



St Philip's Come & See

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Sunday 6 September 2020 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8am Eucharist

10am Eucharist with music

The 8.00am Eucharist will be live on [Facebook](#). Then it will 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 pandemic has created some valuable though sometimes painful insights into the way that our society functions and what we value. It has revealed some fractures in our community and particularly in regards the care of the elderly and the vulnerable.

St Paul tells us today 'let every person be subject to the governing authorities.' This is often difficult and has proved somewhat problematic for us in recent times as the States, Territories and Commonwealth all have differing ideas and positions on border closures, health protocols etc. clearly politics has played a role in this. So whilst we are to be compliant with the ACT regulations, most certainly, we are first and foremost governed by our ethic as a Christian community.

In the parable in today's gospel reading (Matthew 18:10-20) Jesus presents us with the issue that has long troubled philosophers, that of the one and many. Jesus says the true Shepherd will leave

the ninety-nine sheep and search out the one that has gone astray. It defies the logic, and for some the wisdom, which says that we should cut our losses and concentrate on the many.

In John's gospel the High Priest Caiaphas says, 'You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish.' Ironically Caiaphas spells out the true meaning of Jesus death. Jesus died that the children of God might be gathered into one.

We are indeed one and yes we will always search out, we will always care for the lost and the vulnerable, because that it is our calling and this ethic is the foundation upon which all other regulations and protocols sit.

Please rest assured of my ongoing prayers for you all as we navigate through this difficult time.

Blessings to you all *Martin*
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Front cover: Michelangelo: Ezekiel - on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican painted between 1508 and 1512.

Entrance Antiphon [Introit]

'Where two or three are gathered in my name,' says the Lord, 'I am there among them.'

Matthew 18:20

Prayer of the Day

Go before us, O Lord,
and further us with your continual help,
that in all our works,
begun, continued, and ended in you,
we may glorify your holy name,
and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Today's Readings

A reading from the book of the Prophet Ezekiel (33:7-11)

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, 'O wicked ones, you shall surely die', and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. ¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: 'Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?' ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Psalm 119:33-40

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes:
and I will honour it to the end.

**Give me understanding, that I may keep your law:
that I may keep it with my whole heart.**

Guide me in the path of your commandments:
for therein is my delight.

**Incline my heart to your commands:
and not to selfish gain.**

Turn away my eyes from looking on vanities:
as I walk in your way give me life.

**Make good your promise to your servant:
the promise that endures for all who fear you.**

Turn aside the taunts that I dread:
for your judgements are very good.

**Lord, I long for your precepts:
in your righteousness give me life.**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (13:1-10)

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgement. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval; ⁴for it is God's servant for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the servant of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience. ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, busy with this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is due to them—taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honour to whom honour is due. ⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

The Gradual

Alleluia! **Alleluia!** You word is truth, O Lord, consecrate us in the truth. **Alleluia!**

John 17:17

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (18:10-20)

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

'Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. ¹²What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost. ¹⁵If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

For the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayers of the People

In our prayers this week we remember all those in need, particularly: Roger, Ros, Sam, Ben, Gage, Hugh, Beryl, Joan, Margaret, Jeanette and Sarah.

We commend to God the recently departed especially Evan Grice and those whose years mind falls at this time: Beryl Collins (8/9/2006), Athol Barrett (9/9/2004), Pat Forbes (10/9/2019).

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

**Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for you, my God.
My soul is thirsty for the living God.**

Psalm 42:2-4

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 Witnessing for the Lord

In the First Reading, God appoints Ezekiel as a watchman for his people and he adds a threat. If Ezekiel does not warn sinners to mend their ways, God will hold him responsible for their fate. Does God say this to Ezekiel only? Or does he say it also to all of us?

Many of the great people in the Christian tradition—Augustine, Aquinas, Francis of Assisi, to name just a few—thought that God's command to Ezekiel is meant to apply now to every one of the faithful too. It is a duty for every Christian to watch out for each one of God's people in the way God spelled out to Ezekiel.

Your life can bear witness to the goodness of the Lord and the holiness of his commandments. But this can look like a dreadful idea. Could it really be the case that a Christian is supposed to be a kind of busybody, continually nagging other people about their sins?

And what about the Gospel instruction to pay more attention to the beam in your own eye than to the speck of dust in somebody else's?

Here we need to remember that there is more than one way to communicate with others. If you are concentrated in love and service to the Lord, your life will tell a story to everyone who crosses your path. When Francis of Assisi was asked about this passage in the first reading, he said:

if that passage is supposed to be understood in a universal sense, then I understand it to mean that a servant of God should be burning with life and holiness so brightly that by the

light of example and the tongue of his conduct, he will rebuke all the wicked. (St. Francis of Assisi)

Your life can bear witness to the goodness of the Lord and the holiness of his commandments. You don't have to use words to do so.

So a Christian can and should concentrate on the beam in their own eye, just as the Gospel injunction says. But if they really do so, then the duty to witness to others, God's command to Ezekiel, will be beautifully fulfilled.

Eleonore Stump is Professor of Philosophy, Saint Louis University, USA

News

Key Points from September Parish Council meeting:

- Parish Council remains focussed on the health of the St. Philips community. Letting our guard down on COVID-19 could compromise our weekly services. This highly infectious virus has spread through some places of worship in Australia and overseas.
- As the national response evolves there will necessarily be changes in the way we manage the situation and in the advice we give parishioners.
- The current advice of Parish Council is that parishioners do not attend services at this time if:
 - are unwell
 - are awaiting COVID-19 test results
 - are required to self-isolate under health regulations
 - have been in any hotspots in the last 14 days
 - know you have been in close contact with someone who has received a positive COVID19 test or who has been in a hotspot in the last 14 days.
- The other key protective measures that we need to continue are the use of sanitizer, regular enhanced cleaning and social distancing.
- The main symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose and shortness of breath. Less common symptoms are loss of smell, loss of taste, muscle pain, joint pain, diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting and loss of appetite.
- Like National Cabinet, Parish Council has had to wrestle with the fact that there is no agreed definition of a hotspot.
- Parish Council has adopted ACT Health advice concerning areas of elevated risk of community transmission as our definition of a "hotspots". This enables us to fulfil our obligations under the Workplace Health and Safety Act and Diocesan COVIDsafe and Safe Ministries guidance about protecting our most vulnerable.
- ACT Health currently identifies the following Hotspot areas.
 - All of Victoria
 - Greater Sydney
 - COVID-affected areas of Queensland (essentially Greater Brisbane, the Gold Coast and parts of the Darling Downs).
- The 8am Eucharist will continue to be livestreamed for those who wish to join with us from home.
- Please talk with Rev'd Martin or any Parish Councillor if you have any concerns, questions, or suggestions.

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/2020-08/COVID-19%20Advice%20on%20interstate%20COVID-19%20outbreaks_31082020.pdf

The NSW Chief Health Officer also provides detailed information on the situation in NSW.

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates>

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.

Some of you have been enjoying Sourdough during the pandemic. You might enjoy this reflection from the ABC on Sourdough and ethics. <https://www.abc.net.au/religion/alda-balthrop-lewis-baking-sourdough-and-the-moral-life/12570618>

The Anglican News for September is now out.

<https://stphilipsoconnor.org.au/news/anglicannews/>

If you would like a printed version of the News please let Rev'd Martin know.

Bishop Mark has recorded a Diocesan Update and this is now available on our Parish website, the Diocesan website and on this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krXY1085hQU> for Synod members, parishioners and others to view.

Calendar @ St Philip's

Today	<i>Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i>
8am	Eucharist - Livestreamed
10am	Family Eucharist with Music
Thursday 10 September	
10am	Eucharist
Friday 11 September	<i>Mother Esther, founder of the CHN</i>
5pm - 6pm	Happy Hour online, for those who wish to catch up: St Philip's Happy Hour link
Saturday 12 August	
10am - 1pm	Pandoras Preloved Fashion - OPEN
Sunday 13 August	<i>Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i>
8am	Eucharist - Livestreamed
10am	Eucharist with Music

Roster

	September	6-Sep-20	13-Sep-20	20-Sep-20
	Sunday of Month	1st	2nd	3rd
	Liturgical Season	14th Sunday after Pentecost	15th Sunday after Pentecost	16th Sunday after Pentecost
	Flowers			
8am	Celebrant	Rev'd Canon Scott	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)			Rev'd Canon Scott
	Sidespeople & Welcomer	Margaret & Russell	Alison & Alistair	Vicki L & helpers
	Liturgical Assistant	Lisa C	Elise P	Lisa C
	Bible Reader	Margaret or Russell	Alison or Alistair	Rebecca P

10am	Celebrant	Rev'd Martin Johnson	Rev'd Martin Johnson	Rev'd Canon Scott
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)	Rev'd Canon Scott		
	Sidespeople & Welcomer	Nirmal F, Denise M & Fred A	Hardy & Helen P, Janene B	Jeannette M, Laura W & Richard G
	Liturgical Assistant	Crucifer: Zara	Crucifer: Zara Server: Leighton	
	Musician(s) & Singers/Soloist	Colin F	Colin F	Colin F
	Bible reader	kids?	Richard G	Ann M
	Additional details/notes	<i>10am Sunday Zone</i>		