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## *Sunday 10 January 2021 The Baptism of our Lord*

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.stphilipsConnor.org.au](http://www.stphilipsConnor.org.au)



*Front cover: James Tissot (French, 1836-1902). The Baptism of Jesus (Baptême de Jésus), 1886-1894. Opaque watercolor over graphite on gray wove paper, Image: 8 1/2 x 5 1/2 in. (21.6 x 14 cm). Brooklyn Museum, purchased by public subscription.*

Dear Friends,

The season of Epiphany is an invitation to reflect on the many little 'epiphanies', glimpses of how things really are, which are vouchsafed us in the Gospel. The first Sunday of Epiphany is a time to reflect on the moment when 'the heavens opened' at Jesus' Baptism and we were given a glimpse of Father Son and Holy Spirit at the heart of all things. This sonnet by Malcolm Guite is a reflection on that mystery.

Beginning here we glimpse the Three-in-one;  
The river runs, the clouds are torn apart,  
The Father speaks, the Sprit and the Son  
Reveal to us the single loving heart  
That beats behind the being of all things  
And calls and keeps and kindles us to light.  
The dove descends, the spirit soars and sings  
'You are belovèd, you are my delight!'

In that quick light and life, as water spills  
And streams around the Man like quickening rain,  
The voice that made the universe reveals  
The God in Man who makes it new again.  
He calls us too, to step into that river  
To die and rise and live and love forever.

Naturally in our new year's resolutions and even in our prayer and spiritual life we look forward to how we so much want things to be; everything from our world peace to our own personal well-being, this is no bad thing. But we can tend to so focussed on the future that we miss the present and the 'epiphanies' of everyday life, the moments when we can, should we be mindful, be aware of the nearness of the kingdom. This is what this season is all about, we have celebrated the incarnation in the Christmas festivities our calling now is twofold to see Christ incarnate in the world around us and live in such a way that others can sense his presence in our midst.

Many thanks for the hospitality, greetings and gifts that Susan and I received during Christmastide. We appreciate it very much.

Every blessing

*Martin*

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### *Entrance Antiphon [Introit]*

**God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; and he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.**

Acts 10:38

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, ✕ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

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.**

God of truth, you are faithful to the covenant you have made with us;  
look with mercy on your people.

We have broken the pledges of our baptism,  
and failed to be your disciples.

Lord have mercy

**Lord have mercy**

Though we are saved by Christ  
and dead to sin through the waters of baptism,  
we have not witnessed to his grace by our manner of life.  
Christ have mercy

**Christ have mercy**

We have shown indifference to those in need  
and have been afraid to stand up for justice and truth.  
Lord have mercy

**Lord have mercy**

Today we rejoice and give thanks because your Son humbled himself to be baptized in the Jordan. Through the waters you have given us the mystery of baptism for the remission of our sins.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### *Prayer of the Day*

Let us pray:  
Almighty God,  
who anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit  
and revealed him as your beloved Son:  
inspire us, your children,  
who are born again of water and the Spirit,  
to surrender our lives to your service,  
that we may rejoice to be called your children;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### *Today's Readings*

*A reading from the book of the book of Genesis (1:1-5)*

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

### *Psalm 29*

Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven:  
ascribe to the Lord glory and might.

**Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name:  
O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters:  
the God of glory thunders, the Lord upon the great waters.

**The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation:  
the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.**

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar-trees:  
the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.

**He makes them skip like a calf:  
Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

The voice of the Lord divides the lightning-flash:  
the voice of the Lord whirls the sands of the desert,  
the Lord whirls the desert of Kadesh.

**The voice of the Lord rends the terebinth trees,  
and strips bare the forests:  
in his temple all cry 'Glory.'**

The Lord sits enthroned above the water-flood:  
the Lord sits enthroned as a king for ever.

**The Lord will give strength to his people :  
the Lord will give to his people the blessing of peace.**

*A reading from the Book of the Acts of the Apostles (19:1-7)*

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. <sup>2</sup>He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' <sup>3</sup>Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' <sup>4</sup>Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' <sup>5</sup>On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— <sup>7</sup>altogether there were about twelve of them.

### *The Gradual*

Alleluia, **Alleluia!** The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded: 'This is my Son the beloved. Listen to him.' **Alleluia!**

*Mark 9:8*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark (1:4-11)*

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

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: Ros, Ben, Gage, Hugh, Beryl, Denise, Sarah, Tien, Myrtle, Marian, Margot and Philippa, those unable to gather with us, those in hospital, residential or home care.

We commend to God the recently departed, those whose anniversaries fall at this time and all those whose memories are dear to us.

### *The Greeting of Peace*

We are the body of Christ.

**His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*Let us offer each other the sign of peace.*

### *Offertory*

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.**

### *The 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.**

*After the Preface:*

**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.**

*The Great Thanksgiving continues:*

In faith we acclaim you O Christ:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ has risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Great Thanksgiving concludes:*

...we worship you, Father eternal, 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.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away  
the sins of the world.

Happy are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

### *Communion Antiphon*

This is he of whom John said: I have seen and have given witness that this is the Son of God.

*John 1:34*

### *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>]*

### *The Sending out of God's People*

Let us pray:

Lord of all time and eternity,  
you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father  
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:  
by the power of your Spirit

complete the heavenly work of our rebirth  
through the waters of the new creation.

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.**

May God the Holy Spirit,  
who came upon the beloved Son  
at his baptism in the river Jordan,  
pour out his gifts on you  
who have come to the waters of new birth.  
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*

The positioning of fonts in church buildings and the idea therefore of doors serve to underline an important biblical image which brings us to the heart of the mystery of baptism. For the Bible is full of doors and gates. Jesus is the door of the sheep (John 10:9), yet the doors were shut when the disciples gathered in the upper room after Jesus' death (John 20:19). In Matthew and Mark the stone is rolled against the door to Christ's tomb (Matt 27:60, Mark 15:46), through which Christ's resurrection manages to break free.

Most notably of all there are gateways and doors in that most tantalizing of New Testament books the Revelation to St John. The new Jerusalem has twelve gates, carefully described (Rev 21:12ff). The church in Philadelphia has an open door set before it, which no one has been able to shut (Rev 3:8). The Lord stands at the door and knocks, and if anyone hears his voice and opens the door, he will come to them and eat with them, for the church in Laodicea (Rev 3:20). After these two concluding letters in the series to the seven churches in Asia, the following chapter opens with the words, 'After this I looked, and lo, in heaven an open door!' (Rev 4:1). All this suggests too the words of Jacob when he awoke from dreaming of the ladder between earth and heaven, and the angels ascending and descending: How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.' (Gen 28:17).

But how does the image of doors relate to baptism? The first way is that baptism is about the future. In all the accounts of Christ's baptism, it is clear from what follows that baptism was an important stage in starting Jesus off in his ministry. In Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus goes straight into the wilderness (Matt 3:13ff., Mark 1:9ff., Luke 3:21.) but, interestingly, Luke places the genealogy of Jesus back to Adam between the baptism and the temptation in the wilderness. Baptism, therefore, can be seen as a beginning and not as a result. Many discussions about baptism 'policy' at the local level fail to take into account that baptism is primarily an act of God and a focus for his grace in the future. In Jesus' case in the three accounts just quoted, the great moment of baptism leads Jesus into the wilderness, where he wrestles with his vocation, after which his ministry begins. He did not have to 'qualify' for God's anointing Spirit. The anointing Spirit was freely given.

Secondly, baptism is a moment in time and eternity when God's love and forgiveness are celebrated and given. To place the font near a church door is to suggest that we are baptised on entry and then go forward to the chancel steps for confirmation and thereafter to the altar for communion. Baptism is the gate of heaven, the door to newness of life. Baptism *is* the open door. And when that door is open in heaven, past, present and future exist as a single whole. One is reminded of the words from the Prayer Book (1662) baptism service: 'so give now unto us that ask; let us that seek find; open the gate unto us that knock that this infant may enjoy the everlasting benediction of thy heavenly washing, and may come to the eternal kingdom which thou hast promised by Christ our Lord.'

Thirdly the door suggests opportunity. Every time we stroll past the font, physically or mentally, we are given a visual expression of the new beginning that Christ will always offer to those who come to him. The new beginning is about repentance and renewal, not in abstract ways but in the concrete reality of our ordinary lives. When I preside at baptism and confirmation as a bishop I often insert a brief reference to the Bible readings before the renunciation and profession of faith. This is my way of suggesting that they are to go on renouncing the devil and professing faith in Christ in countless ways all through their lives. Baptism opens a door and keeps that door open. Or to revert to the death and resurrection of Christ, we can roll the stone against the door of the tomb, and shut the doors against the world, but Christ keeps coming to burst out of the tomb to make his entrance into our fearful lives.

*Kenneth William Stevenson (1949 – 2011)  
was the eighth Bishop of Portsmouth in the Church of England.*

PS. Many churches have a 'stoop' containing Holy Water in their porches or doorways. Some folk will make the sign of the cross with the water as they come and go, a reminder of baptism. Our font fulfils this role but we are not using it as such at present under our COVIDSafe restrictions. MJ

## *News*

**St Philip's Roster:** as we start a new year, now is your chance to volunteer on the Roster, we'll be recommencing Morning Tea after the 10am service and having two bible readers at each service.

We need more people for all tasks, please let Leighton know if you can assist. Reply to [Rosters@stphilipsConnor.org.au](mailto:Rosters@stphilipsConnor.org.au). Please see <https://stphilipsConnor.org.au/news/rosters/> for further details.

The ACT Chief Officer regularly updates information regarding interstate COVID19 outbreaks. The [COVID website](#) offers the latest information on restrictions and regulations. [The latest guidance on this site dated 6 January is in the church foyer]. The situation however is evolving very quickly at present and we ask everyone coming to St Philip's during the season of Epiphany to be aware of current restrictions and alerts.

**For the latest information From NSW Health go to** <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates#self-isolate-and-get-tested>

**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 outreach visit [www.stjohnscare.org.au](http://www.stjohnscare.org.au)

**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. Key themes include: aged care (parish), reconciliation with First Peoples, inequality, climate change, asylum seekers. There will be sections of teaching, questions and prayers, suggestions for action. The study will be available online on the Diocesan website.

**Our own website** [www.stphilipsConnor.org.au](http://www.stphilipsConnor.org.au) is a wonderful resource and the best source of information about our Parish and Diocese. If you'd like to revisit the readings and some of the music from our celebration of Nine Lessons, Music and Carols this is now available on our website.

**From Bishop Mark:** I am delighted to report that The Reverend Phil Rademaker has accepted my invitation to be the next Rector of the Parish of Yass Valley. Please pray for Phil and Laura and their family as they prepare to move. The date and time of the induction service will be advised in due course.

## *This week @ St Philip's*

Today

8am

10am

*The Baptism of our Lord*

**Eucharist** - Livestreamed

**Eucharist with music**

Tuesday 12 January 2pm	Feria <b>Eucharist</b> Sir Leslie Morshead Manor
Thursday 14 January 10am	<i>Sava, first bishop of the Serbian Church (d. 1235)</i> <b>Eucharist</b>
Sunday 17 January 8am 10am	<i>Second Sunday after Epiphany</i> <b>Eucharist</b> - Livestreamed <b>Eucharist with Music</b>

## Dates for your Diary

Ash Wednesday (Lent begins) – 17 February

Parish AGM – Sunday 21 February

Good Friday – 2 April

Easter Sunday – 4 April

Diocesan Synod – 10-11 April

## Rosters

	<u>January</u>	<b>10-Jan-21</b>	<b>17-Jan-21</b>	<b>24-Jan-21</b>	
	Sunday of Month	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>4th</b>	
	Liturgical Season	The Baptism of our Lord	2nd Sunday after Epiphany	3rd Sunday after Epiphany	
	Flowers	Flowers Team	Flowers Team	Flowers Team	
<b>8am</b>	Celebrant	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin	
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)		Rev'd Canon Scott		
	Sidespeople & Welcomer	Alison & Alistair	Vicki L & helpers	Tim & Shane	
	Liturgical Assistant	Ellie P	Lisa C	Peter W	
	Bible Reader	Alison or Alistair	Rebecca P	Shane W	
<b>10am</b>	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	Rebecca K		Philippa W	
	Musician(s) & Singers/Soloist	Colin F	Colin F	Colin F	
	Bible reader	Ashton R	Laura W	Fiona D	
	Additional details/notes	<i>School holidays</i>	<i>School holidays</i>	<i>School holidays</i>	