

This coming week @ St Philip's

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

Prayer Points

For those in need: Roger Sharp; Chris Cheah; James Kim; Brian McKinlay; Ken Smith; Rosemary Lohmann; Chris Hudlass; Cath Holt; Grace Barnes; Roberta; Margaret Woodbridge; Barbara Dowley.
Those we remember: Alice Saylor (20/12/88); Norma Reynolds (28/12/00).

Next Sunday - Epiphany

Readings: Isaiah 60.1-6; Psalm 72.1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3.1-12;
Matthew 2.1-12

Presiding & Preaching: The Rev'd Martin Johnson

8am:	Sidesperson:	Volunteer
	Liturgical Assistant:	Elizabeth Allinson
	Readers:	Margaret & Russell McKaskie
10am:	Welcomer:	
	Sidespeople:	Jan & Tim Gulliver
	Music:	Colin Forbes
	Liturgical Assistant:	t.b.a.
	Readers:	Susan Johnson (OT) Fred Anchell (NT)
	Chalice Servers:	Tim Gulliver & Denise Manley
	Morning tea:	Self serve in Lamerton Centre

Pewsheets deadline: Thursday 12noon. Please forward notices and prayer points to pewsheets@stphilipsoconnor.org.au or 0414 309 469

EFTPOS available in the foyer to assist with your giving.



St Philip's Come & See

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

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

Sunday 24 December 2017

Fourth Sunday in Advent

9am Music

Hymns: 265, 289 (v 1-4 & Refrain), 264, 294 & 290

Sentence

This child will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.
Luke 1.32-33

Prayer of the day

Gracious God, whose eternal Word took flesh among us when Mary placed her life at the service of your will: prepare our hearts for his coming again and keep us steadfast in hope, that we may be ready for the coming of his kingdom; for his sake, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Today's Readings

2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16; Luke 1.47-55; Romans 16.25-27; Luke 1.26-38

Today's Rosters

Preaching & Presiding: Rev'd Martin Johnson

9am Sidesperson: Tim Woodburn; Liturgical Assistant: Elizabeth Allinson; Welcomer: Helen Palethorpe; Music: Colin Forbes; Readers: Linda Anchell (OT); Shane Woodburn (NT); Chalice Servers: Denise Manley & Hardy Palethorpe; Morning tea: Anne Munro & Denise Manley

The Song of Mary (Magnificat)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
Who has looked with favour on his lowly servant:
from this day all generations will call me blessed;
The Almighty has done great things for me:
and holy is his name.
God has mercy on those who fear him:
from generation to generation.
The Lord has shown strength with his arm:
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
Casting down the mighty from their thrones:
and lifting up the lowly.
God has filled the hungry with good things:
And sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his servant Israel:
to remember the promise of mercy,
The promise made to our forebears:
to Abraham and his children for ever.
Glory to God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

From the Rector

Dear Friends

It has been a short Advent it can't get any shorter with Christmas Day falling on a Monday! Although short we here at St Philip's have endeavoured to keep a 'good' one! It is always demanding because it seems so contrary to what is happening about us and because most of us do not do 'waiting' or 'patience' very well! But we are nearly there and like children on a long boring car trip we want to get out stretch our legs and play...celebrate! The wait has been worth it! We let our hair down and celebrated last weekend with our 'Nine Lessons and Carols' and what a wonderful celebration it was. It all culminates tonight at the Midnight Sung Eucharist.

Today we will hear the story of the Annunciation, the account in Luke's gospel of the coming of the angel Gabriel to Mary to announce the forthcoming birth of Jesus. We have taken a step back...Nine months to be precise. This was Mary's Advent and we can only begin to imagine what that wait might have been like given her circumstances. Henri Nouwen wrote that Mary's wait was filled with promise, it was active waiting – she would have been attentive to that growing life within her and it was open ended – she could never have predicted what lay ahead. By reflecting on this waiting perhaps we can begin to grasp what Advent really is all about.

Stanley Hauerwas the American theologian wrote:
So, on this Sunday, a Sunday when Christmas seems so near, let us remember that because we are Mary's people we are in no hurry. Let us wait in patience for the Christ-child whose own life depended on the lives of Mary and Joseph. The Word of God was made flesh. He came so that we might experience the fullness of time. Let us wait with Mary and Joseph for the child who will redeem all of time. Let us wait with patience and hope so that the world may discover that time is not empty; rather time remains pregnant with God's promise found in Mary, the Mother of God.

I hope and pray that you have found this Advent pregnant with God's promises. Every blessing for Christmas and the New Year.

Blessings, **Martin**.

St Philip's Calendar

Please check our website for the latest information including a Christmas message from Bishop Stuart and view a YouTube message from him and Bishop Matt Brain. Links are on the front page:

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

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	Services at 8am and 10am as usual.
Sunday 31 Dec	from 8pm New Year's Eve Party – EVERYONE WELCOME!!

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. 26 Ashton Calvert Street, Casey.

Thank you to everybody who helped with the Christmas flowers. This year the Christmas flowers have been given...

In loving memory of June and John Carnahan who joined us for many years at our Christmas services. (The McCaskie family) and ... In loving memory of Mary Reid. (Linda and Fred Anchell).