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The Nativity of our Lord Christmas Day 2022



Madonna and Child c1907. Marianne Stokes (1855-1927)
Tempera on Panel. Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester, UK

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 Day

Introit Hymn 304 vv1-3, 5-7. (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*

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

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesus to thee be glory given
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing. *Refrain*

Anon, possibly by John Francis Wade c1711-86

Entrance Antiphon

**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
And the Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth.**

John 1:1,14

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:

God most high, whose eternal Word chose a dwelling place among us,
that we might live in your presence:
grant us a spirit of wisdom to know how rich is the glory you have given us,
and how great is the hope to which we are called in the Word made flesh;
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Today's Readings

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah (52:7-10)

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'

⁸ Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.

⁹ Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,

he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰ The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98

O sing to the Lord a new song :
for he has done marvellous things;

**His right hand and his holy arm:
they have got him the victory.**

The Lord has made known his salvation:
he has revealed his just deliverance in the sight of the nations.

**He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness
towards the house of Israel:
and all the ends of the earth
have seen the salvation of our God.**

Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth:
break into singing and make melody.

**Make melody to the Lord upon the harp:
upon the harp and with the sounds of praise.**

With trumpets and with horns:
cry out in triumph before the Lord, the king.

**Let the sea roar, and all that fills it:
the good earth and those who live upon it.**

Let the rivers clap their hands:
and let the mountains ring out together before the Lord;

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

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews (1:1-4)

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual hymn 293 (TiS)

Unto us a boy is born!
The King of all creation,
Came he to a world forlorn,
The Lord of every nation.

Cradled in a stall was he
With sleepy cows and asses;
But the very beasts could see
That he us all surpasses.

Herod then with fear was filled:
"A prince," he said, "in Jewry!"
And all the little boys he killed
At Bethlem in his fury.

Now may Mary's son, who came
So long ago to love us,

Lead us all with hearts aflame
Unto the joys above us.

Alpha and Omega he!
Now let the organ thunder,
While the choir with peals of glee
now rends the air asunder.

Anon Latin 15th cent

Alleluia,

Alleluia!

I bring you news of great joy: today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia!

Luke 2:10-11

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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.
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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 299 (TiS)

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
an angel of the Lord came down
and glory shone around.

'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind),
'glad tidings of great joy I bring
you and all humankind.

'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

'the heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling clothes
and in a manger laid.'

Thus spoke the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels, praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high,
and to the world be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to earth
begin and never cease.'

Nahum Tate 1652-1715

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 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 292 (TiS)

Infant holy,
infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing,
little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all;
swift are winging
angels singing,
nowells ringing,
tidings bringing,
Christ the babe is Lord of all,
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping,
shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory,
heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true;
thus rejoicing,
free from sorrow,
praises voicing
greet the morrow,
Christ the babe was born for you,
Christ the babe was born for you.

Polish Carol 13th cent?

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 312 (TiS)

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and His shelter was a stable,
and His cradle was a stall;
with the poor despised and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all his wondrous childhood,
day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him: but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high,
when his children gather round
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

Cecil Frances Alexander 1818-95

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

Today

9am

Christmass Day

Festive Eucharist

Saturday 31 December

11am

John Wyclif, teacher & reformer (d.1384)

Eucharist – Canberra Aged Care – *subject to restrictions*

Sunday 1 January

9am

The Naming & Circumcision of Jesus

Eucharist with hymns

Readings: Numbers 6:22-27, Psalm 8, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:15-21

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>

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

Sat 25 November

(1st Session of the 48th Synod)
Priests Ordination, St Saviour's Cathedral, Goulburn, 11.00am

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