

Prayers of the People

In our prayers we remember all in need, particularly: Brian, Ann & John, David & Margot, and David, and those unable to gather with us, those in hospital or care.

We commend to God the recently departed, those whose year's mind falls at this time: Alice Saylor (20/12/1988), Bryan Coombs (20/12/2019) and Dorothy Carley (20/12/2022), the victims of war, terrorism, disease and tragedy, those whose memories are dear to us and those remembered only by God.

This week @ St Philip's

Sun	11:30pm	Midnight Mass
Mon	9am	Christmas Day Eucharist
Thu	11am	Eucharist, Canberra Aged Care

Next Sunday

31 December	5th Sunday of Month
Liturgical Season	1st Sunday after Christmas
Flowers	Flowers Team
Isaiah 61.10-62.3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4.4-7; Luke 2.22-40	

8am

10am

Celebrant	Rev'd Emma	Rev'd Emma
Preacher if not Celebrant		
Liturgical Assistant		
Sidespeople/Welcomers		
AV Operator		
Musicians		Colin
Readers OT, NT		
Morning Tea		<i>Self Serve</i>
https://stphilipsoconnor.org.au/news/rosters/		

Calendar

Fri	2 Feb		AGM reports due to comeandsee@
Sun	24 Feb	11:15am	Parish AGM
https://stphilipsoconnor.org.au/news/calendar.php			



24-25 December 2023

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

Today: 11:30pm Midnight Mass

Tomorrow: 9am Eucharist

Welcome to St Philip's

We are delighted you are here, especially visitors on the web!

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.

Pewsheets. This pewsheets is available on our website. The QR code in the pews will direct you to the current edition.

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.

Offertory. St Philip's provides three ways for you to contribute. ♦ During the service we collect offerings from the congregation at the offertory time and place them on the altar. ♦ A self-serve Eftpos machine is available in the foyer. ♦ If you would like to make a direct transfer or support us through regular weekly transfers, St Philip's account is: 702-389 05202512. If you wish to place something in the offertory bag after giving electronically, giving cards are available in the foyer.

Today's Readings & Roster

Midnight Mass: Isaiah 9.2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2.11-14; Luke 2.1-14 (15-20)

Christmas Day: Isaiah 62.6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 4.4-8a; Luke 2.(1-7)8-20

11:30pm Celebrant Rev'd Emma, LA Rev'd Robyn, OT Russell M, NT Margaret M

9am Celebrant Rev'd Scott, LA Rev'd Emma & Rev'd Robyn, Music Colin F

St Philip's Anglican Church O'Connor

www.stphilipsoconnor.org.au

email: comeandsee@stphilipsoconnor.org.au

facebook : [@stphilipsoconnor](https://www.facebook.com/stphilipsoconnor)

Locum Rector:

Rev Emma Street

0478 619 911

rector@stphilipsoconnor.org.au

Please send notices and prayer points by **Thursday 6pm** to pewsheets@stphilipsoconnor.org.au
The editors may need to edit contributions to fit.

From the Locum Rector

What is Christmas all about?

Christmas is a significant event for all Australians, whether they believe in Christ or not. Most of us look forward to a season which coincides with summer holidays, new year, and the annual gathering of extended family. We must also remember that for many it is a reminder of loss.

Much of Christmas is all about tradition, from church and carols to feasting and cult movies. The Muppet Christmas Carol is traditional viewing in our house. Christian and non-Christian alike all welcome seasonal traditions as something certain and grounding in a constantly changing world.

Beyond the traditions, the spiritual essence of Christmas is grounded in what happened one night in Bethlehem a long time ago. When a young woman, far from home, soon to be a refugee, gave birth to a child who would change the world. It is grounded in faith and hope, and its focus is on the most basic claim that Christianity makes, namely that Jesus Christ is the eternal God who “became flesh and lived among us so that we could see the glory of God, full of grace and truth” (Jn 1:14).

We look forward to the traditions and family feasts because they bring us together. Jesus was always inviting people to have meals with him. Christmas is a time when we celebrate the ‘togetherness’ of man and God united in one person. Those words hope, peace, joy, love – universal sentiments of Christmas to both Christian and non-Christian - are the basis of our faith. The challenge of faith is that these become a tradition part of every day and every season.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holy days.

Rev Emma Street

News & Notices

Rev Emma’s Availability

Emma can be contacted any time and is happy to meet Wednesday to Friday and Sunday. Meetings and home communion can be arranged for these days. Monday–Tuesday access to phone/email is limited. Saturday is a family day. Non-urgent messages will be followed up as able.

Rector appointment process

Thank you to those who participated in the Parish Consultation. We received lots of useful input. We are available to listen further to Parishioners’ thoughts on strengths, weaknesses and hopes for the Parish, and characteristics you would like in a rector. Please speak with us after a service, or call or email us. Please direct any queries about the appointment process to Archdeacon Paul Cohen 0407 110 309 or paulcfrom-stsimons@yahoo.com.au. Alison, Chris and Sarah

Please continue to pray for the Parish CAB and their Diocesan counterparts, and Bishop Mark upon whom rests the final decision. Please hold the Parish and all

involved in its mission and ministry in your thoughts and prayers at this time. Consider adding an e-reminder on your device.

Christmas Flowers

The Christmas flowers are in loving memory of June and John Carnahan who enjoyed many Christmas morning services at St Philips. The McCaskie family.

Thursday Communion

There will be no Thursday morning service between Christmas and New Year on 28 December. Services will resume Thursday 4 January.

Men’s Group

The Men’s Group will now be in recess until the New Year. The first gathering will be Tuesday 6th February 2024.

Canberra Aged Care Service

The Saturday 11am services are currently on break, and will resume at Canberra Aged Care on Saturday 13th January, 2024.

Parish Calendar

We are creating a single calendar for use of the church and facilities. Can all with bookings please email the locum (rector@stphilipsoconnor.org.au) to make sure it is recorded.

Church Lawns

Our regular gardening maintenance person is visiting family in England and will not return until mid-January next year. If you are able to mow a portion of the grounds at a time which is convenient to you, please feel free to do so. For further information, please contact Russell.

Volunteering at St Philip’s

To volunteer as a reader, sidesperson, welcomer, audio-visual operator, on flower team, on morning tea or another role on the Roster, please email Leighton at rosters@stphilipsoconnor.org.au. Help filling vacancies on the 5th Sunday of a month (4 times a year) would be much appreciated.

St John’s Care

Is in need of bedding: linen, doonas, or blankets in good clean condition. It is also in need of pet food which is very much in demand. Donations are also now being sought for Christmas. Food Items... cereal, fruit cups, school lunch snacks, jam, sardines.

Locking-up Reminder

If you are the last to leave, please ensure all church buildings and toilets are locked.