

St Philip's Come & See

email: comeandsee@stphilipsoconnor.org.au

www.stphilipsoconnor.org.au

ph: 02 6161 7334

 [@stphilipsoconnor](https://www.facebook.com/stphilipsoconnor)

Sunday 26 July 2020 Eighth 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 news coming from Victoria and to some extent NSW is not promising. Earlier in the week I was prevented from conducting a service at the Sir Leslie Morshead Manor because of the fear of an outbreak. I was reminded how fragile our gradual re-emergence is, how easily we could find our work undone and quickly we could find ourselves in isolation again. Our calling is to remain vigilant and disciplined.

I have found that theologising in the face of the Pandemic to be demanding in many different ways. The Black Death which blighted Europe in the Middle Ages was believed to be divine punishment—retribution for sins against God such as greed, blasphemy, heresy, worldliness etc. By this logic, the only way to overcome the plague was to win God's forgiveness. Some people believed that the way to do this was to purge their communities of heretics and other troublemakers—so, for example, many thousands of Jews were massacred in 1348 and 1349. (Thousands more fled to the sparsely populated regions of Eastern Europe, where they could be relatively safe from the rampaging mobs

in the cities). Some people coped with the terror and uncertainty of the Black Death epidemic by lashing out at their neighbours; others coped by turning inward and fretting about the condition of their own souls.

When Jesus performs acts of healing he often does so by saying 'your sins are forgiven you' there was, in New Testament thought, clearly a link between disease and morality. Naturally with the advent of medical science we no longer advocate such ideas. The pandemic is not act of God, neither is climate change or any of the many issues that beset us, God is not punishing us. But quite clearly repentance in the face of these issues *is* our calling. We are called to constantly be re-orienting ourselves to mirror the kingdom of God that we proclaim. The Pandemic and our response like many other issues are signs that we are not at one with God or with each other, hence reconciliation in all its many forms is our way.

I am committed to going forward with our planning and we look forward to the reopening of Pandoras and a resumption of the Youth Group. We hope and pray that with discipline and a willingness to look beyond ourselves, be reconciled, that we might be able to continue to enjoy the freedoms that we have gained.

Blessings to you all,

Martin

0478 619 911

rector@stphilipsoconnor.org.au

Front cover: "The parable of the hidden treasure" by Rembrandt

Entrance Antiphon [Introit]

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

Prayer of the Day

O God, the fount of wisdom,

You have revealed to us in Christ

the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price:

grant us your Spirit's gift of discernment,

that, in the midst of the things of this world,

we may learn to value the priceless worth of your kingdom,

and be ready to renounce all else

for the sake of the precious gift you offer.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Today's Readings

A reading from the first book of Kings (3:5-12)

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' ⁶And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?'

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have

asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

Psalm 119:129-136

Wonderful are your commands:
and therefore my soul keeps them.

**The unfolding of your word gives light:
it gives understanding to the simple.**

I open my mouth and draw in my breath:
for I yearn for your commandments.

**O turn to me and be merciful to me:
as is your way with those who love your name.**

Order my steps according to your word:
that no evil may get mastery over me.

**Deliver me from my oppression:
that I may keep your precepts.**

Make your face shine upon your servant:
and teach me your statutes.

**My eyes gush out with streams of water
because they pay no heed to your law.**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (8:26-39)

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Gradual

Alleluia! **Alleluia!** I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. **Alleluia!**

(See John 15:15)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (13:44-58)

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from

the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.'⁵²And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'⁵³When Jesus had finished these parables, he left that place.

⁵⁴He came to his home town and began to teach the people in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, 'Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power?'⁵⁵Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?⁵⁶And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all this?'⁵⁷And they took offence at him. But Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honour except in their own country and in their own house.'⁵⁸And he did not do many deeds of power there, because of their unbelief.

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Prayers of the people

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

We commend to God the recently departed, especially Anne Sibley and recall those whose anniversary falls at this time: Portia Vincent (26/07/2012), Ellen Mahony (29/07/2002).

Communion Antiphon

O bless the Lord, my soul, and remember all his kindness.

See Psalm 103:1-2

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.

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

In Matthew 13.44-46, Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it."

I have always read this parable to mean that the kingdom of God is so valuable that I should be willing to sell everything and give everything up in order to get into the Kingdom. That is the reading that makes the most sense to me.

But the parables of Jesus, are such that they warrant reflection which often presents complementary meanings to what we normally make of them. *The Kingdom of God is our pearl of great price, but at the same time we are God's pearl of great price.* We are called to give up everything to get the kingdom because this is precisely what God has done to get us into the Kingdom. The incarnation, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is God selling everything He has in order to get the pearl of great price, which is each of us.

This reminds me of the great love stories, where both parties risk everything, endure great hardships, face whatever comes, in order to be together. The love and passion they have for each other trumps every obstacle. They both view the other as the ultimate treasure they are willing to do anything to get. This is how God thinks of you, this is how God feels about you, this is how God acts toward you. Is it also how you think of/feel about/act toward God?

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.

Watch out for more information on the Rectory 'Solar Farm' in the next edition of *Church Chat*.

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.

Congratulations and thanks to those who have offered to represent the Parish as Synod Representatives and Alternates. For this current sitting of the Diocesan Synod (2020-23) our representatives are Alison Davidson, Ashton Robinson and Ann Munro and the alternates are Leighton Mann and Sarah Gowty. There remains a vacancy for an Alternate Representative.

Plans to reopen Pandoras are afoot. A COVIDSAFE Plan has been lodged with the Diocese to enable Pandoras to commence trading. We hope at this stage to open next Saturday (1st August) and we look forward to welcoming customers and friends. Thank you to the Committee for their work in revamping the shop, thank you to the volunteers for your willingness to give of your time and thank you to Ian Cousins, the Wardens and Parish Council for formulating the plan.

Calendar @ St Philip's

Today Sunday 26 July
8am
10am

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Eucharist - Livestreamed
Eucharist with Music

Thursday 30 July
10am

William Wilberforce – Social Reformer
Eucharist

Friday 31 July
5pm - 6pm

Joseph of Arimathea
Ignatius of Loyola
Happy Hour online, for those who wish to catch up.
[St Philip's Happy Hour link](#)

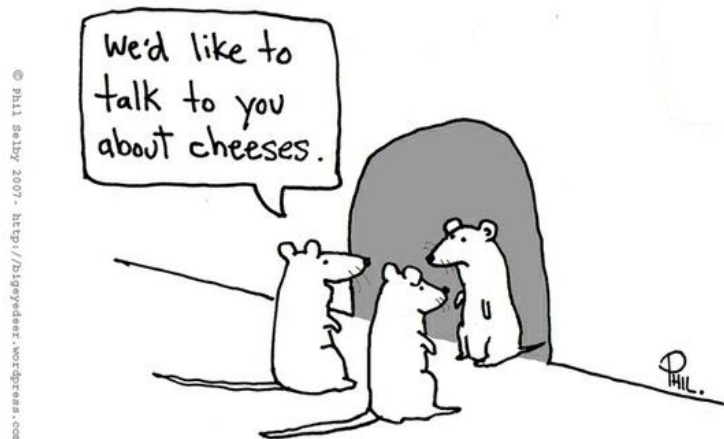
Saturday 1 August
10am – 1pm

Holy men and women of the Old Testament
Pandora's Preloved Fashions- Reopens!

Sunday 2 August
8am
10am

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Eucharist - Livestreamed
Family Eucharist with Music

	<u>ROSTERS - July & August</u>	26-Jul-20	2-Aug-20	9-Aug-20
	Sunday of Month	4th	1st	2nd
	Liturgical Season	Eighth Sunday after Pentecost	9th Sunday after Pentecost	10th Sunday after Pentecost
8am	Celebrant	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Canon Scott	Rev'd Martin
	Liturgical Assistant	Peter W	Lisa C	Ellie P
	Bible Reader	Shane W	Margaret or Russell	Alison or Alistair
10am	Celebrant	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin
	Sidespeople & Welcomer	Nirmal F, Sally A & helper	Nirmal F, Denise M & Fred A	Hardy & Helen P, Janene B
	Liturgical Assistant	Philippa W	Crucifer: Zara	Crucifer: Zara Server: Leighton
	Musician(s) & Singers/Soloist	Colin F	Colin F	Colin F
	Bible reader	Jack A	kids?	Jeanette D-T
	Additional details/notes			<i>10am Sunday Zone</i>



Church Mice.