St Philip's Come & See

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Sunday 11 October 2020

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

While the COVID19 restrictions are in place St Philip's is delighted to be celebrating the Eucharist live 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,

In recent times our prayer list has lengthened, there are a number of folk in the parish for whom we have a particular care. And of course the world too is still faced with a growing Pandemic.

Next Sunday is the Feast of St Luke, often known as 'the Physician' following St Paul who describes him as the beloved physician. (Colossians 4:14). We will celebrate the festival with a special emphasis on the Church's healing ministry. Please let me know if there are folk you would especially like to be prayed for. During the Eucharist at 10.00am there will be the opportunity for anointing and laying on of hands for yourself and for those for whom you have a particular concern. We look forward to celebrating together one of the church's key ministries, that of healing, making whole.

The Parish Council continue to work hard in ensuring that we have a safe environment in which to worship and gather. The car park surface has in recent times become eroded and our wet Spring weather has not helped. We are aware of this issue and are considering our options, please take care if the surface is slippery.

The COVID19 Pandemic has rather taken the wind out of the sails of our grand three year plan. You might remember, learning, stewardship and celebration were our three key areas leading up to our 60th birthday celebrations in December 2021. What the Pandemic has done is serve to remind us of the fragility of our plans, we know not what the future holds. But also what it has done is force us to think carefully about the way we care for each other, this the first call on our stewardship. The second call is the world around us that we have been granted stewardship over, both the natural world and the property and goods which we as a community hold in trust. The third call is our private possessions, those things that the gospel encourages us to share. I'm reminded here of the man who built lots of barns to store his ever expanding wealth, his plans were dramatically changed too!

As we, I hope, continue to manage the Pandemic we shall once again turn our attention to this matter of stewardship. Perhaps the San Damiano cross currently hanging over the pulpit might serve as a reminder to us of St Francis, his love and stewardship of the creation and of his neighbour, as well as his life of simplicity.

Blessings to you all *Martin*

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Entrance Antiphon [Introit]

This is our God for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Isaiah 25:9

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:
Saving and healing God,
you have promised
that those who have died with Christ shall live with him:
grant us grace to be continually thankful
for all you have done for us
and in thankfulness to be eager to serve
and live for others,
so that we and all your children may rejoice in your salvation;
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 book of the prophet Isaiah (25:1-9)

O Lord, you are my God;
I will exalt you, I will praise your name;
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
2 For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of aliens is a city no more,
it will never be rebuilt.
3 Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
4 For you have been a refuge to the poor,

a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
5 the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

6 On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.
7 And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
8 he will swallow up death for ever.
Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.
9 It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Psalm 23
The Lord is my shepherd:
therefore can I lack nothing.
He will make me lie down in green pastures:
and lead me beside still waters.
He will refresh my soul:
and guide me in right pathways for his name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil:
for you are with me, your rod and your staff comfort me.
You spread a table before me
in the face of those who trouble me:
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup will be full.
Surely your goodness and loving-kindness
will follow me all the days of my life:
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians (4:1-9)
Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.
2I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. 3Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.
4Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
8Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Gradual
Alleluia! **Alleluia**. May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the hearts of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. **Alleluia!**

cf. Ephesians:1:17-18

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (22:1-14)

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: [2]'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to
a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. [3]He sent his slaves to call those who had been
invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. [4]Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell
those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have
been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." [5]But they made light of
it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, [6]while the rest seized his slaves,
maltreated them, and killed them. [7]The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those
murderers, and burned their city. [8]Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those
invited were not worthy. [9]Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the
wedding banquet." [10]Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both
good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.
[11]'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a
wedding robe, [12]and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And
he was speechless. [13]Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him
into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." [14]For many are called,
but few are chosen.'

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, Joan, Denise, Margaret, Sarah, Tien and Myrle and those unable to gather with us.

We commend to God the recently departed especially Sandra Boddington and Ian Hall. Those whose year's mind falls at this time: Rej Allinson (11/10/2002), Rebecca Palmer (15/10/1996) and Rob Lamerton, *Priest* (17/10/2008) those whose memories are dear to us and all who have no one to remember them.

Today following our intercessions at 10.00am Rebecca Kleinig will be commissioned as a Liturgical Assistant.

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 rich suffer want and go hungry, but nothing shall be lacking to those who fear the Lord.

cf. Psalm 34

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

This story is about the coming of God's kingdom, and in particular the arrival of the Messiah. Israel's leaders in Jesus' day, and the many people who followed them, were like guests invited to a wedding - the party God was throwing for his son. But they had refused. Galilee had refused, for the most part. Now Jerusalem was refusing the invitation as well. God was planning the great party for which they had waited so long. The Messiah was here, and they didn't want to know. They abused and killed the prophets who had tried to tell them about it, and the result was that their city would be destroyed. But now for the good news--though it wasn't good news for the people who were originally invited. God was sending out new messengers, to the wrong parts of town, to tell everyone and anyone to come to the party. We don't have to look far in Matthew's gospel to see who they were. The tax-collectors, the prostitutes, the riff-raff, the nobodies, the people who thought they'd been forgotten. They were thrilled that God's message was for them after all.

But there was a difference between this wide-open invitation and the message so many want to hear today. We want to hear that everyone is all right exactly as they are; that God loves us as we are and doesn't want us to change. People often say this when they want to justify particular types of behaviour, but the argument doesn't work. When the blind and lame came to Jesus, he didn't say, 'You're all right as you are.' He healed them. They wouldn't have been satisfied with anything less. When the prostitutes and extortioners came to Jesus, he didn't say, 'You're all right as you are.' His love reached them where they were, but his love refused to let them stay as they were. Their lives were transformed, healed, changed.

Actually, nobody really believes that God wants everyone to stay exactly as they are. God loves those we find most difficult to love, but the point of God's love is that he wants them to change. He hates what they're doing and the effect it has on everyone else - and on themselves, too. Ultimately, if he's a good God, he cannot allow that sort of behaviour, and that sort of person, if they don't change, to remain for ever in the party he's throwing for his son.

That is the point of the end of the story, which is otherwise very puzzling. Of course, within the story itself it sounds quite arbitrary. Where did all these other guests get their wedding costumes from? How did they have time to change their clothes? Why should this one man be thrown out because he didn't have the right thing to wear? Isn't that just the sort of social exclusion that the gospel rejects?

Well, yes, of course, at that level. But that's not how parables work. The point of the story is that Jesus is telling the truth, the truth that political and religious leaders often like to hide: the truth that God's kingdom is a kingdom in which love and justice and truth and mercy and holiness reign unhindered. They are the clothes you need to wear for the wedding. And if you refuse to put them on, you are saying you don't want to stay at the party.

NT Wright, is a Biblical scholar and former Bishop of Durham, UK

News

Parish Council Meeting: October's key points.

- Parish Council thanks parishioners for being diligent in adhering to the COVID safe arrangements at St. Philips. We are all helping to protect each other and the wider community.
- As of 7 October, ACT Health was identifying the following as COVID affected areas:
    - All of Victoria
    - Three Local Government Areas in Greater Sydney (Campbelltown, Liverpool and Parramatta)
- Over two weeks in September regional Diocesan Synods were held via zoom. They heard reports from the Bishop and Registrar. Martin, Robin Moore, Alison Davidson and Ashton Robinson logged on for the parish. A full Synod is provisionally planned for April 2021.
- A further five year lease has been concluded with the Kindergarten.
- Due to COVID-19 there will be no *Spring Fling* this year which had been planned for early November. We are looking at holding an Advent Dinner of some sort on Saturday 28 November under COVIDsafe arrangements. Bookings would be necessary. Details to be provided closer to the event.
- The paved area in front of the toilets has been re-concreted following the plumbing works and there is now access to the toilets as normal. The gutters of the Kindergarten have been cleaned in anticipation of a wetter than normal spring and summer.
- A Spring Working Bee on the church grounds will be held from 9-11am on Saturday 31 October.
- Please talk with Rev. Martin or any Parish Councillor if you have any concerns, questions or suggestions.

St Philip's National Mission - Australia Youth Engagement

Our National Mission Project for 2020 is Australia Youth Engagement. AYE supports Church initiatives which engage young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) people. This Project has come out of a desire to support and guide vulnerable ATSI youth around Australia, most particularly in the Northern Territory. Your funds go towards producing culturally relevant Sunday School resources for these communities which are then incorporated in their existing programs and church services. In the last few years, such funds donated have also enabled interested Aboriginal Christians to travel to church and read the Bible in their own language. The Anglican Board of Mission (ABM) further assists such Christians with their Bible studies. Please give generously by donating in the envelopes provided at St Philip's.

Hope you enjoyed the latest edition of **Church Chat**; many thanks to our editor Laura Wood. Don't forget to get your recipes, news and chat to Laura for the next edition.

The Anglican News for October is available https://stphilipsoconnor.org.au/news/anglicannews/ If you would like a copy printed, please let Martin know.

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.

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 (Hotspots)
https://www.health.act.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-10/COVID-19%20Advice%20on%20interstate%20COVID-19%20outbreaks_01102020.pdf
[The latest guidance on this site dated 1st October is in the church foyer. Only very few places are now designated areas of risk which is good news for those wanting to travel to Sydney to visit family and friends].
The NSW CHO's site provides detailed information on the situation in NSW.
https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates

Hopefully some of you may have found time to engage in another week of reflection through the ABM resource '**Climate for Change.**' The resource can be found and downloaded on https://www.abmission.org/data/resources/2020/Climate_For_Change_5.pdf In this fourth week of study we are called to action, in many different ways. How are we to care for our environment, but in doing so how are we to care for one another?

Calendar @ St Philip's

Today — *Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost*
- 8am — **Eucharist -** Livestreamed
- 10am — **Eucharist with music**

Monday 12 October — *Elizabeth Fry, prison Reformer (d.1845)*
- 11am — Funeral – Ian Neville Hall RIP

Thursday 15 October — *Teresa of Avila, teacher (d.1592)*
- 10am — **Eucharist**

Friday 16 October — *Hugh Latimer, Nicholas Ridley bishops and martyrs (d.1555)*
- 5pm – 6pm — Happy Hour online, for those who wish to catch up.

Saturday 17 October — *Ignatius of Antioch, bishop and martyr (d.c115)*
- 10am – 1pm — Pandora's Boutique

Sunday 18 October — *St Luke, evangelist and martyr*
- 8am — **Eucharist** - Livestreamed
- 10am — **Eucharist with anointing and laying on of hands**

Roster

	October	**11-Oct-20**	**18-Oct-20**	**25-Oct-20**
	Sunday of Month	**2nd**	**3rd**	**4th**
	Liturgical Season	19th Sunday after Pentecost	St Luke, evangelist & martyr	21st Sunday after Pentecost
	Flowers			
8am	Celebrant	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)		Rev'd Canon Scott	
	Sidespeople & Welcomer	Margaret & Russell	Vicki L & helpers	Tim & Shane
	Liturgical Assistant	Ellie P	Lisa C	Peter W
	Bible Reader	Margaret or Russell	Rebecca P	Shane W
10am	Celebrant	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Canon Scott	Rev'd Martin
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)			
	Sidespeople & Welcomer	Hardy & Helen P, Jeanette M	Laura W, Richard G & Sally A	Fred A, Janene B & helper
	Liturgical Assistant	Crucifer: Zara Server: Leighton		Philippa W
	Musician(s) & Singers/Soloist	Colin F	Colin F	Colin F
	Bible reader	David R	Jack A	Fiona D
	Additional details/notes	*School holidays*		