

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH JAMISON

To grow in Christ together, to equip for service, to care for all



WEEKLY BULLETIN 29 NOVEMBER 2015

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT



We offer a special welcome to visitors and pray that you will feel at home in our community.

You are warmly invited to share Communion with us, either by drinking from or dipping the wafer in the chalice, or to come forward for a blessing.

Reflection after Communion – please feel free to light a prayer candle in the Chapel at the back of the Church following Communion.



SERVICES TODAY

- 8.00 am** **HOLY COMMUNION**
Celebrant : The Reverend Paul Wallis
Preacher: Tracey Matthews
- 10.00 am** **HOLY COMMUNION, Children's Church and youth Group**
Celebrant : The Reverend Paul Wallis
Preacher: Tracey Matthews



Please join us for morning tea after the Services

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Today 29.11.15	9.30 am 11.45am 2.00 pm	Calvary Hospital Worship Centre Worship Centre	Communion Service Readers workshop Breathing Space advent reflection
Monday 30.11.15	10.00 am 6.30 pm	Worship Centre 30 Northmore Cres. Higgins	Covenant Day Care Refugee Action Group
Tuesday 1.12.15	12.30 pm 7.30pm	Worship Centre Rainbow Centre	Meditation and BYO lunch Belonging & Caring meeting
Wednesday 2.12.15	12 noon 2.00 pm 6.00 pm	Worship Centre Worship Centre Rainbow Centre	Holy Communion and BYO Lunch Ever Active Exercise Class Meditation
Thursday 3.12.15	9.30 am 11.30am 2.00pm 7.30 pm	Rainbow Centre Worship Centre Rainbow Centre Rainbow Centre	Scrabble Community Christmas Lunch Book Club EFM
Friday 4.12.15	10.00 am	Worship Centre	Playgroup
Saturday 5.12.15	6.00 pm	Worship Centre	Benedictus Contemplative Church

The Holistic Care Nursing office is open from 10am – 2pm Monday and Thursday.

WEEK BEGINNING 6 DECEMBER 2015

Monday 7.12.15	10.00 am	Worship Centre	Covenant Day Care
Tuesday 8.12.15	12.30 pm 7.30 pm	Worship Centre Rainbow Centre	Meditation and BYO lunch Communications Team
Wednesday 9.12.15	12 noon 2.00 pm 6.00 pm	Worship Centre Worship Centre Rainbow Centre	Holy Communion and BYO Lunch Ever Active Exercise Class Meditation
Thursday 10.12.15	9.30 am 7.30 pm	Rainbow Centre Rainbow Centre	Scrabble EFM
Friday 11.12.15	10.00 am 10.30 am	Worship Centre Rainbow Centre	Playgroup MOTH
Saturday 12.12.15	6.00 pm	Worship Centre	Benedictus Contemplative Church

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Luke 21:23-38

I was reflecting on the passage of scripture in today's gospel and I remember reading once this comment about it. It said: This week's passage of scripture is peculiar and hard and odd and wonderful because it announces to us a promise that itself is peculiar and hard and odd and wonderful. A promise that is big enough to save us.

Today is the first Sunday in Advent and the start of the new church year and most of the gospel readings for this year will come from the gospel of Luke which I think is the 'up and go' gospel. It's a gospel that encourages mission. It's interesting to reflect on the fact that this text is apocalyptic and was written in a world that was having great difficulties, great anguish and perplexity. In such a world of chaos where it seemed to be falling apart, its foundations shaking most people would 'duck for cover' rather than 'stand up and lift their heads high.' Luke says that when you see the new shoots of the fig tree you know that summer is here and when you see these signs of pending destruction you know the end is near, it's just around the corner and yet, in a world of turmoil, terror, war, fear and uncertainty in 2015 that destruction still has not come. Is it just around the corner? Maybe, who knows but one thing we are sure and certain of and that is that Christ will come again and we need to be prepared for that coming. Are we going to 'duck for cover' or 'stand up with our heads held high?'

Paul Tillich says of the second coming of Christ that one day everything that used to feel solid and sure will come apart and he calls this 'The shaking of the foundations.' Jesus said to expect it 'for it will come upon all the ones dwelling on the face of the earth.' Therefore watch at all times and what's more, pray 'that you might have the strength to escape these things.' I find that all a bit scary (is that ducking for cover?) Yet we can't escape the reality of it. But there is something good in it and that is the work of God to seek and save and he will raise them up before him.

Some say that apocalyptic is not bad news, but good news. In spite of every care, anxiety, worry or trouble of which there are many each and every day. God is in charge. So I reflect again: This week's passage of scripture is peculiar, and hard and odd and wonderful because it announces to us a promise that is itself peculiar and hard and odd and wonderful.

A promise that is big enough to save us.

Blessings
Archdeacon Anne



Today I want to write about a very complex and surprisingly prevalent issue affecting some of our clients – hoarding and squalor. You may have heard Dr Jessica Grisham from UNSW interviewed on 666 ABC radio last week.

Prior to coming to St John's Care, I worked for Catholic Community Services in their head office in Epping in Sydney, where I was exposed to the world of hoarding and squalor, an issue in which they are currently leaders in the field in Australia.

Hoarding is regarded as abnormal (pathologically), if there has been excessive collection of items such as clothing, newspapers, electrical appliances, food packaging (with many such items appearing to have little or no value) and a failure to remove or discard them.

Squalor is the term used to describe an environment where a person's home is so unclean, disorganized and unhygienic that people of similar culture and background would consider extensive clearing and cleaning essential in contrast to the term hoarding, which describes behaviour.

The recently launched Beyond Overwhelmed Report of the NSW Hoarding and Squalor Taskforce identified that research in the US, UK and OECD countries indicate that between 2% and 5% of the general population may hoard excessively. New Australian population research estimates that more than 600,000 people (2.6% of the population) may suffer from Hoarding Disorder (recently included in the DSM 5) nationally. Based on a total population in the ACT of 357,222 (ABS Census data 2011), this represents 9,288 people across the territory.

Further, estimates from a 10 year Australian study conducted by Snowden and Halliday (2011), suggest a minimum prevalence of moderate to severe domestic squalor of 1 per 1,000 (0.1%) of people aged 65 years or more. There are 38,164 people (ABS Census data 2011) aged over 65 living in the ACT. Based on this statistic, it may be that there are at least 38 people aged over 65 years living in moderate to severe domestic squalor in the ACT. It is also highly likely that there are people under 65 years living in moderate to severe domestic squalor here. I am aware that at least one of our clients is living in these circumstances.

I am also aware that there are very few services able to respond to the very complex needs of these clients. Clients are often reluctant to seek out or accept help and it is often only when things become extreme that the regulatory authorities are called in.

I have joined the Canberra Living Conditions Network and am keen to contribute to the development of a comprehensive and effective approach to addressing these issues in the ACT.

Wish list: savoury snacks 4 kids for holidays, tinned meat, shampoo, laundry powder.

Stuart Davis-Meehan, Director



PRAYER POINTS FOR THIS WEEK

IN THE WORLD

- Pray that the Spirit of hopefulness will encourage all who work for peace and justice in our world: the councils of world leaders, opinion makers in our local communities, our neighbours and our families. Rescue us from despairing as we face the problems of our world. Uphold all those who, in whatever their darkness, are quick to light a candle and find a new way to go on.

IN AUSTRALIA

- Pray for a firm grasp of the hope given us in Jesus; that all we do and say might strengthen those living in fear, distress, anger or depression. Make us a sign of God's presence wherever we may be, looking forward with confidence born of the hope we share in Christ..

WORLD WIDE ANGLICAN CHURCH

- We pray for the churches in Northern Ontario and Kentucky .
- In the Australian Church we pray for the bishops, clergy and people of the dioceses of Adelaide and Armidale.

IN OUR DIOCESE

- ♦ We pray for the clergy and people of the parishes of St. Saviour's Cathedral Goulburn and for North Goulburn.
- We pray for victims of physical, psychological and sexual abuse and give thanks that Governments are now focussing on the issue.

MISSION

- ♦ We pray for the work of the Bush Church Aid in Port Hedland and Newman, Western Australia.

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY.

- We pray for Susan Joy and Clare Bleijs helping at the Calvary Service this morning.
- We pray for nominations for Parish Council and the various other needs in the parish.
- We pray for the following members of our parish family: Anne Ranse; Clive Rodger; Luc and Sylvie Rose; Maxine Rose; Sandra Ross; and Richard and Maureen Scutter.
- We pray for those in special need of prayer: Phil Perman, Beryl Daniels and any known to us personally.

COMMEMORATIONS

Thursday: Francis Xavier, priest & missionary (d.1552)



HOLY COVENANT PRAYER VINE
REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

Phone Merri Bacon on 6251 1110 or
email merri.bacon@bigpond.com

TODAY

READERS WORKSHOP AT 11.45 AM.

Would you like to be part of the roster to read the Bible during our worship services?

We will be running a short workshop for **current and potential readers** on

If you are interested in being involved in this ministry, please come along and find out what's involved. If you are already on the roster, please take advantage of this opportunity to refresh your skills and re-acquaint yourself with the guidelines that are in the process of being updated. Enquiries to Paul Shelley 6251 1568

epshms@grapevine.com.au or the Rector.

ADVENT REFLECTION AFTERNOON 2-5PM IN THE WORSHIP CENTRE

Advent is to Christmas what Lent is to Easter - a time of preparation. It is all too easy in the frantic busyness of the season to lose connection with the Love, Joy and Peace that we and our world so much need. This is an opportunity to take time out for quiet reflection as well as some sharing with others. Facilitated by Frances Mackay.



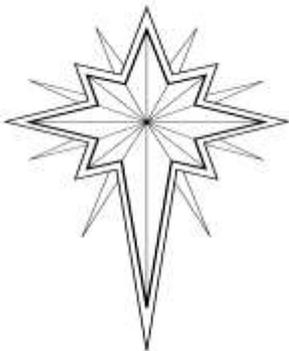
Christmas Community Lunch @ Holy Covenant Thursday 3 December 11.30 for 12 noon

We are inviting you to our Christmas Community Lunch. Please invite any others in our community, especially those who may feel isolated and who may appreciate a nice lunch, some fellowship and some Christmas carols.

The cost is \$5.00.

Please use the sign-up sheet in the church for catering purposes or

contact Helen Boulton 6251 2078 or hnboulton@gmail.com



Thank you to all who helped baking and working on the SJC collection and cake stall yesterday.

I CAN'T WAIT TO TELL YOU...

I had a text message a few days ago from a client who was very down and depressed. She said there was no hope that she just couldn't get herself back into life at all.' It is just too hard' she said.' I just keep going around in circles and nothing changes from day to day. I feel like I am between a rock and a hard place.'



I felt so sorry for her. She sounded so lost. Before I had a chance to call her back she sent another text and this time there was a photo attached. A photo of what she called a 'glorious flower.' It was growing between a rock and the cement drive way, almost in an impossible place to grow yet there it was a long stem with a glorious flower head. She wrote in the text, 'something glorious between a rock and a hard place.' I could hardly get my fingers to text properly in my rush to tell her what I saw in the picture and her comments because there I saw her as the 'gorgeous' flower blossoming out of the really hard place she is in. Then I took a risk adding. 'God is so good. Fancy being in such an awful bout of depression and hopelessness yet still being able to see the beauty of this flower and the situation it is in. That to me, I said. 'Was a real message from God?' She commented she hadn't thought that when she sent me the texts but now, she said, since you mentioned it.....'

Helping people back into life is such a rewarding work. By the way, the next day this client was out of her depression and sense of hopelessness. Though still struggling she is at the moment in a brighter place within herself.

Blessings

Archdeacon Anne

Calling all knitters! Got any leftover knitting wool ?



A housebound client of the HCN Ministry makes items which are donated to the hospitals for premature babies and is looking for 8 and 10 ply knitting yarns (wool and/or acrylic). Small amounts are fine. Donations can be left in the church office.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

**Kind words don't wear out
the tongue**

MESSAGE FROM OUR RECTOR:

Dear Friends

Thank you very much to those who have tapped me on the shoulder to express an interest in offering prayer with the laying on of hands for the sick. It is a form of prayer and solidarity which, through the years, I have seen people appreciate for the care, concern and solidarity that the practice expresses. I have also seen people wonderfully blessed in all kinds of healing through the years through this form of prayer. And it is a Christian practice which has been part not only of our wider heritage but of the life of Holy Covenant in years past. For all these reasons I hope we might find a space for it from week to week somewhere on our ministry map.

You may know that there is a monthly prayer for healing service, led by Bishop Stuart and hosted at St John's Reid. I was especially touched by one response to prayer some months ago. As I preached at the service one month I saw a very ill looking boy in the congregation. Emaciated and bald he was enduring a final round of chemotherapy and the prognosis he had been given was not at all good. At the appropriate moment in the service he came forward with his parents for prayer and anointing with oil, and seemed grateful for the ministry he received.

Many months later I was preaching again. A quite different looking boy was sitting in the same seat. Something about him made me wonder if it could possibly be the same boy had prayed for those months before. It was. Hale, hearty, happy and healthy with not a trace of cancer in his body, he had returned to the church to give God thanks for the wonderful healing he had received. As you can imagine we were all thrilled and very moved to see him, and we gave thanks with him!

What made the conversation I had with his family even more memorable was that they told me the reason they had brought their son to that service was that their own church did not offer such prayer.

Whatever one's theology and expectations of healing, not to surround a family in this way, and leave them feeling the need to go elsewhere for such a blessing of prayer, would surely seem an inadequate response to such a need. For that reason it is hard for me to imagine a church without such a ministry on its menu of activity. Can I encourage you, then, if you are interested or have a background in this particular form of prayer, to let me know in the next couple of weeks and I will convene some conversations to see how we might best include it.

With Every Blessing,
Paul

**NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM AT
ST. JAMES KIPPAX
5—6pm Sundays**

6 December: Too much too young—
raising kids today.

**ST. JOHN'S CARE CHRISTMAS
GIFT BOX**

is on the left hand side of the
church near the choir, awaiting your
contributions. Please no fluffy toys
and don't forget the Mums and Dads.
We need to deliver the box to SJC
by **Monday 8 December**.



ON THE NOTICE BOARD

The November issue of *Anglican News*
is now available on the Anglican
Diocese of Canberra Goulburn
website—

- Advent Vigil for Asylum
seekers— begins 29 November

**LIGHTING OF THE
ADVENT CANDLE**

In Him was life and that was the
light for all people.

**The true light that gives light
for every person was coming
into the world.**

PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCHES THIS WEEKEND

This weekend there will be People's Climate Marches all over the
world, to encourage effective action by those participating in the
Paris Climate Change negotiations.

Gather in front of Parliament House at noon today, *people of
faith are encouraged to wear purple.* March distance 1500m.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



Today: **Margaret Meggs**
Wednesday: **Connie Gerrity** and **Dorothy Parsonage**
Friday: **Sandra Button**.

If you want your name in the Birthday Book, tell Phyl :
phylandreg@optusnet.com.au

MINISTRY TEAM

RECTOR	The Revd Paul Wallis 0428 537 672	Email: revdpaulwallis@gmail.com Day off: Friday.
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DETAILS FOR NEXT SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER 2015

Second Sunday in Advent

- 8.00 am** **HOLY COMMUNION**
Celebrant and Preacher: The Reverend Paul Wallis
- 10.00 am** **HOLY COMMUNION, Children's Church and youth Group**
Celebrant: and Preacher: The Reverend Paul Wallis
- 11.00 am** **SERVICE AT BUPA NURSING HOME**



SENTENCE:

Stand up and raise your heads; our redemption is drawing near .
 Luke 21:28

READINGS:

Jeremiah 33:14-16
 Psalm 25: 1-10
 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
 Luke 21:25-38



8 am HYMNS

273
 264
 279
 282

PRAYER

Eternal God, the night is spent and the day is at hand. Keep us awake and alert, watching for the signs of your kingdom.
 Make us strong in faith so that when Christ comes in glory to judge the earth, we may go out joyfully to greet him,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,
AMEN



	8.00 am	10.00 am
Sidespersons	Peter & Ann Bazeos	Prue & Ken Wedgwood
Readers	Peter Bazeos Rosemary Kennemore Anne Ranse	Kate King Reg Holmes Frances MacKay
Intercessor	Merrie Hepworth	Bruce Barnes
Organist	Kath Arthur	Rhys Thorpe
Ministry of the Word	Luc Rose	James Ellis
Deacon	Anne Ranse	Anne Ranse
Cup	Luc Rose, Rosemary Kennemore	James Ellis, Tracey Matthews, Neville Hurst, Anne Ranse Extra bread: Anne Dudzinski
Morning Tea	Margaret & David Meggs	Youth Group
Children's Church		Catherine, Christine, Mary, Dougal, M. Tea: Phyl Holmes