



email: comeandsee@stphilipsoconnor.org.au

ph: 02 6161 7334

www.stphilipsoconnor.org.au

 @stphilipsoconnor

Sunday 5 December 2021
Second Sunday of Advent

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



Welcome to St Philip's

St Philip's COVIDSafe Plan - It is a requirement that everyone checks in via the *CBR Check In* app. If you need assistance the Sidespeople and Welcomers can check you in. We are asking all folk to be aware of the restrictions, to be careful and thorough with their hand hygiene, to be mindful of social distance and not to attend church if they feel unwell. We are now able to have up to 65 folk in church. Masks are not mandated but should be worn if you are vulnerable or unable maintain a social distance.

Pew sheet & Order of Service: the Pew sheet including a complete order of service is available on our website. The QR code in the pews will direct you to the current edition, please use your phone/tablet and follow along. Alternatively service cards and a printed abridged Pew sheet is available.

Offertory: at the offertory when our gifts are brought forward, there is an opportunity for you to make your contribution. A self-serve Eftpos machine is available in the foyer, you can use it before or after the service. St Philip's EFT details are also available if you would like to make a direct transfer: BSB:702-389 Account no:05202512. Giving cards are in the foyer if you wish to place something in the offertory bag after giving electronically.

Communion: if you are baptised you are welcome to receive communion, which at present is in 'one kind.' If you would like to receive a blessing please cross your hands on your chest as you come forward.

Breakfast or Morning Tea: all our services are followed with hospitality on the Lamerton Centre deck, please join us - 'Come & See'

From the Rector

Dear Friends,

Our 60th Anniversary celebrations will soon be upon us. On Thursday 16th December we will gather with Bishop Mark for Evensong at 5.30pm followed by Dinner in the Courtyard. Many of you have sent in an RSVP, thank you. To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to celebrate and not to have to be concerned with food preparation we have decided to engage a caterer. This however comes with a cost and I am aware this may potentially exclude some folk. Please, if you are concerned about the cost, let me know.

As we travel through this year of Luke, we will be reminded that hospitality is at the heart of the ministry of Jesus. We read in the gospels that Jesus often eats and enjoys the hospitality of many different people and he is roundly criticised for it by the religious folk. But there is a subtext to this hospitality. Jesus rather than being the guest becomes the host as he offers the hospitality of God to all comers. You will recall the story in Luke of the Tax Collector Zacchaeus; Jesus tells him that he will dine with him that night, and then says 'Salvation has come to this house.' For Luke in the person of Jesus salvation is to be found, because in Jesus we find the hospitality of God.

This is the message of Advent. We welcome Jesus as the Child of Bethlehem, we welcome the Christ of faith into our hearts and we look for the coming of Christ as Redeemer, but they are one. And whilst we welcome him, ultimately Christ seeks us out, welcomes us and brings us home.

Many thanks to those who pitched in for the Working Bee yesterday morning. Keep our drains open and gutters clear is the order of day!

Today we celebrate at Noon the Baptisms of Izeyah and Kenslee Statton-Molloy, we welcome their parents, Godparents, family and friends to St Philip's.

Blessings to you all, *Martin*

0478 619 911

rector@stphilipsoconnor.org.au

Eucharist for the Second Sunday of Advent

In the name of the Father ✠ and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Entrance Antiphon

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1: 78-79

The Lighting of the Second Candle

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true:
to you be praise and glory for ever.

Of old you spoke by the mouth of your prophets,
but in our days you speak through your Son,
whom you have appointed the heir of all things.

Grant us, your people, to walk in his light,
that we may be found ready and watching when he comes again in glory and judgement;
for you are our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord comes bringing to light things now hidden in darkness, and disclosing the purposes of the heart.

Let us open our hearts to his coming, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Merciful God, our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith: pardon you ✕ and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

God of our salvation,
you straighten the winding ways of our hearts
and smooth the paths made rough by sin:
keep our hearts watchful in holiness,
and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us.
We ask this through him whose coming is certain,
whose day draws near,
your Son our Lord Jesus Christ
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 Malachi (3:1-4)

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Song of Zechariah (Luke 1:68-79)

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel:

You have come to your people and set them free.

**You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour:
born of the house of your servant David.**

Through your holy prophets, you promised of old:
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of
all who hate us.

To show mercy to our forebears:

and to remember your holy covenant.

This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**Free to worship you without fear:
holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High:
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

**To give God's people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God:
the dawn from on high will break upon us,

**To shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death:
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians (1:1-11)

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.
cf Isaiah 40.3-5

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (3:1-6).

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." '

For the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

Let us affirm the faith of the church

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, ✠ and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

In our prayers we remember those in need, particularly: Ben, Gage, Hugh, Sarah, Myrle, David, Otto, Mandy, Bob, Noel and Claudia, those unable to gather with us, those in hospital, residential or home care and those from whom we are isolated. With Margot we give thanks for the gift of healing.

We commend to God the recently departed, those whose anniversaries fall at this time: Peter Blaseotto (10/12/2003), all whose memories are dear to us, and those who have no one to remember them.

The Greeting of Peace

God will speak peace to his people,
to those who turn to him in their hearts.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become our spiritual drink.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,
he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world
to open for us the way of salvation.

And now we give you thanks
because you prepared the way of your Son Jesus Christ
by the preaching of your servant John the Baptist,
who proclaimed him as the Lamb of God, our Saviour.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,
we now watch for the day
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven
to proclaim your glory
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth and full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he ✠ who
comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Merciful God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.'

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**We remember his death on the cross.
We proclaim the resurrection to new life.
We await Christ's coming in glory.**

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

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.

The Breaking of Bread and Communion

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Communion Antiphon

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel: You have come to your people and set them free.

Luke 1:68

A Prayer of Spiritual Communion

At this time 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.

The Sending out of God's People

Let us pray:
God for whom we wait;

we thank you that you have fed us with the bread of life
and the cup of salvation.

As we joyfully await your Son,
keep us ever watchful
that we may be ready to stand before him
on the day of his coming.

Most loving God, **you send us into the world you love.**

Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage in the power of your Spirit.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Christ the Sun of righteousness shine upon you, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

For Reflection

Advent—Preparing for the Sublime

Robert Waller published a book that became a runaway bestseller and an immensely popular movie. Entitled, *The Bridges of Madison County*, it stirred the romantic imagination in a way that few other stories have in recent times, especially as it was played out in its film version by Clint Eastwood and Meryl Streep. The story runs this way:

Advent is about proper waiting.

A photographer for National Geographic magazine is sent out to photograph a series of old bridges in Madison County. Lost, he stops at a farmhouse to ask for directions. As chance would have it, the man of the house has just left for a cattle show. His wife is home alone and she and the photographer instantly sense a deep connection and fall violently in love. Karma, soulmates, mysticism, whatever, they experience a rare and powerful affinity. Within hours they are in bed with each other, triggering a love-affair that leaves them both sacramentally scarred for the rest of their lives.

What the viewer of the movie or reader of this book is asked to believe is that something truly sublime has taken place, a masterpiece of love has been painted, and a noble thing worth more than life itself has just occurred. But can this be so? Can anyone paint a masterpiece in a couple of hours? Can a doctoral thesis be completed in two hours? Can sex with someone you met just two hours before be sublime?

To answer those questions, I suggest you watch another film which, ironically, was playing in theatres at nearly the same time. It's a version of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*, and tells the story of a young woman who has to carry a very painful tension (one that includes the same feelings found in *Bridges of Madison County*) for a long time. But unlike the characters in *Bridges of Madison County*, she doesn't move quickly to resolve it. Nobody is in bed with each other within a couple of hours. She carries the tension for a long time, years, and then finally when it is resolved there is true sublimity. Why? Because something can only be sublime if first there has been some sublimation (and for more than two hours!)

In essence, this expresses the meaning of Advent: for something to be sublime there must first be sublimation; fasting is the necessary prelude to feasting; greatness of soul is contingent on first nobly carrying tension; great joy is not experienced if one is not first properly prepared; and what's truly divine can only appear after a certain kind of gestation. Advent is about proper waiting.

It should therefore not to be confused with Lent. The crimson-purple of Advent is not the black-purple of Lent. The former symbolizes yearning and longing, the latter repentance. *The spirituality of Advent is not about repentance*, but about carrying tension without prematurely resolving it so that what's born in us and in our world does not short-circuit the fullness that comes from respecting love's rhythms.

What is the connection here? How does carrying tension help lead to the sublime? It does it by helping to produce the heat required for generativity. An image might be helpful here. John of the Cross, in his book, *The Living Flame of Love*, compares our pre-advent selves to green logs that have been thrown into a fire, the fire of love. Green logs, as we know, do not immediately burst into flame. Rather, being young and full of moisture, they sizzle for a long time before they reach kindling temperature and can take into themselves the fire that is around them so as to participate in it. So too the rhythm of love: only the really mature can truly burst into flame within community. The rest of us are still too self-contained, too green, too selfish, too damp. We don't burst into flame when love surrounds us. Rather our dampness helps extinguish the communal flame.

What helps change this is precisely the tension in our lives. In carrying properly our unfulfilled desires we sizzle and slowly let go of the dampness of selfishness. In carrying tension we come to kindling temperature and are made ready for love. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, as a scientist, noticed that sometimes when you put two chemicals into a test-tube they do not automatically unite. They only merge at a higher temperature. They must first be heated to bring about unity. There's an entire anthropology and psychology of love in that image. In order to love we must first be brought to a higher psychic temperature. What brings us there? Sizzling in tension, not resolving things prematurely, not trying to have the complete symphony within two hours.

The sublime has to be waited for. Only when there is first enough heat will there be unity. To give birth to what's divine requires the slow patience of gestation. In short-hand, that's the algebra of Advent.

Ron Rolheiser
*President of the Oblate School of Theology
in San Antonio Texas US*

News

As always our Webmaster Brian McKinlay has created a wonderful **Advent Calendar** on our website. This provides us with another opportunity to journey through this time carefully and prayerfully amidst the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations. I hope you will make use of it. Thank you Brian. www.stphilipsoconnor.org.au

Thursday, 16 December - 60th Anniversary of the Dedication of St Philip's

5.30pm: Evensong with Bishop Mark Short

6.30pm: Dinner in the courtyard

To book your place for dinner please RSVP by the 11 December

via <https://forms.gle/59CN5GepHCRq2iog8>

\$35 per adult, \$15 per child (under 12)

Payment via Eftpos or cash at the Dinner

BYO drinks

This celebration will take the place of our usual Advent Dinner.

gearing up for a busy end to 2021 here at **St John's Care** with preparations well underway for our Christmas programs.

If you would like to make a contribution to St John's Care this Christmas, we are seeking some items to fill our Christmas Treat bags:

- 1 Litre Juice
- Mince pies
- Tube or packet of chips
- Family Pack of Lollies
 - Jelly (85 grams)
- Chocolate biscuits or Shortbread
 - Popcorn

To supplement the Christmas Hampers and Christmas Treat bags, we will be giving each registered family a \$15 supermarket gift card. We are currently seeking \$15 supermarket gift cards and welcome any support we can receive with this.

All donations can be dropped at 45 Constitution Avenue in Reid from 9:30am-2pm Monday to Fridays. Our 'Present Room' opened on the 1st December 2021. We are still in need of your support. If you are able to support us, please follow the link here for gift idea:

Everyday items required include: Savoury Biscuits, Cup-a-soups and Vegemite.

An Addendum to the Parish directory has been produced and is available in the foyer for those with a copy of the Directory.

This week @ St Philip's

Today 5 December	<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>
8am	Eucharist – Livestreamed on Facebook
10am	Eucharist
Noon	Baptism - Izeyah & Kenslee Statton-Molloy
Wednesday 8 December	<i>The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> Parish Council
Thursday 9 December	<i>Feria in Advent</i>
10am	Eucharist
Saturday 11 December	<i>Feria in Advent</i>
10am – 1pm	Pandora's 'Festive Fashions'
11am	Eucharist – Kankinya
Sunday 12 December	<i>Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete)</i>
8am	Eucharist – Livestreamed on Facebook
10am	Eucharist

Readings: Zephaniah 3:14-20, Ps The Song of Isaiah, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18

Roster

		5-Dec-21	12 Dec 21	19-Dec-21	
	Sunday of Month	1st	2nd	3rd	
	Liturgical Season	2nd Sunday of Advent	3rd Sunday of Advent	4th Sunday of Advent	
	Flowers	<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>	<i>no flowers for the season of Advent - the focus being on the Advent Wreath</i>	
8am	Celebrant	Rev'd Canon Scott	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin	8am
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)			Rev'd Canon Scott	
	Sidespeople	Margaret & Russell	Alison & Alistair	<i>volunteers</i>	
	Liturgical Assistant	Lisa C	Ellie P		
	1st Bible reader - OT	Russell M	Alison D	Julianne S	
	2nd Bible reader - NT	Margaret M	Alistair D	Rebecca P	
10am	Celebrant	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Canon Scott	10am
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)	Rev'd Canon Scott			
	Sidespeople & Welcomer	Denise M, Nirmal F & Fred A	Helen, Hardy P & Laura W	Janene B, Jeannette McH & Richard G	
	Liturgical Assistant		Rebecca K	Rev'd Martin	
	Musician(s) & Singers/Soloist	Colin F	Colin F	Colin F	
	1st Bible reader - OT	Fiona D	Fred Anchell	Jeanette D-T	
	2nd Bible reader - NT	Richard G	Laura W	<i>volunteer</i>	
	Morning Tea	Helen P	Janene B	Jan G	
<i>Additional details/notes</i>				<i>School holidays</i>	

Dates for your Diary

16 December		60 th Anniversary of St Philip's Dedication – see new section above
24 December	11.30pm	Christmass Eve - Midnight Mass
25 December	9am	Christmass Day - Eucharist
26 December	9am	First Sunday after Christmass (only one service)