



St Philip's
Come & See



Christ the King

26 November 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' our gifts are brought forward, an opportunity for you to make your contribution. A self-serve EFTPOS machine is available in the foyer. St Philip's EFT details are also available if you would like to make a direct transfer or support us through a regular 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.

To volunteer as a reader, sidesperson, welcomer or another role on the Roster then please email rosters@stphilipsoconnor.org.au

St Philips O'Connor, ACT

www.stphilipsoconnor.org.au

email: comeandsee@stphilipsoconnor.org.au

Rector: The Rev'd Martin Johnson



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

0478 619 911

From the Rector

Dear Friends

Today we celebrate the feast of Christ the King. This festival, the culmination of the liturgical year, stands as a reminder of the cyclical nature of our theological journey. Each turn of the year is different and yet there are familiar markers. We look forward to the season of Advent and all that brings, a sense of renewal and of expectation, we might be tempted to think we have seen it all before but we are reminded in this season of the words of Isaiah 'behold I make all things new.'

Today marks the end of our ministry among you as Susan and I prepare to return to our home in the hills on the outskirts of Melbourne, a place that is so familiar to us and yet after nearly twenty-five years away, a place we are keen to explore and reacquaint ourselves with. We have made the decision not to plunge back into ministry, but to take some time to take stock and to contemplate our next move.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our seven years among you Philippians. We have been stretched and shaped in lots of differing ways, we've learnt much about ourselves and others, we've enjoyed Canberra and all that it has to offer and we are grateful to you for sharing the place with us. Every ministry in one way or another comes to a conclusion, the best we can hope for is that in small ways we have helped each other glimpse something of God's glory and love as we have followed in the way of Christ.

Every blessing to you all from us both, *Martin & Susan*

Eucharist for Christ the King

Introit Hymn 228 (TiS) (10am)

Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own:
awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for me,
and hail him as your chosen king
through all eternity.

Crown him the Son of God
before the worlds began:
and we who tread where he has trod
crown him the Son of Man,
who every grief has known
that wrings the human breast,
and takes and bears them for his own,
that all in him may rest.

Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
those wounds yet visible above
in beauty glorified;
no angel there on high
can fully bear that sight,
but downwards bends a burning eye
at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save:

his glories now we sing
who died, and rose on high;
who died eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a sceptre sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease
absorbed in prayer and praise:
his reign shall know no end,
and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years,
the Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
majestic and sublime:
all hail, Redeemer, hail!
for you have died for me;
your praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.

*Matthew Bridges 1800-94
and Godfrey Thring 1823-1903*

Entrance Antiphon

O shout to the Lord in triumph all the earth.

Serve the Lord with gladness and come before his face with songs of joy.

Psalm 100

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.**

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

The kingdom is yours,
but we turn away from your just rule:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.:

The power is yours,
but we trust in our own power and strength:
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

The glory is yours,
but we fall short of the glory of God:
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.

Gloria

**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:

God of power and love,

who raised your Son Jesus from death to life,

resplendent in glory to rule over all creation:

free the world to rejoice in his peace,

to glory in his justice, and to live in his love.

Unite the human race in Jesus Christ your Son,

who lives and reigns with you and the

Holy Spirit one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Today's Readings

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel (34:11-16, 20-24)

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

²⁰ Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

²³ I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

O shout to the Lord in triumph, all the earth:
serve the Lord with gladness,
and come before his face with songs of joy.

**Know that the Lord he is God:
it is he who has made us and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

Come into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise:
give thanks to him, and bless his holy name.

**For the Lord is good, his loving mercy is for ever:
his faithfulness throughout all generations.**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians (1:15-23)

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason
¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of
our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you
come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the
hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints,
¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working
of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and
seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power
and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to
come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the
church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.
For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual hymn 245 (TIS) (10am)

We have a gospel to proclaim,
good news for all throughout the earth;
the gospel of a Saviour's name:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Tell of his birth at Bethlehem,
not in a royal house or hall
but in a stable dark and dim:
the Word made flesh, a light for all.

Tell of his death at Calvary,
hated by those he came to save;
in lonely suffering on the cross
for all he loved, his life he gave.

Tell of that glorious Easter morn:
empty the tomb, for he was free;
he broke the power of death and hell
that we might share his victory.

Tell of his reign at God's right hand
by all creation glorified;
he sends his Spirit on his church
to live for him, the Lamb who died.

Now we rejoice to name him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth;
this gospel-message we proclaim:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Edward Joseph Burns 1938-

Gradual (8am)

Alleluia,

Alleluia!

With the eyes of your heart enlightened, may you know what are the riches of his glorious
inheritance among the saints.

Ephesians 1:18

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (25:31-46)

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

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: Ben, Hugh, David, Otto, Bob, Noel, Deborah, Sue, Molly, Ian, Katherine, Matt, Wendy, David & Margot, those unable to gather with us, those in hospital or care.

We commend to God the recently departed especially Bridget Munro and The Revd Ian Kleinig, those whose year's mind falls at this time: Roger Sharp (29/11/2020), the victims of war, terrorism, disease and tragedy, those whose memories are dear to us and those remembered only by God.

We are in time of transition in our Parish Community with the inevitable uncertainties that this brings. We need to bring our concerns and our hopes to God in our prayers: for Martin & Susan and their future life and ministry, for the Parish Council and the forthcoming Parish Consultation, for the Parish CAB and their Diocesan counterparts, for Bishop Mark upon whom rests the final decision.

Can we commit to a time of prayer on Mondays between 6-7pm wherever you may be? Knowing that you are praying alongside others with the same intention can strengthen our resolve. Of course, prayer at any time is worthwhile, please hold the parish and all involved in its mission and ministry in your thoughts and prayers at this time.

The Greeting of Peace

To crown all things there must be love, to bind all together and complete the whole.
Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

cf Colossians 3.14,15

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of Peace

Offertory Hymn 497 (TiS) (10am)

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descending
comes full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light comes shining
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraphs,

cherubim with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, Lord most high!

*From the Liturgy of St James c. 4th cent.
tr Gerald Moultrie 1829-85*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread to set before you,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us 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 set before you,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever

Blessed be God, who enthrones us with Christ in the heavenly realms.
May we feed upon the bread of God and drink the royal wine of heaven.

Blessed be God for ever.

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For with the oil of gladness
you have anointed Christ the Lord, your only Son,
to be our great high priest and king of all creation.

As priest, he offered himself once for all upon the altar of the cross
and redeemed the human race by this perfect sacrifice of peace.

As king he claims dominion over all your creatures,
that he may bring before your infinite majesty
a kingdom of truth and life,
a kingdom of holiness and grace,
a kingdom of justice, love and peace.

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

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Renew us by your Holy Spirit
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom.
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The breaking of bread and communion

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body.

For we all share in the one bread.

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

I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed,

and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak.

I will feed them with justice.

Ezekiel 34:16

The sending out of God's people

Let us pray:

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people;

that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works,

may by you be plenteously rewarded;

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 our exalted King pour upon you his abundant gifts

and bring you to reign with him in glory;

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 237 (TiS) (10am)

Hail Redeemer, King divine!

Priest and Lamb, the throne is thine;

King, whose reign shall never cease,

Prince of everlasting peace.

Refrain: Angels, saints and nations sing:

"Praised be Jesus Christ our King;

Lord of life, earth, sky and sea,

King of love on Calvary!"

King, whose name creation thrills,

Rule our hearts, our minds, our wills;

Till in peace, each nation rings

With Thy praises, King of kings. *Refrain:*

King most holy, King of truth,

Guard the lowly, guide the youth;

Christ the King of glory bright,

be to us eternal light. *Refrain:*

Shepherd-king, o'er mountains steep
homeward bring the wandering sheep;
shelter in one royal fold
states and kingdoms, new and old. *Refrain:*

Patrick Brennan 1877-1951

News

We assure Ann and John Munro of our love and prayers following the death of their daughter Bridget. We pray too for Bridget's husband Adrian, their daughters Grace and Margot and her sister Clare.

The 2024 Australian Anglican Church calendar is available for purchase. The details are on the notice board in the porch.

Update on Rector appointment processes. Next Sunday, 3 December following the 10am Eucharist The Archdeacon, Paul Cohen will chair a meeting for all Parishioners. The purpose of the meeting is to elicit ideas about your hopes for the Parish and what characteristics you would like in a new Rector. These ideas will feed into the preparation of a broader profile of the Parish to inform the Clergy Appointments Board in their deliberations. Much has been done in recent times to begin this process: Our 'Greenhills Day', the Missional Spirituality Project and the recent survey of the 10am congregation. The parish representation on the CAB will be Chris Cheah, Alison Davidson and Sarah Gowty. The Revd Emma Street will act as Locum during the interregnum, Emma will be welcomed to the parish next Sunday.

Preparations for **Christmas celebrations** are underway. Contributions for Christmas flowers would be welcome. A service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held on Sunday 17 December at 6pm.

St John's Care are in need of quality bedding: linen, doonas, or blankets in good clean condition, they are 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.

Dear St Philip's parishioners

Christmas celebrations are meant to create the most fantastic memories. Unfortunately, the sad reality is that Christmas is a time of stress, loneliness, and sadness for many people.

You are the shining star that makes Christmas special for the families and individuals we support at St John's Care.

As we approach Christmas this year, your generosity can bring joy, warmth, and hope into the lives of those facing challenging times. Your continued support and compassion allow us to provide gifts, essentials, holiday meals, and educational support to children who may otherwise go without.

Your gift, no matter the amount, can create precious memories for these children and their families. Your kindness is the true spirit of Christmas.

- *A mother of three children came and saw us for help only a few days ago. Her husband had been made redundant, but there was no helpful payout because he had not been in the job for long. With the wait time to receive income support from Centrelink, their small savings are used to manage mortgage repayments and increased cost of living. The mother was delighted to receive some food but began crying because she didn't know how she would afford to have a lovely Christmas for her family this year.*
- *We told her about our Christmas hampers and present room and suggested she make a booking to come back in December to collect gifts for her children and food for the holiday season. We also told her about our Christmas Day lunch and suggested she bring her family along. Seeing her leave with a smile on her face and the assurance that St John's Care was there to support her family during their challenging times was lovely.*

Your support can provide:

- *Gifts and Toys: Your donation can help ensure every child receives a special gift, bringing excitement and happiness into their lives.*
- *New Clothing and Essentials: Your contribution can provide new clothing and essential supplies to keep children safe and comfortable.*

- *Holiday Meals: Help us ensure that no one goes to bed hungry by providing meals and treats to those in need.*
- *Educational Support: Your donation can go toward educational resources such as drawing paper and pencils, books and games to help children continue their learning journey, even during the holiday season.*

Your support will make this Christmas brighter for the clients we support.

Your generous donation, no matter the size, will go a long way towards spreading the joy this season and ensuring no one feels alone.

*Wishing you and your family a wonderful, peaceful, and happy Christmas,
Jason Haines, Executive Officer*

P.S. Not everyone looks forward to Christmas. Your wonderful donation can turn this around. Help us give the gift of happiness to families in Canberra.

Dear St Philip's Parishioners

The United Nations' Climate Change Conference, COP28 commences in Dubai on November 30. To show public prayer support for effective global action on climate as a mainstream faith issue, there will be a gathering of faith communities for multi-faith prayers on the authorised lawn assembly area in front of Parliament House 2.30-4pm Sunday, 26-November and returning there again 8-9.30am Monday, 27-November. All are invited and/or to give prayer support off-site.

For more information, please contact LaudatoSiACT@gmail.com.

Reflection

Living in God's Kingdom, Now

A few years ago, I listened to a homily given, primarily, to a group of elementary school children. It was a diverse group, to be sure, and not of an age where they could have handled any complicated theological teaching and so the priest speaking to the students stuck with this message: God loved them, God was All-Powerful and if they prayed to him, God would always take care of them.

It seems, on the surface, like a fairly stock message to deliver to a group of young people attending a Christian school. Certainly, we know that God does love us, and we all have at least some sense of the importance of prayer. And yet, I remember feeling uneasy with the talk because it left so many things unsaid. It failed to approach even the child-sized complexities of life. If God takes care of us in the way the person seemed to be implying, how then to explain the difficult experiences that cropped up in the course of any normal childhood: things like the death of a pet or bullying by other students or parental divorce? In such cases, would we suggest to kids, or to anyone else, that the reason these things happen is due to their lack of prayer?

At the end of the liturgical year, the Church celebrates the Feast Day of Christ the King. It is my favourite of the year and has had a special meaning to me ever since I participated in a 30 Day Spiritual Retreat as a Novice. However, remembering Christ as King needs a bit of nuancing. I don't imagine Jesus as some version of Aragorn from Lord of the Rings, battling my 'enemies' and keeping me safe from all harm. Nor does my idea of King Jesus involve dazzling vestments, ruby studded crowns, or a massive army reinforcing his every decree. I've lived enough life to know that taking prayers to God are not a kind of magic cure to ensure that everything that I'm hoping happens does. Life is messy and challenging at times, no matter how much I pray.

So in what way do I see Christ as a King? John's Gospel says of Jesus the Christ: *All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.* These beautiful words resonate with me


The **Caring for Creation** movement
of the Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn
invites

All People of Good Will
to participate in

Multi-Faith Prayer Support to COP28
for global action on climate



in the Authorised Assembly Area
on the lawns in front of

Parliament House



2.30-4pm
Sunday 26 November 2023
and again
8-9.30am
Monday 27 November 2023

Interest & enquiries: LaudatoSiACT@gmail.com

deeply. In paraphrasing them, I might say that all of us, just by virtue of coming into existence, bear the imprint of Jesus in our being. Our bodies, our cells, our very atoms are all carefully crafted by God to carry God's Essence, God's Light, God's Fragrance. So, in what way is Christ the King of this world? This world and everything that is in it utterly belongs to and is integrally marked by God.

When I pray, it is not because I'm worried that if I don't pray enough, God won't do what I want God to do. Instead, I pray so that I have a better sense of my connection to that inner Essence of Christ that I have inherited. When I am grounded in that Essence, I can move through my days aware of the countless ways that God is at work in the people around me, rather than being transfixed by the hurtful ways we can treat each other. When I am grounded in that Essence, I can experience the dark and painful 'Gethsemane' events in my life prepared to look for any of the many 'angels' that God sends to minister to me, rather than supposing myself to be alone, forgotten by God and the world.

Jesus told the Pharisees that *the kingdom of God is among you*. Recognizing Jesus as my King helps me to recognize the truth of His words: we are living in God's kingdom, now. There are miracles and graces happening all around us, now. God is sending us 'angels' in disguise to love and support us, now. In the moments or days (or weeks) that we struggle to see this, we can enter into prayer and ask God to open our eyes to these truths. As we celebrate the Feast Day of Christ the King this month, let us pray that we deepen in our sense of connection to that inner Essence of God that is integrally part of us. May we recognize that we are truly living in God's Kingdom and that Christ is King. Now.

A reflection by Sr Michelle, fcJ,

This week @ St Philip's

Today

Christ the King

8am

Eucharist

9am

Parish Breakfast

10am

Eucharist and hymns (followed by morning tea)

Tuesday 28 November

*Ember day**

2pm

Eucharist – Sir Leslie Morshead Manor

Wednesday 29 November

Ember day

10am-Noon

Pandora's Preparation and sorting

Thursday 30 November

Andrew, apostle & martyr

10am

Eucharist (followed by morning tea)

Saturday 2 December

Frances Perry founder of the Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne (d.1892)

10am-1pm

Pandora's OPEN

11am

Morning Prayer - Canberra Aged Care

Sunday 3 December

First Sunday of Advent

8am

Eucharist

9am

Parish Breakfast

10am

Eucharist and hymns (followed by morning tea)

11.15

Parish Consultation meeting

**The term Ember days refers to three days set apart for fasting, abstinence, and prayer during each of the four seasons of the year. The purpose of their introduction was to thank God for the gifts of nature, to teach us to make use of them in moderation, and to assist those in need.*

Dates for you diary

Sunday 17 December, 6pm — Service of Nine Lessons & Carols

Sunday 24 December, 11.30pm — Christmas Eve: Midnight Mass

Monday 25 December, 9am — Christmas Day: Festive Eucharist

Rosters

		26-Nov-23	3-Dec-23	10-Dec-23	
Sunday of Month		4th	1st	2nd	
Liturgical Season		Christ the King	1st Sunday of Advent	2nd Sunday of Advent	
Flowers		Barbara G	no flowers for the season of Advent – the focus being on the Advent Wreath	no flowers for the season of Advent – the focus being on the Advent Wreath	
Celebrant		Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Scott	Rev'd Emma	
Preacher (if different to Celebrant)					
Sidespeople	8am	Shane & Tim	Margaret & Russell	Alison & Alistair	8am
Liturgical Assistant			Lisa (LA)	Ellie P (LA)	
Audio Visual Operator		?	?	?	
1st Bible reader - OT		Shane W	Margaret M	Alistair D	
2nd Bible reader - NT		Shane W	Russell M	Alison D	
Celebrant		Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Emma	Rev'd Emma	
Preacher (if different to Celebrant)			Rev'd Scott		
Sidespeople & Welcomer	10am	Sally A & Richard G	Fred A & Janene B	Helen & Hardy	10am
Liturgical Assistant		Leighton (crucifer)	?	Rebecca K (LA)	
Audio Visual Operator		?	?	?	
Musician(s) & Singers/Soloist		Colin F	Colin F	Colin F	
1st Bible reader - OT		Richard G	Fred A	Jeanette D-T	
2nd Bible reader - NT		Fiona D	Laure W	Rev'd Lyn	
Morning Tea		Helen P	Barbara G	Janene B	
<i>Additional details/notes</i>		<i>Rev'd Martin's final services</i>			