



St Philip's Come & See

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Sunday 3 May 2020

Philip & James, Apostles & Martyrs



Today the Eucharist will be celebrated at **8.00am** and will be live on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/stphilipsoconnor). Then it will be available on either our [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) channel or [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/stphilipsoconnor). All links and details are on our web page www.stphilipsoconnor.org.au

Dear Friends,

Today we celebrate our Patronal Festival the Feast of Saints Philip and James. Naturally we concentrate on Philip as our Patron and we certainly know more about him than James the Less. It seems that they appear together in the calendar because their relics are kept together in the sixth century Basilica of Santi Dodici Apostoli (The Twelve Holy Apostles) in Rome.

As with so many of the saints legendary stories of their lives have been told through the centuries and Philip is no exception. But I feel that even just reflecting on the brief accounts of Philip related by John in his gospel we can glimpse something of the person he was. That famous 'Come and See' of Philip when he was questioned about Jesus speaks volumes. He didn't give an opinion or try to explain he simply offered an invitation. This too is the beginning of our evangelistic endeavours. How often have we struggled to give an account of our faith, or even what happens on a Sunday morning at St Philip's when really what we need to do for starters is offer a simple invitation.

The account we hear today from John perhaps helps us in the next stage of our endeavour. Just as Philip asks Jesus to show them the Father, this too is our vocation. As Christians we believe that God was in Christ and the call to follow is a call to reveal God to the world. 'Come and See.'

Blessings to all of you,
Martin
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Introit Hymn

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
Such a way as gives us breath;
Such a truth as ends all strife;
Such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
Such a light as shows a feast;
Such a feast as mends in length;
Such a strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
Such a joy as none can move;
Such a love as none can part;
Such a heart as joys in love.

George Herbert (1633)

Sentence

'Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it,' says the Lord, 'that the Father may be glorified in the Son.'

John 14:13

Prayer of the day

Almighty Father,
whom truly to know is eternal life:
teach us to know your Son Jesus Christ
as the way, the truth and the life;
that we may follow the steps
of your holy apostles Philip and James,
and walk steadfastly in the way that leads to your glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive 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 book of the Prophet Isaiah (30:18-21)

¹⁸Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you;
therefore he will rise up to show mercy to you.
For the LORD is a God of justice;
blessed are all those who wait for him.

¹⁹Truly, O people in Zion, inhabitants of Jerusalem, you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when he hears it, he will answer you. ²⁰Though the Lord may give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself any more, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. ²¹And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.'

Psalm 19:1-6

The heavens declare the glory of God:
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork;

**One day tells it to another:
and night to night communicates knowledge.**

There is no speech or language:
nor are their voices heard;

**Yet their sound has gone out through all the world:
and their words to the ends of the earth.**

There he has pitched a tent for the sun:
which comes out as a bridegroom from his chamber,
and rejoices like a strong man to run his course.

**Its rising is at one end of the heavens,
and its circuit to their farthest bound:
and nothing is hidden from its heat.**

A reading from the first letter of Paul the Corinthians (15:1-8)

¹Now I should remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to someone untimely born, he appeared also to me.

The Gospel according to John (14:6-14)

⁶Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

⁸Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' ⁹Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Prayers

Priest: Encouraged by our fellowship with all the saints, let us make our prayers to the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Father, your Son called men and women to leave the past behind them and to follow him as his disciples in the way of the cross. Look with mercy upon those whom he calls today, marks with the cross and makes his disciples within the Church. We pray for our Parish our Diocese and Christians throughout the world.

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Your Son told his disciples not to be afraid and at Easter breathed on them his gift of peace. Look with mercy upon the world into which he sent them out, and give it that peace for which it longs. We pray for our world for peace and freedom from fear.

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Your Son formed around him a company who were no longer servants but friends, and he called all those who obeyed him his brother and sister and mother. Look with mercy upon our families and our friends and upon the communities in which we share. For those most vulnerable and isolated amongst us.

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Your Son sent out disciples to preach and heal the sick. Look with mercy on all those who yearn to hear the good news of salvation, and renew among your people the gifts of healing, we pray for Roger, Ros, Sam, Hugh, Ben, Gage, Sarah and Barry and for those who care for them.

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Your Son promised to those who followed him that they would sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel and would share the banquet of the kingdom. According to your promise, look with mercy on those who have walked with Christ in this life and now have passed through death, for the recently departed especially Jan Keay and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time: David Rae (6/5/19970) and Violet Pocknall (8/5/1984). Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Priest: Almighty God,
grant that your Church
may faithfully hold and make known
the faith that has come to us through the apostles,
that with them and all your saints
we may inherit the glories of eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A prayer of Spiritual Communion

[When the clergy make their communion, 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.

Recessional Hymn

There is one way, and only one,
Out of our gloom, and sin, and care,

To that fair land where shines no sun
Because the face of God is there.

There is one truth, the truth of God,
That Christ came down from heaven to show,
One life that His redeeming blood
Has won for all His saints below.

The lore, from Philip once concealed,
To us is fully known in Christ;
In Him the Father is revealed,
And all our longing is sufficed.

O Way divine, through gloom and strife,
Bring us Thy Father's face to see;
O heavenly Truth, O precious Life,
At last, at last, to rest in Thee.

Cecil Frances Alexander (1875)

For reflection

On days such as these when we reflect on Philip and James it is an opportunity to reflect on our own vocation, our own response to the call to 'come and see.' The gospels are to a great extent narratives which ask us to contemplate the identity of the person of Jesus and through him our own identities and vocation. It is summed up by the question of Jesus on the Road to Caesarea Philippi, who *do* you say that I am? The answer reveals much about the disciples and their sense of vocation.

The Gospel of John is book-ended by scenes of vocation or calling: In John 1, Jesus calls two of John the Baptist's disciples to "Come and see"; in John 21, the Risen Christ invites Peter, saying "Follow me." The key position and importance given to these scenes reveals how paramount the sense of being called and chosen was to the community who gathered together to remember and commemorate their experiences of Christ. "You have not chosen me," Jesus tells his disciples, "but I have chosen you."

Jesus has chosen each and every one of us. Everyone has a vocation. This vocation is not equivalent to our career or our business card, though for some people, their vocation might be related to their career path. Rather, our vocation is the unique life to which we are called as children of God. It encompasses our relationships, our talents, the whole of our identities.

The only constant in vocation is that it is other-oriented. "I give you a new commandment," Jesus says, "love one another." We can express this vocation to love in our work, in our relationships, or in our world. One way to step into this larger sense of vocation is to ask yourself: What do I love to do? What makes me feel passionately alive? Where do I respond deeply to the needs and desires of others? God does not shout and God does not force us in helping us grow into our vocations. Often, our desire and our joy can be a very good indication of where God might be leading us. Jesus is in that joy, beckoning us forward toward larger life, saying, "Follow me."

Karl Barth loved to say, "God has chosen us all in Christ: at the deepest level we are all called Jesus in the eyes of the Father." Sometimes this will look and feel arbitrary. There will be few continuities, no readily graspable pattern in it all, sometimes our search for vocation and the testing of our call will be severe and shattering. That is a measure not of God's whimsical and capricious despotism, but of how far I have really been from myself.

Calendar @ St Philip's

Sunday 3 May, following 8am Eucharist – **Breakfast chat:** catch up over coffee and toast with other parishioners on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89160697310>

Wednesday 6 7pm Parish Council meeting via zoom

Friday 8 May 5pm -7pm **Happy Hour online**, for those who wish to catch up.
[St Philip's Happy Hour link](#)

Sunday 10 May 8am Mother's Day
Eucharist: streamed live on [Facebook](#). Then will be available on either our [YouTube](#) channel or [Facebook](#). All links and details are on our web page:
www.stphilipsoconnor.org.au

News

Thank you to those who liked, shared or made comments on the live streams on our Facebook page. If you managed to worship via the live stream or on our YouTube Channel please continue to let us know how we might improve this project to enable you to engage as fully as possible. We are constantly trying new ways of improving the broadcast.



Next Sunday, the fifth Sunday of Easter is also Mother's Day. The Rev'd Jeannette McHugh will be preaching, live at 8.00am on Facebook. We look forward to Jeannette's reflections.



From the Bishop:

The latest in my weekly reflections on the Gospel reading for this Sunday is available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jd5VbhuKhts&t=8s>
There is also a link to the video on the Diocesan website on the 'Keep Connected at a Distance' page: <https://anglicancg.org.au/keep-connected/>

I have also found this a useful resource, it is very ecumenical with resources from many different Christian traditions: <https://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/covid-19-and-worship-resources-for-churches-adapting-to-social-isolation#Easter>

I continue to be grateful for your fellowship and your service,
In Jesus, +Mark



Laura Wood the Editor in Chief of *Church Chat* writes:

"In an effort to keep our social lives afloat during the COVID-19 distancing measures, we are publishing a fortnightly newsletter. It will contain puzzles, recipes, updates from parishioners and a kid's corner in addition to suggestions on reading, cooking, exercise and new skills. We would love to receive input from as many people as possible and are open to any suggestions. Please email Laura at yurlaurawood@gmail.com with your content and ideas."

I hope you received the latest edition during the week.



Bogus emails continue to be sent, that look like our Parish email accounts, some of them are more sophisticated and appear quite genuine. Please be mindful of any email from any member of the Parish. If you have any doubt, do not respond to the email but confirm its authenticity with a phone call



***During this time when we are unable to gather please consider giving to St. Philip's using electronic transfer.
EFT details: Account Name – St Philip's Anglican Church
BSB Number: 702-389 Account No: 05202512
Reference/description: St Phil Offering
Thank you***