



St Philip's Come & See

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Sunday 12 July 2020 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

8am Eucharist

10am Eucharist with music

The 8.00am Eucharist will still 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



Dear Friends,

As I write the border between NSW and Victoria is being closed and the Melbourne Metro area is once again entering into lockdown. Border closures are something unimaginable just a few short months ago, having lived close to the border around Albury/Wodonga I can imagine the angst of those who have always moved freely across the border. Many folk are experiencing unprecedented changes in their everyday lives, things formerly taken for granted are no more.

A couple of weeks ago I suggested that the restrictions placed upon us were no more than what we should expect of each other under normal circumstances. We desist from mixing if we are unwell, we observe good personal hygiene and we ensure that we offer each other personal space. What

we are being called to is to live in a disciplined way, a very unpopular idea in our modern world and something which has fallen away in the life of the Church.

In years past Ascetical theology was taught and those preparing for ordination would have been expected to engage to some extent in the ascetical life. Candidates were trained in monastic environments with study and prayer being equally important. Now this probably sounds quite dreadful to many, ascetics speaks of self-denial, of poverty, chastity and obedience. But in the Anglican tradition this life, governed by the rhythms of the Prayer Book, with its calendar, daily prayer, is for everyone. Not a strict monastic rule, no, but a life of discipline, in which we live together bound by a common life of faith and prayer which becomes practical as we seek one another's good and welfare.

So we as a church do have something profound to offer in these difficult and challenging times. It is a disciplined life, lived according to an order which nourishes and sustains, which deals with the difficulties, trials and tribulations of life, which binds us together. This is an idea which has been largely forgotten in the Church and wider world, but in these times when our so called freedoms are limited in many ways we would do well to be reminded of the disciplines of our faith and how discipline will help us deal with the unprecedented issues of our day.

Martin

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Entrance Antiphon [Introit]

The words you have spoken are spirit and life, O Lord; you have the words of eternal life.

John 6:63,68

Prayer of the Day

Bountiful God,

We thank you for planting in us the seed of your word:

By your Holy Spirit, help us to receive it with joy,
and to live according to it.

That we may grow in faith and hope and love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Today's Readings

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah (55:10-13)

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;

the mountains and the hills before you

shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;

and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Psalm 65:8-13

You tend the earth and water it:

you make it rich and fertile.

**The river of God is full of water:
and so providing for the earth,
you provide grain for us all.**

You drench its furrows, you level the ridges between:
you soften it with showers and bless its early growth.

**You crown the year with your goodness:
and the tracks where you have passed drip with fatness.**

The pastures of the wilderness run over:
and the hills are girded with joy.

**The meadows are clothed with sheep:
and the valleys stand so thick with corn,
they shout for joy and sing.**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (8:1-11)

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The Gradual

Alleluia! **Alleluia!**

The seed is the word of God, Christ the sower; whoever finds this seed will live forever. **Alleluia!**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (13:1-9, 18-23)

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!'

¹⁸Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Prayers

In our prayers this week we remember all those in need, particularly: Roger, Ros, Sam, Ben, Gage, Hugh, Sarah and Joan.

We commend to God Julian Clee recently departed and recall those whose years mind falls at this time: Jim McCaskie (16/7/2000).

Communion Antiphon

The sparrow has found her a home, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young: even your altar, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in your house: they will always be praising you.

Psalm 84;3-4

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

*Barbara Brown Taylor, in the chapter, "The Extravagant Sower" from her book *The Seeds of Heaven: Sermons on the Gospel of Matthew* writes:*

I started worrying about what kind of ground I was on with God. I started worrying about how many birds were in my field, how many rocks, how many thorns. I started worrying about how I could clean them all up, how I could turn myself into a well-tilled, well-weeded, well-fertilized field for the sowing of God's word. I started worrying about how the odds were three to one against me — those are the odds in the parable, after all — and I began thinking about how I could beat the odds, or at least improve on them, by cleaning up my act.

That is my usual response to this parable. I hear it as a challenge to be different, as a call to improve my life, so that if the same parable were ever told about me it would have a happier ending, with all of the seed falling on rich, fertile soil. But there is something wrong with that reading of the parable, because if that is what it is about, then it should be called the parable of the different kinds of ground.

Instead, it has been known for centuries as the parable of the Sower, which means that there is a chance, just a chance, that we have got it all backwards. We hear the story and think it is a story about us, but what if we are wrong? What if it is not about us at all but about the sower? What if it

is not about our own successes and failures and birds and rocks and thorns but about the extravagance of a sower who does not seem to be fazed by such concerns, who flings seed everywhere, wastes it with holy abandon, who feeds the birds, whistles at the rocks, picks his way through the thorns, shouts hallelujah at the good soil and just keeps on sowing, confident that there is enough seed to go around, that there is plenty, and that when the harvest comes at last it will fill every barn in the neighbourhood to the rafters?

If this is really the parable of the Sower and not the parable of the different kinds of ground, then it begins to sound quite new. The focus is not on us and our shortfalls but on the generosity of our maker, the prolific sower who does not obsess about the condition of the fields, who is not stingy with the seed but who casts it everywhere, on good soil and bad, who is not cautious or judgmental or even very practical, but who seems willing to keep reaching into his seed bag for all eternity, covering the whole creation with the fertile seed of his truth.

News

Our Local Mission Outreach this year is to Companion House in Cook. Companion House is a non-government community based organisation working with adults and children who have sought safety in Australia from persecution, torture and war related trauma to ensure access to services that respect, empower and promote recovery. Services include Medical, Counselling, Complementary Therapy, Community Development, Training and Professional Development, Policy Advice and Awareness Raising and Migration Advice. Envelopes to contribute to this ministry can be found at the back of the church.

Rectory Solar Panel and Heat Pump Project Following on from the AGM decision in February, Parish Council is now inviting donations towards the cost of the Rectory Solar Panel Project. The project involves 24 solar panels and a heat pump for hot water at a total cost of \$13,565. It is an important project as we position the Parish for ministry into the future, by ensuring careful stewardship of our resources. The project also ensures that we are minimising our emissions and thus helping to protect the environment.

If you are in a position to contribute and wish to, you can make a donation via electronic funds transfer to St. Philips noting "solar panels" in the reference line or place an envelope in the retiring collection bowl marked "Solar Panels". Thank you.

After the 10am service next Sunday - 19 July, there will be an election to fill the remaining vacancies in Synod representatives and alternates for the period 2020 to 2022.

I hope you are enjoying Church Chat, our occasional newsletter. Thank you to all who contributed and thanks to Laura Wood our Editor for putting it all together. We would love to receive input from as many people as possible and are open to any suggestions. Please email Laura at yourlaurawood@gmail.com with your content and ideas for the next issue.

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

Calendar @ St Philip's

Today Sunday 12 July	<i>Sixth Sunday after Pentecost</i>
8am	Eucharist - Livestreamed
10am	Eucharist with Music
Thursday 16 July	
10am	Eucharist
Friday 17 July	
5pm - 6pm	Happy Hour online, for those who wish to catch up. St Philip's Happy Hour link
Saturday 18 July	
11am	Pandora's Planning Meeting

Sunday 19 July
8am
10am

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Eucharist - Livestreamed
Eucharist with Music

	July	12-Jul-20	19-Jul-20	26-Jul-20	
	Sunday of Month	2nd	3rd	4th	
	Liturgical Season	Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	Seventh Sunday after Pentecost	Eighth Sunday after Pentecost	
	Flowers				
8am	Celebrant	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin	8am
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)		Rev'd Canon Scott		
	Sidespeople & Welcomer	Alison & Alistair	Vicki L & helpers	Tim W	
	Liturgical Assistant	Ellie P	Lisa C	Peter W	
	Bible Reader	Alison or Alistair	Rebecca P	Shane W	
10am	Celebrant	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Canon Scott	Rev'd Martin	10am
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)				
	Sidespeople & Welcomer	Laura W, Richard G & helper	Jeannette M, Leighton M & helper	Nirmal F, Sally A & helper	
	Liturgical Assistant			Philippa W	
	Musician(s) & Singers/Soloist	Colin F	Colin F	Colin F	
	Bible reader	Fiona D	Fred A	Jack A	
	Additional details/notes	<i>School holidays</i>	<i>School holidays</i>		