



email: comeandsee@stphilipsoconnor.org.au

www.stphilipsoconnor.org.au

phone: 02 6161 7334

 @stphilipsoconnor

The Nativity of our Lord Christmas Eve 2022



Madonna and Child, Marianne Stokes (1855-1927), c1900. Tapestry.

Welcome to St Philip's

We acknowledge the Ngambri and Ngunnawal people, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we worship, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present and emerging. We extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who worship with us.

St Philip's COVID Safe 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 with more news and reflections 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'd like to volunteer as a reader, sidesperson, welcomer or another role on the Roster, then please email rosters@stphilipsoconnor.org.au

The Christmas flowers in the sanctuary are in loving memory of June and John Carnahan who enjoyed many Christmas morning services at St Philip's. The McCaskie family

From the Rector

Dear Friends,

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light... so said the prophet! Well this week has seen a renewal of the electrical system, including the lights in the church. This has been an important project for the Parish Council and sees the installation of a new power board including modern safety switches. Many thanks to Russell McCaskie for managing this project which ensures that we are fully compliant with modern electrical safety codes. Those of you who use the power board will see it looks very different, if you have any questions please come and see me.

In Rochester High Street, not so very far from my birthplace there is an ancient building with a plaque over the door. It reads:

RICHARD WATTS Esq
By his Will, dated 22 Aug. 1579,
founded this Charity
for Six poor travellers,
who not being ROGUES or PROCTORS,
May receive gratis for one Night,
Lodging, Entertainment,
and Fourpence each.

Dickens knew this place and wrote a Christmas short story about it called 'Hospitality for the Homeless.' It is a typical piece of Dickensian prose and reminded me that homelessness is at the heart of the Christmas narrative and of the life of Jesus, and it remains so for many today. The words 'And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.' Say little but say much, they are so familiar we take little notice, this is the context of our celebration. Homelessness remains an issue for our time and God is still searching for a home within each of us.

If you are visiting St Philip's can I take this opportunity of welcoming you to our Christmas liturgies; I hope you enjoy the worship and are engaged and inspired. If you'd like to know more about this worshipping community, our Website is a treasure trove and wonderful resource <http://stphilipsoconnor.org.au/> To those of you who are members of this community thank you for another year of worshipping and growing in faith, thank you for your friendship and faithfulness. And to everyone a very happy and holy Christmas and blessings in the New Year.

Martin

rector@stphilipsoconnor.org.au
0478 619 911

The Liturgy for Christmas Eve

Entrance Antiphon

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; for to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

Isaiah 9:2,6

Introit Hymn 304 vv1-3, 5,6. (TiS)

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him

born the king of angels:

*Refrain: O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

True God of true God,
Light of Light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father,
begotten, not created: *Refrain*

See how the shepherds
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with holy fear;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps: *Refrain*

Child, for us sinners
poor and in the manger,
fain we embrace thee with love and awe;
who would not love thee,
loving us so dearly? *Refrain*

Blessing of the Crib

A hallowed day is dawning upon us. Come and worship the Lord:
for a great light has shone on the earth.

Hear the words of the book of Wisdom: When peaceful silence lay over all and night was in the midst of her swift course, from your royal throne, O God, down from the heavens, leapt your almighty Word.

Hear the words of Saint John: God's love for us was revealed when God sent his only Son into the world so that we could have life through him.

Thanks be to God.

God our Father, on this night your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation: bless this crib, which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth; may all who see it be strengthened in faith and receive the fullness of life he came to bring, who is alive and reigns for ever.

Amen.

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above,
'Glory to God,
glory in the highest':

*Refrain: O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

Anon, possibly by John Francis Wade c1711-86

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.**

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins in penitence and faith:

God our Father,
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Jesus our Saviour,
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
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.**

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

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray: Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Tonight's Readings

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah (9:2-7)

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—

on them light has shined.
³ You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
⁴ For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷ His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.
For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96

O sing to the Lord a new song:
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**Sing to the Lord and bless his holy name:
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**

Declare his glory among the nations:
and his wonders among all peoples.

**For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised:
he is more to be feared than all gods.**

As for all the gods of the nations, they are mere idols:
it is the Lord who made the heavens.

**Majesty and glory are before him:
beauty and power are in his sanctuary.**

Render to the Lord, you families of the nations:
render to the Lord glory and might.

**Render to the Lord the honour due to his name:
bring offerings and come into his courts.**

O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness:
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

**Say among the nations that the Lord is king:
he has made the world so firm that it can never be moved;
and he shall judge the peoples with equity.**

Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad:
let the sea roar, and all that fills it:

**Let the fields rejoice, and everything in them :
then shall all the trees of the wood
shout with joy before the Lord;**

For he comes, he comes to judge the earth:
he shall judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth.

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus (2:11-14)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual hymn 313 (TiS)

Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
listen well to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today,
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now!
Christ is born today,
Christ is born today.

Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now you hear of endless bliss,
Jesus Christ was born for this;
he has opened heaven's door,
and you are blest for evermore;
Christ was born for this,
Christ was born for this.

Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now you need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save,
calls you one and calls you all,
to gain his everlasting hall;
Christ was born to save,
Christ was born to save.

John Mason Neale 1818-66

Alleluia,

Alleluia!

I bring you news of great joy: today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord. *Luke 2:10-11*

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (2:1-20)

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a

multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.
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: Ben, Hugh, Sarah, David, Otto, Bob, Noel, Deborah, Sue, Molly, Katherine, David & Margot, 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.
- that we will be generous in supporting this important work of our sister Anglican Church in Vanuatu.

We commend to God the recently departed, especially Dorothy Carley, those whose anniversaries fall at this time: Derek Williams (25/12/2013), Emma Johnson (25/12/1952), Norma Reynolds (28/12/2000), the victims of war, disaster, pandemic and tragedy 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

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Hymn 301 (TiS)

The first nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Refrain: Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the king of Israel.*

When they looked up they saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain*

This star drew nigh to the north-west;
over Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

Then entered in those wise men three
and reverently, upon their knee,
they offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. *Refrain*

Now let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,

who has made heaven and earth from naught,
and with his blood salvation bought. *Refrain*

Anon, English 17th Cent.

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.

Word made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.

Amen.

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.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,
and on this night was born of the Virgin Mary
by the power of your Spirit,
and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

In him we see our God made visible
and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful 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

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

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

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Communion Antiphon

The bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

John 6:33

Post Communion hymn 311 (TiS)

Silent night, holy night:
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child,
holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night!, holy night:
shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing, 'Alleluia!
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.'

Silent night, holy night:!
Wondrous star, lend your light;
with the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King;
Christ our Saviour is born,
Christ our Saviour is born.

Joseph Mohr 1792-1848

The Sending out of God's People

Let us pray:

God of heaven, dwelling among us,
we thank you for feeding us with this holy food.
By your grace keep us ever faithful
to your Word made flesh
that as his body in the world
we may bring your presence to all people.

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.

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will; 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.

Recessional Hymn 303 (TiS)

Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,

God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all you nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem'.

*Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing,
glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased in human flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel. *Refrain*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings:
mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more need die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

Charles Wesley 1707-88

News

Many thanks to all those who have donated food and other essentials to **St John's Care** during the year. No doubt the high demand on the services offered will continue into the New Year given the present economic situation. If you wish to contribute to this ministry Donate online through their website <https://www.stjohnscare.org.au/>, ring St John's Care with your credit card details on: 02 6248 7771, post your donation to St John's Care, GPO Box 219, Canberra. 2601, or transfer your donation directly to the St John's Care account: BSB 702 389 Account No 0520 9490
Donations over \$2.00 are tax-deductible. All donated funds remain in Canberra.

You may wish to become a volunteer. Volunteering is a rewarding experience. It gives you a chance to get involved with something you feel passionately about and use your skills to help others. St John's Care offers hands-on opportunities for volunteers to work for the sake of others.

Goods currently in short supply

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)
Toothpaste	Shampoo & Conditioner	Coffee 100gm jar

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.

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 place on the grazing table & whatever you wish to drink. Call or text Leighton for any further details 0418 686 033

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

Week 6 Christmas Day: Light of the world

THE FUTURE SHALL BE BRIGHT FOR DISPLACED FAMILIES

The global displacement crisis and ongoing war in Ukraine is causing food shortages that are impacting the communities we serve. Through the Christmas Bowl, you will help local partners provide refugees with food, care, and lifesaving support.

Mugisha*, her sister and two young children are just one of the millions of families living as refugees around the world. They fled to Kenya after conflict broke out in her home country of Congo six years ago.

Living as a refugee meant that simple things like having enough food or money for rent was already a daily struggle. But now the growing global food crisis has made it even harder to afford food, pushing millions of families like Mugisha's to the brink of famine.

And with the number of people uprooted from their homes at record levels, lifesaving aid is being stretched too thin, leaving many refugees at breaking-point.

But by bringing together committed Australian Christians with dedicated local partners around the world, we can give hope in these dark times.

Mugisha explained, "food has helped us so much. You can't live without eating, you can't work without eating."

While supporting people with lifesaving support, you will also help tackle the root causes of displacement, promote more compassion for refugees, advocate for a fairer international system and ultimately help to create, together, a world where uprooted people have a safe place to belong.

*Mugisha's name has been changed for safety reasons.

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.

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.

Thank you to those of you who have responded to the briefing paper in the pew sheet over these last two weeks. 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.

Reflection

True and Lasting Joy – Bishop Mark Short 16 December, 2022

Christmas reminds us that true and lasting joy is a gift we receive not a state we achieve. In his webpost 'How to Find Joy' (www.tonyrobbins.com/mind-meaning/how-tofind-joy) life coach Anthony Robbins lists nine ways in which we can be more present and feel more joy. Almost all are about what we do – everything from 'Surround Yourself with Positive People' to 'Create Positive Rituals' to 'Change Your Physiology'.

How different is the message from the angels to the shepherds the first Christmas, as recorded in Luke's Gospel Chapter Two Verse Ten: 'Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.'

Here joy comes to us. Instead of being the possession of a few who are able to master the right techniques this joy is available to all the people without distinction. This joy is good news for us, not good news about us.

And what is that good news? The angel continues: 'to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.'

The birth of any child is good news, but this birth and this child is uniquely good. This child is a Saviour, one who comes to rescue people from sin and death. This child is the Messiah, the long-awaited leader for God's people. This child is the Lord, the one who deserves our love and honour and service. This child will be named Jesus, and in his life, death and rising he will do all that is needed to bring us back to God. That is great news, and if we receive it and believe it this news is reason to be full of joy.

Christmas can be a time of stress and anxiety, especially if we feel we have to create joy for ourselves and for others. Christmas can instead be a time of peace and gratitude, if we are able to rest in the joy Jesus made for us.

May God bless you and those you love with a joyful and peaceful Christmas, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

+Mark

This week @ St Philip's

Tonight	<i>Christmass Eve</i>
11.30pm	Blessing of the Crib and Midnight Mass
Sunday 25 December	<i>Christmass Day</i>
9am	Festive Eucharist
Saturday 31 December	<i>John Wyclif, teacher & reformer (d.1384)</i>
11am	Eucharist – Canberra Aged Care – <i>subject to restrictions</i>
Sunday 1 January	<i>The Naming & Circumcision of Jesus</i>
9am	Eucharist with hymns
	<i>Readings: Numbers 6:22-27, Psalm 8, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:15-21</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		24-Dec-22		25-Dec-22	1-Jan-23		8-Jan-23			
Sunday of Month				4th	1st		2nd			
Liturgical Season		Christmas Eve		Christmas Day	Second Sunday after Christmas		Baptism of The Lord (First Sunday after the Epiphany)			
Flowers		Flowers Team			Flowers Team		Flowers Team			
Celebrant		<i>n/a</i>		<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	8am	Rev'd Canon Scott			
Preacher (if different to Celebrant)										
Sidespeople										Alison & Alistair
Liturgical Assistant										Ellie P
1st Bible reader - OT										Alison D
2nd Bible reader - NT										Alistair D
Celebrant		Rev'd Martin		Rev'd Canon Scott	Rev'd Canon Scott	10am	Rev'd Martin			
Preacher (if different to Celebrant)				Rev'd Martin			Rev'd Canon Scott			
Sidespeople & Welcomer		<i>volunteers</i>		Rhonda E & Susan J	Margaret & Russell		Helen & Hardy			
Liturgical Assistant	11.30pm	Crucifer: Leighton	9am	Brian M	Lisa C		Rebecca K			
Musician(s) & Singers/Soloist		Colin F		Colin F				Colin F		
1st Bible reader - OT		<i>volunteer</i>		Margaret M	Jeanette D-T				Ashton R	
2nd Bible reader - NT		Susan J		Russell M	Russell M				Jos G	
Morning Tea				<i>n/a</i>			<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>self serve</i>	
Additional details/notes		<i>11.30pm: Midnight Mass</i>		<i>9am: Eucharist</i>	<i>School Holidays</i>		<i>School Holidays</i>			

A happy and holy Christmas to you all and every blessing for 2023