



# St Philip's Come & See

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Sunday 19 April 2020

## Second Sunday of Easter

Today the Eucharist will be celebrated at **8.00am** and will be live on [Facebook](#). Then it will be available on either our [YouTube](#) channel or [Facebook](#). All links and details are on our web page [www.stphilipsoconnor.org.au](http://www.stphilipsoconnor.org.au)

Dear Friends,

The Easter season stretches out before us. For the next six weeks we will be focussing on the resurrection, nothing is more important at the moment! By virtue of these great events in history we are no more isolated from each other than we are from Christ and indeed from every other faithful person from the apostolic times to the present day, this is what true community is and it is this that we strive for.

Some of the most profound words ever written have been penned from isolation. Think of St Paul writing from prison and all those others Solzhenitsyn, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Terry Waite come to mind, there are many others. They have in their isolation felt an even greater sense of unity through the Body, in faith, common prayer and communion because of the resurrection. Our gathering is a *sign* of the unity we enjoy and celebrate but it is not everything!

I am very thankful that we seem to be coping well with the restrictions placed on us all. Many of us are in good heart! Families and friends are rallying around, and I have not heard of any parishioner falling ill. Thank you to all those who have been ringing and emailing and keeping the parish family connected.

Martin

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### Introit Hymn

That Eastertide with joy was bright,  
the sun shone out with fairer light,

*alleluia, alleluia*

when to their longing eyes restored  
the apostles saw their risen Lord.

*alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,*

*alleluia, alleluia!*

He showed to them his hands and side'

where yet the glorious wounds abide:  
the tokens true which made it plain  
their lord indeed was risen again.

Jesus, the king of gentleness,  
come now yourself our hearts possess,  
that we may give you all our days  
the tribute of our grateful praise.

Anon, Latin c.7<sup>th</sup> cent  
Tr. John Mason Neale 1818-66 *alt.*

### *Sentence*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3

Like Mary at the empty tomb,  
we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Like the disciples behind locked doors,  
we are afraid to be seen as your followers.  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Like Thomas in the upper room,  
we are slow to believe.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

### *Prayer of the day*

Almighty and eternal God,  
the strength of those who believe  
and the hope of those who doubt:  
may we, who have not seen, have faith  
and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing;  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### *Today's Readings*

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (2:14a-32)*

'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, <sup>22</sup> 'You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— <sup>23</sup>this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. <sup>24</sup>But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. <sup>25</sup>For David says concerning him,

"I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;  
<sup>26</sup> therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

<sup>27</sup> For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

<sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the ways of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence."

<sup>29</sup> 'Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. <sup>30</sup>Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his

throne. <sup>31</sup>Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, "He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption."

<sup>32</sup>This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

#### *Psalm 16*

1 Preserve me, O God:

for in you have I taken refuge.

**2 I have said to the Lord, You are my lord:  
and all my good depends on you.**

3 As for those who are held holy on the earth:  
the other gods in whom people delight,

**4 Though the idols are many that they run after:  
their offerings of blood I will not offer, nor take their name upon my lips.**

5 The Lord is my appointed portion and my cup:  
you hold my lot in your hands.

**6 The share that has fallen to me is in pleasant places:  
and a fair land is my possession.**

7 I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel:  
at night also he has instructed my heart.

**8 I have set the Lord always before me:  
he is at my right hand, and I shall not fall.**

9 Therefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices:  
my flesh also shall rest secure.

**10 For you will not give me over to the power of death:  
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.**

11 You will show me the path of life: in your presence is the fulness of joy, and from your right hand flow delights for evermore.

#### *A reading from the first letter of Peter (1:1-12)*

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, <sup>2</sup>who have been chosen and destined by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit to be obedient to Jesus Christ and to be sprinkled with his blood: May grace and peace be yours in abundance. <sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. <sup>10</sup>Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours made careful search and inquiry, <sup>11</sup>inquiring about the person or time that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated, when it testified in advance to the sufferings destined for Christ and the subsequent glory. <sup>12</sup>It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in regard to the things that have now been announced to you through those who brought you good news by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look!

#### *The gospel according to John (20:19-31)*

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' <sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my

finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’<sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’<sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’<sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

## *Reflection*

It seems strange that Thomas should doubt the resurrection. After all he was clearly present when Jesus raised Lazarus, the writer of the fourth gospel gives him a speaking part in that drama. No, Thomas was struggling with the idea that God would choose to raise someone who was *executed* in shame. Thomas doesn't just demand to see Jesus in order to believe. He demands to see the marks of his execution! He wants to see the nail prints in his hands and the place where the sword pierced his side. He was still shuddering at the horror of the one whom they thought to be the Messiah having been executed. Jesus was supposed to save his people from centuries of being oppressed. Jesus was supposed to help them turn around the oppressive violence of the Romans. How could one who seemed so powerless against that violence actually be the one who is saving us from it? Impossible! God raise him in power as the Messiah? He'll believe that when he sees the nail prints and puts his hand in Jesus' side.

And here's the main point: The cross *as a repulsive execution* brings us face to face with the heart of the matter: that our cure for violence is sacred violence, a violence we say is okay for the sake of keeping order, *and* that God's cure for violence is completely different than ours. God submits to our sacred violence in the cross and reveals it as meaningless and powerless compared to God's power of life. The resurrection of the one whom we executed puts us face to face with absolutely the most difficult thing for us to believe — namely, that the only way to ultimately cure violence is to completely refrain from doing it, even if it means submitting to it, revealing its meaninglessness compared to the Creator's power of life. We need to keep believing in the violence we use to try to stop others from using violence on us. We refuse to believe that there could be a way of stopping violence that doesn't involve violence — or “force,” since we generally want to call what we do something else other than “violence.” Thomas wants to know, we want to know, how someone who seemed so powerless against the violence could actually be the one saving us from it. If we want to truly be challenged by something impossible for us to believe, try believing that there is ultimately a nonviolent way to stop violence. Believing that God could raise someone from the dead is nothing compared to that.

Robert Hamerton-Kelly

## *Prayers*

Priest: In joy and hope let us pray to the Father.

That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection and our lives reflect the hope that is ours. We pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter. For Christians in the Middle East and all places where religious freedoms are denied.

For our Orthodox friends celebrating Easter today. We pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That by his power war and famine may cease through all the world. For those suffering the effects of COVID in war torn places.

Those in refugee camps, for asylum seekers and for the forgotten.  
For those in Syria, Bangladesh and Manus Island. We pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That he may provide for those who lack food, work or shelter  
in our own nation. For those whose livelihoods and employment  
have been affected in recent times. For the homeless and those separated from loved ones,  
for those in residential care. We pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That the compassion of the resurrected Christ may be the mark of those in authority among  
us. For our leaders in government, business, the police forces and those in public service.  
That God may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love. We pray to  
the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak and the dying, to comfort  
and strengthen them. We remember those who have fallen ill due to the pandemic and those  
who are close to us: Roger, Ros, Ben, Gage, Sam, Hugh and Barry. We pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That, according to his promises, all who have died in the faith of the resurrection may be  
raised on the last day. For those who have died recently especially Elaine Mahony and  
Margaret Walden. And those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Jeffery Avery  
(23/4/2007) and those who died in the Gallipoli Campaign (1915-16). We pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people,  
so that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection. We pray for ourselves and each  
other, our families, friends and communities,  
our parish and those with whom we share bonds of love and friendship.  
We pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

Priest: Heavenly Father,  
you have delivered us from the power of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:  
grant that, as his death has recalled us to life,  
so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy;  
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### *A prayer of Spiritual Communion*

*[When the clergy make their communion, you may like to privately make the following prayer.  
It was believed from earliest times that Christians could receive the benefits of Holy  
Communion even if they were unable to be present at the Eucharist. This teaching was of  
particular comfort to so-called Confessors of the Faith, who were imprisoned and deprived of  
access to the sacraments].*

Jesus, you have given us in the Holy Eucharist  
your Body and Blood to be our spiritual nourishment  
through which we may have life everlasting.

I desire, with all my heart, to receive this living Bread  
which came down from Heaven.  
Send your Spirit upon me, come and refresh my soul.  
That, whilst I may be isolated from your sacramental presence  
and from your Body, gathered;  
I may know the peace and joy of communion with you  
and your body the Church, in my heart.

Increase my faith,  
strengthen my hope,  
kindle my love,  
that I may die to self and live but for you. Amen.

### *Recessional Hymn*

Now the green blade rises  
from the buried grain,  
Wheat that in the dark earth  
many days has lain;  
love lives again,  
that with the dead has been:  
*Love is come again,  
like wheat that springs  
up green.*

In the grave they laid him,  
Love whom hate had slain,  
thinking that he never  
would awake again,  
laid in the earth  
like grain that sleeps unseen:  
*Love is come again,  
like wheat that springs  
up green.*

Up He sprang at Easter,  
like the risen grain,  
he who for three days  
in the grave had lain;  
raised from the dead  
my living Lord is seen:  
*Love is come again,  
like wheat that springs  
up green.*

When our hearts are wintry,  
grieving, or in pain,  
then your touch can call us  
back to life again -  
Fields of our hearts  
dead and bare have been:  
*Love is come again,  
like wheat that springs  
up green.*

John Macleod Campbell Crum  
1872-1958

### *Calendar @ St Philip's*


Sunday 19 April, following 8am Eucharist – **Breakfast chat:** catch up over coffee and toast with other parishioners on Zoom: [Breakfast chat link](#)

Friday 24 April      5pm -7pm      **Happy Hour online,** for those who wish to catch up.  
[St Philip's Happy Hour link](#)


Sunday 26 April      **8am**      **Weekly Eucharist:** streamed live on [Facebook](#). Then will be available on either our [YouTube](#) channel or [Facebook](#). All links and details are on our web page:  
[www.stphilipsoconnor.org.au](http://www.stphilipsoconnor.org.au)

## News

Following the 8.00am Eucharist you can catch up over coffee and toast with other parishioners on the following Zoom link. [Breakfast chat link](#) looking forward to seeing you all.



Thank you to those who liked, shared or made comments on the live streams on our Facebook page. If you managed to worship via the live stream or on our YouTube Channel, please let us know how we might improve this project to enable you to engage as fully as possible. A comment has been made that they are very clerical! Can I suggest they are a bit like watching a fitness video, you only get something out of them if you do the workout! They are not simply clerics doing their thing if *you* are responding and praying! This week there will be instructions to help you participate! We'll also have Janene helping with our singing. Thank you Janene!



I have been asking our folk what they have found useful for their spiritual nourishment. If you click on the Facebook page below you will find an interview with Canon Scott and the well-known Perth priest, activist and stand-up comedian Fr Chris Bedding, about his work on Rene Girard.

It starts a bit slow but gets going a couple of minutes in.


<https://www.facebook.com/chrisbedding/videos/10216403441341026/>

Those of you who love TS Eliot, might enjoy these, Jeremy Irons reads some of Eliot's poetry:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CmBzhoGdLCM>

<https://youtu.be/IjRLSqZs2eo>

I hope you are finding something to nurture your faith in these days of Easter. In the coming weeks we may plan a post-Easter study and gathering using Zoom.



From the Bishop:

The latest in my weekly reflections on the Gospel reading for this Sunday is available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORvmpFoOAY4>

There is also a link to the video on the Diocesan website on the 'Keep Connected at a Distance' page: <https://anglicancg.org.au/keep-connected/>

I have also found this a useful resource, it is very ecumenical with resources from many different Christian traditions: <https://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/covid-19-and-worship-resources-for-churches-adapting-to-social-isolation#Easter>


Yours in the Risen Jesus, +Mark



Laura Wood the Editor in Chief of the 'St Philip's Times' writes:

*"In an effort to keep our social lives afloat during the COVID-19 distancing measures, we are publishing a fortnightly newsletter. It will contain puzzles, recipes, updates from parishioners and a kid's corner. In addition to suggestions on reading, cooking, exercise and new skills. We would love to receive input from as many people as possible and are open to any suggestions. I hope you enjoyed the first edition which was emailed last Thursday, 16 April."*

Please email Laura at [yourlaurawood@gmail.com](mailto:yourlaurawood@gmail.com) with your content and ideas.



During the week the email accounts we use in the parish were comprised and a number of bogus emails were sent to parishioners and others. The emails used a 'Gmail' address. If you receive an email from 'rector' or 'stphilips' using a Gmail account please delete them. All emails from St Philip's will come from an email with our domain name .....@[stphilipsoconnor.org.au](mailto:stphilipsoconnor.org.au); all others are bogus.

I'm afraid that because of the very high level of email traffic we are susceptible to hackers. Other parishes have also been similarly affected, a reminder to us all to be vigilant using our devices and computers.

Please be mindful of other parishioners' privacy. If you are emailing a group of parishioners, please use the BCC field so all email addresses are hidden, too help protect against hackers.



***During this time when we are unable to gather please  
consider giving to St. Philip's using electronic transfer.  
EFT details: Account Name – St Philip's Anglican Church  
BSB Number: 702-389 Account No: 05202512  
Reference/description: St Phil Offering. Thank you.***