



St Philip's Anglican Church, O'Connor

The Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil derives from a very early Christian observance. Its original name, the Christian Passover (or Pasch – hence our word 'paschal') reminds us that it was modelled upon the Jewish Passover. Like the Passover, it is a night festival and a festival of redemption. The Vigil recalls the parallels between the Israelites' deliverance from Egypt, Christ's deliverance from death, and the deliverance of the baptised from their former sinful life. It highlights dramatically the 'passing over' from Passion to Resurrection, from death to life, from sin to righteousness, from bondage to freedom, from darkness to light. As we take part, we share in these saving mysteries, not just as events in the past but as acts of God through which we are now being saved.

The Easter Vigil is made up of four parts.

- *The Service of Light*
- *The Service of the Word*
- *The Baptism and Renewal of Baptismal Vows*
- *The Eucharist*

Liturgy for The Easter Vigil

The Service of Light

The congregation gather in the courtyard and the new fire is lit.

The ministers enter:

Beloved in Christ, on this holy night, when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life, the Church invites its members throughout the world to come together in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord. We recall his death and resurrection, by hearing his word, celebrating his mysteries, and accepting his promise of life; and we are confident that we shall share his victory over death in his eternal kingdom.

The new fire is blessed

Lord of all creation, we thank you for the gift of fire, in which you revealed your name to Moses, answered the prayer of Elijah, and came upon your Church at Pentecost: bless this new fire to be for us a sign of your presence, that, set aflame with the fire of your love, we may come to the feast of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Paschal Candle is prepared. The priest traces a cross on it and marks the Greek letters Alpha and Omega and the four numbers of the current year saying:

Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega; all time belongs to him and all the ages. To him be glory and power through every age and for ever.

Amen.

Placing the five nails at the extremities of the cross the priest says:

By his glorious wounds may Christ the Lord guard us and keep us. **Amen.**

The Paschal Candle is lit from the new fire:

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

The lighted candle is carried through the church building in darkness, the bearer pausing three times: at the door, in the middle of the nave, and finally within the sanctuary. At each pause is sung:

The light of Christ!

Thanks be to God.

The candles carried by the congregation are lit from the Paschal candle which is then set in its place. It is censed by the priest, the congregation sit and the Exsultet is sung, during which the congregation responds:

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.

Ministry of the Word

Dear friends in Christ, in this our solemn vigil, let us listen to God's word, recalling how God saved his people throughout history, and in the fullness of time sent his own Son to be our Redeemer who is alive and reigns with you, in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First reading from the book of Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a

Psalm 33

Response: **The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.**

Upright is the word of the Lord, and all his works are trustworthy.
He loves justice and right;
of the kindness of the Lord the earth is full.

R. The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made;
by the breath of his mouth all their host.
He gathers the waters of the sea as in a flask;
in cellars he confines the deep.

R. The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

Blessed the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen for his own inheritance.
From heaven the Lord looks down; he sees all humanity.

R. The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

Our soul waits for the Lord, who is our help and our shield.
May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us
who have put our hope in you.

R. The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

Let us pray

Creator God, you made us wonderfully in your own image, and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature: grant that, as your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, was made in human form so we may be made partakers of divine life; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Second reading from the book of Genesis 22:1-18

Psalm 16

Response: You are my inheritance, O Lord.

O Lord, my allotted portion and my cup,
you it is who hold fast my lot. I set the Lord ever before me;
with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

R. You are my inheritance, O Lord.

Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices,
my body, too, abides in confidence;
because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld,
nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo corruption.

R. You are my inheritance, O Lord.

You will show me the path to life,
fullness of joys in your presence,
the delights at your right hand forever.

R. You are my inheritance, O Lord.

Let us pray

God of our ancestors, whose chosen servant Abraham faithfully obeyed your call and rejoiced in your promise that, in him, all the families of the earth should be blessed: give us faith like his, that, in us, your promises may be fulfilled; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Third reading from the book of Exodus 14:10-31; 15: 20-21

Psalm Exodus 15

**Response: Let us sing to the Lord;
he has covered himself in glory.**

I will sing to the Lord, for he is gloriously triumphant;
horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.
My strength and my courage is the Lord,
and he has been my saviour. He is my God, I praise him;
the God of my father, I extol him.

R. Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

The Lord is a warrior, the Lord is his name!
Pharaoh's chariots and army he hurled into the sea;
the elite of his officers were submerged in the Red Sea.

R. Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

The flood waters covered them,
they sank into the depths like a stone.
Your right hand, O Lord, magnificent in power,
your right hand, O Lord, has shattered the enemy.

R. Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

You brought in the people you redeemed
and planted them on the mountain of your inheritance
the place where you made your seat, O Lord,
the sanctuary, Lord, which your hands established.
The Lord shall reign forever and ever.

R. Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

Let us pray

Lord God our redeemer, who heard the cry of your people and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery: free us from the tyranny of sin and death; and by the leading of your Spirit bring us to our promised land; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Fourth reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah 54:5-14

Psalm 30

Response: I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

I will extol you, O Lord, for you drew me clear
and did not let my enemies rejoice over me.
O Lord, you brought me up from the netherworld;
you preserved me from among those going down into the pit.

R. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

Sing praise to the Lord, you his faithful ones,
and give thanks to his holy name.
For his anger lasts but a moment; a lifetime, his good will.
At nightfall, weeping enters in, but with the dawn, rejoicing.

R. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

Hear, O Lord, and have pity on me; O Lord, be my helper.
You changed my mourning into dancing;
O Lord, my God, forever will I give you thanks.

R. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

Let us pray
God of steadfast love, in Christ you made a new covenant of peace with your people: fill your
Church with the knowledge of your compassion, that we may proclaim with joy the good news of
your mercy and forgiveness, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Fifth reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah 55:1-11

Psalm Isaiah 12

Response: **You will draw water joyfully
from the springs of salvation.**

God indeed is my saviour; I am confident and unafraid.
My strength and my courage is the Lord,
and he has been my saviour. With joy you will draw water
at the fountain of salvation.

**R. You will draw water joyfully
from the springs of salvation.**

Give thanks to the Lord, acclaim his name;
among the nations make known his deeds,
proclaim how exalted is his name.

**R. You will draw water joyfully
from the springs of salvation.**

Sing praise to the Lord for his glorious achievement;
let this be known throughout all the earth.
Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst
is the Holy One of Israel!

**R. You will draw water joyfully
from the springs of salvation.**

Let us pray.
O God, by the power of your Word you have created all things, and by your Spirit you renew the
earth: give now the water of life to those who thirst for you, that they may bring forth abundant
fruit in your glorious kingdom; through Christ your Lord. **Amen.**

Sixth reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel 36:24-28

Psalm 42

Response: **Like a deer that longs for running streams,
my soul longs for you, my God.**

Athirst is my soul for God, the living God.
When shall I go and behold the face of God?

**R. Like a deer that longs for running streams,
my soul longs for you, my God.**

I went with the throng
and led them in procession to the house of God,
Amid loud cries of joy and thanksgiving,
with the multitude keeping festival.

**R. Like a deer that longs for running streams,
my soul longs for you, my God.**

Send forth your light and your fidelity; they shall lead me on
and bring me to your holy mountain, to your dwelling-place.

**R. Like a deer that longs for running streams,
my soul longs for you, my God.**

Then will I go in to the altar of God,
the God of my gladness and joy;
then will I give you thanks upon the harp, O God, my God!

**R. Like a deer that longs for running streams,
my soul longs for you, my God.**

Let us pray.

Living God, by the power of your Holy Spirit you give to your faithful people new life in the water of baptism. Guide and strengthen us by that same Spirit, that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love, and grow into the full stature of your Son Jesus Christ; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Pause for silent prayer.

The lights in the church are turned on, we extinguish our candles and the Gloria is said.

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.

Let us pray that we may live Christ's risen life.

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Christ Jesus, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and for ever.

Amen.

New Testament Reading Romans 6:3-11

At the end of the reading:

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gradual

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his mercy endures for ever.

Let the house of Israel say, "His mercy endures for ever."

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The right hand of the Lord has struck with power;
the right hand of the Lord is exalted.

I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.
By the Lord has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

At the end of the Gospel.

For the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon

8.

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

The ministers process to the font with the Paschal candle.

The people's candles or tapers are lit again.

The priest says to the congregation

Dear friends, in baptism through the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection, we have died and been buried with Christ, so that we may rise with him to new life. Now that we have completed the observance of Lent, let us renew the promises made in our baptism, when we rejected the devil and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully as members of his holy catholic Church.

Water is poured into the font and the priest says:

We thank you, heavenly Father, for the gift of water. Your Holy Spirit moved over the waters in the beginning of creation. Through water you led the children of Israel out of slavery in Egypt into the land of promise. In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah.

We thank you heavenly Father, for the water of baptism, in which we are buried with Christ in his death that we may share in his resurrection, and through which we are renewed by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son, we make disciples of all nations, and baptise them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Springs of water, bless the Lord.

**Give glory and praise to our God,
who lives and reigns for ever!**

The priest asks the congregation

Do you believe in God the Father, who made the world?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Son, Jesus Christ,
who redeemed our human race?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the church

**This is our faith.
We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil
and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

I do.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and,
when you fail, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example
the good news of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek to serve Christ by loving your neighbour as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

Will you work and pray for justice and peace among all people
and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

The congregation is sprinkled with water from the font.

Water of life cleanse and refresh us,
raise us to life in Christ Jesus.

**Water of life cleanse and refresh us,
raise us to life in Christ Jesus.**

All you who thirst come to the water,
where you will never be thirsty again.

**Water of life cleanse and refresh us,
raise us to life in Christ Jesus.**

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen

The Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord, crucified and risen be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

The Offertory

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.

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 that comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

The Great Thanksgiving concludes:

...all glory and honour is yours, gracious Father, 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 the 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.**

The sacrament is administered.

The Sending out of God's People
Let us pray
Eternal God, giver of life,
in the breaking of the bread we know the risen Lord.
May we who celebrate this holy feast
walk in his risen light
and bring new life to all 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.

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our

Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you what is pleasing in his sight; 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. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Text from *A Prayer Book for Australia* (Sydney: Broughton Books, 1995)
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and Services for Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, The Easter Vigil
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Reflection

John in the opening of his Gospel proclaims that in Jesus "was life, and the life was the light of all people" (John 1:4). This light shines most brightly in the love that Jesus shows as he lays down his life for the good of all people and the whole of creation.

The account of Good Friday tells us of a darkness coming over the land as Jesus hung on the cross. It appeared that darkness had extinguished the light. But, Easter Day is the declaration that the Light of the World has not and cannot be put out. For "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it (John 1:5).

The resurrection of Jesus celebrated at Easter is a declaration of the transforming power of Christ overcoming darkness and bringing hope.

We continue to see much darkness over the world. We have travelled through the darkness of Covid-19. We have seen the darkness of racism and the darkness of domestic violence and the darkness of gender inequality and the abuse of women. Thankfully, light has begun to shine on these and other areas. There has been the light of vaccine development, the light of people speaking out, the light of public awareness. Yet, more light is required.

As Christians who are being transformed by the light of Christ and empowered by his resurrection, we too are called to be lights into this darkness. We are called to share in the mission of the risen Jesus. The death and resurrection of Jesus is the reason we know that there is an answer to the darkness and brokenness of this world. There is hope and salvation. There is a light that cannot be overcome.

May you this Easter know the transforming power of the Risen Jesus, be filled with his light and so be a light to others to the glory of God our Father.

With Easter blessings,

*The Most Reverend Geoffrey Smith
Primate Anglican Church of Australia*

News

Wanted: Website Manager St Philip's website is vital to our outreach and for sharing information with each other. We need a new website manager to maintain and improve our website. This is a ministry over a period of years and is challenging and creative. As a web-developer, you will need a working knowledge of HTML5, CSS and basic PHP. Anyone who has studied computing or designed a website could learn these easily. Or perhaps you would like to develop a new skill? While we cannot train you in the required coding skills, we will give you a thorough briefing about the existing website. Interested? Please talk to Brian or Alistair.

The team at **St John's Care** has reported a sharp increase in demand following increases in fuel and food prices. If you are able to assist please leave your donations in the baskets at the back of the church. Pasta meals, small tins of Milo, Easter eggs, Juice poppers, Cup-a-soup and Olive oil are needed this week. Cash donations are also appreciated, please see their website www.stjohnscare.org.au/ for further information on how to contribute. Thank you.

The Anglican Board of Mission (ABM) is working through Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance an organisation set up by the World Council of Churches to support global emergency

relief work. ACT Alliance, has requested assistance as it seeks to respond to the escalating crisis in Ukraine. In response ABM has launched a tax deductible appeal which will not only seek to restore basic services for conflict-affected people in the Ukraine but also support refugees fleeing the Ukraine into Central Europe. To learn more or to donate, please visit the website at:
www.abmission.org/ukraine

Alternatively we can support The Ukraine Crisis Appeal co-ordinated by the Anglican Relief and Development Fund Australia: <https://ardfa.org.au/ukraine-crisis> and The Ukraine Emergency Appeal co-ordinated by the USPG and the Church of England Diocese in Europe: <https://ukraine-emergency-appeal.raisely.com/>

We are continuing to pray for and support the **Wontulp-Bi-Buya College** in Queensland. Please support this our National Mission if you are able, envelopes are available in the foyer. If you would like more information on the College you can visit their excellent website at
<https://www.wontulp.qld.edu.au/>

Pandora's Winter Collection & Markets Saturday, 30 April – 9am to 1pm - and in addition to this there will be a Breakfast BBQ, a book stall, Better Bits, Classy Clutter, coffee & cake and mulled wine.

Also on this weekend we will celebrate our **Patronal Festival** on Sunday, 1 May with a bring and share celebratory morning tea. Save the dates!

The April Anglican News is now out and can be found on the Diocesan Website or at:
<https://stphilipsoconnor.org.au/news/anglicannews/>

This week @ St Philip's

Today	<i>Easter Day</i>
6am	Easter Vigil
8.00am	The Easter Breakfast
9.30am	Eucharist with Hymns
Tuesday 19 April	<i>Easter Tuesday</i>
2pm	Eucharist – Sir Leslie Morshead Manor
Thursday 21 April	<i>Easter Thursday</i>
10am	Eucharist
Saturday 23 April	<i>Easter Saturday</i>
10am - 1pm	Pandora's
11am	Eucharist – Kankinya
Sunday 24 April	<i>Second Sunday of Easter</i>
8am	Eucharist
10am	Eucharist with Hymns
	Readings: Acts 5:27-32, Psalm 118:14-29, Revelation 1:4-8, John 20:19-31

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 30 April	Pandora's Winter Launch & Markets
Sunday 1 May	St Philip's Day
Friday 9 September	Diocesan Synod (9-11 Sept)

Roster

		18-Apr-22	24-Apr-22	1-May-22	
	Sunday of Month	3rd	4th	1st	
	Liturgical Season	Easter Day	2nd Sunday of Easter	3rd Sunday of Easter	
	Flowers	Flower team	Flower team	Flower team	
6am: Easter Vigil	Celebrant	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Canon Scott	8am
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)				
	Sidespeople	Fred A, Shane & Tim W	Tim & Shane	Margaret & Russell	
	Liturgical Assistant	Deacon: Robin	Brian McK	Lisa C	
	1st Bible reader - OT	Julianne S	Susan J	Margaret M	
	2nd Bible reader - NT	Rebecca P	Shane W	Russell M	
9.30am: Festal Eucharist	Celebrant	Rev'd Canon Scott	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin	10am
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)			Rev'd Canon Scott	
	Sidespeople & Welcomer	Janene B, Jeannette Mch & Richard G	Sally A, Fred A & helper	Denise M, Fred A & helper	
	Liturgical Assistant	Rev'd Martin	Philippa W		
	Musician(s) & Singers/Soloist				
	1st Bible reader - OT	Sarah B	Tim G	David R	
	2nd Bible reader - NT	Brian M	Colin D	Jos George	
	Morning Tea	<i>no morning tea, Easter Breakfast between services instead</i>	Helen P	Jan G	
<i>Additional details/notes</i>	<i>8.30 - 9.30am Easter Breakfast</i>	<i>ANZAC long weekend</i>	<i>Saturday: Pandora's Winter Launch & Markets</i>		