

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: Ruth Durie; Sam Mahony; Chris Hudlass; Cath Holt; Grace Barnes; Roberta; Margaret Woodbridge; Barbara Dowley.

Those we remember: Lawrie Keast (24/9/90); Robert Dixon (29/9/89); Coralie Sawyer (29/9/91).

The funeral of baby Arthur Carter (the infant son of Annette Gaykema – known to St Philipians through various productions with CAMRA) will be held on Friday 29 September at noon at the Norwood Park Crematorium. Martin will officiate.

For Next Sunday -

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

8am Holy Communion

Sidesperson

John Girdlestone

Reader & Readings

John Girdlestone: Exodus 17.1-7
Philippians 2.1-13

Liturgical Assistant

Elizabeth Allinson

10am Holy Communion

Flowers

The Flower Team

Presiding & Preaching

Rev'd Martin Johnson

Organist

Colin Forbes

Chalice

Denise Manley & Tim Gulliver

Welcomer

Denise Manley

Liturgical Assistant

Philippa Wicks

Sidespeople

Sally Adams & Roger Sharp

Readers & Readings

tba: Exodus 17.1-7

tba: Philippians 2.1-13

Rebecca Palethorpe & Family

Morning tea:



St Philip's Come & See

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Sunday 24 September 2017

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10am Music:

Hymns: 83, 594, 520 & 446

Sentence

By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.
Ephesians 2.8-9

Prayer of the day

Loving and righteous God, your boundless generosity exceeds all that we can desire or deserve, and you give to the last worker all you promised to the first: liberate us from all jealousy and greed, that we may be free to love and serve others, and in your service may find our true reward; through Jesus Christ or Lord. Amen.

Today's Readings

Exodus 16.2-15; Psalm 105.1-6, 37-45; Philippians 1.21-30;
Matthew 20.1-16

Today's Rosters

Flowers: The flowers this week are in memory of Dorothy Tscharke, who passed away 25/9/15.

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

10am Welcomer: Helen Palethorpe; Sidespeople: Louise & Matt McKay; Preaching & Presiding: Rev'd Martin Johnson; Liturgical Assistant: Brian McKinlay; Music: Colin Forbes; Bible Readers: Louise McKay (OT), Brian McKinlay (NT); Chalices: Hardy Palethorpe & Volunteer; Morning Tea:

Helen Palethorpe & Geetha Sekhon.

Psalm: 105.1-6, 37-45

- 1 O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name:
tell among the peoples what things he has done.
- 2 Sing to him, O sing praises:
and be telling of all his marvellous works.
- 3 Exult in his holy name:
and let those that seek the Lord be joyful in heart.
- 4 Seek the Lord and his strength:
O seek his face continually.
- 5 Call to mind what wonders he has done:
his marvellous acts, and the judgements of his mouth,
- 6 O seed of Abraham his servant:
O children of Jacob his chosen one.
- 37 He brought Israel out with silver and with gold:
and not one among their tribes was seen to stumble.
- 38 Egypt was glad at their going:
for dread of Israel had fallen upon them.
- 39 He spread out a cloud for a covering:
and fire to lighten the night.
- 40 The people asked, and he brought them quails:
and satisfied them with the bread from heaven.
- 41 He opened a rock, so that the waters gushed:
and ran in the parched land like a river.
- 42 For he had remembered his holy word:
that he gave to Abraham his servant.
- 43 So he led out his people with rejoicing:
his chosen ones with shouts of joy;
- 44 He gave them the land of the nations:
and they took possession of the fruit for which other peoples had toiled,
- 45 So that they might keep his statutes:
and faithfully obey his laws. O praise the Lord.

From the Rector

Dear Friends,

The Marriage survey forms have hit our letter-boxes and no doubt many of you have filled in the appropriate box and sent it back; we await the result and the inevitable politicking which will then occur. We are a community of folk who have strong opinions about such things, but we are not opinionated. I am very grateful to be a part of a community, which can live together and not allow such issues to divide. St Paul reminded us last week: we do not gather to quarrel over opinions!

Like most of us I have watched with interest, fascination even, the rough and tumble of the debate as it has played out. Those who are committed to a change in the Marriage Act have done so citing two important ideas – first, that love is love irrespective of the gender of the individuals involved and second that this is

an issue of equality; they are correct on both accounts. Those advocating the status quo have not been able to counter such thinking; it is very difficult to argue against love and equality without appearing to be very, very grumpy!

However, what we must do as Christian folk is give a particular spin to these important ideas because they are central to our understanding of God. In today's gospel reading we read the parable of the 'Generous Landowner.' What an extraordinary overturning of our idea of equal! Those who worked all day are paid the same as those who have worked for just an hour or two at the end of the day. It sits uncomfortably with us because our idea of equality doesn't stretch that far. In this instance is it true to say that equality as we understand is not something that seems to concern God. In this parable have we moved from equity to generosity and I wonder if it is generosity that we most need in this debate?

And what of love? The Beatles told us 'All you need is love,' but I think perhaps we need more or at least we need to make sure our definition of love is a little broader.

M Scott Peck's best seller 'The road less travelled' contained a chapter called 'Love is not a feeling.' In this part of the book he rather rails against the 'myth of romantic love.' This too is important for us. God is love, the shortest creed in the New Testament. God, however, is not a romantic, far from it! God is however totally committed to us, every one of us. The social consensus that marriage is between one man and one woman for life has largely broken down. I have seen couples whose marriages have failed because one or other party will claim 'I don't love him/her anymore.' We need to consider that for the good of all commitment is what is needed and is of God. There is often far too much talk of the wedding! What of that other Beatles number – 'When I'm 64?'

'Generosity and commitment' perhaps that should be our catch-cry of all as we consider the debate. How do we live out these attributes of God, in light of this important debate? If I can paraphrase my own favourite (as a teenager) Olivia Newton John – 'Let's get theological.'

Blessings, **Martin**

St Philip's Calendar

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

Friday 29 5pm – 7pm

Happy Hour – Lamerton Centre

Theme: Grand Final Fever

Sunday 1 10am

Family Service

Sunday 8 12.30pm – 3pm

Home Group Postponed this month

Wed'day 11 7pm

Parish Council – Lamerton Centre

Friday 13 7pm – 8.30pm

St Pip's Youth Group

**TICKETS FOR THE GOURMET HAMPER RAFFLE CAN BE COLLECTED FROM
(AND RETURNED TO) DENISE MANLEY FROM TODAY.**