



St Philip's Come & See

email: comeandsee@stphilipsoconnor.org.au

www.stphilipsoconnor.org.au

ph: 02 6161 7334

 @stphilipsoconnor

Sunday 24 January 2021 Third Sunday after Epiphany

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



Christ calling the Apostles James and John. *Armitage, Edward. 1817–1896 Museums Sheffield UK*

Dear Friends,

Rarely has the inauguration of an US President been such a keenly anticipated event, but Wednesday marked the beginning of a new era following the 'experiment' of the last four years. Perhaps like many of you I was engaged by the Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman. Her poem began with an allusion to the Book of Jonah a passage from which we'll hear this morning.

*When day comes, we ask ourselves —
where can we find light in this never-ending shade?
The loss we carry, a sea we must wade.
We braved the belly of the beast.*

The belly of the beast indeed!

At one point she said 'It's the past we step into. And how we repair it.' This is a call to every nation, but most particularly those nations, like our own whose success and prosperity has been born out of suffering. As we approach our national day we should do so with thanksgiving, but also mindful of our history and with a firm commitment to step into the past and repair it. If we as Christians have anything to offer at all it is the profound unity and liberation that lies at the very heart of the gospel ethic. This surely is where salvation lies.

Mark whose gospel we are hearing at present mentions this word gospel more often than any of the evangelists, indeed it doesn't even rate a mention in Luke or John. What Mark does in this very first account of the life of Jesus is step into the past and if not repair, fulfil it. The Good News is freedom from that which binds us, evangelists describe the dawning of a new age of freedom in the inauguration of God's Kingdom in the person of Christ who is the very embodiment of the kingdom.

Everything flows from this, and while I would not want to draw too long a bow the events of recent times and the sense of renewal this week is a reminder to us of what that looks and feels like. Inauguration is a good word, the theologians like it! It is simply the beginning, something has occurred in which we are invited to participate, we are called in our own place and time to make present that which was inaugurated by Emmanuel - God with us.

Every blessing

Blessings to you all *Martin*

0478 619 911 rector@stphilipsoconnor.org.au

Entrance Antiphon [Introit]

Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.'

Mark 1:17

Blessed be God: Father ✕ Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever

The Lord be with you.

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.

Christ the Son of God has been revealed as a light to the nations.

Let us bring our darkness to his light, 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.

**Kyrie eleison,
Christe eleison
Kyrie eleison**

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:

Bountiful God,
through your Son you have called us to repent of our sin,
to believe the good news,
and to celebrate the coming of your kingdom:
teach us, like Christ's first apostles,
to hear the call to discipleship
and, forsaking old ways,
to proclaim the gospel of new life to a broken world;
through our lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Today's Readings

A reading from the book of Jonah (3:1-10)

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²'Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.' ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, 'Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!' ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

⁶When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: 'By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. ⁸Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. ⁹Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish.'

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Psalms 65:5-12

Nevertheless, my soul, wait in silence for God:
for from him comes my hope.

**He only is my rock and my salvation:
my strong tower, so that I shall not be moved.**

In God is my deliverance and my glory:
God is my strong rock and my shelter.

**Trust in him at all times, O my people:
pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge.**

The children of Adam are but breath, the children of earth are a lie:
place them in the scales and they fly upward, they are as light as air.

**Put no trust in extortion, do not grow worthless by robbery:
if riches increase, set not your heart upon them.**

God has spoken once, twice have I heard him say:
that power belongs to God,

**That to the Lord belongs a constant goodness:
for you reward each one of us according to our works.**

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians (7:29-31)

²⁹I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

The Gradual

Alleluia, **Alleluia!** The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news. **Alleluia!**

Mark 1:15

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark (1:14-20)

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

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, Denise, Sarah, Tien, Myrle, Marian, Margot, Philippa and Dawn, those unable to gather with us, those in hospital, residential or home care and those from whom we are isolated.

We commend to God the recently departed, those whose anniversaries fall at this time: Jean Pound (26/01/2104) and Clare Baker (30/01/2003) 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.

Offertory

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:

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is 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

As this broken bread was once many grains, which have been gathered together and made one bread:

**so may your Church be gathered from
the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

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

I am the light of the world, says the Lord, whoever follows me will have the light of life.

cf. John 8:12

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>]

The Sending out of God's People

Let us pray:

God of the nations,
we thank you for nourishing us with this holy sacrament.
Guide us by your presence,
that we may bring your light to those who dwell in darkness,
and establish your justice in the earth.

Father, **we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in power of your spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

May Christ the Son of God, be manifest to you, that your lives may be a light to the world; 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 Book of Jonah is one of my favourite books in the Bible. For one, it's short, to the point, and quite funny. It also contains one of the most concise expressions of God's love for us coupled with His understandable frustration over the fact that we just don't get it. After Jonah has declared to God his anger at the fact that the plant He sprang up to give him shade rotted overnight, God responds, "You had compassion on the plant for which you did not work and which you did not cause to grow, which came up overnight and perished overnight. Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know the difference between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?" (Jon. 4: 10-11).

The book ends there. I, for one, find this response quite beautiful. It reminds me a bit of the tone that my parents would take with me whenever I did something they told me not to do time and time again, but I did it anyway, usually getting myself hurt in the process. They, on the other hand, would drop everything and come to help me.

Another interesting aspect of Jonah's story is that he is seemingly upset that God does not destroy Nineveh after its people repent, despite the fact that he himself has found God's mercy after disobeying Him. We might perhaps be moved to scoff at Jonah for his clear inability to recognize this fact, but the truth is that we ourselves do this from time to time. Though we are sinners in need of God's mercy, and we have received undeserved mercy from God time and time again, we often fall into judging others on account of their sins. Not only can the people of Nineveh not tell their left hand from their right, but it seems that even Jonah can't do it and often, in fact, neither can we.

Up to this point, I think that a Jewish reader would not have many things to disagree with. Yet, for a Christian, the Book of Jonah makes a much more fundamental point than this. Following his rejection of God's command to him, Jonah boards a ship for Tarshish, in order to flee from the Lord. The ship is hit by a storm and each person starts praying to their own god for deliverance. Eventually, Jonah tells them that storm is on his account and is thrown overboard. God then appoints a great fish to swallow Jonah, where he spends three days and three nights. After this, he prays to God from the belly of the fish. He identifies himself as being in "the depth of Sheol" (Jon. 2:1) and, in the culmination of the prayer, exclaims, "But You have brought up my life from the pit, O Lord my God. / While I was fainting away, I remembered the Lord, / And my prayer came to You, Into Your holy temple" (Jon. 2:6-7). The Church Fathers interpret this episode as a type for Christ's Resurrection. In fact, Jesus himself refers to the "sign of Jonah" (Mt. 12:39). That could only refer to Jonah's three-day sojourn in the belly of the fish, after which he emerged alive. The reference, then, could only refer to the Resurrection.

Beyond this point, the interpretation of Jonah from the Christian perspective adds another layer to the book as a whole. A Jewish interpreter might see nothing beyond Jonah's disobedience in the first half of the book, but the Christian must see a more profound point. Considering the importance of the prefiguration of Jonah in the belly of the fish, one would be compelled to conclude that Jonah's detour was in God's plan all along. In telling him to go to Nineveh the first time then, God was fully aware that Jonah would disobey and—in his disobedience—he would serve to create an image of the mystery of the Resurrection. God foreknew that His word would be disobeyed, but His plan would still be accomplished. Jonah tries to flee from the presence of God. Instead, he becomes the icon of the Son in His victory over sin and death. God writes straight with crooked lines, it seems, and everything works out according to His plan. For those who trust in the Lord, then, this is a source of great comfort. In our lives, all things, the good and the bad—the successes and the failures—come only under His per-mission and His plan cannot be overturned by external forces, not even by our own misgivings (cf. Rom. 8:28). So, as long as we place our hope in Him, we can rest easy knowing that He "works all things after the counsel of His will" (Eph. 1:11).

Gjergji Evangjeli

<https://bctorch.com/author/gjergjievangjeli/>

News

Bridging the Gap – Breaking the Cycle. Each week St Philip's donates non-perishable food items to **St John's Care** in Reid. The baskets at the back of the church are ready to receive your donations! **At the beginning of the year non food items particularly school supplies are much appreciated – these include: back packs, lunch boxes, drink bottles and pencil cases. Also this week there is a need for Sultanas (small lunch box size), Juice poppers, Savoury Biscuits and Weetbix.**

Pandora's has commenced for the year. Many thanks to those who prepared the shop for reopening. We look forward to another successful year reaching out into the community around us and raising valuable funds to enable the mission of the Church to continue and grow. If you'd like to be involved have a chat with Kerry-Anne or one of the Committee.

We are busily preparing rosters and roles for this year as it slowly picks up pace. Leighton is putting together the February Rosters, please email if you would like to be added rosters@stphilipsoconnor.org.au. We need readers, folks to offer morning tea, welcomers and sidespeople, flower arrangers etc.

As our AGM nears please give some thought too to a role on the Parish Council. This year we will have a number of vacancies to fill.

Sarah and Tim Gowty - in training for the walk of a lifetime! We have signed up to walk 64km of the Larapinta Trail to raise funds for the work of the Anglican Board of Mission (ABM). We are walking in memory of our late father David who was a life-long supporter of ABM and advocate for those most disadvantaged around the world. Our fundraising target is \$6,000. Every dollar raised allows ABM to create long-lasting solutions to poverty and injustice for overseas and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities. For further information, to follow our journey, or to make a tax deductible donation check our fundraising page:

<https://abm-larapinta-2021.raisely.com/sarah-and-tim-gowty>

or contact Sarah at sarahgowty@gmail.com for more information. Thanks! Sarah

The Diocese in conjunction with Anglicare have produced a Lenten Study simply called **God of Compassion**. The study can be downloaded at the following link: <https://anglicancg.org.au/wp-content/uploads/compassion-lentenstudy-ebook.pdf> can be used individually or in groups. I hope that during Lenten we can set up some virtual 'Home Groups' using our Zoom where we can journey and pray together through the six sessions. Aware that not everyone has internet access I hope that we can invite one another to our homes to share the journey.

The ACT Chief Officer regularly updates information regarding interstate COVID19 outbreaks. The ACT Chief Health Officer's Web Site offers the latest information on restrictions and regulations:

https://health.act.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-01/COVID-19%20Advice%20on%20interstate%20COVID-19%20outbreaks_19012021.pdf [The latest guidance on this site dated 19 January is in the church foyer]. The situation however can evolve and change very quickly and we ask everyone coming to St Philip's 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>

This week @ St Philip's

Today	<i>Third Sunday after Epiphany</i>
8am	Eucharist - Livestreamed
10am	Eucharist with Music
Thursday	<i>Thomas Aquinas, theologian (d.1274)</i>
10am	Eucharist
Friday 5pm – 6pm	St Philip's Zoom Happy Hour
Saturday	<i>Charles, king and martyr (d.1649)</i>
10am - 1pm	Pandora's OPEN
Next Sunday	<i>Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</i>
8am	Eucharist - Livestreamed
10am	Eucharist with Music

Dates for your Diary

Parish Council – 3 February 7pm

Ash Wednesday (Lent begins) – 17 February

Parish AGM – Sunday 21 February

Lenten Study times and Quiet Day – more details soon

Good Friday – 2 April

Easter Sunday – 4 April

Diocesan Synod – 10-11 April

Rosters

	January	24-Jan-21	31-Jan-21	
	Sunday of Month	4th	5th	
	Liturgical Season	3rd Sunday after Epiphany	4th Sunday after Epiphany	
	Flowers	Flowers Team	Flower team	
8am	Celebrant	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin	8am
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)			
	Sidespeople & Welcomer	Tim & Shane	Margaret or Russell	
	Liturgical Assistant	Peter W		
	Bible Reader	Shane W	Margaret or Russell	
10am	Celebrant	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin	10am
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)			
	Sidespeople & Welcomer	Fred A, Janene B & helper	Fred A & helpers	
	Liturgical Assistant	Philippa W	Tim G	
	Musician(s) & Singers/Soloist	Colin F	Colin F	
	Bible reader	Fiona D	Jeanette DT	
	Additional details/notes	<i>School holidays</i>	<i>School holidays</i>	