

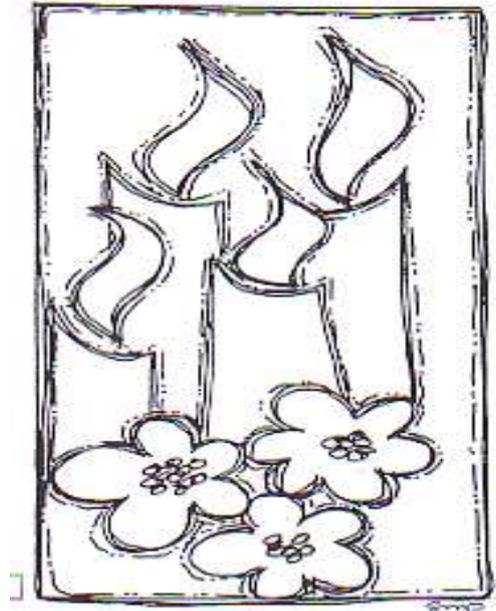
HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH JAMISON

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

Weekly Bulletin

18 December 2016

Fourth Sunday of Advent



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: Revd Katherine Rainger
Preacher: Revd Canon Margaret Campbell

10:00 am HOLY COMMUNION & Children's Christmas Eve Rehearsal

Celebrant: Revd Katherine Rainger
Preacher: Revd Canon Margaret Campbell



Please join us for morning tea after the Services

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Monday 19.12.16	10.00 am	Worship Centre	Covenant Care (final for year)
Tuesday 20.12.16	12.30 pm	Worship Centre	Meditation (final for year)
Wednesday 21.12.16	12 noon 6.30 pm	Rainbow Centre Rainbow Centre	Holy Com and BYO Lunch (final) Parish Council meeting
Thursday 22.12.16	10.30 am	Kangara Waters Care Cntr	Carols by HC singers

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2016

Saturday 24 December: 4.30 pm Family Christmas Service
 Celebrant: Katherine Rainger

This is a family/child friendly service, where dressing up to tell the Christmas Story takes place! This is a great service to bring your family and friends with young children!!

9 pm Christmas Eucharist with Carols



Sunday 25 December: 9 am Contemporary Christmas Celebration with Eucharist and Carols



**From Sunday 1 January 2017 until
 Sunday January 29 2017
 There will be one Sunday Service only at
 9.00am**

*If each of us could make of our hearts a manger
 Then Christ would come again to this earth.
 - Angelus Silesius, 17th C.*



FROM OUR RECTOR ...

Dear friends,

I have a little book I read at Advent called *What are we waiting for? Finding meaning in Advent and Christmas* by Richard Leonard, SJ. This year I am not as nearly organized as usual, and am only up to page 20. However I want to share with you a small part of his reflection about not knowing when the end of time will come.

I haven't a clue when the world will cease to exist and Christ will return in glory. I don't want to know. I do know and believe that the Lord returns to us every time we forgive, share, are compassionate, generous, and sacrificial toward one another. It may not be as grand as dancing suns and tidal waves, but the heroic love of a parent for a child, a spouse for their sick partner, and the first world sharing with the third world are spectacular enough for me to believe that Jesus' kingdom comes every day, in every hour, at every moment because Christians live out their baptismal vows.

I believe this is what Jesus was telling John the Baptist in last week's gospel reading. I believe this is the grace that Joseph shows to Mary in this week's reading, which allowed the King of Peace to be born amongst us.

In this last hectic week before Christmas, when everything yet undone needs to be done (in our minds) isn't it grand to think that when we walk through this week living out our baptismal vows we are bringing in Jesus' kingdom every day, every hour and every moment.

Advent grace and peace be with you all this week,

Margaret

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE ADVENT 4

! The prophet Isaiah declares,
! "A young woman is with child,
! and shall bear a son, and we shall name him Immanuel
! [which means God-With-Us]."

! The risen Christ declares,
! "I am with you always, to the end of the age."
! (*Isaiah 7.14 & Matthew 28.20*)

! We light this candle as a sign of God's presence in Christ,
! now and always.
! (*light candle*)

! That we may trust that God is with us
! and live in the light of Christ's coming –

! **Risen Christ,**
! **light of the world,**
! **shine in our lives and shine amongst us now.**

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Here we are at the final week of Advent. We are getting closer and closer to the mystery of Christmas. The mystery of the incarnation, when the Word becomes flesh and dwells among us. The intermingling of the divine and the human is a mystery and it also opens many possibilities for the way that we see the world around us. This year I have been studying the relationship between film and theology. The interchange between these two areas can be rich and rewarding. Filmmakers have a way of perceiving the world and telling stories that can help us to see things in new and surprising ways. Theology is also about the way we see and imagine the world around us. I remember the Lenten studies using film with the youth group over the past few years. We conversed with *Chocolat*, *The King's Speech*, *Babette's Feast* and *The Shawshank Redemption*. These films taught us so much about what it means to be on a journey, where we find resurrection experiences, how to use words to bring life and not to destroy and the gift of grace. I wonder which films could be chosen for an Advent study? Which films speak to you of waiting, hope, love, peace, joy and the gift of new life?

Of course, Christmas films are plentiful in our cultural imagination. *Miracle on 34th Street* and *It's a Wonderful Life* are classics. You probably have your own favourites to add to my list. *Love Actually* (2003) is one of my favourites. For the last few years I have watched this every Christmas Eve after dinner with whoever is around. I love this movie. The intersecting plots, the characters and their stories, the range of places where family and friendship are found all framed within the arrivals and departures lounges at Heathrow airport pull my heartstrings every time.

Joyeux Noël (2005) is a film about the World War I Christmas truce of December 1914, depicted through the eyes of French, British and German soldiers. The unofficial truce begins when the Scots begin to sing festive songs, accompanied by a bagpipe. The German tenor sent to entertain the German troops starts to sing *Silent Night* and the piper from the Scottish frontline begins to accompany him. The German, French and Scottish officers meet in the middle of no-man's-land and agree on a cease-fire for the evening. The soldiers wish each other "Joyeux Noël", "Frohe Weihnachten", and "Merry Christmas" and exchange gifts and photographs. It is a moment of humanity that deeply moves everyone involved. Unfortunately, those in charge elsewhere do not appreciate what has occurred.

The Nativity Story (2006) starring New Zealand actor Keisha Castle Hughes as Mary is engaging due to the way both the historical setting is captured and the supernatural elements of the Christmas story are conveyed. For any teachers reading this *Nativity!* (2009) is a must see.

Finally, *Another Country* (2015) is not a traditional Christmas movie but it does contain some profound theology of the incarnation. *Another Country* is a documentary told by David Gulpilil set in a remote community of Arnhem Land called Ramingining. At one point in the film he is reflecting on the presence of the church and Christian believers in his community. After an interactive re-telling of the story has been enacted on Easter day he says:

For this one day, many of us are Christians, but what most of my people believe is not the same as what most white people believe. If we have a Jesus, he is black. He's not all powerful from above. He's not in charge of us. He's one of us.

- Katherine Rainger



GPO Box 219
Canberra City ACT 2601
Ph: 02 6248 7771
director@stjohnscare.org.au
ABN: 40 172 941 355

It's Christmas!

For many of us Christmas is a time of rejoicing and sharing good times with family and friends, however, for many of our clients it is a time of great stress, sadness and loneliness.

We had a woman come to the centre during the week to donate food and presents. She related her story of being destitute last Christmas and needing to use the Present Room herself. However, this year she has a well-paying job, things are good and she wanted to give back. She came with her father who looked as proud as punch to be supporting his daughter.

We also had a woman with 3 children who came to get some presents for her children. She spent some time with me, telling me about her eldest daughter and her partner who had succumbed to an addiction to ice and how they had just dropped their 4 children off at her place and left, without telling her where they were going or when they might be back. You can imagine she was quite distraught. We were of course able to give her some extra food and presents for all the children.

As you might expect, our numbers have increased in the lead up to Christmas as families struggle to provide food for the table and presents for their children. In November, we saw some 357 people in our Emergency Relief Centre (nearly 30 above the monthly average for the year) and half way through December we have already seen 240 clients.

However, I continue to be amazed at the support we receive from the local community for our Christmas programs (present room, hampers and lunch on Christmas Day) and I want to recognise and thank some of those who have been just so generous this year: St John's Anglican Church, Synergy Group, Burgmann Anglican School, CITSA, DLA Piper, Dept. of Employment, Canberra Woden Lions Club, Holy Covenant Anglican Church, Rotary Club of Canberra, St Peter's Anglican Church, Dept. of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Canberra Youth Theatre, Canberra Girls Grammar School, Anglicare, 666 ABC Radio, Oz Harvest, ACT Motorcycle Riders Association, Snow Foundation, Australian Pork Limited, Rotary Club of Belconnen and Ainslie Public School.

St John's Care will close on the 23rd December and re-open on Tuesday 3rd January. I will be away on annual leave in January.

I wish you and yours a Happy and Holy Christmas.

Wish list: vegemite, pasta sauce and long life milk.

Stuart Davis Meehan, Director

All Donations to St John's Care are Tax Deductible



FAREWELL TO KATHERINE Luncheon & Presentation TODAY—11.30am

Please bring a plate to share.

The parish will be giving Katherine a farewell gift. If you would like to contribute to this please place your offering in an envelope marked "Katherine's Gift:" and place in the offertory plate or leave at the office or make an online transfer.

Please sign the card on table near the Font

Children's Christmas Service



The Children's Christmas service at 4:30pm on Christmas Eve is a wonderful celebration enjoyed by young and old. A great chance to invite neighbours, friends and family members.

All children will be invited to participate during the service and there are also some speaking parts for those who know that they'll be there. If you would like to help lead the service please see Katherine (children@holycovenant.org.au). We will be preparing during Children's Church and after the 10am Service **TODAY.**

It would be helpful if cast members could plan to arrive at 3:30pm on Christmas Eve.

Advent Blessings,

Revd Katherine

Thank You Holy Covenant

Thanks to all of you for being so supportive and prayerful before, during and after my ordination. I'm very grateful to serve God alongside you all.

In mid-January I'm going to Gladstone's Library in North Wales to work on my PhD. Gladstone's Library is a hub for film and theology which is my focus area. I'll also be visiting other universities and speaking with people about the work that they are doing and will have the opportunity to share some of my work. In May when I return, I'm going to be visiting the Northern Territory where two of the films I'm looking at *Ten Canoes* and *Charlie's Country* were set (the third film that I'm looking at is *The Tracker*). I'm making arrangements to stay in the community of Ramingining where *Ten Canoes* was filmed and developed. It is a very exciting time and I'm hoping to make some very good in-roads with my study. I'll then return to Canberra for the final 18 months of my PhD.

Children's Church

- Thank you to all the teachers, helpers, storytellers who provide faithful and creative ministry to our children each week. Thanks also to the Friday admin team for keeping the kid's area stocked with colouring and pencils.
- Playgroup is now in recess for the holidays. Thanks to Christine Mitchell and Doreen Matters for co-ordinating this ministry of hospitality each week and to Heather and Paul Shelley for their assistance.



The end of the year is near,
and we are of good cheer,
and think about the time that has past.
We reflect on what we've done
on the mundane and the fun,
and on those who helped it come to pass.
Thank you one and all,
for answering the call,
and for sharing the load we all bear.
Consider yourself named,
and your appreciation framed,
But individual thanks , we don't dare!
For when we name just one,
and the list is begun,
alas, someone will surely be forgot!
We care too much for you
and all that you do
that you may think we remember you not!!!

To absolutely everyone who has helped make Holy Covenant
a loving, caring, Christ centred community in 2016,
THANK YOU and GOD BLESS YOU

CUPPA AND CONVERSATION

At a loose end in January? We will be having morning tea again this year. Please come guys and gals and join us.

When: 10am— 12 noon every Wednesday in January.

Where: In the Worship Centre



IN THE PARISH

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS ... Parish Council 2017:

Wardens:

Kathryn Body (Rector's Warden)
Nicholas Platt
Carol Kubanek

Council:

Ken Wedgwood
Vera de Vere
Gareth James
Wendy Elkhuisen
Tobias Nevile
Johann Sheehan



Congratulation and thank you for offering your commitment to the Parish
For new members, these roles take effect in February at the AGM.
Rectors appointments for 3 parish councillors will also be made at the AGM.



EARLY REMINDER TO STAFF AND MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

We would like to have your
Annual Reports for 2016 by
Thursday 26 January 2017
so they can be made available
to parishioners before the
AGM.

Christmas Gift tags available for sale

Located on book shelf and
in Rainbow Centre.
10c each or 6 for 50cents.

Need to email Canon Margaret?

Please use her work email address:
rector@holycovenant.org.au
Do not use her private email address

BLACK POT PLANT POTS

Anne Ranse needs 6–8" diameter (150-200mm) black plastic pots. No more than 25 required asap. Please leave outside HCN office.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Today: Bev Barnes, Rod Menzies, Phoebe Jackson

Friday: Ian Sykes

Sunday: JESUS

If you'd like your name in the Birthday Book, please tell the office.



Thank you for your support!

JUSTICE

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Encouraging peace and justice in the Philippines

Your gift can help support the production of art and drama performances to stimulate discussion on peace and justice in the Philippines. Please give hope this Christmas. Give to the Christmas Bowl appeal.

FREECALL 1800 025 101
www.actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 64 493 941 795

Envelopes are available from the hymn book stand

BITS AND PIECES

- ◆ When you're out walking this week, you might like to drop one of the leaflets advertising our Christmas Services in letter boxes—they're on the hymn book stand.
- ◆ Some great pictures from parish activities on the Pics Board on the back wall—take a look, you might see yourself!
- ◆ If anyone has a TIS hymn book they have borrowed, please may we have it back for the January services, when we don't have enough books.
- ◆ Please make sure your mobile phone is off or on silent.

Christmas gift suggestions:

- To your enemy, forgiveness.
- To an opponent, tolerance.
- To a friend, your heart.
- To a customer, service.
- To all, charity.
- To every child, a good example.
- To yourself, respect.

- Oren Arnold



PRAYER POINTS FOR THIS WEEK

IN THE WORLD

- ♦ For the people of Syria and especially Aleppo as they struggle to evacuate to safety.

IN AUSTRALIA .

- ♦ For the organisations providing Christmas cheer to the homeless.

WORLD WIDE ANGLICAN CHURCH

- ♦ Diocese of North West Australia.
- ♦ Defence Force Chaplains

IN OUR DIOCESE

- ♦ Parishes of Yass Valley, Boorowa, and Murrumburrah Harden
- ♦ Anglicare Children's Services.
- ♦ For the team at St. John's Care preparing for the Community Christmas lunch on Christmas day.

MISSION

- ♦ The work of the Bush Church Aid Society in Coober Pedy and Broken Hill.

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ♦ We pray for those preparing our Christmas Services.
- ♦ Our parish family: David and Rosemary Kennemore, Kate King, Jocelyn Kirkland and Carol Kubanek and Quentin Grafton.
- ♦ We pray for those in special need of prayer: Bev Barnes and anyone known to us personally.

COMMEMORATIONS:

Wednesday: **Thomas, Apostle and Martyr**

Friday: Robert Noel Cooper (died 1996)

**DEAR GOD,
I WANNA TAKE A
MINUTE. NOT TO ASK
FOR ANYTHING FROM
YOU, BUT SIMPLY TO
SAY THANK YOU,
FOR ALL I HAVE.**

PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR	Libby Warren Office: 6251 6100	E: office@holycovenant.org.au
PARISH OFFICE Open 10 am - 2 pm Tuesday to Thursday	89 Dexter Street, Cook, ACT 2614 PO Box 98, Jamison, ACT 2614 Tel: 6251 6100	E: office@holycovenant.org.au Web: http://holycovenant.org.au
WARDENS	Kathryn Body 0403 500 882 Merri Bacon 6251 1110 Nick Platt 6251 6170	
PRAYER VINE	Merri Bacon 6251 1110	E: prayervine@holycovenant.org.au
BULLETIN EDITORS	Wendy Elkhuisen, Phyl Holmes	E: weeklybulletin@holycovenant.org.au

DETAILS FOR NEXT SUNDAY - 25 December – Christmas Day

9.00 pm	HOLY COMMUNION Christmas Eve	Celebrant: Canon Margaret Campbell Preacher: Canon Margaret Campbell
9.00 am	HOLY COMMUNION Christmas Day	Celebrant: Canon Margaret Campbell Preacher: Canon Margaret Campbell



	9.00 pm Christmas Eve	9.00 am Christmas Day
Sidespersons	Carol and Peter Sherman	Jo and Gareth James
Readers	Sandra Ross Jayne Murray Anne Ranse	Steve Daniels Simon De Vere Anne Ranse
Intercessor	Anne McDowell	Anne Dudzinski
Organist	Heather Shelley	Jerry Platt
Word & Prayer	Paul Shelley	James Ellis
Deacon	Anne Ranse	Anne Ranse
Cup	Paul Shelley Anne Ranse	James Ellis, Anne Ranse, Tobias Nevile, Vera De Vere Extra Bread: Anne Dudzinski
Morning Tea		Carol Sherman, Jocelyn Kirkland
Children's Church		In recess
Counters		Bob A, Rod M, Graham B, Martin L
Flowers	Kath Arthur	
Cleaning	Trigge family	

MINISTRY TEAM

RECTOR	Revd Canon Margaret Campbell 0417 423 472	E: rector@holycovenant.org.au Day off: Monday HC Office: 9.30am-4.30pm (T,W,Th)
PASTORAL CARE CO-ORDINATOR	Revd Anne Dudzinski 0413 994 739	E: pastoralcare@holycovenant.org.au
HONORARY ASSOCIATE PRIEST	Revd Connie Gerrity 0429 423 725	E: connie@gerrity.id.au
HOLISTIC CARE NURSE	Archdeacon Anne Ranse 0406 379 599 (new phone no.)	E: nurse@holycovenant.org.au Days: Mon & Thurs (10am - 2pm)
HONORARY DEACON	Revd Susan Joy Nevile 0431 133 852	E: susanjoyn@gmail.com
CHILDREN'S WORKER	Revd Katherine Rainger 0401 142 851	E: children@holycovenant.org.au
YOUTH LEADERS	Elle Platt 0434 960 967 Jeremy Platt 0466 661 860	E: youth@holycovenant.org.au

SENTENCE: ‘A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel: God with us.’

Matthew 1:23

READINGS:

Isaiah 75: 10-16
 Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19
 Romans 1: 1-7
 Matthew 1: 18-25



8 am HYMNS

289 (v 1, 2, 3, 4)
 302
 283
 265

PRAYER

Eternal God of power and grace,
 who comes to us in surprising ways,
 in angel appearances, in defeat of enemies,
 and in the resurrection from the dead –
 show us the face of Immanuel in our time.
 Bring us from fear to awe, we pray,
 in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year A



	8.00am	10.00 am
Sidespersons	Mandy Squair, Hilary Harris	Helen and Harris Boulton
Readers	Kath Arthur Hilary Harris Anne Ranse	Jayne Murray Frances MacKay Simon De Vere
Intercessor	Bob Arthur	Joh Sheehan
Organist	Kath Arthur	Heather Shelley
Word & Prayer	Steve Daniels	James Ellis
Deacon	Anne Ranse	Anne Ranse
Cup	Steve Daniels Anne Ranse	James Ellis, Tobias Nevile, Vera De Vere, Leo Wimmer Extra Bread: Canon Margaret
Morning Tea	Mandy Squair, Pam Lane	Judith Ann Daniells, Merri Bacon
Children’s Church		Christmas Eve rehearsals
Counters	Clive Rodger, Peter Sherman	Harris Boulton, Simon De Vere