where are we exiled or what is it that is holding us in exile? Advent – adventus, coming, is about coming home. We speak about God coming to us, but we must also consider the spirituality of the prodigal and his return from exile to the father who runs out to meet him. What is holding us back?

We can, each one of us, find something in our lives that keeps us from home, I hope and pray that we ponder it in this season. Just recognizing it is the beginning of renewal, it is perhaps the opportunity for a spiritual new year's resolution in this new church year. The good news is that the advent of Jesus really does offer the purifying and energizing gift of the Spirit, working a continuing conversion and spiritual Exodus. In the words of that famous Sci-Fi movie, 'ET phone home!!'

Blessings, Martin.

St Philip's Calendar

Please check our website calendar for the latest information

<http://stphilipsoconnor.org.au/calendar.php>

Friday 8 Dec	7pm – 8.30pm	St Pip's Youth Group (final for 2017)
Wednesday 13	7pm	Parish Council Meeting
Sunday 17 Dec	7.30pm	St Philip's Carol Service
<i>Nine Lessons & Carols, followed by a 'bring and share' Christmas supper.</i>		
Sunday 24 Dec	<u>Fourth Sunday of Advent</u>	
	9am	Eucharist (combined 8am and 10am)
Sunday 24 Dec	<u>Christmas Eve</u>	
	5pm	Children's Christmas Service
	11pm	Carol Singing
	11.30pm	Sung Eucharist
Monday 25 Dec	<u>Christmas Day</u>	
	9am	Sung Eucharist
Sunday 31 Dec	from 8pm	New Year's Eve Party.
<i>Chris, Roger, Leighton, Ruth & Zara will be hosting their biennial New Year's Eve party again. This year's theme is Hawaiian. Please bring some finger food to share & your swimmers if you wish to cool off. 139/15 Coranderrk St, Canberra City.</i>		

Advent Calendar

St Philip's 2017 Advent Calendar is now available on the webpage. Please have a look at this wonderful resource. Thank you Brian.

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