



St Philip's Come & See

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Sunday 10 May 2020 The Fifth Sunday of Easter

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,

Although our current situation is very far from ideal on many levels, it is my hope that we are discovering or rediscovering different ways to express our faith and to understand what the very nature of Christian community is all about. As I said last Sunday, prayer is at the heart of our Christian experience and now more than any other time is a time to reinvigorate our lives of prayer. The intercessions are printed each week to enable you to make them your own. They are, after all, as the Prayer Book tells us 'The Prayers of the People.' The goal to this communal prayer is to create a fellowship of the Spirit. I hope that in your prayers for others there is a sense that you too are being prayed for, it is my hope that this offers a powerful sense of safe keeping. This kind of prayer overcomes loneliness and isolation, because intercessory prayer leads us to share in each other's joy and suffering, *this is* Christian community.

We are often discouraged in our lives of prayer. Can I remind you that the New Testament does not simply say 'pray!' We are told time and time again to *watch and pray*. Watching in tense expectation is perhaps the strongest form of prayer because it is the great human answer to God's hiddenness. We watch for God. Our prayers are always those of Jesus through whom we pray, who himself watched and waited.

'Blessed are those whom the Lord shall find watching when he comes.'

Please be assured of my prayers for you all.

Martin

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Introit Hymn

The great love of God
is revealed in the Son,
who came to this earth

to redeem every one.

That love, like a stream
flowing clear to the sea,
makes clean every heart
that from sin would be free.

It binds the whole world,
every barrier it breaks,
the hills it lays low,
and the mountains is shakes.

It's yours, it is ours,
O how lavishly given!
the pearl of great price,
and the treasure of heaven.

Daniel Thambyrajah Niles (1908-70)

Sentence

'I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord. 'No one comes to the Father except through me.'

John 14:6

Prayer of the day

Everliving God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life:
give us grace to love one another,
to follow in the way of his commandments,
and to share his risen life;
who lives and reigns with you, and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Today's Readings

A reading from the book of Acts (7:55-60)

⁵⁵But filled with the Holy Spirit, he (Stephen) gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

Psalms 31:1-5, 17-18

To you, Lord, have I come for shelter:
let me never be put to shame.

**O deliver me in your righteousness:
incline your ear to me and be swift to save me.**

Be for me a rock of refuge, a fortress to defend me:
for you are my high rock and my stronghold.

**Lead me and guide me for your name's sake:
bring me out of the net that they have secretly laid for me,
for you are my strength.**

Into your hands I commit my spirit:
you will redeem me, O Lord God of truth.

**All my days are in your hand:
O deliver me from the power of my enemies**

and from my persecutors.

Make your face to shine upon your servant:
and save me for your mercy's sake.

A reading from the first letter of Peter (2:11-25)

¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul. ¹²Conduct yourselves honourably among the Gentiles, so that, though they malign you as evildoers, they may see your honourable deeds and glorify God when he comes to judge.

¹³ For the Lord's sake accept the authority of every human institution, whether of the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴or of governors, as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. ¹⁵For it is God's will that by doing right you should silence the ignorance of the foolish. ¹⁶As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil. ¹⁷Honour everyone. Love the family of believers. Fear God. Honour the emperor.

¹⁸ Slaves, accept the authority of your masters with all deference, not only those who are kind and gentle but also those who are harsh. ¹⁹For it is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² 'He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.'

²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The Gospel according to John (14:1-14)

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.' ⁵Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' 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.'

⁸ Philip 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: Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. Let us pray with confidence through him who shared our earthly exile in order to bring us to our heavenly home.

For the faithful throughout the world. For those of the Islamic and Jewish faiths, for greater dialogue and understanding, for the peace of Jerusalem.

For the Church, for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Pope Francis and Bartholomeus the ecumenical Patriarch. For Mark our Bishop and for our parish, its clergy, wardens, council and people. For unity and common purpose in faith.

Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us.**

For our world, its nations, leaders and people. For a greater striving towards peace and reconciliation, for unity in the eradication of poverty and want, and the development of vaccines and healthcare for all. We pray too for refugees, asylum seekers and the world's indigenous peoples.

Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us.**

For our nation, city and community. For equity amongst men and women, in business and political life, for all who are unemployed, the homeless, victims of violence, crime and addiction. We pray today for all mothers, particularly those caring for children alone, for the work of Karinya House, the Mothers Union, and for the childless and those who mourn the loss of children. Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us.**

We pray for ourselves and each other and that in our community we may bear witness to the hope that is ours, live out hope in our care for one another, particularly in this time of uncertainty, fear and isolation. We bring to God those who have asked us to pray for them, for Roger, Ros, Sam, Hugh, Ben, Gage, Sarah and Barry. For those in hospital or residential care and for all whose vocation is to care.

Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us.**

We seek the light of Christ for those who have gone before us and now rest in that light. We pray for all who have died recently, especially Michael Talberg and for those who have died as result of the pandemic.

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord, **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Priest: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers, those spoken and those which remain in our hearts. Grant that what we ask through the power of the risen Christ, who lives and reigns with you for ever. **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.

[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>]

Recessional Hymn

This is the truth we hold,
Source of the joy we share,
Hope that can make us bold
Trusting the name we bear:
That 'Christ has died' and 'Christ is risen,
In Christ shall all be made alive.'

This is the song of praise
Echoing down the years,
True for the present days,
Through all our doubts and fears:
That 'Christ has died' and 'Christ is risen,
In Christ shall all be made alive.'

Christ is the living bread,
Christ is the word to speak,
Christ is the way to tread,
Christ is the goal to seek;
That 'Christ has died' and 'Christ is risen,
In Christ shall all be made alive.'

One in the faith we share,
Out in his name we go;
Jesus awaits us there,
Longing that all should know
That 'Christ has died' and 'Christ is risen,
In Christ shall all be made alive.'

Basil Ernest Bridge (1927)

For reflection

The Sunday's Gospel has a touching story. It features Jesus' preparation of his disciples for his suffering and death! What he says is in many ways too profound, too high minded for the disciples to understand. But let's take a look anyway. It helps to see that the structure of the reading is fairly simple. The way to the Father is not a literal roadway but rather the person of Jesus!

First Jesus says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled." Obviously they are upset, so it is a kindly directive. And second, he elaborates the reason they should not be upset, which is the essence. His initiating statement is this: "You have faith in God; have faith also in me."

Notice the two levels of meaning: *The first* is practical: trust me, I am your friend. But *the second* requires much more consideration: I am so much at one with God that you can believe in me in exactly the way you believe in God! Jesus then uses one of his parable-like stories to clarify.

The Father has a house somewhere with a whole lot of rooms in it. Jesus has decided to go there and prepare a spot for each of the disciples. He will come back and take them to that place so that they and Jesus will all be together again. This is a supremely consoling image, isn't it? But not to the disciples, who at this point are not ready to do without Jesus even for a few moments. Remember when Jesus had asked them if they were going to leave him, (John 6:60) and Peter had said, "Where would we go—you have the words of eternal life?" Now Jesus himself is the one leaving.

Again, two levels of meaning: *First*, where are you going? *Second*, you are so close to God that your death itself will be a going home to God. Help! So he tries another explanation, extending the image. He says, "Where I am going you know the way." Ah, at last a practical statement that even doubting Thomas can deal with. Thomas says, "Sure, we could find a map and locate a path and follow it. But look, we can't even know where you are going! Be practical!"

Jesus' statement was a play on words, not "practical" in Thomas' way. Jesus himself is "the way (the truth and the life)." This meaning is much deeper. The way to the Father is not a literal roadway but rather the person of Jesus!

Philip barks out, "Look, Master, just show us the Father and we will be satisfied!" Jesus answers, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." The apostles, practical and broken-hearted, hear mainly the *pragmatic level*. But Jesus coaches them on to the *spiritual level*. And they are left as "ships passing in the night."

Don't you wish he could have said it more plainly, more simply? Ok, but we are listening to the deepest mystery of the whole Christian faith—the way God can become a complete human being without ceasing to be God or human. Jesus did his best to show it to the disciples in Sunday's Gospel, with images, story, and description. Maybe it is now up to us to cling to him in prayer and contemplative listening, so that we too can move toward the answer. Even when we are not allowed to go to Mass!

John Foley, SJ
St Louis University

Calendar @ St Philip's

Sunday 10 May	Following 8am Eucharist – Breakfast chat: catch up over coffee and toast with other parishioners on Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86313954961
Tuesday 12 May 2pm	Prayer and Counsel (Zoom) – Leslie Morshead Manor
Friday 16 May 5pm -7pm	Happy Hour online , for those who wish to catch up. St Philip's Happy Hour link
Sunday 17 May 8am	Sixth Sunday of Easter 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

* We await updated guidelines from the Diocese, as isolation restrictions change. We'll keep you updated when we hear more and adjust to them.

News

This morning The Rev'd Jeannette McHugh will be preaching live at 8.00am on Facebook. We look forward to Jeannette's reflections.



Key Points from May '20 Parish Council Meeting

- Parish Council congratulated Martin, Scott, Susan, Leighton, Colin and Janene for the successful streaming of the Sunday service.
- Communication over what is likely to be quite a long period is very important for maintaining community. The weekly *Pewsheet* is continuing. The Pastoral Care network is expanding its contacts. The website is as ever an important point of contact and information.
- There is now also a regular Happy Hour zoom session on Fridays and a Breakfast Chat zoom session following the Sunday service. Parish Council is grateful to Laura Wood for taking on the editorship of the new fortnightly *Church Chat* newsletter.
- The Parish budget is expected to come under pressure as the year proceeds. Parish Council is in discussion with the Kindergarten whose attendance numbers have declined. The Kindergarten has requested a reduction in rent for a period.
- There has been a gratifying increase in electronic giving. Parish Council thanks those parishioners who are using this facility and encourages others to take advantage of it also. For ease of reference the electronic giving details are:

EFT details: Account Name –St Philip’s Anglican Church
BSB Number: 702-389
Account No: 05202512
Reference/description: St Phil Offering

An alternative is to post your giving in the form of cheques, on say a monthly basis,
to: St Philips Anglican Church
PO Box 6022
O’Connor ACT 2602

- Parish Council would like to remind parishioners that the Parish Directory contains an amount of personal information. We are all custodians of that information and need to protect it. In these times of living online, we recommend that you use the BCC facility when sending emails with numbers of parishioners as recipients especially if those emails also go to others outside the parish. That way the email addresses of parishioners are protected. This is good cyber security practice.
- To reiterate, the church buildings are closed but St Philip’s is open (operating). Please reach out to Martin or others if you need assistance or wish to talk.



From a parishioner: I read this during the week. *Practices of resistance: How not to respond to the lockdown*, by The Rev’d Sam Wells and Maureen Langdoc:

<https://www.abc.net.au/religion/practices-of-resistance-coronavirus-lockdown/12164370>

Sam Wells from St Martin in the Fields – Trafalgar Square talks about spiritual practices from a Christian perspective, including *lament*, giving a powerful description of this. The podcast can be found here, it begins with an interview with journalist and writer Julia Baird:

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/soul-search/may-3-2020/12202338>



Many of us are now using Zoom and other platforms to communicate. There are privacy concerns with all forms of digital communication. The people at the open source Mozilla organisation have assessed the privacy features of a variety of products which you may find informative. To consider its advice, go to foundation.mozilla.org/en/privacynotincluded/



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>

Finally, if you want some more extended thoughts on life and ministry you are welcome to check out my interview conducted by Curtin parish which is also available on the Diocesan website and Facebook <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oRsCjtnuAZk>

The Diocesan Cycle of Prayer as at April 2020 is available as a pdf on the website at: <https://anglicancg.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Diocesan-Cycle-of-Prayer.pdf>

I continue to be grateful for your fellowship and your service.

In Jesus, +Mark

The May Anglican News is now available. You can read it at the Diocesan Website on:

<https://anglicancg.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Anglican-News-May-2020-opt.pdf>

or at stphilipsoconnor.org.au/news/anglicannews/



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 yourlaurawood@gmail.com with your content and ideas."



***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***

I hope you are all getting your exercise!!

