



St Philip's Come & See

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Sunday 17 May 2020

The Sixth 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



"A vision of the Harrowing of Hell, set in a Nazi concentration camp. From the Russian Orthodox Memorial Chapel at the Dachau historical site, Germany."

Dear Friends,

Thank you all very much for your calls and messages of condolence following the death of my Father last Sunday evening. As many of you know he had been on our prayer list for a number of weeks and had been unwell for most of the year, when the call finally came on Monday morning it was not unexpected. There is sadness in that we are unable to gather to celebrate his funeral as he would have wished – he had it planned! Perhaps next year we will be able to gather on his first anniversary and fulfil his wishes.

There is a temptation to wish 2020 over, it is a year that many would rather forget. Not so very far from us many folk, having experienced the trauma of Bushfire, are now seeing their livelihoods imperilled by the Pandemic, we can but imagine their distress. This is but one example of the issues unfolding across the world. But to wish time away is to fail to see the sacredness of time and to find 'Kairos' – God's time nestled within the 'Chronos' of our earthly time.

We enjoy a tradition in which daily prayer – morning and evening, frames and shapes our days. Hopefulness and joy in the morning, introspection and thanks in the evening. Our year too is marked by the seasons of our salvation now Easter and resurrection, next week the culmination of the incarnation as Christ ascends – our humanity nested in the divine and from there Pentecost, Holy Trinity and Corpus Christi. The Spirit which gathers us into God's Triune life and makes us one in the Body gathered and fed, forgiven and blest.

No, 2020AD will be an important year. One in which we will rediscover the things of greater importance, matters of faith, hope and love. We mustn't wish it away.

Blessings to you all,

Martin

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Introit Hymn

Come, God's people, sing for joy,
shout your songs of gladness,
for the hope of Easter Day
overcomes our sadness.
Come with all God's people here,
who with true affection
join again to celebrate
Jesus' resurrection.

Years before, as Moses led
Israel's sons and daughters
from their bonds to exodus
through the Red Sea waters:
so the living Lord of life
speaks through our baptism
of the new life we share
with him who is risen.

That first Easter he arose,
his disciples greeting:
Christians now in every place
still their Lord are meeting.
Christ, who died for all the world,
in his death brings healing;
and his rising from the grave
is God's power revealing.

Sentence

'Those who love me will keep my word,' Jesus promises, 'and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.'

John 14:23

Prayer of the day

O God,
You have prepared for those who love you
joys beyond our understanding:
pour into our hearts such love for you,
that, loving you above all else
we may obtain your promises
that exceed all we can desire;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Today's Readings

A reading from the book of Acts (17:22-31)

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are his offspring."

²⁹Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

Psalm 66:7-19

O bless our God, you peoples:
and cause his praises to resound,

**Who has held our souls in life:
who has not suffered our feet to slip.**

For you have proved us, O God:
you have tried us as silver is tried.

**You brought us into the net:
you laid sharp torment on our loins.**

You let men ride over our heads,
we went through fire and water:
but you brought us out into a place of liberty.

**I will come into your house with burnt-offerings :
and I will pay you my vows,**

The vows that opened my lips:
that my mouth uttered when I was in trouble.

**I will offer you burnt-offerings of fattened beasts,
with the sweet smoke of rams:**

I will sacrifice a bull and the flesh of goats.

Come then and hear, all you that fear God:
and I will tell what he has done for me.

**I called to him with my mouth:
and his praise was on my tongue.**

If I had cherished wickedness in my heart:
the Lord would not have heard me.

**But God has heard me:
he has heeded the voice of my prayer.**

Praise be to God:
who has not turned back my prayer,
or his steadfast love from me.

A reading from the first letter of Peter (3:8-22)

Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing. ¹⁰For

‘Those who desire life

and desire to see good days,
let them keep their tongues from evil
and their lips from speaking deceit;

¹¹ let them turn away from evil and do good;
let them seek peace and pursue it.

¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their prayer.

But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.’

¹³ Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Gospel according to John (14:15-21)

‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.

Prayers

Priest: Lord God, through Jesus you show us the mystery of your love. Through him you send your Spirit into the world. Unite us in that same Spirit as we pray together for the world and for the Church:

Jesus Christ, our priest who lives for ever to intercede for us,
we pray for the Church, your broken body in the world,
send upon her the Spirit of truth that we may know you and make you known,
the Spirit of unity and peace that all may believe.
We pray for our parish its people and clergy for our Diocese and Mark our Bishop,
for the church in this nation and for Geoffrey our Primate.
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, King of righteousness,
reveal yourself to the world's peoples, nations and leaders.
For wisdom, compassion and integrity in public life
for common purpose amongst all in every land as we face the issues of our day.
For nations in the grip of pandemic, oppression and famine,
for the victims of violence in Afghanistan.
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, our brother
We pray for ourselves and each other
for our families and friends, colleagues and
all those with whom we share our lives.
Give us sympathy one for another help us to love for one another,
Bestow us with tender hearts and humble minds.
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, Son of Man,
drawing humanity into the healing life of God,
we pray for our sisters and brothers in need, distress, or sorrow
for Roger, Ros, Sam, Ben, Gage, Hugh and Sarah particularly we pray.
For all in residential care and for those who care for them.
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus, pioneer of our salvation,
in your death and resurrection, is our assurance
we pray for those who have died trusting your promises.
For the recently departed especially Barry Johnson, all those known to us
and those whose anniversaries fall at this time,
for Fred Harry Langman (19/5/2019) and Winifred Irene Vollmer (20/5/1999).
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, Lord over all things,
pray for us and in us who receive the gifts you give us for work in your service
clear our consciences and
give us grace in all things to do your will.
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Priest: Jesus Christ,
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at your feet;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

In order to be truthful
We must do more than speak the truth.
We must also hear the truth.
We must also receive the truth.
We must act upon the truth.
We must also search for the truth
The difficult truth.
Within us and around us.
We must devote ourselves to the truth
Otherwise we are dishonest
And our lives are mistaken.
God grant us the strength and the courage
To be truthful. Amen

Michael Leunig



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

Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia!
to his throne above the skies. Alleluia!
Christ, a while to mortals given,
enters now the highest heaven.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Heaven now its Lord receives; Alleluia!
yet he loves the earth he leaves. Alleluia!
Though returning to his throne,
still he calls humankind his own.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

There we shall with you remain, Alleluia!
partners of your endless reign, Alleluia!
there your face unclouded view,

find our heav'n of heav'ns in you.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Charles Wesley 1707-88

For reflection

In a spectacular (and presumable heavily abbreviated) speech, Paul takes on culturally sophisticated Athens with the new upside wisdom. He begins on their own territory, with the altar to the Unknown God: even the Athenians had left a window open, a gap in their well worked out theology, where fresh air could blow in from an unexpected quarter. Some of the poets, too, had pointed towards a God who was both other than the world and yet intimately involved with it.

Yet Paul is not simply finding points in the local culture he can affirm, as though Christian mission simply pats people on the back for being as they are. Affirmation is more than balanced by confrontation. Even today, if you stand on Mars Hill, where the highest court of the city used to meet, you have a wonderful view of the Acropolis, with the Parthenon and the other temples clearly in view, the pinnacle of a culture and its theology. Paul against that backdrop, tells them it's all a waste of time: the creator of all doesn't need the whole paraphernalia of the sacrificial system. Nor- despite what not only traditional Athenians but also the pre Christian Paul would have said – does he make any distinction between one race of humans and another. Paul may have found an open window in the culture, but what's blowing through it is a hurricane that will turn the room upside down.

In particular Paul takes on the Epicureans and the Stoics with whom he'd been debating in the marketplace. Epicureans like Deists, thought of the gods as remote and detached, happily unconcerned about our world. Stoics like some other pantheists, thought of God as the inner divine essence within our world. Both can lead, and sometimes do, to atheism (the gods are either so distant that they might as well not exist, or they turn out to be simply a metaphorical projection of our feelings of wonder) or at least to relativism (the gods are so far away that all religions are just vague approximations; or they are so present that all religions are different expressions of 'the divine'). Both are confronted head on by Paul's message of one God, the creator, who is both different from the world and compassionately involved with it. Both, in particular, are confronted, as is all atheism and relativism, by the fact of Jesus resurrection, and the message which it brings: the God of Israel is the one true God, who is bringing to the world the justice for which it longs.

Paul knew, as did Peter, how unwelcome this announcement would be. Yet the consequent suffering of Christians is itself to be part of the witness, because the justice proceeds from self-giving love. And the witness itself, as John would remind us, proceeds from the Spirit, God's wind blowing fresh spring air through whatever windows, in whatever culture, may happen to open.

NT Wright

Tom Wright, is an English New Testament scholar, Pauline theologian and Anglican bishop. He was the Bishop of Durham from 2003 to 2010. He then became Research Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity at St Mary's College in the University of St Andrews in Scotland until 2019, when he became a senior research fellow at Oxford University.

[The 'fresh spring air' is that of the Northern Hemisphere]

Calendar @ St Philip's

Sunday 17 May

Following 8am Eucharist – **Breakfast chat**: catch up over coffee and toast with other parishioners on Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82997685869>

Tuesday 19 May 2pm

Prayer and Counsel (Zoom) – Leslie Morshead Manor

Friday 22 May 5pm -7pm

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

Sunday 24 May 8am

Ascension of the Lord

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

The flowers in church this morning are in loving memory of Barry Johnson (17/3/1935 – 10/5/2020).



We are aware that the pew sheet seems to get bigger and bigger! I am sure many of us have very busy email inboxes, it is difficult, if not impossible to read everything. Even if you skip over some things don't forget to use the *latest* links for Zoom and other things in the pew sheet, they do change week to week, this is to ensure security and privacy.



Some restrictions are now being eased in NSW and ACT. Bishop Mark has written to the Parishes to give advice and guidance. The Wardens are now looking to see how best we might respond as there are some significant requirements we would need to meet.



The Clergy of the Diocese meet this week for their annual conference over three days in a series of Zoom sessions. The speakers are from both Australia and the UK and they include Nicky Gumbel well known as the creator of the 'Alpha' courses.



CALL FOR DONATIONS. Toora is a womens' refuge in our neighbourhood. We have helped Toora for many years through our donations of Pandora vouchers and everyday household necessities. Toora is asking for donations of linen such as bedlinen and towels, dining and cookware and office and school equipment for those working at home. If you have been cleaning out cupboards and have any of these terms in good condition you could leave them with Susan at the Rectory or Valerie Kirk (m) 0450 840021/ (h) 5248 9059 and they will see that they get to the right place. As you will understand it is necessary to maintain discretion about Toora because of the sensitive nature of its work in the community.

Kerry-Anne



From the Bishop:

The latest in my weekly reflections on the Gospel reading for this Sunday is available on YouTube. 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/> 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. stphilipsoconnor.org.au/news/anglicannews/



I hope you received the latest edition of 'Church Chat', 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."



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



The Rectory Menu grows as we broaden our culinary tastes!!

We are getting very posh:

Boeuf Roti avec Pudding de Yorkshire

Pommes de Terra Baked

Sprouts de Brussels

Pomme Tart et Whipped Cream

