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Sunday 18 December 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Modesto Faustini (1839–93), *The Dream of St Joseph*, 1886–90,
Chapel of St Joseph, Basilica della Santa Casa, Loreto

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

From the Rector

Dear Friends,

As the year draws to a close I hope that in the midst of the extraordinary events of the year, and there have been many, you are able to glimpse the presence of God and find reason and purpose in your life of faith. It is often only in hindsight that we can see God at work.

Among the highlights in 2022 was our parish day at Greenhills. This has generated much thought and I am committed to working through the ideas, hopes and dreams expressed on that day. To that end we have joined forces with three other parishes – Hackett, Jamison and Narooma-Bega and we have been awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Pelican Foundation to engage in a project of renewal, a project in which we will explore how to live out God's mission in our world. The Rev'd Tracey Matthews will lead this project, and she will come among us for seven sessions from February to September to help us explore a 'Missional Spirituality.'

She has been given the working draft document from our Parish Day and will plan a 'bespoke program' helping us to discover our own unique response to God's calling. We will soon announce the dates and times for our gatherings – they won't be long (2-3 hours *at most*). It is my hope that we can all support this initiative, it is a great opportunity to have someone from outside the parish to help renew our vision. If you have responses to the briefing paper in the pew sheet please drop me an email.

As you will see in 'News' the Parish Council is working towards our AGM in February. Please consider prayerfully how you might serve the Parish. Come and see me if you have any questions or queries about the various roles.

Once again the 'Advent Calendar' on our Website has been a joy and an inspiration. Thank you to Brian for helping us on this journey to Bethlehem! I hope that many of us will be able to come along this evening for the traditional Nine Lessons and Carols at 7pm. Supper will be served in the Courtyard afterwards, if you can contribute to that it will be much appreciated. I look forward to seeing you there.

If you are travelling over the Christmas break to see with family and friends, I look forward to your safe return and wish you every blessing for the festival and the New Year. For those of you staying in Canberra, a reminder that on the next two Sundays there will be one Eucharist at 9am.

Finally, congratulations to Fr Martin Davies who celebrated the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood during the week.

Martin

rector@stphilipsoconnor.org.au

0478 619 911

Eucharist for the fourth Sunday of Advent

Introit Hymn (10am) 265 (TiS)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,

that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O come, great Lord of might
who to the tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain

O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high
and close the path to misery. Refrain

O come, O branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save
and give them victory o'er the grave. Refrain

O come, O dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain

Anon, Latin 18th cent
Based on antiphons from 9th cent or earlier.

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 fourth candle lit.

Come, O Wisdom of God Most High, and fill our hearts with your word of truth.

Come Lord Jesus!

Come, O Giver of the Law, that we may be strengthened by your mighty power.

Come Lord Jesus!

Come, O Flower of Jesse's Root, that we may be made fruitful witnesses of your love.

Come Lord Jesus!

Come, O Key of David, to unlock the darkness of sin and free us by your grace.

Come Lord Jesus!

Come, O Radiant Dawn, sun of justice, and fill us with Your saving light.

Come Lord Jesus!

Come, O King of the Nations, and bind us all together in the unity and peace we seek.

Come Lord Jesus!

Come, O Emmanuel, presence of God among us, and fill our hearts with every good gift.

Come Lord Jesus!

Lord Jesus, we draw ever closer to the feast when your coming as man is renewed in our hearts. Give us peace and allow us to celebrate your presence with joy, that we may share your glory. We ask this of you, who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, as One God, now and forever.

Amen.

Entrance Antiphon

**A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel:
God with us.**

Matthew 1:23

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 night is nearly over, the day is at hand. Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light:

Jesus, you came to call us to repentance.

Kyrie eleison

Kyrie eleison

You come in word and sacrament to share your life abundant.

Christe eleison

Christe eleison

You will come again in glory to renew the whole creation.

Kyrie eleison

Kyrie eleison

May the God for whom we wait and watch, through this Eucharist we celebrate 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:

Gracious God, you chose the virgin Mary by your grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour: so fill us with your grace, that with her we may rejoice in your salvation, and in all things embrace your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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 the prophet Isaiah (7:10-16)

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, you that led Joseph like a flock:
you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine out in glory;

**Before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh:
stir up your power, and come to save us.**

Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**O Lord God of hosts:
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?**

You have fed them with the bread of tears:
and given them tears to drink in good measure.

**You have made us the victim of our neighbours:
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**Let your power rest on the man at your right hand:
on that son of man whom you made so strong for yourself.**

And so we shall not turn back from you:
give us life, and we will call upon your name.

**Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (1:1-7)

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gradual hymn (10am) 308 t.387 (TiS)

To us a child of royal birth,
heir of the promises, is given;
the invisible appears on earth,
the son of man, the God of heaven.

A saviour born, in love supreme
he comes our fallen souls to raise;
he comes his people to redeem
with all the fullness of his grace.

The Christ by raptured seers foretold,
filled with the eternal Spirit's power,
Prophet, and Priest, and King behold,
the Lord of all the worlds adore.

The Lord of hosts, the God most high,
who quits his throne on earth to live,
we welcome now with holy joy,
with faith into our hearts receive.

Charles Wesley 1707-88

Gradual (8am)

Alleluia,
alleluia!

The gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 1:3-4

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (1:18-25)

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'²²All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord

commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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 all in need, particularly: Jenny, Ben, Hugh, Sarah, David, Otto, Bob, Noel, Ermida, Deborah, Sue, Molly and Katherine, those unable to gather with us, those in hospital or residential care.

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 will benefit from the project;
- that we will be generous in supporting this important work of our sister Anglican Church in Vanuatu.
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We commend to God the recently departed: James Halligan 16/12/2022, those whose anniversaries fall at this time: Alice Saylor (20/12/1988), the victims of war, disaster, pandemic and tragedy - remembering those killed in Queensland this past week, all whose memories are dear to us, and those who have no one to remember them.

Here is our prayer for the parish for use in your daily prayers for the coming month:

Gracious God, you call us to follow our Patron Philip encouraging others to 'Come and See.'

Raise up Churchwardens and Councillors from among us to faithfully serve your people and administer your community.

We pray in the name of the one who reconciles to you and to one another, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Greeting of Peace

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

and also with you.

Offertory Hymn (10am) 290 (TiS)

Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see
evermore and evermore.

O that birth for ever blessèd,
when the virgin full of grace,
by the Spirit's power conceiving,
bore the saviour of our race,
and the babe, the world's redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face
evermore and evermore.

This is he whom seers and sages
sang of old with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets
promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long-expected:
let creation praise its Lord
evermore and evermore.

In the heights of heaven adore him,
angel hosts his praises sing,
all dominions bow before him
and extol our God and king;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice together sing
evermore and evermore.

Aurelius Clemens Prudentius 348-c413

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.

As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now united on this table in bread and wine,
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together
from the corners of the earth
into your kingdom.

Amen.

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.

He is the one foretold by all the prophets,
whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling.

John the Baptist was his herald
and made him known when at last he came.

In his love Christ fills us with joy
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer,
our hearts filled with wonder and praise.

And so, with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your glory,
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

**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

Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:

show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Psalm 80:19

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: 294 (TiS)

Behold, a rose is growing,

of loveliest form and grace,

as prophets sang, foreknowing;

it springs from Jesse's race,

and comes a perfect flower,

in midst of coldest winter,
at deepest midnight hour.

Isaiah hath foretold it
in words of promise sure,
and Mary's arms enfold it -
a gentle maiden pure.
Through God's eternal will
this child to her is given
at midnight calm and still.

This rose, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendour
the darkness everywhere.
As human, yet true God,
from sin and death he saves us
and lightens every load.

O Saviour, child of Mary,
you felt our human woe;
O Saviour, King of glory,
you all our weakness know.
Lead us at last, we pray,
to the full joys of heaven
and into endless day.

Anon, German 15th cent.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

May God the Holy Spirit,
by whose working the virgin Mary conceived the Christ,
help you bear the fruits of holiness.
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

Reflection on the Gospel-4th Sunday of Advent Year A (Matthew 1:18-24) - One of my friends asked me what I would like for Christmas. "Nothing", was my immediate response. "I just want to spend time with community and family and friends, especially those who would otherwise be alone". And that's what I'll be doing, simply "being with". Being-with others in joy or sorrow or in the humdrum of life is probably the best gift we can offer and the best gift we can receive. It is not always possible to be present in person and, thankfully, true friends know that "being-with" is not restricted to physical presence. There is a sense in which those we love are always with us and we are always with them, even when the demands of life and our work or ministry choices separate us geographically. Real friends are "with-us" even in our absence and "being-with" in spirit or in person is closely allied with "being-for". Today's gospel affirms "being-with" as God's Christmas gift to us.

The first chapter of Matthew's gospel tells us that the expected child Messiah or Christ-child is "God-with-us", Emmanuel. The gospel will conclude with the assurance of the resurrected Christ, "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matt 28:20). As we celebrate the successive liturgical seasons in the coming year, we shall have the opportunity to enter into the gospel story of God with-us and with all of creation, and to live out the pattern of the Christ story more fully in our lives.

There is no angelic annunciation to Mary in Matthew's gospel, no

embrace of an expectant mother. There is no inn or innkeeper, no shepherds or shepherds' fields. These are all features of Luke's tableau. Matthew brings different features and different characters to centre stage. Chief among Matthew's characters is Joseph who, like Joseph of old, receives God's revelation in a series of dreams. The angelic announcement in today's gospel is to Joseph: he is not to be afraid, but is to accept the extraordinary ways of God which will bring salvation for God's people. Joseph trusts the word of God's messenger: he abandons his own plans and lives by faith in God.

If we try to harmonise the different gospel accounts of the events surrounding the birth of Jesus, we may lose some of the wondrous mystery of the feast we celebrate. If, on the other hand, we attend to the awesome truth that God is with us, then we might be more attentive to how we are with one another. We may also come to acknowledge our presence or "being-with" as a precious Christmas gift. Those who distance themselves from the community of life run the risk of succumbing to fear and of losing the joy in living. Acceptance of the truth that God is with us has the potential to drive out fear and to draw us into the deepest mysteries of life.

Veronica Lawson RSM

News

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".

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.

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/ for information on how to contribute.

The St John's Care Christmas gift room is now open. 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).

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love

REPLACING FEAR WITH LOVE FOR SRI LANKAN REFUGEES

After more than 25 years of civil war and despite 10 years of reconstruction, Sri Lanka is currently experiencing economic instability. Many Sri Lankan refugees living in exile in India are finally ready to make the journey home to the country they love. But the current economic crisis

and food shortages in Sri Lanka mean it's not safe for them to return, leaving many still needing continued support in the refugee camps.

Kavitha lives in a camp with her husband and two young children. She has suffered two miscarriages and was diagnosed with a blood condition during her pregnancy.

"They have given us a lot of support," said Kavitha. "I got medical advice when I was pregnant, and they checked my weight and health frequently. The treatment they arranged saved my life."

Thankfully our local partner, the Organisation for Eelam Refugees Rehabilitation (OfERR), with support from the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), has been providing vital medical care for refugees like Kavitha. She received injections that meant she could safely carry her baby to term.

"We cannot build a home here in India but we are scared of the uncertainty in Sri Lanka. We don't have a home there anymore – what would we do?

But if we stay, I worry we won't be able to provide a proper education for our children. Their future is not certain."

Through the Christmas Bowl you are helping continue to provide lifesaving medical care for refugees while they wait for Sri Lanka to be safe again. Once the crisis ends, families like

Kavitha's will finally be able to find a safe place to belong in their homeland.

Refugees from Sri Lanka need our ongoing support, especially those who need vital medical care as they prepare to finally make the journey back home. Thank you for sharing hope with people like Kavitha through the Christmas Bowl.

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.

Thank you to those of you who have responded to the briefing paper in last week's pew sheet and reproduced again today. This was developed following **our 'Parish Day'** recently. We want to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to respond to some of the issues we considered during that day. Please have a look through the paper prepared for us by our facilitator Dr Leanne Beagley and give some thought to the issues raised. If you wish, speak or write to one of the Wardens or Councillors, or chat with Martin. We are looking forward to producing a document for further prayer and consideration in the New Year and to assist us in our 'Missional Spirituality' project.

The folk at Kaleen are assisting The Rev'd Andrea De Vaal Horcui & the Embracing Ministries team with packing and delivering of hampers. Next Tuesday – 20 December at St Simon's at 10am. For more information contact Archdeacon Paul Cohen on 0407110309

The December edition of the *Anglican News* has been published. It can be accessed at

<https://stphilipsoconnor.org.au/news/anglicannews/>

Please let the parish know if you would like a printed copy.

New Year's Eve party All are invited to Leighton, Ruth & Zara's for New Year's Eve. From 8pm, Saturday 31 December. 26 Ashton Calvert St, Casey. BYO: something to share on the grazing table & whatever you wish to drink. Call or text Leighton for any further details 0418 686033

News from the Parish Council

- **Parish AGM** – The 2023 Parish AGM will be held on Sunday 26 February.
 - Deadline for reports Sunday 5 February
 - Distribution of reports Sunday 12 February
- **Capital works** – Council discussed the increasing number of repairs and maintenance requirements facing Parish buildings. It agreed to conduct an asset management audit, develop a prioritised repairs and maintenance program, and prepare a budget.
- **Termite activity** – A contractor has inspected and will deal with termites that have invaded the Kindergarten floor. Further inspections of the church and rectory will be conducted.
- **Opportunity to serve** – Positions on our Parish Clergy Appointment Board (CAB) will become vacant at the forthcoming AGM. We will need to elect three new lay members for the 3-year term of 2023–2025. Most of the time the CAB is dormant but it becomes active if a need arises to appoint a new Rector. The Clergy Appointment Board for a Parish comprises the Bishop (or nominee), Archdeacon (if requested), two priests, one Synod lay person and the three lay members of the Parish that we elect. Please chat to Martin or Alistair if you would like to discuss further.
- **Monthly prayer point** See the Prayers of the People section for a prayer for our Parish and for our Wardens and Parish Councillors.

This week @ St Philip's

Today	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>
8am	Eucharist
10am	Eucharist with Hymns
7pm	Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas <i>Please bring a plate of Supper to share.</i>
Tuesday 20 December	<i>Feria in Advent</i>
2pm	Eucharist – Sir Leslie Morshead Manor <i>(dependent upon restrictions)</i>
Thursday 22 December	<i>Feria in Advent</i>
10am	Eucharist and Baptism – Eloise Mcilwraith
Saturday 24 December	<i>Christmass Eve</i>
11.30pm	Blessing of the Crib and Midnight Mass <i>Readings: Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14</i>
Sunday 25 December	<i>Christmass Day</i>
9am	Festive Eucharist <i>Readings: Isaiah 52:7-10, Psalm 98, Hebrews 1:1-4, John 1:1-14</i>

Dates for 2023

Sunday 1 January	New Year's Day - Eucharist 9am
Tuesday 14 February	One Day Clergy Conference – ACC&C
Wednesday 22 February	Ash Wednesday
Saturday 25 February	Deacons Ordination, St Saviour's Cathedral, Goulburn 11am
Sunday 26 February	Parish AGM
Mon 6 - Friday 10 March	Clergy Retreat (Silent), St Clement's Retreat Centre Galong
Friday 7 April	Good Friday
Sunday 9 April	Easter Day
Sunday 7 May	SS Philip & James
Mon 8 - Thurs 11 May	Clergy Conference, Narooma Golf Club
Mon 7 - Thurs 10 August	Clergy Retreat (Semi-Silent), St Clement's Retreat Centre Galong
Fri 8 - Sun 10 Sept	Synod – Canberra Grammar School (1 st Session of the 48 th Synod)
Sat 25 November	Priests Ordination, St Saviour's Cathedral, Goulburn, 11.00am

Rosters

	December	18-Dec-22		18-Dec-22		24-Dec-22		25-Dec-22	1-Jan-23
	Sunday of Month	3rd		3rd				4th	1st
	Liturgical Season	4th Sunday of Advent		4th Sunday of Advent		Christmas Eve		Christmas Day	Second Sunday after Christmas
	Flowers					Flowers Team			
8am	Celebrant	Rev'd Martin							
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)	Rev'd Canon Scott							
	Sidespeople	Rhonda & Susan		<i>n/a</i>		<i>n/a</i>		<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
	Liturgical Assistant	Rev'd Martin							
	1st Bible reader - OT	Rebecca P							
	2nd Bible reader - NT	Julianne S							
10am	Celebrant	Rev'd Canon Scott		Rev'd Martin		Rev'd Martin		Rev'd Canon Scott	Rev'd Canon Scott
	Preacher (if different to Celebrant)								
	Sidespeople & Welcomer	Janene B & Richard G		<i>volunteers</i>		<i>volunteers</i>		Rhonda E & Susan J	Margaret & Russell
	Liturgical Assistant					Crucifer: Leighton Deacon: Rev'd Robin		Brian M	Lisa C
	Musician(s) & Singers/Soloist	Colin F		Colin F & Choir		Colin F		Colin F	
	1st Bible reader - OT	Liz D		<i>n/a</i>		<i>volunteer</i>		Margaret M	Jeanette D-T
	2nd Bible reader - NT	Tim G		<i>n/a</i>		Susan J		Russell M	Russell M
	Morning Tea	Liz D		Supper: Food @ St Philip's team		<i>n/a</i>		<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
	Additional details/notes	<i>School holidays</i>		<i>7pm: Nine Lessons & Carols followed with supper</i>		<i>11.30pm: Midnight Mass</i>		<i>9am: Eucharist</i>	<i>School Holidays</i>

A Briefing - St Philip's Parish Planning

The purpose of this paper

The Parish Council initiated a planning process in 2022 where we set some planning principles which you will see below and we arranged a day in October to draw people together and dream about the future for St Phillips. We are keen to make sure that everyone who would like to has a chance to dream with us, add your input and ideas and join the thinking.

We suggest you: read through these thoughts and then make a time to catch up with Martin or others from the Parish Council and have a conversation.

Parish Council Planning Principles

1. We need to start with what we have already – and understand and value this
2. What we have already includes the ministries that extend past our church door that include the Army chaplaincy, the kindergarten and the aged residential centres.
3. We need to take care with the language we use and seek to be inclusive and not jargonistic.
4. We need to take the whole congregation along with us so that we build engagement and sustainability in from the beginning.
5. We should not start anything new without a group of people committing to it – it's too hard to sustain new things alone.

6. We should allow ourselves to trial new things as 'pilots' and let the fail if needed. Some things will take hold and some things just won't and that's OK.
7. We believe that each person in our community has gifts and talents which we can encourage them to share, and just being part of our community is also OK.

We talked through the following questions – what are your thoughts?

1. What is **Mission of the Church**? What does the early church teach us about mission?
2. Revisiting **Past Planning Work** – were you at St Phillips in 2012? What did we learn from that time in our Parish life?
3. **Dreaming** about the future – what are your dreams for St Phillips?
4. **Our Diocese** – are there things about where we 'sit' as a worshipping community that could guide our thinking about the future
5. **Our local community** – what are the demographics of our area and what might this tell us about the unique opportunities we have on our doorstep?
6. **Our Parish** – what are the practical constraints we have? Safety and risk, finances, smaller congregation.
7. **Stand-out ideas** – what brilliant ideas do you have that you would like to share?
8. **Matters for caution** – traps & challenges?
9. **What are you optimistic about?**