



Empty Tomb, 2018. Claire Curneen (Irish, 1968–).

Porcelain. Blue and gold ooze from a series of gaping wounds, like the unmingled blood and water that flowed from the side of the dead Christ. With the tip of one finger, this elegiac figure gently points out one of these openings, echoing Saint Thomas, who needed to touch Jesus's wounded side before he could believe.

Second Sunday of Easter

Sunday 16 April 2023

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 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 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

From the Rector

Dear Friends

I hope that those of you who were with us during Holy Week and Easter felt engaged and even energized by the worship. To gather at dawn around the new fire having endured the drama of Maundy Thursday, the desperation of Good Friday and the silent desolation of Holy Saturday is quite something. I am not sure I know of any drama, opera, or symphony that can take us on such a journey of emotion, expectation and joy. Thank you to all of you who helped prepare the church, who read, cooked and catered, or simply journeyed.

The Parish Council met during the week and moved to restore some of the 'traditions' set aside during the worst of the COVID Pandemic, see the 'Key Points' below.

At the 10am Sunday Eucharist particularly, you will notice that the Gospel book is now adorned with an elaborate cover. This gold-plated relief which has been gifted to St Philip's originated in an Orthodox monastery in Cyprus. In each corner are depictions of the four evangelists, around the edge are images of the passion - from the Last Supper to the discovery of the empty tomb and the centrepiece is an icon of Christ rising in triumph. It is a lovely and valuable thing; we are indeed blessed.

The Council has also adopted the Parish Plan for 2023-2025 which was presented in draft form at the AGM, more on this in our news section below. At our last 'Missional Spirituality' seminar we were introduced to the 'Arusha call to discipleship,' I have reproduced it here today for our reflection, as we strive to live as disciples of the risen Christ.

Blessings to you all for this Easter season,

Martin

Eucharist for the second Sunday of Easter

Introit Hymn 379 (TiS) (10am)

He is risen, he is risen!

Tell it with a joyful voice:

he has burst his three days' prison,

let the whole wide earth rejoice.

Death is conquered, we are free,

Christ has won the victory.

Come with high and holy gladness,

sing our Lord's triumphant song:

not one touch of twilight sadness

dims his resurrection morn;

brightly dawns the radiant east,

brighter far our Easter feast.

He is risen, he is risen!

he has opened heaven's gate:

we are free from sin's dark prison,

risen to a holier state;

soon a brighter Easter beam

on our longing eyes shall stream.

Cecil Frances Alexander 1818-95

Entrance Antiphon

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3

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 our Passover has been sacrificed for us, therefore we come to celebrate the festival.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, with a sincere and true heart.

We have lived by our own strength,
and not by the power of your resurrection.
In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,
as faithless and not believing.
In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone,
and doubted our home in heaven.
In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

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

Amen.

Kyrie (sung at 10am)



Lord have mer-cy on us! Lord have mer - cy on us! Lord have mer-cy on us!
Christ have mer-cy on us! Christ have mer - cy on us! Christ have mer-cy on us!
Lord have mer-cy on us! Lord have mer - cy on us! Lord have mer-cy on us!

Gloria (sung at 10am)

**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 righthand 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:

Almighty God, Whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life of all who put their trust in him:

raise us, we pray, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness;

that we may ever seek the things which are above, where he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Today's Readings

A reading from the book of Acts (2:14a, 22-32)

Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by

God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him, “I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.”

²⁹ ‘Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,
“He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.”

³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.
For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 16

Preserve me, O God:

for in you have I taken refuge.

**I have said to the Lord, You are my lord:
and all my good depends on you.**

As for those who are held holy on the earth:
the other gods in whom men delight,

Though the idols are many that men run after: their offerings of blood I will not offer, nor take their name upon my lips.

The Lord is my appointed portion and my cup:
you hold my lot in your hands.

**The share that has fallen to me is in pleasant places:
and a fair land is my possession.**

I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel:
at night also he has instructed my heart.

**I have set the Lord always before me:
he is at my right hand, and I shall not fall.**

Therefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices:
my flesh also shall rest secure.

**For you will not give me over to the power of death:
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.**

You will show me the path of life: in your presence is the fulness of joy,
and from your right hand flow delights for evermore.

A reading from first letter of Peter (1:1-12)

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To the exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ²who have been chosen and destined by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit to be obedient to Jesus Christ and to be sprinkled with his blood: May grace and peace be yours in abundance.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. ¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours made careful search and inquiry, ¹¹inquiring

about the person or time that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated, when it testified in advance to the sufferings destined for Christ and the subsequent glory. ¹²It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in regard to the things that have now been announced to you through those who brought you good news by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look!

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn 376 (TiS) (10am)

I know that my Redeemer lives -
what joy this blest assurance gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
he lives, my everlasting Head.

He lives, to bless me with his love:
he lives, to plead for me above;
he lives my hungry soul to feed;
he lives to help in time of need.

He lives, and grants me daily breath;
he lives, and I shall conquer death;
he lives, my mansion to prepare;
he lives, to lead me safely there.

He lives, all glory to his name;
he lives, my Saviour, still the same;
what joy the blest assurance gives,
I know that my Redeemer lives!

Samuel Medley 1738-99

Alleluia,

Alleluia!

Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (20:19-31)

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' ²⁸Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

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: Ian, John, 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 are continuing to offer support to the ABM project in Vanuatu following the recent cyclones and earthquake. Here is prayer for you to use:

Loving God, console and strengthen all who have been affected by recent cyclones in Vanuatu, those who have lost their gardens – the source of their food, those who have lost their homes, and the children whose schooling has been disrupted. Through the support and generosity of our churches in Vanuatu and Australia, may they find a way to recovery and rebuilding.

We make our prayer in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We commend to God the recently departed, those whose anniversaries fall at this time: Irene Keast (17/4/2004) and Noel Collins (18/4/1970), the victims of war, pandemic and tragedy, those whose memories are dear to us, and those who have no one to remember them.

In your daily prayer this month please pray for our parish as we seek to live in the light of Christ's resurrection:

Jesus Christ, whose resurrection has shed new light on all things and renews creation:

open our hearts and minds that our parish and community may see anew.

May our worship in Spirit and Truth, lead others to know the new life of Easter and the peace that it brings.

We pray in your name, you who reconcile us to God and each other in the power of the Spirit.

Amen.

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.'

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Hymn 517 (TiS) (10am)

Hallelujah! sing to Jesus,

his the sceptre, his the throne;

hallelujah! his the triumph,

his the victory alone;
hark, the songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:
'Jesus out of every nation
has redeemed us by his blood.'

Hallelujah! not as orphans,
are we left in sorrow now;
hallelujah! he is near us,
faith believes, nor questions how;
though the cloud from sight received him
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise,
'I am with you evermore'?

Hallelujah! bread of heaven,
and on earth our food, our stay;
hallelujah! here the sinful
flee to you from day to day;
intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's redeemer, plead for me
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.

Hallelujah! King eternal,
you the Lord of lords we own;
hallelujah! born of Mary,
earth your footstool, heav'n your throne:
you within the veil have entered,
robed in flesh, our great high priest;
you on earth both priest and victim
in the eucharistic feast.

William Chatterton Dix 1837-98

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.

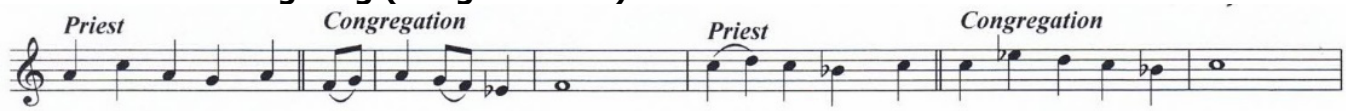
Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit
of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.

Blessed be God for ever.


Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Great Thanksgiving (sung at 10am)



The Lord be with you: And al - so 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, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and in these days of Easter

to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death and hell
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.

He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with gladness,
while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
sing for ever the hymn of your glory (sung at 10am):



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of po-wer and might: Hea-ven and earth are
full of your glo-ry, Ho - san - na in the High - est. Bles-sed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the High - est.

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,
and be made one with him and with each other
in peace and love.

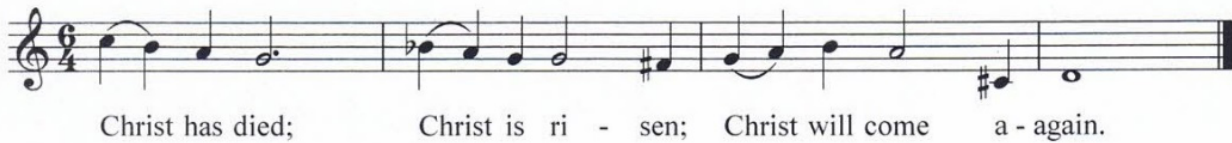
On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

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,

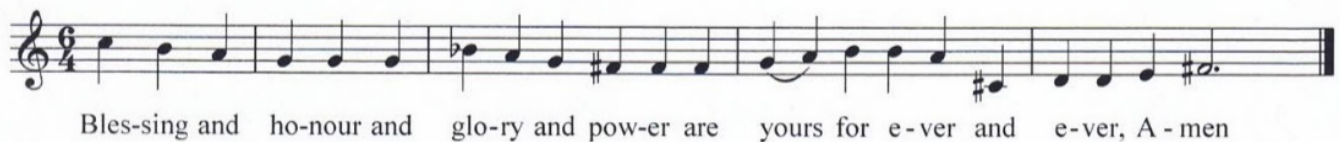
we celebrate with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith (sung at 10am):



As we eat and drink this holy sacrament
renew us by your Spirit,
that we may be united in the body of your Son
and serve you as a royal priesthood
in the joy of your eternal kingdom;

Receive our praises, Father,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
we worship you,
in songs of never-ending praise (sing at 10am):



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.**

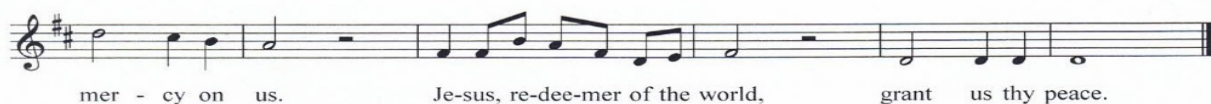
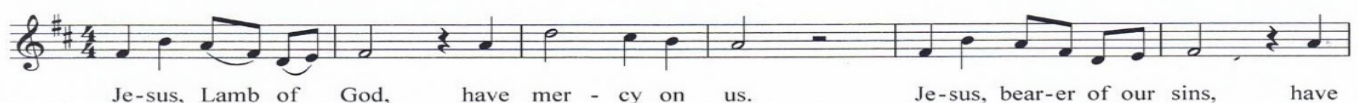
**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

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.

Agnus Dei (sung at 10am)



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

**I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken.**

Acts 2:25

The sending out of God's people

Let us pray:

Most glorious Lord of life, we thank you that you nourish us in these Easter mysteries.

Fill us with the Spirit of love and unite us in faith,

that we may witness to the resurrection and show your glory to all the world.

Most loving God, **you send us into the world you love. Give us grace to
go thankfully and with courage in the power of your Spirit.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you what is pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, ✠ the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Recessional Hymn 392 (TiS) (10am)

At the dawning of salvation;
in the morning of the world,
Christ is raised, a living banner
by the love of God unfurled,
Through the daylight, through the darkness,
Christ leads on his great array:
all the saints and all the sinners
he has gathered on his way.

He is risen in the morning,
he is risen from the dead;
he is laughter after sadness,
he is light when night has fled.
He has suffered, he has triumphed,
life is his alone to give:
as he gave it once he gives it
evermore, that we may live.

For the glory of salvation
in the dawn of Easter day
we will praise you, loving Father;
we rejoice to sing and pray
with the Son and with the Spirit
Lead us on, your great array,
saints and sinners celebrating
your triumphant love today.

Jock Curle 1919-

Key Points from the April Parish Council meeting

Common Cup: Parish Council agreed to re-introduce the Common Cup and kneeling at the altar rail from 7 May. Communion by intinction will also be offered as usual.

Gospel reading: Council agreed to resume the proclamation of the Gospel from the centre aisle.

Parish Plan 2023–25: Council adopted the St Philip's Parish Plan 2023–25 and agreed to begin implementation immediately.

Termite treatment: A contractor is scheduled to treat the termite infestation affecting the church this weekend - 15–16 April. The contractor will treat the Kindy over multiple weekends once a convenient date has been agreed.

Rectory tree: Council agreed to liaise with ACT Government regarding options to manage the liquidambar tree in the rectory front garden.

At this year's AGM we were asked to consider a draft **Parish Plan for 2023-2025**. Parish Council has adopted and will be integrated into our strategies and projects. As a reminder these five elements were seen as central to our ongoing life together: spiritual, worship, missional, community and financial. At each meeting we will be using one or more of these 'nudges' to guide our discussions. In the Sunday pew sheet there will be news and reflections on the projects that we are undertaking that align with our plan.

News

The Pandora's Winter Launch on Saturday 29 April from 10am-2pm, will also include:

- St Philip's Books
- Food @ St Philip's Devonshire Tea.

The Rev'd Dr Colin Dundon has written for us another series called *From Fear to Witness*. Based on the Sunday readings between Easter and Pentecost, you will find each study linked week-by-week on the home page of our website. If you would like a printed copy please let Martin know. This is a series to complement our Missional Spirituality Project.

St John's Care is seeking the following for its pantry: 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. The website <https://www.stjohnscare.org.au/> provides information on how we can help.

During the winter of 2022 a number of us reflected on the **Uluru Statement** through a study created by ABM. Since then much has been written and said about the statement and the proposed Constitutional 'Voice.'

Sadly the matter of the Indigenous Voice to Parliament has become a highly charged political issue, with the resultant division that this brings. Aware that there are many differing points of view within our own community, the following, written by The Revd Glenn Loughrey the Vicar of St Oswald's Glen Iris, is offered for our reflection. Glenn is an indigenous man and one of the authors of the ABM study.

The Statement from the Heart and the gentle invitation in its last paragraph reminds us that this too is an act of absurd compassion in the image of God and Christ. The statement carries no demands, no threats, no accusations, simply a generous invitation from those who suffered and are suffering to those who benefit from their suffering. The Voice asks for nothing more than that Australia listens to the people who have been here from the Dreaming and deserve the right to speak on matters that impact them.

In doing so we will begin the journey of justice and healing encapsulated in the four words of "atonement, forgiveness, love, and hope."

You can read Glenn's blog here: <https://www.redshoeswalking.net/in-response-to-mr-duttons-easter-message/>

This is an issue that is resonating with many in our Parish Community and beyond. Glenn Loughrey has been released from parish duties by the Archbishop of Melbourne to be the Diocesan Educator and Advocate for the Voice during the duration of the campaign leading up to the Referendum.

Glenn will be visiting other Dioceses to speak on this issue.

Glenn's Parish - St Oswald's, Glen Iris has committed to supporting him during this time and paying his stipend. In turn, some members of the St Philip's community have committed themselves to support St Oswald's. If you would like to know more about this support, please speak to Martin.

Reflection The Arusha Call to Discipleship:

World Council of Churches, Arusha Tanzania 2018

We joyfully celebrated the life-giving movement of the Spirit of God in our time, drawing particular inspiration from African contexts and spiritualities. Through Bible study, common prayer and worship, and by sharing our stories together, we were encouraged to be witnesses to the reign of God that has come to us through the life, crucifixion, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Despite some glimmers of hope, we had to reckon with death-dealing forces that are shaking the world order and inflicting suffering on many. We observed the shocking accumulation of wealth due to one global financial system, which enriches few and impoverishes many (Isaiah 5:8). This is at the root of many of today's wars, conflicts, ecological devastation, and suffering (1 Timothy 6:10). This global imperial system has made the financial market one of the idols of our time. It has also strengthened cultures of domination and discrimination that continue to marginalize and exclude millions, forcing some among us into conditions of vulnerability and exploitation. We are mindful that people on the margins bear the heaviest burden.

These issues are not new for 2018, but the Holy Spirit continues to move at this time, and urgently calls us as Christian communities to respond with personal and communal conversion, and a transforming discipleship.

Discipleship is both a gift and a calling to be active collaborators with God for the transforming of the world (1 Thessalonians 3:2). In what the church's early theologians called "theosis" or deification, we share God's grace by sharing God's mission. This journey of discipleship leads us to share and live out God's love in Jesus Christ by seeking justice and peace in ways that are different from the world (John 14:27). Thus, we are responding to Jesus' call to follow him from the margins of our world (Luke 4:16-19).

As disciples of Jesus Christ, both individually and collectively: We are called by our baptism to transforming discipleship: a Christ-connected way of life in a world where many face despair, rejection, loneliness, and worthlessness.

We are called to worship the one Triune God—the God of justice, love, and grace—at a time when many worship the false god of the market system (Luke 16:13).

We are called to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ—the fullness of life, the repentance and forgiveness of sin, and the promise of eternal life—in word and deed, in a violent world where many are sacrificed to the idols of death (Jeremiah 32:35) and where many have not yet heard the gospel.

We are called to joyfully engage in the ways of the Holy Spirit, who empowers people from the margins with agency, in the search for justice and dignity (Acts 1:8; 4:31).

We are called to discern the word of God in a world that communicates many contradictory, false, and confusing messages.

We are called to care for God's creation, and to be in solidarity with nations severely affected by climate change in the face of a ruthless human-centered exploitation of the environment for consumerism and greed.

We are called as disciples to belong together in just and inclusive communities, in our quest for unity and on our ecumenical journey, in a world that is based upon marginalization and exclusion.

We are called to be faithful witnesses of God's transforming love in dialogue with people of other faiths in a world where the politicization of religious identities often causes conflict.

We are called to be formed as servant leaders who demonstrate the way of Christ in a world that privileges power, wealth, and the culture of money (Luke 22:25-27).

We are called to break down walls and seek justice with people who are dispossessed and displaced from their lands—including migrants, refugees and asylum seekers—and to resist new frontiers and borders that separate and kill (Isaiah 58:6-8).

We are called to follow the way of the cross, which challenges elitism, privilege, personal and structural power (Luke 9:23).

We are called to live in the light of the resurrection, which offers hope-filled possibilities for transformation. *This is a call to transforming discipleship.*

This week @ St Philip's

| | |
|--|---|
| Today | <i>Second Sunday of Easter</i> |
| 8am | Eucharist (followed by Breakfast) |
| 10am | Sung Eucharist (followed by Morning tea) |
| Tuesday 18 April | <i>Tuesday in the second week of Easter</i> |
| 10am-Noon | Men's Group |
| Wednesday 19 April | <i>Wednesday in the second week of Easter</i> |
| 10am-Noon | Pandora's sorting & preparation |
| Thursday 20 April | <i>Thursday in the second week of Easter</i> |
| 10am | Eucharist |
| Saturday 22 April | <i>Saturday in the second week of Easter</i> |
| 10am - 1pm | Pandora's - OPEN and the Summer Clearance continues |
| 11am | Morning Prayer - Kankinya |
| Sunday 23 April | <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i> |
| 8am | Eucharist (followed by Breakfast) |
| 10am | Sung Eucharist (followed by Morning tea) |
| <i>Readings: Acts 2:14a, 36-41, Psalm 116 1-4, 11-18, 1 Peter 1:13-25, Luke 24:13-35</i> | |

Rosters

| | | 16-Apr-23 | 23-Apr-23 | 30-Apr-23 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Sunday of Month | | 3rd | 4th | 5th |
| Liturgical Season | | 2nd Sunday of Easter | 3rd Sunday of Easter | 4th Sunday of Easter |
| Flowers | | Jeannette M | Kerry-Anne | Kerry-Anne |
| Celebrant | | Rev'd Martin | Rev'd Martin | Rev'd Martin |
| Preacher (if different to Celebrant) | | | | |
| Sidespeople | | Rhonda & Susan | Shane & Tim | Shane & Tim |
| Liturgical Assistant | 8am | | | |
| Audio Visual Operator | | ? | Brian McK (Lit assistant) | ? |
| 1st Bible reader - OT | | Rebecca P | Shane W | Susan J |
| 2nd Bible reader - NT | | Julianne S | Shane W | ? |
| | | | | |
| Celebrant | | Rev'd Martin | Rev'd Martin | Rev'd Martin |
| Preacher (if different to Celebrant) | | | | |
| Sidespeople & Welcomer | | Jeannette M, Laura W | Richard G & Sally A | Fred & volunteer |
| Liturgical Assistant | 10am | ? | Philippa W (Lit assistant) | |
| Audio Visual Operator | | | | |
| Musician(s) & Singers/Soloist | | Colin F | Colin F | Colin F |
| 1st Bible reader - OT | | Ann M | Ashton R | Kerry-Anne |
| 2nd Bible reader - NT | | Fred A | Jeanette D | Jos G |
| Morning Tea | | Janene | Helen P | Liz D |
| | | | | |

Dates for your Diary

| | | |
|-------------------|------------|--|
| Saturday 29 April | 10am - 2pm | Pandora's Winter Lunch , will also include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Philip's Books • Food @ St Philip's Devonshire Tea. |
| Sunday 7 May | | SS Philip & James - Patronal Festival Following 10am service - a soup lunch will be served |
| Saturday 27 May | 2pm - 4pm | Missional Spirituality - Seminar 3, 2-4pm |

Fri 8-Sun 10 Sept

Diocesan Synod Canberra GS

St Philips O'Connor, ACT

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