



St Philip's Come & See

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Sunday 6 December 2020 *Second Sunday of Advent*

While the COVID19 restrictions are in place St Philip's is delighted to be celebrating the Eucharist online on [Facebook](#) at 8.00am this morning. It will then be available on either our [YouTube channel](#) or [Facebook](#). All links and details are on our web page www.stphilipsoconnor.org.au



Dear Friends,

'Comfort ye my people', the opening words of Handel's Messiah, some of the best known words in perhaps the best known oratorio. We shall hear these words spoken this morning in their original context at the beginning of the second 'movement' of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. It is one of my favourite pieces of scripture, filled with poetry of heartfelt sorrow and of great joy. It speaks of the profound sadness of a people in exile and of the joy of their promised return.

The prophet gives his hearers back their faith, crushed by exile, by telling, in poetry the ancient story that gives meaning to their lives. It is a remarkable gift to them, and to us, because it speaks too into our context.

When I read this passage, it is like being given a new language and new way of articulating the narrative of life. In this wonderful part of the Bible we are given the capacity to confront despair rather than be dominated by it. It is about a new way of seeing life itself, it is like the most

wonderful liturgy you have ever attended. Because this is one of the marks of great liturgy, it gives us a new language, a new context in which we view our lives and the life of the world.

Our gathering today is marked with sadness as we mourn the loss of friend and fellow parishioner Roger Sharp. But it is my hope that this piece of scripture is seen as something of a gift to us today. It speaks of deep sorrow but of profound joy and hope. Surely the mark of us as Christians, particularly in this Advent season.

Thank you to those who worked to make last weekend's Advent dinner a success, it was a very enjoyable evening. On Wednesday we will gather again in different circumstances to celebrate Roger's life and farewell him. There will be a number of different roles that we will need to fulfil; helping with ushering, catering, cleaning up etc. Offers of help will be much appreciated.

As the Christmas season approaches there will be the usual round of celebrations in the Parish. I hope that to some extent we can end this most unusual and disrupted year with a renewed sense of hope and as we celebrate the birth of Christ we can find in that event our own new beginnings. Please encourage family and friends to gather with us as we keep the season!

Blessings to you all **Martin**
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Entrance Antiphon [Introit]

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 at the Advent Wreath and the lighting of the second candle.

God our Father,
you spoke to the prophets of old
of a Saviour who would bring peace.
You helped them to spread the joyful message
of his coming kingdom.
Help us, as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
to share with those around us
the good news of your power and love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world.

Amen.

Today's Readings

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah (40:1-11)

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,

and the rough places a plain.
⁵ Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'
⁶ A voice says, 'Cry out!'
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
⁹ Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'
¹⁰ See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

O Lord, you were gracious to your land:
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**You forgave the iniquity of your people:
and covered all their sin.**

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.

**Truly his salvation is near to those that fear him:
and his glory shall dwell in our land.**

Mercy and truth are met together:
righteousness and peace have kissed each other;

**Truth shall flourish out of the earth:
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

The Lord will also give us all that is good:
and our land shall yield its plenty.

**For righteousness shall go before him:
and tread the path before his feet.**

A reading from the second letter of Peter (3:8-15a)

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Gradual

Alleluia, **Alleluia!** Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people. **Alleluia!**

Isaiah 52:9

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark (1:1-8)

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight" ',

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

For the gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayers of the People

In our prayers we remember those in need, particularly: Ros, Sam, Ben, Gage, Hugh, Beryl, Denise, Margot, Sarah, Tien, Myrle and Marian those unable to gather with us, those in hospital, residential or home care.

We commend to God the recently departed especially Roger Sharp, and those whose anniversaries fall at this time, Peter Blaseotto (10/12/2003) and Dorothy Moore (12/12/1984) and all those whose memories are dear to us.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Communion Antiphon

Rise up, Jerusalem, stand on the heights, and see the joy that is coming to you from the Lord.

cf. Baruch 4:36

A Prayer of Spiritual Communion

[When the clergy make their communion if you are watching from home 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.

[If you are interested in the history and the theology behind Spiritual Communion this YouTube clip is helpful. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9uBiqbTY7oA&feature=youtu.be>]

News

Don't forget to enjoy the **Advent Calenda** on our own Website <http://stphilipsoconnor.org.au/>
Brian has put together some wonderful music, art and poetry to help us on our journey and keep us
grounded during this busy season. Thank you Brian.

Chief Officer regularly updates information regarding interstate COVID19 outbreaks. Below is the
link to the site which outlines areas of risk in Australia
https://health.act.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-11/Advice%20on%20interstate%20COVID-19%20outbreaks_27112020.pdf [The latest guidance on this site dated 27 November is in the
church foyer].

The NSW CHO's site provides detailed information on the situation in NSW.
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates>

International Mission: Zambia Gender & Governance Project

As we head towards the end of the year, we now shift our support to the ABM's international
mission. This year, St Philip's is focusing on the Zambian Anglican Council Outreach Program
(ZACOP).

ZACOP's mission is to end child marriage, the conditions of poverty and ignorance, and the lowly
status of women. The Gender & Governance project is currently at work in four large villages in
Eastern Zambia.

The type of goals ZACOP strives for includes:

- **decrease in Gender-Based Violence (GBV),**
- **greater access to legal advice about GBV,**
 - **training to prevent GBV; and**
- **greater access to micro loans to establish small businesses.**

Click this link to find out more: <https://youtu.be/pqccmfjD4tY>

Please give generously via the St Philip's envelopes in Church or an electronic transfer with the
details below:

Account Name – St Philip's Anglican Church BSB Number: 702-389;
Account No: 05202512; Reference/description: International Mission

Bridging the Gap - Breaking the Cycle Each week St Philip's donates non-perishable food items
to **St John's Care** in Reid. Thank you to those who continue to donate. The baskets at the back of
the church are ready to receive your donations! Please refer to the list of suggested items and if
you would like to know more about this important outreach visit www.stjohnscare.org.au.

From Bishop Stephen Pickard For Lent 2021 the Public Issues Commission with the support of
Anglicare, is offering a six-week study which looks at what God has to tell us about compassion in
the public sphere: for those in our parish, in our Anglican communion, nationally and
intergenerationally. Some key themes include: aged care (parish), reconciliation with First Peoples,
inequality, climate change, asylum seekers. Bishop Mark will write a Forward. There will be sections
of teaching, questions and prayers, suggestions for action. The study will be available online on the
Diocesan website.

KEY POINTS FROM DECEMBER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

- Under recently updated CovidSafe arrangements from ACT Health and the Diocese, Parish Council has lifted the allowable capacity of the church from 65 to 75. The new 2 square metre rule would on the surface suggest a higher number but Parish Council has had to take into account the usable space within the church and the overall imperative of maintaining 1.5m of social distancing. Limited choir singing is now allowed.
- Do not attend if unwell, social distancing, use of sanitizer and recording of attendance are all still required. If you are concerned about the potential increase in attendees, please consider using a mask.
- A Service of Lessons and Music will be held Saturday 19 December and again on Sunday 20 December, beginning at 7.30pm. Bookings are required to manage numbers. An email will be sent to parishioners with a link to a [booking form](#). There will also be a link to the [booking form](#) on the Parish website and Facebook page. If you cannot access the booking form in these ways, please speak to Leighton.
- Pandora's will be closed from 1pm on Saturday 19 December and will re-open at 10am on Saturday 16 January 2021.
- Christmas services will generally follow the pattern of previous years. On Christmas Eve there will be a 5pm Children's Service and an 11.30pm Eucharist. On Christmas Day Holy Communion will be at 9am.
- The 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at 11.15am on Sunday 21 February. Reports for the AGM should be submitted to Rev'd Martin **no later than Sunday 31 January 2021**.
- Parishioners wishing to, or thinking of, serving on the Parish Council for 2021 or serving as a back-up representative for the annual Synod should talk to Rev'd Martin well before the AGM.
- Parishioners are reminded that voluntary parish roles are renewed after each AGM. If any parishioners would like to take on a voluntary role in 2021 or are thinking about doing so, please talk to Rev'd Martin or any Parish Councillor.

This week @ St Philip's

Today *Advent 2*
8am **Eucharist - Livestreamed**
10am **Eucharist with music**

Wednesday 9 December *Feria in Advent*
11am **Funeral service for Roger Sharp**
Former Rector of the Parish, The Ven Rebecca Newland will preach at the service. We are anticipating that many will want to attend to pay tribute to Roger. We will be limited to 75 in the church, others will be accommodated in the courtyard and the service will be livestreamed on our Facebook page.

Thursday 10 December *Feria in Advent*
10am Eucharist

Friday 11 December *Feria in Advent*
5pm-6pm Happy Hour on Zoom [Happy Hour Link](#) (link available on our website)
7pm Youth Group

Saturday 12 December *Feria in Advent*
10am - 1pm Pandora's

Sunday 13 December *Advent 3*
8am **Eucharist - Livestreamed**
10am **Eucharist with Music**

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 December 7.30pm Christmas Concert of 'Lessons & Music'
Please book your place here [booking form](#)

Thursday 24 December Christmas Eve
5pm Children's Service
11.30pm Midnight Mass

Friday 25 December Christmas Day
9am Eucharist

Sunday 3 January Epiphany

Wednesday 17 February Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)

Sunday 21 February 11.15am Parish AGM

Roster

		6-Dec-20	13-Dec-20	20-Dec-20
	Sunday of Month	1st	2nd	3rd
	Liturgical Season	2nd Sunday of Advent	3rd Sunday of Advent	4th Sunday of Advent
	Flowers	<i>no flowers for the season of Advent – the focus being on the Advent Wreath</i>	<i>no flowers for the season of Advent – the focus being on the Advent Wreath</i>	<i>no flowers for the season of Advent – the focus being on the Advent Wreath</i>
8am	Celebrant	Rev'd Canon Scott	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)			Rev'd Canon Scott
	Sidespeople & Welcomer	Margaret & Russell	Alison & Alistair	Vicki L & helpers
	Liturgical Assistant	Lisa C	Ellie P	Lisa C
	Bible Reader	Margaret or Russell	Alison or Alistair	Rebecca P
10am	Celebrant	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Canon Scott
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)	Rev'd Canon Scott		
	Sidespeople & Welcomer	Fred A & Denise M	Hardy & Helen P, Jeanette M	Laura W, Richard G & Sally A
	Liturgical Assistant	Crucifer: Zara	Rebecca K	Server: Leighton
	Musician(s) & Singers/Soloist	Colin F	Colin F	Colin F
	Bible reader	Denise M	Richard G	Ann Munro