



HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH JAMISON

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

BULLETIN



JOY

ADVENT FOUR

AND

**CHRISTMAS DAY
2017**



Welcome to our worship and fellowship today! 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 .



IN THE PARISH on Sunday 24th December - Christmas Eve

- 8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION**
Celebrant and Preacher: The Revd Katherine Rainger
- 10.00 am HOLY COMMUNION**
Celebrant and Preacher: The Revd Katherine Rainger
- 4.00 pm CHILDREN'S SERVICE**
- 11.00pm HOLY COMMUNION**
Celebrant and Preacher: The Ven Dr Wayne Brighton

IN THE PARISH on Christmas Day

- 8.00 am CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS with Communion and Carols**
Celebrant and Preacher: The Ven Dr Wayne Brighton
- 10.00 am CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS with Communion and Carols**
Celebrant: and Preacher: The Ven Dr Wayne Brighton

ACTIVITIES CURRENTLY IN RECESS		RETURNING
Sunday	Children's Church & Youth Group Rainbow Fellowship	11 February (10am) 4 February (3pm)
Monday	Covenant Care Crafty Crew	12 February (10 am) 19 February (9.30am)
Tuesday	Meditation	23 January (12.30 pm)
Wednesday	Service and lunch Ever Active Class Meditation	7 February (12 noon) 24 January (2 pm) 7 February (6 pm)
Thursday	Scrabble Book Club	4 January (9.30 am) 15 Feb (2 pm)
Friday	Play Group	9 February (10 am)

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)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

As we light the candle of love,
 we remember the stories
 of your faithfulness and steadfast love
 which surrounds us
 and will not be contained.
 We trust that you
 are with us always.
 As love that bursts forth from all your people,



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Christmas Day. Love is born in the most unlikely places

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
(John 1:5)

During Advent we have been invited to wait in the expectation that the story of Jesus' birth might enter our hearts and our world in new and healing ways. Yet there is part of us that might say, 'It's a lovely story, but after 2000 years the world is still plagued by war, poverty, injustice and lack of compassion'. And sometimes we might find the world's darkness overwhelming. Or maybe we struggle with some grief closer to home. We might even find ourselves crying out: 'Where are you, God, in this?' And then something - usually the compassionate acts of human beings or an unexpected turn of events - may remind us of the Light that continues to shine in the darkness.



Can we, like Michael Leunig whose prayer-poem is reproduced elsewhere in the bulletin, and Noël Davis (his poem is below), affirm that, despite apparent evidence to the contrary, Love (God with us) can be found 'in the most unlikely places'?

Love Irrepressible

*Come Christmas in a barn,
a shed, a basement, a box,
a cell, a tunnel, a trench,
behind a razor wire fence,
on a deck, a backwater,
a bench, a church step,
amidst the ruins of terror, the
cries of anguish,
in a hospital tent,
beneath a star,
round a tree,
outside the expected,
from the debris of a shattered dream
we witness our divinity,
Love Irrepressible
Wellspring of Surprise
being born of our humanity
time and time again.*

- Noël Davis: *From the Wilds of the Heart*

May we, like the shepherds, be on the lookout for such occasions.

- ***Frances MacKay***

WITHIN THE PARISH

FROM PARISH COUNCIL'S NOVEMBER MEETING:

- Gave thanks that there are sufficient nominations for Parish Council and Wardens for the year ahead and noted with thanks the work of those Wardens (Kathryn Body, Carol Kubanek and Nick Platt) and Parish Councillors (Beth Heyde) who are stepping down at the end of 2017. Particular thanks is due to Kathryn Body who has faithfully served four different Rectors over the last 5 years and has stepped into the breach on more than one occasion, with grace and patience.
- Gives thanks to God for the ministry of our childrens and youth workers, noting in particular that one of the young people has asked to be given classes in preparation for taking holy communion.
- Remained thankful for the faithfulness of the parish in continuing their offertory giving to support the work of the parish - we remain on budget;
- Is starting to get excited about the possibilities for how our parish can celebrate our 50th year of worship together. Members of both congregations are encouraged to participate in the opinion poll and to contact Jennifer Collier with any ideas or feedback
- Endorsed the documentation necessary for the Clergy Appointment Board to commence its formal work in seeking a new Rector for our parish. We ask that all members of the parish keep the CAB members (Kathryn Body, Jayne Murray and Bob Arthur) in our prayers over the coming weeks and months.



Have a
Blessed
Christmas
Season

From the Staff

*Love is born
With a dark and troubled face
When hope is dead
And in the most unlikely place
Love is born:
Love is always born.*

*Michael Leunig:
When I Talk to You*

I CAN'T WAIT TO TELL YOU...

The Holistic Care Nursing Ministry continues to grow and impact on the community around us so much so that we will be employing two more paid staff in 2018. That will bring our paid staff to four and allow us to reach out to even more people in need.



In our forward planning the Holistic Care Nursing Ministry staff will be having a 'brainstorming/ planning day in February and putting in place goals for the New Year. We are also hoping to run some training/information days for people in the parish who might like to participate in our programs on a voluntary basis but are not sure what is involved.

I would like to say a very special thank you to Rotary Belconnen for their donation of 10 Christmas hampers that have been distributed to our clients and those in need in our parish family. These hampers mean those folk can have some Christmas food on their table and supplies in their pantry.

The staff of Holistic Care Nursing Ministry would like to wish you all a very happy, safe and holy Christmas with many blessings.

CUPPA AND CONVERSATION

At a loose end in January? We will be having morning tea again this year. Please come guys and gals as it provides an opportunity to catch up with friends or make new ones.



When: 10am— 12 noon Wednesdays from the 10th January.

Where: In the Worship Centre

The flowers in the church today have been donated by Robin Rawson in memory of her mother, Enid a former parishioner who died on 22 December a few years ago. We give thanks for her life and our memory of her.

WITHIN THE PARISH



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 2017,
THANK YOU and GOD BLESS YOU

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY IN 2018

Holy Covenant have been running a program called Education for Ministry (EFM) in the parish for over ten years. In the last three years we have run a new version of the program which has been well received by members of the parish and beyond. Our current group has members from outside our parish and has provided a great opportunity to share and learn from others. Early in 2018 we will hold an information evening about EFM. If you are looking to deepen your faith through theological reading and reflection in a learning community, EFM could be just what you are looking for. More information will be provided in the new year and you can also go to the EFM website at www.efmaustralia.org



REMINDER TO STAFF AND MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

We would like to have your
Annual Reports for 2017 by
30 January 2018 so they can be
made available to
parishioners before the AGM on
Tuesday 13 February

KEEPING IN TOUCH

The Weekly Bulletin arrives at the website on Fridays and you can listen to the sermons again—or if you missed one, usually by the end of Sunday. Check out the website—you might be surprised at what you find!.
<http://holycovenant.org.au>

NOTICES



**From Sunday 31 December to Sunday 28 January
One Service only: 9.00 am Holy Communion**

Sunday February 4: 8 am and 10 am Holy Communion

The Parish Office will be closed from 21 December to 9 January 2018 inclusive.

Prayer books and hymn books.

If you have borrowed a Prayer or Hymn Book during the year, could you please return them as we need them for our January Services—thank you.

Help needed for the Cleaning and Morning Tea Rosters in 2018

As you take time to enjoy a restful break after the year, please prayerfully consider whether you could help on the Cleaning and Morning Tea rosters in 2018. Both rosters are rewarding and don't take too much time if we have a good number on the roster.

We need at least three sets of two people to join the cleaning roster. The tasks are not difficult if shared, and include vacuuming, bins, bathrooms and floors. If you can spare an hour of your time once every 6-8 weeks, we need your help.

For Morning Tea we need preferably 3 people for morning tea each week **for the 10am service and 2 people minimum for 8am.** The more people who offer to be on the roster, the less frequently your turn will come around.

If you can help with either or both of these rosters, please let Merri Bacon know on merri.bacon@bigpond.com by 15 January, so that rosters can be drawn up by the end of January.



How beautiful upon the mountains,
and among the coastal cities and towns,
and across the red outback plains,
are the feet of those who bring good tidings,
who publish the coming of peace,
who bring good tidings of great joy,
who publish salvation,
who says to God's people:
Your God certainly reigns!

To you is born this day in the city of David
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. this day
Christ is born indeed! Hallelujah!



AND



ENVELOPES AVAILABLE FROM THE
HYMN BOOK STAND



Christmas Day

this
day
is a
special day
for celebration
it is that one day in the year
when Christians stop to honour the birth of
Jesus Christ
and Christ love becomes married with all
humanity in the destiny of the world

Richard Scutter

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

A THANK YOU card from Anne
Dudzinski for last Sunday's celebration
is on the sign-up board.



FROM ST. JOHN'S CARE

Merry Christmas to one and all.



The Present Room ended last week and assisted 237 families in total, which means 524 children received gifts this year and due to everyone's generosity we even have a few presents left to hand out to those that didn't make it in time to the present room but need a few gifts for Christmas.

We have given out approximately 300 hampers and any left overs are being added to the ERC this week as many people are coming in daily for assistance.

As of COB yesterday we had seen 382 people who attended the center this month to receive financial and or assistance with groceries, this figure is phenomenal, and I would like to thank our amazing volunteers who have been (and still currently are) run off their feet each day.

Today a lovely young single parent with her two children attended the centre in need of a Christmas hamper, a few gifts and groceries. She was given the opportunity to talk to Therese, our counsellor, and explained that things have been tough with a recent relationship breakdown and both children having disabilities. The team here were able to support her physically and emotionally and she agreed to attend the St John's Christmas lunch.

Our Emergency Relief Centre will be open until 2pm on Friday, 22 December and then re-open on Tuesday, 2 January 2018.

A reminder that lunch is on Christmas Day from 12 noon until 1.30pm in St John's Hall. All welcome, we have in excess of 50 volunteers and are anticipating at least 250 people.

Wish list: Tinned meat, shampoo, tooth paste for adults and children, toothbrushes for children



Sarah Murdoch
A/Executive Officer

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Monday: JESUS

Friday: Jocelyn Kirkland

Saturday: Megan Mackay



ANGLICAN NEWS for December is available from the Diocesan Website and on the hymn book stand. Click on the Anglican News button on the right hand side.

PRAYER POINTS FOR THIS WEEK

IN THE WORLD

- ◆ We pray for peace and justice in war-torn countries and in particular Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

IN AUSTRALIA

- ◆ We pray for those for whom Christmas is a lonely and painful time, and for the organisations that help to alleviate their pain.

IN THE CHURCH

- We pray for the Church in Lokoja Nigeria; British Columbia and the Yukon Canada..
- ◆ In the Australian Church we pray for the bishops, clergy and people of Riverina, Rockhampton and Sydney.
- ◆ In our own Diocese we pray for our Bishops Stuart and Matt as they prepare to leave the diocese and for their future ministries.

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ◆ We pray that our Christmas Services will remind us of the joy of new birth.
- ◆ We pray for safe travel for all those going on holidays.
- ◆ We pray for the following members of our parish family: Neville and Dorothy Hurst; Deranie and Phoebe Jackson; Gareth, Jo, Elanor, Isobel and Hannah James; Elizabeth Jennings and Russell Judd, Jayne Murray, Aidan and Emma.
- ◆ We pray for those in special need of prayer including Bev Barnes, Dawn Hardman, Dianne and Phil Spurway, Peter Sherman, Susan Joy Nevile, Margaret Walker, Michael Martin, Johann Sheehan, Dorothy Parsonage, Kylie and anyone known to us personally.

COMMEMORATIONS

Tuesday: Stephen, Deacon and First Martyr

Wednesday: John, Apostle and Evangelist.



HOLY COVENANT PRAYER VINE REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

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



MINISTRY TEAM

LOCUM	The Ven. Dr Wayne Brighton 0407 408 333	E locum@holycovenant.org.au
HONORARY PRIEST	Revd Anne Dudzinski 0413 994 739; 6278 6087	E: annedudzinski@optusnet.com.au
HONORARY PRIEST	Revd Connie Gerrity 0429 423 725	E: connie@gerrity.id.au
HOLISTIC CARE NURSE	Archdeacon Anne Ranse 0406 379 599	E: nurse@holycovenant.org.au Day off: Tuesday
HONORARY DEACON	Revd Susan Joy Nevile 0431 133 852	E: susanjoyn@gmail.com
CHILDREN'S WORKER	Elle Platt 0434 960 967	E: children@holycovenant.org.au
YOUTH LEADERS	Elle Platt 0434 960 967 Jerry Platt 0466 661 860	E: youth@holycovenant.org.au

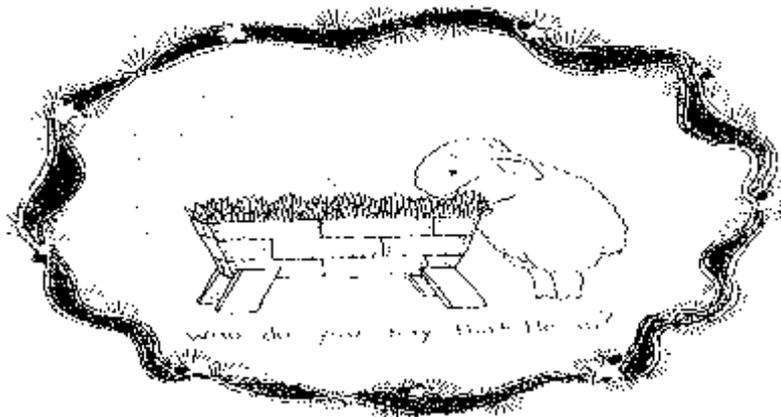
PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH OFFICE Open 10 am - 2 pm Tuesday to Thursday	Libby Warren (Administrator) 89 Dexter Street, Cook, ACT 2614 Tel: 6251 6100	E: office@holycovenant.org.au Web Page: http://holycovenant.org.au PO Box 98, Jamison, ACT 2614
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IN THE PARISH on Sunday 31st December
Epiphany

9.00 am Holy Communion

Celebrant and Preacher: Revd Anne Dudzinski



TODAY

SENTENCE This child will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.
Luke 1. 32-33

READINGS:

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16
Song of Mary (APBA p31)
Romans 16: 25-27
Luke 1: 26-38

8 am HYMNS



290
302
526
283

PRAYER

Gracious God,
whose eternal Word took flesh among us
when Mary placed her life at the service of
your will:
prepare our hearts for his coming again
and keep us steadfast in hope,
that we may be ready for the coming of his
kingdom;
for his sake, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.



	8.00 am	10.00 am
Sidespersons	Libby Warren	Jo and Gareth James
Readers	Kath Arthur Robert Arthur Anne Ranse	Phyl Holmes Reg Holmes Anne Ranse
Intercessor	Jen Collier	George Gerrity
Organist	Kath Arthur	Pam Lane
Word and Prayer	Steve Daniels	Connie Gerrity
Deacon	Anne Ranse	Anne Ranse
Cup	Steve Daniels, Anne Ranse	Anne Ranse, Vere de Vere, Phyl Holmes, George Gerrity. Extra Bread: Connie Gerrity
Morning Tea		George and Connie Gerrity
Counters	Ted Lilley, Clive Rodger	Graham Bonnett, Mark Cooper- Stanbury
Saturday Dec 31	Cleaning: Trigge family	Flowers: Wendy Ward