

15 May 2016

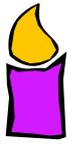
Pentecost



We welcome you to our worship and fellowship today, and 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 & Preacher: Revd Connie Gerrity
10.00 am	HOLY COMMUNION, Children's Church and Youth Groups Celebrant:& Preacher: Revd Connie Gerrity



Please join us for morning tea after the Services

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Monday 16.5.16	10.00 am	Worship Centre	Covenant Care
Tuesday 17.5.16	12.30 pm. 7.30 pm	Worship Centre Rainbow Centre	Meditation and BYO lunch Parish Council meeting
Wednesday 18.5.16	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 19.5.16	9.30 am 7.30 pm	Rainbow Centre Rainbow Centre	Scrabble EFM
Friday 20.5.16	10.00 am	Worship Centre	Playgroup
Saturday 21.5.16	9.00 am	Jamison Centre	St Johns Care Collection

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

WEEK BEGINNING 22 May 2016

Monday 23.5.16	10.00 am 10.00 am 1.30 pm	Worship Centre Kangara Waters Ret. Village Calvary Retirement Village	Covenant Care Communion Service Communion Service
Tuesday 24.5.16	12.30 pm. 7.30 pm	Worship Centre Rainbow Centre	Meditation and BYO lunch Parish Council meeting
Wednesday 25.5.16	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 26.5.16	9.30 am 7.30 pm 5.00 pm	Rainbow Centre Rainbow Centre Worship Centre	Scrabble EFM Covenant Care meeting
Friday 27.5.16	10.00 am	Worship Centre	Playgroup
Saturday 28.5.16	9.30 am 5.00 pm ??	Worship Centre Rainbow Centre	Safe Ministries Workshop Youth Group Challenge Night



SAVE THE DATES

- # Sun 29 May—Safe Ministries Refresher (1pm—4pm)
- # Wed 1 June—A Taste of Meditation (7.30pm—9.30pm)
- # Sat 11 June—First Aid Course run by St. John Ambulance
- # Sun 19 June—Family Service

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

THE OPEN HORIZON

Nikolai Blaskow (2013)

In the Church calendar we have Christ's Ascension behind us and Pentecost upon us. But what do these celebrated moments actually *mean*? They seem so far removed from everyday life. Dr Sarah Bachelard puts it well when she notes that just as the empty tomb means that the human history of Jesus can never be sealed off or finalised, so the ascension of Jesus to the right hand of the Father means the relationship with the risen Christ is never possessed as something fixed and absolute. 'Do not hold onto me', 'do not cling', says Jesus to Mary (John 20.17). That is to say, he is to be known *not* in memory but encountered afresh through the Spirit. This means, says Bachelard, that the disciples are asked to live in an open horizon, and to constantly receive their identity through their responsiveness to Jesus' invitation to follow him. So what does this mean for us *today*?

Not really all that much more than what Mary experienced that day: **we are called beyond ourselves into an open horizon**, effectively to let go our grip on a life that is always shifting and changing, and fix our attention on the one who shifts and changes with it- one who constantly gives us back an identity that adjusts to those vicissitudes. And as we keep ourselves in that open relationship, we discover a resilience we never knew was possible. It has often been noted that Pentecost was the undoing of the Tower of Babel, when the 'babble' of the project of our gigantic egos (so full of ourselves we can neither hear nor understand what the other is saying), becomes the beautiful language of mutual recognition: when what God has been saying all along – that we are loved – Finally breaks through to our every day consciousness.

On Sunday I waited over three and a half hours for my father's flight, which had been delayed by fogs in Sydney and in Canberra. And just as I was thinking he hadn't arrived I realised he'd slipped through the gate and I hadn't recognised him. His ninety-one years had shrunk him to half his size: I'd been looking for someone else. It was a bit of a shock. Yet spending the day with him, I was conscious that in his mind and spirit (embodied in a child-like self) he hovered between this world and the next. Once again Bachelard comes to aid our understanding of these things. That the healing of the self and human community is connected to being able to let go of the illusion of the possibility and necessity of self-making, learning to accept vulnerability and dependence without fear of annihilation. That is to say, the tongues of fire that envelop us this day as they did those at the first Pentecost, burn within yet do not consume and we are renewed.

The mystical tradition expresses it thus: as the self comes to know and embrace its own nothingness (no-thingness) it can finally authentically become itself and receive fullness of being. This was intuited by Martin Luther when he insisted that believers exist *extra se in Christo* (outside themselves in Christ). So let us embrace the future, with its open horizon and not be fazed by the temporary fogs that impede our vision.

1. Bachelard, citing Williams, *Resurrection*, p.76, in her yet to be published book *Resurrection and Moral Imagination*

2. Ibid

3. St John of the Cross writes: 'That you may possess all things, seek to possess nothing. That you may be everything, seek to be nothing'. Ruth Burrows comments: 'We can never come to our true fulfilment, our authentic being, unless we undergo an undoing, a noughting ... We must allow God to bring us to the fulfilment he has made for us ... We must be brought to dispossession, emptiness, formlessness. A dreadful prospect? Does not this spell death to a human being? Paradoxically, no, it is the other side of the plenitude of life. It is to enter into him who is all, to be filled by the all'. *Ascent to Love: The Spiritual Teaching of St John of the Cross* (London: Darton, Longman and Todd, 1987), pp.46-47. Shults, *Reforming Theological Anthropology*, p.91.



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The Season for Giving

It is that time of year again and my first pre-end of the financial year season since starting in the job last July. No doubt you will be receiving many requests for tax deductible donations in the lead up to June 30th.

I hope that you are aware that St John's Care relies almost entirely on donations to enable us to continue to serve those people in our local community that are doing it tough. Accordingly, I commend the following opportunities to you:

- We will be inviting members of those congregations that traditionally support us to make a tax deductible donation, as part of our annual fundraising campaign, towards the ongoing operational and program costs associated with our work. We continue to experience very high demand for our services and expect that in the coming year, this demand will only increase.
- There will also be a specific opportunity to help us raise funds for our new Community Worker, jointly funded by St John's Care and the Anglicare Survive and Thrive program. We have advertised to fill this new part time position which will enable us to help those clients with more complex needs to break the cycle of poverty, isolation and economic hardship.
- The Anglicare Winter Appeal was launched today (Wednesday) and as an Anglicare partner, we encourage you to participate in one of the many opportunities to donate non-perishable food items: either at one of the shopping centre collection points, at Anglicare's Holt office, at St John's Care or through your local participating school, business or organisation. We are hoping to exceed the 40,000 items that were generously donated last year. A significant amount of the food donated to the Winter Appeal comes to St John's Care for distribution to the community. Further, if you are interested in volunteering at one of the shopping centre collection points, please contact Anglicare on 62457100 for more details.

I encourage you to dig deep in support of these campaigns. It is only through the support of volunteers and donors that we are able to continue to serve.

Next week I will be writing about our 25th Anniversary which we will formally celebrate at the 9.30am service at St John's on Sunday 19th June.

Wish list: powdered milk, pasta sauce, cereal, vegemite and jam.

Stuart Davis-Meehan, Director

All Donations to St John's Care are Tax Deductible



PRAYER POINTS FOR THIS WEEK

IN THE WORLD

- ♦ We pray for calm between the United States and Russia as America's European missile defence shield goes live almost a decade after Washington proposed protecting NATO from Iranian rockets and despite Russian warnings that the West is threatening the peace in central Europe.
- ♦ We also pray for Australia's Eurovision entrant Dami Im in delivering powerful performances and that no matter the outcome she is able to showcase Australia in a beautiful way.

IN AUSTRALIA

- ♦ We pray for political calm, fairness and honesty as post budget and pre election fever touches our nation.

WORLD WIDE ANGLICAN CHURCH

- ♦ We pray for the church in North Dakota USA and North East India.
- ♦ We pray for the bishops, clergy and people of the Dioceses of Newcastle and North Gippsland

IN OUR DIOCESE

- ♦ We pray for the clergy and people in the parishes of Cootamundra, Temora and Junee.
- ♦ We pray for the chaplains and residents of Junee Correctional Centre.

MISSION

- ♦ We pray for the work of ABM in Gaza and South Sudan.

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ♦ We pray for the Cursillo Movement, the meeting next month and for the formation of new directions.
- ♦ We continue to pray for our Clergy Appointment Board as they work to find us a new Rector.
- ♦ We pray for the following members of our parish family: Gwen and Roger Hallows, Dawn Hardman, Hillary and Bob Harris, Karina Harris, Paul Harris, Janet Hartmann, Mark Webb and Imogen, and Brian and Merri Hepworth.
- ♦ We pray for those in special need of prayer: Phil Perman, Glenys Wimmer, Dawn Hardman, Marjorie Pratt and those known to us personally.

COMMEMORATIONS:

Monday: **William Donald Roberts** (died 1989)



HOLY COVENANT PRAYER
VINE

REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

Phone Merri Bacon on 62511110
or email

merri.bacon@bigpond.com

IN THE PARISH

PARISH COUNCILLOR PROFILE

This week we interviewed **Vera De Vere**, one of our Councillors.

What nourishes you? ... I love spending time with family and friends - talking, laughing and sharing good food. Last year I joined the Wednesday meditation group and have enjoyed learning how to be still and in the silence. Meditation quietens me and is teaching me to listen to the quiet voice of God.



What are your passions? My family - my husband, our daughters and our large extended family. I also have many close friends around the world (from the times we lived overseas for several years) and love keeping in touch with them as well. Staying in regular contact is not easy so thank goodness for technology. I love to read and last year I started a book group. My book group has challenged me to read books that I might not have previously thought of reading and this in turn has made me consider some things in new light.

What do you see as your role on parish council? I see myself as a respectful listener to the church community ensuring that the thoughts, views and ideas of the community are brought to the council for consideration. I also see myself as having strong gifts in administration and management and I would like to offer those gifts to the church and to the council.

PARISH COUNCILLOR PROFILE

We also interviewed **Carol Kubanek**, another of our Councillors.

What nourishes you? Playing with my dogs Joey and Nahla, going for walks at the local nature reserve and spending time with my family, friends and community nourishes me and provides me with a source of wonder. I love reading and do so daily since it gives me the opportunity of experience how other people think, how they live and what their world is like.



What are your passions? Nature itself. The beauty of the world, animals and plants. Learning how to relate to people and finding my place and watching others do so as well. Helping others, supporting the church, and encouraging friends when they are in need even when it is difficult to do so. As stated in 1 Corinthians 12:7 - A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.

What do you see as your role on parish council? Supporting the church in moving forward and helping (with other members of parish council, the wardens, church staff and volunteers, and clergy) Holy Covenant through this challenging time of transition. I have been involved in the church for several years and believe that having a parish council made up of a variety of members who have different experiences is important. I want to provide leadership for the parish and enjoy speaking with members of the church to better understand what is important to them.

COVENANT CARE—HELP REQUIRED

Some of the regular volunteers for Covenant care @ Holy Covenant on Mondays are escaping the Canberra winter and we will be a little short in June and July.

If you are able to help out in the kitchen as a **one off** please talk to Heather Shelley on epshms@grapevine.com.au or 6251 1568. Having an extra pair of hands in the kitchen over morning tea at 10 am or cleaning up after lunch at about 1 pm would be very useful.



ST JOHN'S CARE COLLECTION AT JAMISON, 21 May



St John's Care are running low on their supplies. We are having our mid-year collection at Jamison Plaza on Saturday 21 May. We will again have a cake stall for Holy Covenant. This event provides a major contribution of food and groceries to St John's Care. It also raises valuable funds and community awareness for us.

Volunteers are needed to provide shoppers with a list of products as they enter Coles and Aldi, and to stock and operate our stall. If you can help with any of these activities, please put your name on the sign-up sheet on the notice board.

Assistance is especially needed to take groceries back to the church several times during the morning – speak to Harris about this.

Any enquiries, contact **Harris Boulton (6251 2078 or hbboulton@gmail.com)**

Prayer for choosing an incumbent

Bountiful God,
give to this parish a faithful pastor
who will faithfully speak your word
and minister your sacraments;
an encourager who will equip your people for ministry
and enable us to fulfil our calling.
Give to those who will choose, wisdom, discernment and patience,
and to us give warm and generous hearts,
for Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen.**



(A Prayer Book for Australia page 212, No. 36)



Safe Ministry Training At Holy Covenant

28 May—workshop (9.30am-3.30pm)
29 May refresher training (1pm-4pm)

Please check your records as to whether you are due for a refresher course (within 3 years since previous training) or full day workshop.

Please complete registration form at the rear of church as soon as possible so we can confirm places with diocesan office.

Who needs the training?

- Clergy
- Leaders of children and young people
- Persons providing ministry to vulnerable adults
- Wardens
- Parish Councillors
- Anyone else who provides ministry to someone who is vulnerable

BREATHING SPACE EVENTS COMING UP:

**Sunday 12 June - Deep Dive -
Revd Richard Browning
*Story Beings and the reimagining of
humanity***

Breathing Space programmes are available from the leaflet rack on the back wall.

A Taste of Meditation with Anthony de Mello and Rob Maron.

Have you often wanted to learn to meditate but perhaps didn't know where to start? Or maybe you do have a practice but would like to learn more. The facilitator, Rob Maron, is a long-time meditator, but considers himself "always a beginner".

Based on Anthony de Mello's accessible and creative book, *Sadhana a Way to God*, this series will provide an introduction to meditation and contemplation as well as some new material for the more experienced meditator. Thomas Keating's *The Daily Reader For Contemplative Living* and *Centering Prayer* will also be referred to.

Participants will need de Mello's book.

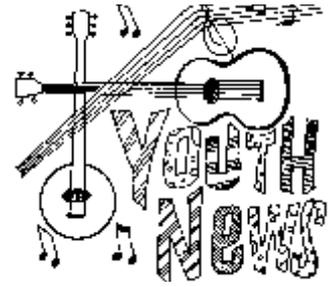
Please indicate on sign-up sheet if you need a book (under \$20).

When: Four Wednesday evenings from 7.30 pm to 9.30pm in the Rainbow Centre. **Starting June 1.**

Those who make
no mistakes
are making
the
biggest
mistakes
of all —
they are
attempting
nothing new.

Holy Covenant Youth

TERM 2 EVENTS



Sat 28 May
Sat 11 June
Sun 19 June
Fri-Sun 24-26 June

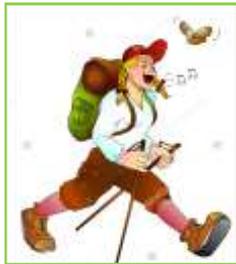
Challenge Night
Wii Night In
Family Service—stay in church
H.C. Youth Camp 2016

Thank you Elle and Jerry for organising our youth so they have the opportunity to be so enriched. Also thank you for organising them for various rosters including church cleaning, morning tea and Calvary service.

Wanted to Buy

Hilary Harris is wanting to buy
NORDIC WALKING POLES.

If you are able to help her
please call 6251 8166.
Thank you.



Baptism today—11.45am

We welcome baby **Amelia Elizabeth Ward** and her parents Nathan and Angela and godparents Anthony and Kristy as well as their extended family and friends.



'May the
Lord bless
you and keep
you'

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



Monday: **John Christensen, Broni Sargenson**
Friday: **Elijah Sharrad**

If you want your name in the Birthday Book, email :
weeklybulletin@holycovenant.org.au

Holy Covenant Limerick Competition

Richard Scutter (8am parishioner) is conducting a limerick competition.

There are 2 sections:

- * Open
- * Under 15 years

\$2 entry fee (red tin in Office under hutch). Any topic acceptable but it must be your own work.

Entries to
Richardscutter@bigpond.com

Entries close 31 May
Awards & Prizes in June

ON THE NOTICE BOARD

- **A National Act of Recognition - Recognition News** by Revd Lindsay McDowell
- **Film and Theology: film as mirror—what do you see. Leviathan** Facilitated by Nikolai Blaskow Thurs 19 May 6.30-9.30pm ACCC Chapel
- **Suicide Prevention Workshop 25** May. Wesley Lifeforce.
- **Anglican Historical Society excursion** Sat 28 May
- **CES Public Forum:** Speaker: Dr Brendan Long; Topic: "Tax Reform, A Christian Vision". At ACCC, 7.30 pm Wednesday 25 May. Donation: \$5. Supper provided. Contact: Robyn Coghlan 6254 0487.

Too much serious?
Subscribe to fun.



Anglican Historical Society:

Join the AHS on their excursion to the Bungendore area

On **Sat 28 May**, the Society will be visiting

- St Philip's Church, Bungendore,
- St Thomas' Church, Carwoola, and
- St Mark's Church, Hoskinstown.

Starting at 10.00am, the day includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea for \$18 a person plus \$5 per person registration.

For details email Alan Wilson, the Society's Hon. Secretary, at alan.wilson6@bigpond.com.

Christ Church Hawker:

Quarterly Men's Luncheon

Mon 30 May, 11.45am to 2pm

Tim Kirk (CEO & Chief Winemaker of our local high-prestige vineyard Clonakilla Wines) – committed Christian, and a highly-articulate genuine Australian guy has chosen to speak on "The Theology of Wine"

The luncheon will be at the **Birrigai Café, Kangara Waters** (close to Belconnen Town Centre.

Cost is \$25 a head for a 2-course meal plus tea/coffee, with the meal being served at about

12.30. RSVPs to Bruce Hooley (6251 7124

or brucehooley.1@bigpond.com) by Thursday 26 May please!

MINISTRY TEAM

LOCUMS	Revd Rob Miners 6292 9963 Revd Connie Gerrity 0429 423 725	Em: robminers@holycovenant.org.au Em: connie@gerrity.id.au
HONORARY ASSOCIATE PRIEST	Revd Anne Dudzinski 6278 6087	Em: annedudzinski@optusnet.com.au
HOLISTIC CARE NURSE	Archdeacon Anne Ranse 0439 139 209	Email: nurse@holycovenant.org.au Days: Mon & Thurs (10am - 2pm)
HONORARY DEACON	Revd Susan Joy Nevile 0431 133 852	Email: susanjoyn@gmail.com
CHILDREN'S WORKER	Revd Katherine Rainger 0401 142 851	Email: children@holycovenant.org.au
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DETAILS FOR NEXT SUNDAY 22 May 2016

8.00 am **HOLY COMMUNION**
Celebrant and Preacher: Revd Rob Miners

10.00 am **HOLY COMMUNION, Children's Church and Youth Group**
Celebrant and Preacher: Revd Rob Miners



SENTENCE:

God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Romans 5:5

READINGS:

Genesis 11:1-9
 Psalm 104: 26-36
 Acts 2: 1-12
 John 14: 8-17, 25-27

8 am HYMNS

422 vs 1,4,5,6
 419
 420
 411



PRAYER

Gather us in as those who wait to know you more deeply, Holy Spirit. Speak to us in ways that reach each heart and mind.
 Light the fires of your life in us, and nurture the fruit of our being. Then scatter us into the world, as bearers of your sacred word, the fruits of your Spirit, and of a joy that cannot be contained within these walls.
 Encircle us with your grace and gather in all that we have received and become, we pray. **AMEN**

	8.00am	10.00 am
Sidespersons	Mandy Squair and Tony Willis	Helen and Harris Boulton
Readers	Tony Willis Robert Arthur Katherine Rainger	Tobias Nevile Christine Mitchell Harris Boulton
Intercessor	Anne McDowell	Merri Bacon
Organist	Kath Arthur	Ruth Dunnicliff-Hagan
Word & Prayer	Paul Shelley	Jon Sheehan
Deacon	Katherine Rainger	Anne Ranse
Cup	Paul Shelley Katherine Rainger	Anne Ranse, Rob Maron, Doreen Matters, George Gerrity Extra bread: Anne Dudzinski
Morning Tea	Jennifer Collier Beth Heyde	Helen Boulton Dorothy Hurst
Children's Church		Richard, Mel, Katherine, Russell M/T: Jo James