



St Philip's *Come & See*

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Sunday 20 December 2020 *Fourth 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,

Last week, on the 17th December to be precise, the Church entered into the last phase of the Advent season. The phase is marked by two things. The first is the reading of the genealogy of Jesus from Matthew's gospel which we heard last Thursday. Secondly by the recitation of the O Antiphons, which are traditionally said before the Magnificat at Vespers each evening:

- 17 December: O Sapientia (*O Wisdom*)
- 18 December: O Adonai (*O Lord*)
- 19 December: O Radix Jesse (*O Root of Jesse*)
- 20 December: O Clavis David (*O Key of David*)
- 21 December: O Oriens (*O Dayspring*)
- 22 December: O Rex Gentium (*O King of the Nations*)
- 23 December: O Emmanuel (*O With us is God*)

You probably know these antiphons best as the hymn 'O come, O come Emmanuel.' These ancient writings place our faith in context of many millennia; men and women striving to find God in the everyday and importantly in their watching and waiting seeing the hand of God at work in past events, events in which God was seemingly very distant, if not absent. Events that at the time seemed dis-spiriting to say the very least.

This year, for some, has been one such time. Much has happened during the year in all our lives. For many there has been, among other things, grief, job losses and isolation. We have had to make many changes to our routines as rules and regulations have altered. We as a Parish have had to create plans and have them approved, we have had to change time honoured ways in which we worship and gather. But as the year ends I hope that we can look forward with confidence and feel that the experiences of the year have strengthened our community rather than diminish it. With careful planning the Wardens and Parish Councillors have enabled us to gather with minimal disruption, for which we should be enormously grateful. There is always much to be done and can I ask that we all consider during the summer break how we might support the life and ministry of our Parish. The Annual General Meeting will soon be upon us, what can you offer this community?

Blessings to you all this Christmastide. I hope that you find time for refreshment and re-creation and I look forward to another year of faith, hope and love in our community.

Martin,
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0478 619 911

Entrance Antiphon [Introit]

**A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel:
God with us.**

Matthew 1:23

Prayer at the Advent Wreath and the lighting of the fourth candle.

People of God: return!
You are called to be God's own.
From the mountains announce the good news.
God comes in justice and peace,
to all who follow his ways.
You are God's children.

Lord, make us one in the peace of Christ today and for ever. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:
Gracious God,
you chose the virgin Mary, by your grace,
to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour:
so fill us with your grace,
that with her we may rejoice in your salvation,
and in all things embrace your will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Today's Readings

A reading from the second book of Samuel (7:1-11,16)

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' ³Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.' ⁴But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived

in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

Song of Mary - Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55)

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.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (16:25-27)

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

The Gradual

Alleluia, **Alleluia!** Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.
Alleluia!

Luke 1:38

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (1:26-38)

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' ³⁴Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' ³⁵The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will

be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.' ³⁸Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

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, 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, those whose anniversaries fall at this time Alice Isabel Saylor (20 December 1988), Emma Johnson (25 December 1952), Derek Williams (25 December 2013) 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.

The Greeting of Peace

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Communion Antiphon

Our Lord says, 'Surely, I come quickly.' Even so; come, Lord Jesus.

Revelation 22:20

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>]

For Reflection

The word Advent means 'coming.' Each year during the liturgical season of Advent the Church invites us to enter into the longings of Israel for the coming of the saviour. Throughout the season the Church 'relives the great events of salvation history' and makes present again 'the ancient expectancy of the Messiah.' By entering into the Jewish yearnings for Christ's first coming two thousand or more years ago, we prepare to welcome him into our hearts at Christmas.

Perhaps the New Testament passage that best encapsulates the spirit of Advent and the ancient Jewish longing for the messiah is the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew's gospel (1:2-17). Indeed this family tree sums up 'the hopes and fear of all the years' in Israel's waiting for the saviour. Undoubtedly, many ancient Jews were full of fear in the midst of much suffering and oppression, wondering where God was in their trials and questioning whether he would ever come to their aid. But the faithful also clung to hope: hope in the promises and prophecies of old, confidence in God's faithfulness, and trust that there was some purpose in their suffering and that God one day would rescue them.

It is no wonder then that the Church uses this genealogy for the gospel reading at the Eucharist on the 17 December, setting the tone for the octave leading up to Christmas. But the passage also has application year round for us Christians today who, like some of our Jewish ancestors of old, find ourselves teetering between hope and fear amidst the countless worries, setbacks, disappointments and trials we face in our own lives. The story of Jesus' genealogy encourages us to lean on the side of hope in these difficult moments. From a merely human point of view Israel's history might have seemed to be a disaster; a story initially full of expectation (Abraham, David, Solomon and the promises of a great kingdom) ends in tragedy (wicked rulers, exile, foreign oppressors, and a dynasty seemingly abandoned by God). But the genealogy helps us view the story from the divine perspective, for it makes clear that God remained present to his people through Israel's ordeals as he continued to work out his plan of salvation from one generation to the next, bringing good from evil. Even in the face of great sin, devastation and suffering, God accomplishes his plan through a Davidic line that seemed to be dormant. He brought Israel its saviour and king in the child introduced at the end of this genealogy.

Curtis Mitch and Edward Sri

On Thursday at the Eucharist we heard Matthew's genealogy and heard the extraordinary stories of the women in Jesus' family line. The genealogy concludes of course with Mary, who is the focus of our celebration today.

Mary is told by the angel Gabriel, the messenger of God, that the Lord is with her. Much more intimate than God's presence to David, the Lord is literally with her. She is the dwelling place. She is the new ark, beyond all our 'reasonable' expectations. She is tent and temple. God is literally, physically in her, conceived as human, her very flesh, great with dignity, by the power of the Most High. And she is the temple. She is the greater house, the promise to David.

"Let it be done to me according to your word."

It is Mary's very acceptance of the "mystery hidden for ages," her utter openness to the promise of God's intimacy with us, that yields her pregnancy. She believed that God could take human flesh in her, become one with her very body. Herein, she was fertile to bear forth the Most High into the world.

This is the heart of the Incarnation mystery: that the ineffable and unnameable God could take human flesh, could become one with us, could be a human baby.

John Kavanaugh, SJ

News

The ACT 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/2020-12/Advice%20on%20interstate%20COVID-19%20outbreaks_18122020_final.pdf [The latest guidance on this site dated 18 December is in the

church foyer]. The situation however is evolving very quickly at present and we ask everyone coming to St Philip's over Christmastide to be aware of current restrictions and alerts.

For the latest information From NSW Health go to <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates#self-isolate-and-get-tested>

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 outreach visit www.stjohnscare.org.au.

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

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. Key themes include: aged care (parish), reconciliation with First Peoples, inequality, climate change, asylum seekers. There will be sections of teaching, questions and prayers, suggestions for action. The study will be available online on the Diocesan website.

The December Anglican News is now out. <https://stphilipsoconnor.org.au/news/anglicannews/>

Our own website www.stphilipsoconnor.org.au is a wonderful resource and the best source of information about our Parish and Diocese. Don't forget to check in for the daily Advent offering.

Flowers @ St Philip's. Please consider donating to our Christmas Flowers. Envelopes are available at the back of the church or see Susan. Thank you

Engage December 2020 [Issue 5](#) is now available. This is the journal from the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture

This week @ St Philip's

Today	<i>Advent 4</i>
8am	Eucharist – Live-streamed
10am	Eucharist with music
7.30pm	Christmas Concerts of 'Lessons and Music'
Thursday 24 December	<i>Christmas Eve</i>
5pm	Children's Christmas Service
11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Friday 25 December	<i>Christmas</i>
9am	Festal Eucharist – Live-streamed

Sunday 27 December
8am
10am

First Sunday after Christmas
Eucharist – Livestreamed
Eucharist with Music

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 3 January Epiphany
Wednesday 17 February Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)
Sunday 21 February 11.15am Parish AGM
Friday 2 April Good Friday 2021
Sunday 4 April Easter Sunday
Saturday 10 & Sun 11 April Diocesan Synod

Roster

		20-Dec-20	24-Dec-20	25-Dec-20	27-Dec-20	3-Jan-21
	Sunday of Month	3rd			4th	1st
	Liturgical Season	4th Sunday of Advent	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	1st Sunday after Christmas	Epiphany Sunday
	Flowers	<i>no flowers for the season of Advent – the focus being on the Advent Wreath</i>	Flowers Team	Flowers Team	Flower team	Flowers Team
			5pm Children's Service			
8am	Celebrant	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin		Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Canon Scott
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)	Rev'd Canon Scott				
	Sidespeople & Welcomer	Vicki L & helpers	Tim & Shane W		Margaret & Russell	Tim & Shane
	Liturgical Assistant	Lisa C			Peter W	Lisa C
	Bible Reader	Rebecca P	Dominic L		Margaret or Russell	Shane W
			11.30pm Midnight Mass	9am Eucharist		
10am	Celebrant	Rev'd Canon Scott	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Canon Scott	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)					Rev'd Canon Scott
	Sidespeople & Welcomer	Laura W, Richard G & Sally A	Fred A & Denise M	Fred A, Nirmal F	Fred A & helpers	Fred A & Denise M, Janene B
	Liturgical Assistant		?	LA: Lisa C; Server: Leighton; Crucifer: Zara	Philippa W	
	Musician(s) & Singers/Soloist	Colin F	Colin F	Colin F	Colin F	Colin F
	Bible reader	Ann Munro	David R	Colin D	Fred A	Denise M
Additional details/notes	<i>School holidays</i>	<i>5pm: Children's Service 11.30pm: Midnight Mass</i>		<i>9am Eucharist</i>	<i>School holidays</i>	<i>School holidays</i>