



St Philip's Come & See

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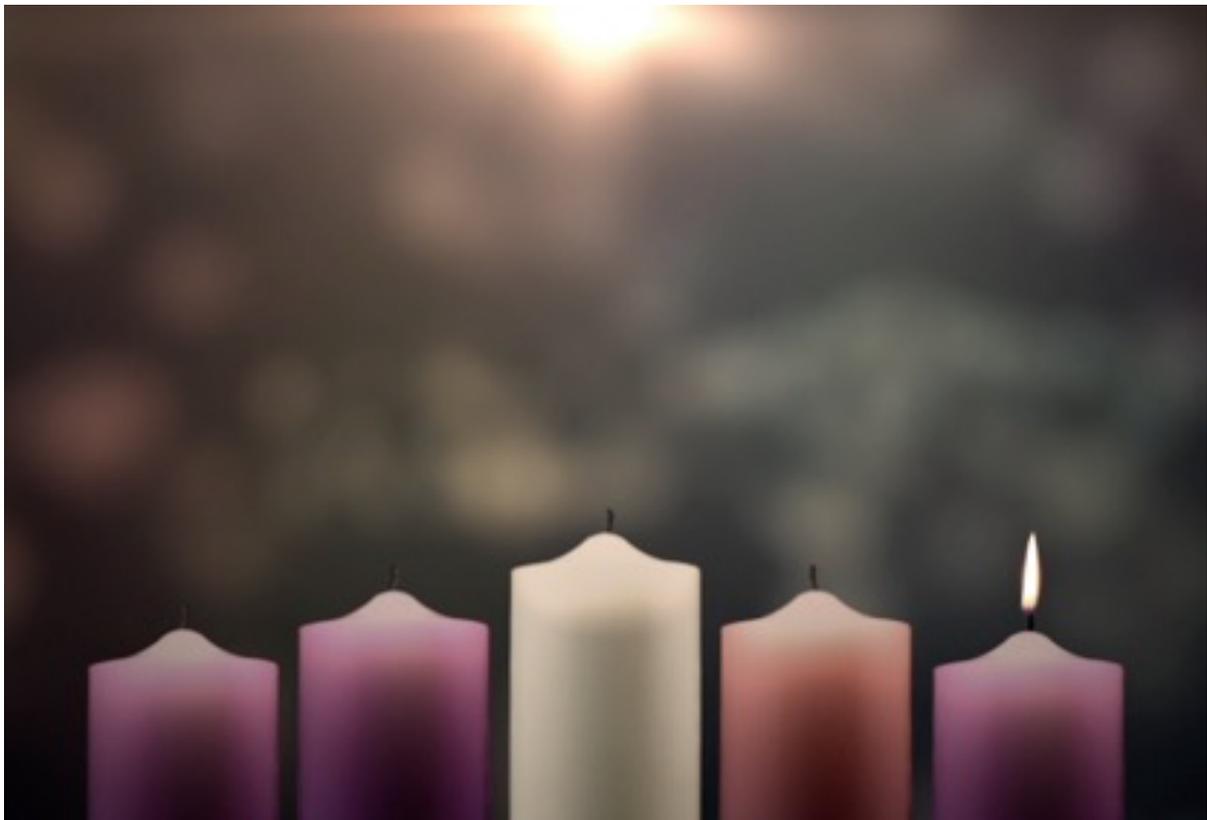
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Sunday 29 November 2020 *Advent Sunday*

While the COVID19 restrictions are in place St Philip's is delighted to be celebrating the Eucharist online on [Facebook](#) at 8.00am this morning. It will then be available on either our [YouTube channel](#) or [Facebook](#). All links and details are on our web page www.stphilipsoconnor.org.au



Dear Friends,

The Advent season has arrived and with it a sense of expectancy. Susan and I recently enjoyed some time in country NSW. We have had something of a 'Goldilocks' moment this spring. We have had just enough rain to cover our wetlands without floods and the damage they bring. Fivebough Swamp on the outskirts of Leeton and Lake Cowal north of West Wyalong are both internationally recognised wetlands crucial for bird life particularly. Both places are teeming with avocets, ibis, spoonbills, herons and egrets, sandpipers and terns and all manner of other species.

I've always loved the image of prayer as birdwatching. You sit very still because something is liable to burst into view, and sometimes of course it means a long day sitting in the rain with nothing very much happening. I suspect that, for most of us, a lot of our experience of prayer is precisely that. But the odd occasions when you do see what T. S. Eliot (in section IV of 'Burnt Norton') called 'the kingfisher's wing' flashing 'light to light' make it all worthwhile. And I think that living in this

sort of expectancy—living in awareness, your eyes sufficiently open and your mind both relaxed and attentive enough to see that when it happens—is basic to discipleship.

Next year will be an important one as we re-establish our routines and consider what we have gained and lost during this year and hopefully begin to gather more closely again. As we dwell on Advent expectancy we are reminded that Jesus brings us together precisely so that we approach one another with that degree of expectancy. It doesn't mean that you will agree with everything the other Christian says or does; but simply that you begin by asking, 'What is Jesus Christ giving me here and now?' Never mind the politics, the hidden agenda, or anything else of that kind; just ask that question and it will move you forward a tiny bit in discipleship.

Although we are yet to experience Advent and Christmas, I have been thinking a little about how we might keep Lent in 2021. The pandemic prevented us from meeting together during Lent this year. So my hope is that next year we might draw upon our experiences gained this year and keep a holy and prayerful Lent. I am considering a resource developed by the Public Issues Commission with the support of Anglicare. There is a note in the News section from Bishop Steven Pickard. I am hoping that our Lenten journey will include a parish quiet day, watch out for more information on this.

Blessings to you all *Martin*
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Entrance Antiphon [Introit]

'Heaven and earth will pass away,' says the Lord, 'but my words will not pass away.'

Mark 13:31

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:
Eternal God,
through long generations you prepared a way
for the coming of your Son,
and by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths:
renew us in faith and hope
that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts
and claim our love;
to whom be glory for ever.

Amen.

Today's Readings

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah (64:1-9)

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

² as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴ From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

⁵ You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷ There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸ Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, you that led Joseph like a flock:
you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine out in glory;

**Before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh :
stir up your power, and come to save us.**

Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**O Lord God of hosts:
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?**

You have fed them with the bread of tears:
and given them tears to drink in good measure.

**You have made us the victim of our neighbours:
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**Let your power rest on the man at your right hand:
on that son of man whom you made so strong for yourself.**

And so we shall not turn back from you:
give us life, and we will call upon your name.

**Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians (1:1-9)

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, ²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— ⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— ⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Gradual

Alleluia, **Alleluia!** Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. **Alleluia!**

Psalm 84:8

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark (13:24-37)

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

¹But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸ ‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³² ‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

For the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayers of the People

In our prayers we remember those in need, particularly: Roger, Ros, Sam, Ben, Gage, Hugh, Beryl, Denise, Margot, Sarah, Tien and Myrle, those unable to gather with us, those in hospital, residential or home care.

We commend to God the recently departed and those whose memories are dear to us.

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.

Communion Antiphon

The Lord will shower his gifts, and our land will yield its fruit.

cf Psalm 85:12

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

Jesus is always telling us to wake up, to stay awake, to be vigilant, to be more alert to a deeper reality. What's meant by that? How are we asleep to depth? How are we to wake up and stay awake? How are we asleep?

All of us know how difficult it is for us to be 'inside the present moment,' to not be asleep to the real riches inside our own lives. The distractions and worries of daily life tend to so consume us that we habitually take for granted what's most precious to us, our health, the miracle of our senses, the love and friendships that surround us, and the gift of life itself. We go through our daily lives not only with a lack of reflectiveness and lack of gratitude but with a habitual touch of resentment as well, a chronic, grey depression, Robert Moore calls it. We are very much asleep, both to God and to our own lives.

How do we wake up? Today there's a rich literature that offers us all kinds of advice on how to get into the present moment so as to be awake to the deep riches inside our own lives. While much of this literature is good, little of it is very effective. It invites us to live each day of our lives as if was our last day, but we simply can't do that. It's impossible to sustain that kind of intentionality and awareness over a long period of time. An awareness of our mortality does wake us up, as does an illness or accident; but that heightened-awareness is easier to sustain for a short season of our lives than it is for twenty, thirty, forty, or fifty years. Nobody can sustain that kind of awareness all the time. None of us can live seventy or eighty years as if each day was his or her last day. Or can we?

Spiritual wisdom offers a nuanced answer here: We can and we can't! On the one hand, the distractions, cares, and pressures of everyday life will invariably have their way with us and we will, in effect, fall asleep to what's deeper and more important inside of life. But it's for this reason that every major spiritual tradition has daily rituals designed precisely to wake us from spiritual sleep, akin to an alarm clock waking us from physical sleep.

It's for this reason we need to begin each day with prayer. What happens if we don't pray on a given morning is not that we incur God's wrath, but rather that we tend to miss the morning, spending the hours until noon trapped inside a certain dullness of heart.

The same can be said about praying before meals. We don't displease God by not first centering ourselves in gratitude before eating, but we miss out on the richness of what we're doing. Liturgical prayer and the Eucharist have the same intent, among their other intentions. They're meant to, regularly, call us out of a certain sleep.

None of us lives each day of our lives as if it was his or her last day. Our heartaches, headaches, distractions, and busyness invariably lull us to sleep. That's forgivable; it's what it means to be human. So we should ensure that we have regular spiritual rituals, spiritual alarm clocks, to jolt us back awake.

*Fr Ron Rolheiser is serving as President of the
Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio Texas USA.*

News

Don't forget to enjoy the **Advent offering** on our own Website <http://stphilipsoconnor.org.au/> Brian has put together some wonderful music, art and poetry to help us on our journey and keep us grounded during this busy season. Thank you Brian.

The ACT Chief Officer regularly updates information regarding interstate COVID19 outbreaks.

Below is the link to the site which outlines areas of risk in Australia

https://health.act.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-11/Advice%20on%20interstate%20COVID-19%20outbreaks_23112020.pdf [The latest guidance on this site dated 23 November is in the church foyer].

The NSW CHO's site provides detailed information on the situation in NSW.
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates>

International Mission: Zambia Gender & Governance Project

As we head towards the end of the year, we now shift our support to the ABM's international mission. This year, St Philip's is focusing on the Zambian Anglican Council Outreach Program (ZACOP).

ZACOP's mission is to end child marriage, the conditions of poverty and ignorance, and the lowly status of women. The Gender & Governance project is currently at work in four large villages in Eastern Zambia.

The type of goals ZACOP strives for includes:

- **decrease in Gender-Based Violence (GBV),**
- **greater access to legal advice about GBV,**
 - **training to prevent GBV; &**
- **greater access to micro loans to establish small businesses.**

Click this link to find out more: <https://youtu.be/pqccmfjD4tY>

Please give generously via the St Philip's envelopes in Church or an electronic transfer with the details below:

Account Name – St Philip's Anglican Church BSB Number: 702-389;
Account No: 05202512; Reference/description: International Mission

Bridging the Gap - Breaking the Cycle Each week St Philip's donates non-perishable food items to **St John's Care** in Reid. Thank you to those who continue to donate. The baskets at the back of the church are ready to receive your donations! Please refer to the list of suggested items and if you would like to know more about this important outreach visit www.stjohnscare.org.au. As well as food, items such as shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste (especially for children) are needed at this time. Thank you.

From Bishop Stephen Pickard For Lent 2021 the Public Issues Commission with the support of Anglicare, is offering a six-week study which looks at what God has to tell us about compassion in the public sphere: for those in our parish, in our Anglican communion, nationally and intergenerationally. Some key themes include: aged care (parish), reconciliation with First Peoples, inequality, climate change, asylum seekers. Bishop Mark will write a Forward. There will be sections of teaching, questions and prayers, suggestions for action. The study will be available online on the Diocesan website.

This week @ St Philip's

Today	<i>Advent 1</i>
8am	Eucharist - Livestreamed
10am	Eucharist with music
Wednesday 2 December	<i>Frances Perry, Hospital Founder (d.1892)</i>
7pm	Parish Council
Thursday 3 December	<i>Francis Xavier, priest and missionary</i>
10am	Eucharist
Saturday 5 December	<i>Feria</i>
10am – 1pm	Pandora's
Sunday 6 December	<i>Advent 2</i>
8am	Eucharist - Livestreamed
10am	Eucharist with Music

Dates for your Diary

Christmas Concert – Saturday, 19 and Sunday, 20 December 7pm – RSVP email out soon.

Christmas Services

Thursday 24 December	5pm	Children's Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass

Friday 25 December

9am

Eucharist

Ash Wednesday (Lent begins) - 17 February 2021

Roster

		29-Nov-20	6-Dec-20	13-Dec-20
	Sunday of Month	5th	1st	2nd
	Liturgical Season	First Sunday of Advent	2nd Sunday of Advent	3rd Sunday of Advent
	Flowers	Flower team	<i>no flowers for the season of Advent – the focus being on the Advent Wreath</i>	<i>no flowers for the season of Advent – the focus being on the Advent Wreath</i>
8am	Celebrant	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Canon Scott	Rev'd Martin
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)			
	Sidespeople & Welcomer	Nirmal F & helpers	Margaret & Russell	Alison & Alistair
	Liturgical Assistant	Lisa C	Lisa C	Ellie P
	Bible Reader	volunteer	Margaret or Russell	Alison or Alistair
10am	Celebrant	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)		Rev'd Canon Scott	
	Sidespeople & Welcomer	Denise M & helpers	Fred A & Denise M	Hardy & Helen P, Jeanette M
	Liturgical Assistant	Tim G	Crucifer: Zara	Rebecca K
	Musician(s) & Singers/Soloist	Colin F	Colin F	Colin F
	Bible reader	Pete L	Denise M	Richard G