

This coming week @ St Philip's

Monday	St Philip's Care @ Northbourne Community Centre - including Lunch
Tue – Fri	8am Morning Prayer
Tue – Fri	5.30pm Evening Prayer
Thursday	10am Holy Communion
Friday	10am - 1pm Pandora's Pre-loved Fashion
Saturday	10am - 1pm Pandora's Pre-loved Fashion
Saturday	10.30am Holy Communion @ Kankinya

Prayer Points

For those in need: Linda Anchell; Sam Mahony; Chris Hudlass; Cath Holt; Grace Barnes; Roberta; Margaret Woodbridge; Barbara Dowley.

Those we remember: Carola Parke (19/7/12); Dot Mayo (22/7/02); Merv McInnes (22/7/11); Michael Gamble (24/7/97); Portia Vincent (26/7/90); Ellen Mahoney (29/7/00); Jyo Sen (2/8/94); June McKinlay (2/8/04); Mary Reid (6/8/94); Toby Grahame (6/8/12).

For Next Sunday - Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

8am Holy Communion

Sidesperson

McCaskies

Reader & Readings

Rhonda Evans: Genesis 29.15-28;

Romans 8.26-39

Liturgical Assistant

Elizabeth Allinson

10am Holy Communion

Flowers

The Flower Team

Presiding & Preaching

Rev'd Martin Johnson

Organist

Colin Forbes

Chalice

Tim Gulliver & Volunteer

Welcomer

Volunteer

Liturgical Assistant

tba

Sidespeople

Louise & Matt McKay

Readers & Readings

Geetha Sekhon: Genesis 29.15-28

Louise McKay: Romans 8.26-39

Geetha Sekhon & Volunteer

Morning tea:



St Philip's Come & See

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Sunday 23 July 2017

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

10am Music:

Hymns: 137, 627, 259 & 450

Sentence

You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

Psalm 86.15

Prayer of the day

Saving God, in Jesus Christ you opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and constant wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Today's Readings

Genesis 28.10-19a; Psalm 139.1-11, 23-24; Romans 8.12-25;
Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43

Today's Rosters

Flowers: The Flower Team

8am Preaching & Presiding: Rev'd Martin Johnson; Sidesperson: Tim Woodburn; Liturgical Assistant: Elizabeth Allinson; Bible Readers: Shane Woodburn.

10am Welcomer: Volunteer; Sidespeople: Alison & Alistair Davidson; Preaching & Presiding: Rev'd Martin Johnson; Liturgical Assistant: Elizabeth Allinson; Music: Colin Forbes; Bible Readers: Fred Anchell (OT), Rosemary Knight (NT); Chalices: James Kim & Volunteer; Morning Tea: Rosemary Knight & Ann Munro.

Psalm: 139.1-11, 23-24

- 1 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me:
you know when I sit or when I stand, you comprehend my thoughts long before.
- 2 You discern my path and the places where I rest:
you are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 For there is not a word on my tongue:
but you, Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 You have encompassed me behind and before:
and have laid your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me:
so high that I cannot endure it.
- 6 Where shall I go from your spirit:
or where shall I flee from your presence?
- 7 If I ascend into heaven you are there:
if I make my bed in the grave you are there also.
- 8 If I spread out my wings towards the morning:
or dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there your hand shall lead me:
and your right hand shall hold me.
- 10 If I say `Surely the darkness will cover me:
and the night will enclose me',
- 11 The darkness is no darkness with you, but the night is as clear as the day:
the darkness and the light are both alike.
- 23 Search me out, O God, and know my heart:
put me to the proof and know my thoughts.
- 24 Look well lest there be any way of wickedness in me:
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

From the Rector

Dear Friends,

I have often struggled with St Paul. During my theological studies I wrestled with his arguments and his long sentences. But in more recent times I have begun to appreciate him more, I think because I have read his letters as just that, letters. The Bible Society offer the military services a camouflage covered edition of the Bible, they were very popular with the army recruits at Kapooka. Many of them had never engaged with Biblical texts before and it used to worry me, putting such words into their hands. I often warned them, be careful with this, it is dynamite to the uninitiated, it is R rated, it is dangerous! It was the only book they were allowed to have in their rooms other than military instruction manuals. Many of them would say, Padre I'm going to read this from back to front while I'm here. They never did, indeed I've never managed it! I used to recommend a few things. I would tell them that the Bible is not a book in way we understand it, but a library. It is a book of books, of different genres, written over thousands of years. So first read a gospel, preferably Luke, or Mark if you must. Have a look at some poetry, try a few verses from Isaiah or a

couple of Psalms. But more than anything I would tell them what to avoid initially: don't try and read from the beginning, don't skip to the end to see how it all finishes! Don't attempt to read the Book of Revelation and avoid St Paul!

It has taken me years to begin to engage with Paul. His influence is profound, unequalled; but he is man of his times, he can be no other. He was writing letters trying to sort out issues in the new Christian communities he was trying to establish. Unfortunately for many he has been written off as a misogynist and a homophobe and for others his words have been taken as gospel and adopted with zeal. Neither approaches do him justice. To begin to grapple with him we must have at least some sense of the social world and the world of ideas that he inhabited and we must appreciate the extraordinary 'newness' of his teaching.

The print and electronic media this week have latched on to a couple of Pauline texts this week and shown how some in the church are using them to justify abuse. We could argue that it is debatable whether Paul actually wrote these texts, but that's an easy way out. What we need to do is to read these texts as letters dealing with specific circumstances in a world and society very different from our own. We must read them in the context of all Paul's writing and thought world and of course in the context of our scriptures as a whole.

It goes without saying the Church must speak out against all forms of abuse. It is not sanctioned by scripture in any form. Indeed a full understanding of Paul's theology of Justification by Faith means a radical new way of living together... but that's for another time. Keep warm during these cold nights.

Blessings, **Martin**

St Philip's Calendar

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

Friday 21 7pm – 8.30pm	St Pip's Youth Group
Sunday 23 after 10am service	Spring Fling (14 Oct) planning meeting Lamerton Centre
Friday 28 5pm - 7pm	Happy Hour – Lamerton Centre – Theme: Christmas in July (first of two in a row!)
Saturday 29 10am – 1pm	Pandora's presents "Christmas in July" Add some sparkle to your winter and join us for festive-themed refreshments while you browse our special fashion treats in the warm and friendly setting of Pandora's. All welcome!
Friday 4 7pm – 8.30pm	St Pip's Youth Group – Lamerton Centre
Sunday 6 10am	Family Service
Sunday 6	National Mission Project <i>ABM Youth Engagement Across the Top End</i>
Wed 9 7pm	Parish Council – Lamerton Centre
Sunday 13 12.30pm – 3pm	Home Group – Lamerton Centre
Friday 18 7pm – 8.30pm	St Pip's Youth Group
Friday 29 5pm- 7pm	Happy Hour – Lamerton Centre <i>Significant birthdays & Anniversaries</i>