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## Sunday 4 December 2022

# *Second Sunday of Advent*



Marc Chagall, *Tree of Jesse* 1975; Saint-paul-de-vence, France.  
Media: oil on canvas, Location: Private Collection

### *Welcome to St Philip's*

We acknowledge the triune God, the Creator of heaven and earth and his ownership of all things. (Psalm 24:1) We recognise that He gave stewardship of these lands upon which we meet to the First Nations Peoples of this country (Acts 17:26). In His sovereignty, He has allowed other people groups to migrate to these shores. We acknowledge the cultures of our First Nations Peoples and are thankful for the community that we share together now. We pay our respects to elders, both past and present, and those who are rising up to become leaders.  
(Written by The Reverend Neville Naden, BCA Indigenous Ministry Officer)

**St Philip's COVIDSafe Plan** We are asking folk not attend church if they feel unwell, to be aware of their hand hygiene and to be mindful of social distance. Thank you. Masks are available for those who wish to wear one.

**Pew sheet & Order of Service:** the full Pew sheet 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. Service cards, Pew Bibles and Prayer Books are also 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: 702-389 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. If you would like to receive a blessing please cross your hands on your chest as you come forward.

**If you would like to volunteer** as a reader, sidesperson, welcomer, or another role on the Roster, then please email [rosters@stphilipsoconnor.org.au](mailto:rosters@stphilipsoconnor.org.au)

### *From the Rector*

Dear Friends,

Thank you to those of you who came along to the Advent Dinner last weekend. We enjoyed a lovely meal and great fellowship. Thanks to Jeannette for putting together our hymns and readings, they set the scene for the evening and the season. Jeannette and I also attended this year's National Prayer Breakfast at Parliament House. The keynote address was given by Mr Peter Gibbs, a Gamillaroi man from the community of Weilmoringle in Far West New South Wales. Peter was instrumental in the establishment of The 'Indigenous Police Recruitment Our Way Delivery Program' (IPROWD), a training model to develop First Nations Australians for a career with the NSW Police Force. He spoke about the importance of his faith following the death of his sister in police custody and his journey through grief and reconciliation.

Today we continue our Advent journey alongside John the Baptist, the forerunner and the one who calls us to prepare for the coming of Christ. His is a call to repentance that we might better welcome Jesus into our hearts and homes, it is a journey of reconciliation. It is a journey to the manger that we might understand the vulnerability of God and indeed our own.

We can follow that journey through the Advent reflections, art, music and poetry on our website, I hope that you are making use of this wonderful resource for this Advent season, many thanks to Brian for creating this for us.

Here again is our prayer for the parish for use in your daily prayers.

Gracious God,  
you call us to follow our Patron Philip  
encouraging others to 'Come and See.'  
Bestow in us your Spirit of hope and acceptance  
that others may see in us your love and joy.  
We pray in the name of the one  
who reconciles to you and to one another,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessings, *Martin*

[rector@stphilipsoconnor.org.au](mailto:rector@stphilipsoconnor.org.au)

0478 619 911

### *Eucharist for the second Sunday of Advent*

**Introit Hymn (10am)** 270 (TiS)

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh:  
come then and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every heart from sin;  
make straight the way for God within;  
prepare we in our hearts a home  
where such a mighty guest may come.

For you are our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward;  
without your grace we waste away  
like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch out your hand,  
and bid the fallen sinner stand;  
shine forth, and let your light restore  
earth's own true loveliness once more.

To him who left the throne of heaven  
to free us all, let praise be given;  
and praise be to the Father done,  
and Holy Spirit, Three in One.

*Charles Coffin 1676-1749*

My brothers and sisters, today we continue the season of Advent we open our hearts to God's love as we prepare to welcome Christ into our lives and homes. The candles of this wreath remind us that Jesus Christ came to conquer the darkness of sin and to lead us into the light of his glorious kingdom.

*The second candle lit.*

Father in heaven, set our hearts ablaze to follow in the steps of John the Baptist. May we bring light and love to all we meet, that the darkness of sin and fear may be overcome. In Christ's name we ask this.

**Amen.**

#### **Entrance Antiphon**

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

*Mark 1:15*

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.**

'The axe is laid at the root of the trees; every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down.'  
But confident in God's mercy we confess our sins.

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations  
into the peace of your kingdom:  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

You come in word and sacrament  
to strengthen us in holiness:  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

You will come in glory  
with salvation for your people:  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray:

Faithful God of all peoples,

whose servant John came baptising

and calling for repentance:

help us to hear his voice of judgement,

that we may also rejoice in his word of promise,

and be found pure and blameless in that glorious Day

when Christ comes to rule the earth as Prince of Peace;

who lives and reigns with you and of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

### **Today's Readings**

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah (11:1-10)*

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

<sup>2</sup> The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

<sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;

<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,

and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

<sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

*Psalm 72:1-7, 18-21*

Give the king your judgement, O God:

and your righteousness to the son of a king,

**That he may judge your people rightly :  
and the poor of the land with equity.**

Let the mountains be laden with peace because of his righteousness:  
and the hills also with prosperity for his people.

**May he give justice to the poor among the people:  
and rescue the children of the needy,  
and crush the oppressor.**

May he live while the sun endures:

and while the moon gives light, throughout all generations.

**May he come down like rain upon the new-mown fields:  
and as showers that water the earth.**

In his time shall righteousness flourish:

and abundance of peace, till the moon shall be no more.

**Let his name live for ever:  
and endure as long as the sun.**

Let all peoples use his name in blessing:

and all nations call him blessed.

**Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel:  
who alone does great wonders.**

Blessed be his glorious name for ever:  
and let the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen, Amen.

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (15:4-13)*

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name';

<sup>10</sup>and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people';

<sup>11</sup>and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him';

<sup>12</sup>and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.'

<sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Gradual hymn (10am) 272 (TiS)**

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free,  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us for ever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

*Charles Wesley 1707-88*

**Gradual (8am)**

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.**

*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (3:1-12)*

**Glorify to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."' <sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to

come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

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, Hugh, Sarah, David, Otto, Bob, Noel, Ermida, Deborah, Sue, Molly, and Katherine, those unable to gather with us, those in hospital, residential or home care and those from whom we are isolated.

We pray for our international mission, the Vanuatu Integrated Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Project.

We pray especially:

- for the small staff of the Anglican Church of Melanesia and their many volunteers working on this project;
- for the communities whose health and well-being will benefit from the project;
- that we will be generous in supporting this important work of our sister Anglican Church in Vanuatu.

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

### **The Greeting of Peace**

May the God of peace make you completely holy, ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**and also with you.**

### **Offertory Hymn (10am) 690 (TiS)**

Beauty for brokenness Hope for despair  
Lord, in the suffering This is our prayer

Bread for the children Justice, joy, peace  
Sunrise to sunset Your kingdom increase!

Shelter for fragile lives Cures for their ills  
Work for the craftsman Trade for their skills  
Land for the dispossessed Rights for the weak  
Voices to plead the cause Of those who can't speak

*God of the poor Friend of the weak  
Give us compassion we pray  
Melt our cold hearts  
Let tears fall like rain  
Come, change our love  
From a spark to a flame*

Refuge from cruel wars Havens from fear  
Cities for sanctuary Freedoms to share  
Peace to the killing-fields Scorched earth to green  
Christ for the bitterness His cross for the pain

Rest for the ravaged earth Oceans and streams  
Plundered and poisoned Our future, our dreams  
Lord, end our madness Carelessness, greed  
Make us content with The things that we need

*God of the poor Friend of the weak  
Give us compassion we pray  
Melt our cold hearts  
Let tears fall like rain  
Come, change our love  
From a spark to a flame*

Lighten our darkness Breathe on this flame  
Until your justice Burns brightly again  
Until the nations Learn of your ways  
Seek your salvation And bring you their praise

*God of the poor Friend of the weak  
Give us compassion we pray  
Melt our cold hearts  
Let tears fall like rain  
Come, change our love  
From a spark to a flame*

Graham Kendrick 1950-

### **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.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation; through your goodness we have our money to offer, the fruit of our labour and of the skills you have given us. Take us and our possessions to do your work in the world.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Wisdom has built her a house; she has mixed her wine; she has set her table.

**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.

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:

**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

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.**

#### **Agnus Dei**

**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**

**Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you.**

*Romans 15:7*

#### **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.**

#### **Recessional Hymn: 274 (TiS)**

The people that in darkness walked  
have seen a glorious light;  
the light has shined on them who dwelt  
in death's surrounding night.

To hail you, Sun of righteousness,  
the gathering nations come:  
rejoicing as when reapers bear  
their harvest treasures home.

To us a child of hope is born,  
to us a Son is given;  
him shall the tribes of earth obey,  
and all the hosts of heaven.

His name shall be the Prince of Peace,  
for evermore adored,  
the Wonderful, the Counsellor,  
the great and mighty Lord.

His power increasing still shall spread,  
his reign no end shall know:  
justice shall guard his throne above  
and peace abound below.

*John Morison 1750-98*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

May God the Son,  
who comes to us as redeemer and judge,  
reveal to you the path from darkness to light;  
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.**

## *Reflection*

The painting on the front cover of our Pew sheet shows Jesus at the heart of the family tree of the House of David at his nativity and crucifixion. The heroes of Israel, gaze up at Jesus, at the left a person reads the scriptures that witness to him. This is what the whole story has been about.

This Advent proclamation of the character of Jesus comes from one of Isaiah's most lyrical descriptions of the world put right by God. In Isaiah 11, the prophet speaks of the "shoot" that will come from the "stump of Jesse". The tree that looks dead, looks as though its story is at an end, will blossom again, and with it the new age will dawn.

Isaiah describes the coming one as wise, strong, and just. Nothing deceives God's Messiah, because he does not judge by human standards but by divine, and so the world can at last be at peace. "The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them" (Isaiah 11.6-7).

The painting evokes the mood of joyful peace, with its glorious colours, the calming blue. Jesus, the judge, enthroned on the cross is at the pinnacle of the painting, drawing it together, giving it focus. This is the judgement that Isaiah is talking about, where everything finds its proper meaning and symmetry. This judgement is not primarily terrifying, but restorative: at last, the lovely truth of the universe is visible.

Paul uses this image of the "root of Jesse" in Romans 15. Although this may look like someone else's family tree, with no room for the rest of us, Paul picks up what Isaiah, too, affirms. This story of the House of David is a story for the whole world. "The nations shall inquire of" this root of Jesse, Isaiah says (Isaiah 11.10), and Paul says that "in him the Gentiles shall hope" (Romans 15.12).

The painting shows Jesus not as one of the branches of the tree, but through the cross, is the continuation of the trunk, and the Advent acclamation calls Jesus "the root" of the tree; he is not just its product but also its source.

One of the resurrection stories that Luke gives us is of a couple walking in deep dejection on the road to Emmaus, mourning the death of Jesus and of all their hopes in him. They meet a stranger, who takes them back through scripture to show them that God has not made a mistake

in what has happened to Jesus.

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus draws people back to scripture, asking them to hear it and interpret it more carefully. He displays the kind of familiarity and mastery of scripture that the painting helps us to see. Here is Jesus, the word of God, helping us to re-read the words of scripture in his light.

Although the painting is peaceful and speaks of completion, it expects us to pick up on the symbolism of the tree. This is the tree that represents that tree in the Garden of Eden, whose fruit Adam and Eve chose in preference to their obedience to God; each branch holds a part of the story of human selfishness and disobedience that leads to the tree of the cross on which Jesus dies; the snake lurks in the branches.

The prophecies of Isaiah speak of the suffering servant, as well as of the wise and invincible judge. God will hold the two together in the great act of salvation. As we trace this "family tree", it is an exploration of the faithfulness of God, through all things. God created the world to hold it close in love and vitality, and whatever we choose, we cannot make God change. This is the nature of God, as Jesus shows us, pointing to the scripture.

It is easy to read this family tree — any family tree — whether with pride or pain, as something that shapes us, explains us; and that is true, up to a point. But what it can easily leave out is the action of God.

The tree of Jesse is the tree from which all life springs, and it has its source and its fulfilment in God. Any and every family tree can bear unexpected fruit, even when it seems defunct or deadly, because its life comes from the life of God.

#### **For reflection or discussion:**

Is your family tree a source of pride or fear to you?

How can we learn to read scripture more faithfully?

*Come, Holy Spirit, and open the scriptures to us, so that our story may find its truth in Jesus Christ, the Son who draws all families home to the Father. Amen.*

*The text is from *The Art of Advent: A painting a day from Advent to Epiphany* SPCK Publishing, 2018, by Dr Jane Williams.*

## *News*

**You are invited to the launch of *Church Matters: Essays and Addresses on Ecclesial Belongings* (Coventry Press) by ACC&C scholar Rev Canon Professor Scott Cowdell.** The book will be launched by Dr Paul Collins, with a welcome from ACC&C Executive Director Professor Anthony Maher and contribution from the author. Books will be available for purchase at the launch. Refreshments will be provided.

**When: 6-7pm, 7 December, 2022**

**Where: ACC&C Chambers Pavilion, 15 Blackall St. Barton**

**RSVP to [acc-c@csu.edu.au](mailto:acc-c@csu.edu.au)**

About the book:

This selection of essays and addresses, most of them previously published either in books, journals or online between 1996 and 2021, reflects the theological journey of a distinguished Anglican priest and theologian. Written primarily within the Anglican tradition where he has worked as pastor and teacher, the reflections raise significant issues of concern for churches everywhere. Informed by sources as varied as Banjo Paterson and Ignatius of Loyola, the essays throughout raise primary questions of how the church matters in contemporary Australian society, where Christianity and church are increasingly at the margins of people's concerns and where various ways of being church compete for the attention of congregations and their leaders. This 'gift of secularisation', he suggests, is an opportunity for the church to reconsider what is important in its traditions and structures; and asks what may be needed to bring the churches to a fresh understanding of the reasons for their very existence. Informed, challenging, accessible and encouraging, *Church Matters* is an important book in these difficult times for the churches in Australia and beyond.

From October 2022 to January 2023 inclusive, St Philip's will be supporting **ABM's Integrated Water, Sanitation and Hygiene project in Vanuatu** as our international mission project. This project is part of the Anglican Church of Melanesia's (ACOM's) outreach into rural and remote

communities in Vanuatu. Many villages have inadequate sources of drinkable water, whether due to sea water incursion into the water table, or other forms of pollution. Along with provision of rainwater tanks and other forms of water storage, ACOM staff and volunteers demonstrate how to build ventilated pit toilets so that more and more villagers move to better sanitation. The project also builds and supports community-based literacy and numeracy schools for people who have missed out on a regular school education. Financial contributions can be made to St Philip's electronic bank account (BSB: 702-389 & ACC: 05202512) with the reference "Missions Vanuatu".

As anticipated the demand on the services offered by **St John's Care** is increasing and will continue to do so into the foreseeable future. The current pantry items and toiletries are being sought: UHT Full Cream 1 litre milk, Powdered Milk, Jam/Honey/Vegemite, Tinned Fruit, Cooking Oil, Canned Tuna, School Snacks, Packet Soup, 1kg Rice, Tinned Chunky Soups, Pasta Sauce, Milo (or drinking chocolate), Coffee 100gm jar, Toothpaste, Shampoo & Conditioner. If you are able to assist please leave your donations in the baskets at the back of the church. Cash donations are also appreciated, see their website [www.stjohnscare.org.au/](http://www.stjohnscare.org.au/) for information on how to contribute.

The St John's Care Christmas gift room is now open. They would like to receive gifts as early as possible so that they can manage the gift room effectively. If you would like to donate a gift, please visit their centre at St John's between 9:30 am-2:00 pm Monday to Friday. They currently have a shortage of the following gifts:

Gifts for Boys and Girls aged 13-18 (Gift cards are a fantastic idea and allow for choice), Sports equipment, Lego, Board Games, \$15 Coles or Woolworths voucher (these are given to each family to purchase fresh meat for Christmas).

A good number of folk went along during the week to St John's to give thanks for 50 years of priestly ministry. **The Rev'ds Bob Lindbeck, Robert James and David Hill** celebrated their Golden Anniversaries. A wonderful achievement, we assure them of our prayers and best wishes.

Congratulations to The Rev'd Tim Watson, who has been elected by his peers as the next **Area Dean of the Central Canberra Deanery**. Tim is the Rector of Holy Cross Hackett.

Once again we are supporting the **Christmas Bowl Appeal** during this Festive Season.

### **Second Sunday in Advent: Peace**

#### **BRINGING PEACE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES SEEKING SAFETY IN JORDAN**

War can tear families apart, causing homesickness and mental health issues and forcing people to find new ways to feed their loved ones. Through the Christmas Bowl, you can help empower Syrian refugees through social and economic training – so they can rebuild their lives and find peace in their new home in Jordan. It's been eleven years since the civil war broke out in Syria, with thousands of families still living in neighbouring countries like Jordan. But as the cost-of-living increases, many refugee families are struggling to earn enough money to put food on the table.

At home in Syria, Ashia along with her husband and their three children had a happy life where they ran a chicken farm that produced meat and eggs. Although Ashia and her family have found peace in Jordan, they have struggled to make enough money to feed their family.

*"It was really challenging to be apart from the people I love," said Ashia. "The homesickness was unbearable. But when we arrived at Talbieh Camp, where we live now, people were very welcoming, and I have met some good people."*

Act for Peace's local partner, the Near East Council of Churches - Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR), supports Syrian refugees by providing vital food rations and psychosocial care.

They are also providing economic training for women like Ashia, who has now started her own pastry business. Through the forums, she has gained valuable skills in advertising and sales. Aisha is happy to be able to support her family again and hopes to grow her business in the future.

Through the Christmas Bowl, you'll help DSPR continue to meet the immediate needs of Syrian refugees while empowering women like Ashia to be more resilient and prepared for the challenges ahead.

The primate writes:

Jesus tells us that the two great commandments are to love God and to love our neighbour. At Christmas time we recall the amazing generous love of God towards us in sending his Son. This is a love that inspires us and leads us to love in response. Christians around the world will lift their voices in praise of God in carols showing their love of God.

The outworking of our love for our neighbours will take many different expressions from spending time together, sharing in meals, gift giving, and the list goes on. The Christmas Bowl gives us an opportunity to show love to our neighbours who are often out of our sight and forgotten. This Christmas, I encourage you to continue to show your love of God and your love of your neighbour.

*The Most Reverend Geoffrey Smith,  
Archbishop of Adelaide  
and Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia*

Envelopes are available at the back of the Church if you wish to contribute. Further information is available on their website.

### *This week @ St Philip's*

Today	<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>
8am	<b>Eucharist</b>
10am	<b>Eucharist with Hymns</b>
Tuesday 6 December	<i>Nicholas of Myra, bishop &amp; philanthropist (d. c342)</i>
11am	Men's Group BBQ
2pm	<b>Eucharist</b> – Sir Leslie Morshead Manor
Wednesday 7 December	<i>Ambrose of Milan (d.397)</i>
10am-Noon	Pandora's sorting & tidying
6pm	Book Launch @ ACC&C (see news)
Thursday 8 December	<i>Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>
10am	<b>Eucharist</b>
Saturday 10 December	<i>Feria in Advent</i>
10am-1pm	Pandora's - OPEN
11am	<b>Eucharist</b> – Canberra Aged Care (dependent upon restrictions)
Sunday 11 December	<i>Third Sunday (Gaudete) of Advent</i>
8am	<b>Eucharist</b>
10am	<b>Eucharist with Hymns</b>

*Readings:* Isaiah 35: 1-10, Psalm: The Magnificat, James 5:7:10, Matthew 11:2-11

### *Dates for your Diary*

Sunday 18 December	Nine Lessons & Carols 7pm
Saturday 24 December	Christmass Eve - Midnight Mass 11.30pm
Sunday 25 December	Christmass Day - Eucharist 9am
Sunday 1 January	New Year's Day – Eucharist 8am & 10am

# Rosters

		<b>4-Dec-22</b>	<b>11-Dec-22</b>	<b>18-Dec-22</b>	
	Sunday of month	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>	
	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>	
<b>8am</b>	Celebrant	Rev'd Canon Scott	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin	<b>8am</b>
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)			Rev'd Canon Scott	
	Sidespeople	Margaret & Russell	Alison & Alistair	Rhonda & Susan	
	Liturgical Assistant	Lisa C	Ellie P	Rev'd Martin	
	1st Bible reader - OT	Russell	Alistair D	Rebecca P	
	2nd Bible reader - NT	Margaret M	Alison D	Julianne S	
<b>10am</b>	Celebrant	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Canon Scott	<b>10am</b>
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)	Rev'd Canon Scott			
	Sidespeople & Welcomer	Katie C & Laura W	Helen & Hardy	Janene B & Richard G	
	Liturgical Assistant				
	Musician(s) & Singers/Soloist	Colin F	Colin F	Colin F	
	1st Bible reader - OT	Laura W	Rev'd Lyn P	Liz D	
	2nd Bible reader - NT	Richard G	Sarah B	Tim G	
	Morning Tea	Janene B	Katie C	Liz D	
<i>Additional details/notes</i>			<i>School holidays</i>		