



St Philip's Come & See

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Sunday 27 December 2020 *First Sunday after Christmas*

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



Fra. Angelico, approximately 1400-1455. Presentation in the Temple, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

Dear Friends,

For many the coming (and going) of Christmas involves a great sigh of relief. Some will enjoy the day and then plunge back into the maelstrom at the Boxing Day sales. I think this is a great shame. The season continues on through the twelve days to the wonderful feast of Epiphany and for some indeed through to Candlemas on 2 February. It is a season to savour and enjoy, but we are so quick to move on and put it behind us. It isn't really anything new, the novelist Thomas Hardy

gloomily described the day as: 'a phase of cheerfulness which was, as a matter of course, to be passed through every Christmas and there was no more to be said.'

This festival gives us ample opportunity to meditate on the incarnation, the touchstone of our faith. Today if it were not Sunday would be the day when we celebrate the life of St John the apostle and evangelist. The gospel named after him opens with the great *prologue* 'In the beginning was the word and the word was God...and the word became flesh and dwelt among us.' In chapter 3 we also hear one of the most celebrated sentences in the New Testament, perhaps the heart of the gospel: 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.'

This short statement changes everything. William Temple (one time Archbishop of Canterbury) reminds us in the Readings in St John's gospel, that Christianity is not one more religion of individual salvation, differing from its fellows only in offering a different road to that goal. It is the one and only religion of world redemption. The passage goes on: *Indeed, God did not send his Son into the world to condemn, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*

This changed the way that the people in John's community viewed God and the world. It is the message of Christmas, it is the source of our celebration and indeed it worthy of a great festival not simply one day in the year.

Having said that I hope you enjoyed your Christmas Day and that your plans were not too disrupted. Having spent four weeks of Advent preparing I think we should enjoy this great feast of our salvation and the salvation of the world.

Martin

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The Christmas flowers are in loving memory of June and John Carnahan who enjoyed many Christmas morning services at St Philip's. *The McCaskie family*

Entrance Antiphon [Introit]

We ponder your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple. Your name, O God, like your praise, reaches to the ends of the earth.

Psalm 48:9

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:
Saving God,
whose Son Jesus was presented in the temple
and was acclaimed the glory of Israel
and the light of the nations:
grant that in him we may be presented to you
and in the world may reflect his glory;
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Today's Readings

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah (61:10 62:3)

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,

so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

¹ For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

² The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.

³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Psalm 148

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord from heaven:

O praise him in the heights.

Praise him, all his angels:

O praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon:

praise him, all you stars of light.

Praise him, you highest heaven:

and you waters that are above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord:

for he commanded and they were made.

He established them for ever and ever:

he made an ordinance which shall not pass away.

O praise the Lord from the earth:

praise him, you sea-monsters and all deeps;

Fire and hail, mist and snow:

and storm-wind fulfilling his command;

Mountains and all hills:

fruiting trees and all cedars;

Beasts of the wild, and all cattle:

creeping things and winged birds;

Kings of the earth, and all peoples:

princes, and all rulers of the world;

Young men and maidens:

old men and children together.

Let them praise the name of the Lord:

for his name alone is exalted.

His glory is above earth and heaven:

and he has lifted high the horn of his people.

Therefore he is the praise of all his servants:

of the children of Israel, a people that is near him.

Praise the Lord.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians (1:15-23)

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The Gradual

Alleluia, **Alleluia!** A light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel. **Alleluia!**

Luke 2:33

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (2:22-40)

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.'

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

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, Marian and Philippa, those unable to gather with us, those in hospital, residential or home care.

We commend to God the recently departed, those whose year's mind falls at this time, Norma Florence Reynolds (28/12/2000) 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

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.

Luke 2:30-32

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

Jesus is presented by his earthly parents at the Temple in Jerusalem 40 days after his birth. (See Luke 2 vs: 21-40). This was a requirement 'according to the law of Moses'. Mary and Joseph's fulfilment of this can remind us that doing our duty and being faithful to what tradition requires of us is an important aspect of the Christian faith and life. This sense of obligation is captured well in our Prayer Book which says, "It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places ...". Christianity is not simply a matter of choosing what we like, or what suits us. There are essential requirements for us to fulfil towards God.

Another traditional title for this feast, *The Meeting of the Lord*, connects with the encounter of Simeon and Anna with the infant Christ child. Their story reminds us of the importance of faithfulness and of being prepared to patiently wait. We live in an age where we can seemingly have everything we want almost immediately. Being prepared to wait is seen as an irritating hindrance and Anna and Simeon's demeanour can serve as a useful corrective to a view that can so often be about us as individuals, focusing on ourselves.

Moments of great calm,
Kneeling before an altar
Of wood in a stone church
In summer waiting for the God
To speak; the air a staircase
For silence; the sun's light
Ringing me, as though I acted
A great role. And the audiences
Still; all that close throng
Of spirits waiting, as I,
For the message.
Prompt me, God;
But not yet. When I speak,
Though it be you who speak
Through me, something is lost.
The meaning is in the waiting.

How wisely did the priest and poet R. S. Thomas conclude this poem *Kneeling* with the words, "The meaning is in the waiting". Often it is in times of waiting that we can develop and grow in our appreciation of God, his creation, one another and ourselves.

This title also reminds us that God cannot be ordered to meet us when we think it is convenient. God has, to put it simply, his own sense of timing, God will not be rushed. He is not at our beck and

call. Rather we are to be like Anna and Simeon and believe that he will come to us. We are to be open and alert to recognise him and his work in our world and in our lives, which can so often be through encountering other people. This includes people of other faiths. We are reminded of this in the story of Jesus' encounter with the Roman Centurion who wanted his servant healed. And when he is challenged by the Canaanite woman whose daughter was unwell.

The gospel reminds us that as well as presenting Jesus the family also came to the Temple for purification. This had its origin in the Jewish practice of attending the Temple in Jerusalem to thank God and pray for both the health of the child and for the purification of the mother. It was believed that after forty days both would be out of any potential harm's way. This title reminds us of the theme of dependency and of how Jesus was dependent on his mother. Across the gospels and in the Acts of the Apostles we see how Mary responded to Jesus in a range of ways, which could be summarised as embodying responsiveness and faithfulness. Like Mary we are surely to reflect on what it means for us to be faithful to Christ and to respond to him.

The Revd Charles Chadwick, Diocese of Oxford UK

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 20 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>

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.

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.

website www.stphilipsoconnor.org.au is a wonderful resource and the best source of information about our Parish and Diocese. If you'd like to revisit the readings and some of the music from our celebration of Nine Lessons, Music and Carols this is now available on our website.

A Note from Bishop Mark

Dear sisters and brothers, Thank you for your ministry over Christmas. Please find below a link to a short service and message for this Sunday 27 December 2020 which I encourage you to use and distribute as appropriate. <https://youtu.be/tiQb5ibriIM>

I pray you all are able to enjoy some well-earned rest as we approach a new year of serving Jesus together.

Every blessing in Christ, Mark

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

8am
10am

First Sunday after Christmas

Eucharist - Livestreamed
Eucharist with music

Thursday 31 December 10am *John Wyclif, teacher and reformer (d.1384)*
Eucharist

Sunday 3 January 8am *Epiphany*
10am **Eucharist** - Livestreamed
Eucharist with Music

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 17 February 2021 Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)

Sunday 21 February 2021 Parish AGM

Friday 2 April 2021 Good Friday –
Sunday 4 April Easter Sunday

Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 April Diocesan Synod

Rosters @ St Philip's

		27-Dec-20	3-Jan-21	10-Jan-21
	Sunday of Month	4th	1st	2nd
	Liturgical Season	1st Sunday after Christmas	Epiphany Sunday	The Baptism of our Lord
	Flowers	Flower team	Flowers Team	Flowers Team
8am	Celebrant	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Canon Scott	Rev'd Martin
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)			
	Sidespeople & Welcomer	Margaret & Russell	Tim & Shane	Alison & Alistair
	Liturgical Assistant	Peter W	Lisa C	Ellie P
	Bible Reader	Margaret or Russell	Shane W	Alison or Alistair
10am	Celebrant	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)		Rev'd Canon Scott	
	Sidespeople & Welcomer	Fred A & helpers	Fred A & Denise M, Janene B	Hardy & Helen P, Jeanette M
	Liturgical Assistant	Philippa W		Rebecca K
	Musician(s) & Singers/Soloist	Colin F	Colin F	Colin F
	Bible reader	Fred A	Denise M	Ashton R
	<i>Additional details/notes</i>	<i>School holidays</i>	<i>School holidays</i>	<i>School holidays</i>