



HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH JAMISON

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

50
YEARS

WEEKLY BULLETIN

16 DECEMBER 2018

THIRD SUNDAY IN
ADVENT



 **Welcome** to our worship and fellowship today! You are warmly invited to share Communion with us, either by drinking from the cup or dipping the wafer in the chalice, or to come forward for a blessing. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available on request.

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



Please join us for morning tea after the Services

TODAY IN THE PARISH



8.00 am

HOLY COMMUNION

Preacher and Celebrant: Rev'd Connie Gerrity

10.00 am

HOLY COMMUNION

Preacher and Celebrant: Rev'd Connie Gerrity

5.00 pm

SOUL FOOD CONVERSATION

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Monday 17.12.18	10.00 am	Kangara Waters Care Centr	Holy Communion
Tuesday 18.12.18	10.30 am	Calvary Retirement Village	Christmas Carol Service
Thursday 20.12.18	9.30 am	Rainbow Centre	Final Scrabble
Friday 21.12.18	1.00 pm	Worship Centre	Funeral

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 23 December:

8.00 am Holy Communion
 10.00 am Holy Communion
 5.00 pm Blue Christmas Service

For anyone for whom Christmas is a hard and difficult time.



Monday 24 December: Christmas Eve

4.30 pm Children's Service
 11.00 pm Candles, Carols and Communion

Tuesday 25 December: Christmas Day

8.00 am Traditional Service
 10.00 am Family Service

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

As we light the candle of **JOY**,
 we remember the stories
 of God's loyalty to all creation.
 We give thanks for messengers -
 the apostles, prophets, artists, sages, faithful ones -
 present in every age,
 who bring us the good news of God's restoring love;
 and we shout with joy,
 trusting that God
 is with us and before us,
 and that joy will be born anew in us as we wait for peace to be born,
 anew, in us.



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

LUKE 3: 7-18

JESUS THE GIFT OF LOVE

All the people asked John, 'What must we do then?'

No doubt we have all been in situations where we have asked, 'what must we do.' But I suspect our answer would not be as life changing or challenging as the answer John gave or would it? John says

'If you have two coats give one away. If you have more food than you need share it with others who have none. He asked those who gather the taxes not to ask for more than is required, in other words don't take extra for personal gain and be satisfied with what you earn.'

As one who gave up all except for a small suitcase of necessities and headed for remote outback South Australia to care for some 600 Aboriginal people in a small mud brick hospital. I sometimes think 'yes' I come close to what John is saying here. I certainly can say my wage was minimal but I never sought more. BUT I still would say I am far from worthy to untie the straps of Jesus sandals.

The attempt to live my life endeavouring to model what I call, **The love of Jesus** and it is an attempt to do what we are required to do and that is to care for others less fortunate than ourselves and to share what we have with them. I would not encourage us all to take our one suitcase of necessities and head for outposts of mission work but I would encourage us all to take a look at our lives and see how we can make a difference for others less fortunate here in our community. But there is another BUT and that is unless we do what we do in the power and name of Jesus then what we do will not bear fruit and it will wear us out. Now, as you read these words perhaps you are saying 'What must I do?' John gives us a model of service to others so we don't become just slaves and that model has the power and impact of the Holy Spirit in our doing and serving.

Jean Vanier devoted his life to caring for the wounded members of our society, the poor, the handicapped, the elderly, prisoners and the lonely. He founded the L'Arche community for mentally handicapped youth and adults in France which now has many communities across the world. He has inspired many in his example of living out the gospel.

If we find ourselves saying 'but I am not worthy to untie the straps of Jesus sandals', then ask him who wears the sandals, 'What must I do?'

Archdeacon Anne

Declutter Tips from Jennifer, No. 4

Christmas giving - when less really is more.

Christmas time is the time of year when the most stuff is introduced by others into our homes. Here is some simple maths for our example family comprising Mum and Dad and three children (five people):

They each give each other a present = 20 items

The children have Santa Sacks containing five items = 15 items

They each receive a gift from five other relatives = 25 items

They each receive a gift from five friends = 25 items

Total gifts received for this Christmas = 85 items.

Total gifts over 10 year period = 850 items.

If you add in birthdays, the ten years would have an additional 700 items bringing the total to whopping 1,550 items.

Everything we purchase has a carbon impact on our atmosphere including the excess packaging, the recyclability, the shelf-life, the maintenance and the storage.

Shops bombard us with Christmas buying messages but the responsibility for what we buy lies with us. So how do we make better choices? Psychologists Leaf Van Boven and Thomas Gilovich say *“experiences make people happier because they are more open to positive reinterpretations, are a more meaningful part of one’s identity, and contribute more to successful social relationships.”* So, generally, giving a gift of an *experience* rather than an *item* can make the recipient happier.

Inflicting clutter can also be avoided by giving consumables. Food delicacies and wine always go down well this time of year. Give established potted herbs, exotic spices, oils or vinegars to the keen cook. For older kids an online membership for their favourite games platform, an iTunes card, a prepaid debit card, prepaid driving lessons and, of course, there is always money. Younger children really value time spent with you. One-on-one time is extra special.

Still not convinced? What is it that you remember about your childhood Christmases? Is it the gifts you received or the experience you had? There are very few gifts that I remember. One of the few that I do was a board game called “Careers” because we all sat around and played for hours. And I still have it, and I still do play for hours with my kids. Especially at Christmas.

IN THE PARISH

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY

Our administrator extraordinaire, **Libby Warren**, is planning to step down in February 2019. Libby's capacity to manage a whirlwind with humour all the while providing pastoral care to anyone who stops by the office is greatly valued. Her ability to produce booklets with little notice, decorate sanctuaries and support our belonging and caring group will be greatly missed. Libby plans to read more books over coffee.

Of course, as one door closes, a new opportunity opens. If you have a gift for keeping things moving, solving problems and helping people, why not become the **new administrator**? (12 hours per week).

The tireless **Phyl Holmes** has also decided to step down as Weekly Bulletin editor in the new year following production of the January edition. In Phyl's hands, the bulletin has been more than a notice sheet - it is the core of our community helping members know what's on and where. Many who are unable to join us on Sundays love reading the bulletin to discover news things. We will be looking for a new editor(s) to take on this valuable ministry.

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES

Our leadership team will be expanding next year. The rector has the capacity to provide a warden and three council members. Those who have accepted his invitation include **Jen Collier** as rector's warden and **Bec Marston** and **Libby Warren** as councillors. Bec is a member of the evening congregation and an English teacher by profession. Libby will come into the role when she steps down as Administrator. Please be sure to thank these new members of our team for 2019.



As advertised last week, congratulations to Paul Shelley and Joh Sheehan who were elected as People's wardens.

Congratulations also to Ken Wedgwood, Sandra Ross, Allison Cooper-Stanbury, Anthony Troy, Tobias Nevile and Jen Collier who were elected to parish council for next year.

We farewell Rhonda Thorpe who has stepped down in order to give her attention to the Holistic Care Nursing Ministry.

The positions were filled without a congregational vote as there were sufficient candidates for the vacancies that needed to be filled.

Please keep the wardens and counsellors in your prayers as they help us all to develop our parish's capacity to join in God's mission to the world. Their willingness to be involved in this way is appreciated greatly

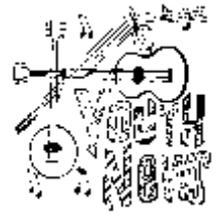
IN THE PARISH

Financial support for Camp Pelican

The parish is providing financial support for three leaders from Holy Covenant for Camp Pelican and is keen to support families who may not be able to afford the camp fees.

If you are able to assist in this ministry, you can transfer your donation directly into the parish's CBA account (details in the WB) – use your surname and "CampPel" as the reference. Or you can put your donation suitably marked in the offertory plate, or hand it in to the parish office.

Enquiries to Youth Group Leader Jerry Platt (youth@holycovenant.org.au)



THERE ARE MANY WAYS YOU CAN SPREAD GOODWILL THIS ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SEASON.

Here are some suggestions:

St. John's Care Gift Box. Suggestions are:
New toys, (not soft ones) Gift cards, e.g: EB games, Rebel Sport, JB Hi Fi, Target are great for teenagers.



There are envelopes on the Hymn Book stand.

REALLY USEFUL GIFT STALL @ Holy Covenant

What do you buy the person who has everything? The answer is a 'Really Useful Gift'!

TEAR Australia works with Christian partner organisations in Australia and overseas to fight poverty and build sustainable communities. Purchasing a 'Really Useful Gift' helps support TEAR's work - plus you get a card to give to family and friends as a gift this Christmas, letting them know what you have bought on their behalf.

See stall organiser Katherine Rainger (or her helpers Elaine Gifford and Ellie Wedgwood) on the 9th, 16th and 23rd December. Credit card and cash accepted. Or buy online <https://www.usefulgifts.org/>

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Monday: Clare Lawlor

Tuesday: Bev Barnes, Rod Menzies, Phoebe Jackson

Thursday: Allison Cooper-Stanbury,



IN THE PARISH

HOLISTIC CARE NURSING MINISTRIES



The HCNM year has drawn to a close. It has been a wonderful year for staff, volunteers and clients. God brought many blessings to those involved in this important ministry. The program is now fully staffed and in the process of planning for next year.

Covenant Care finished on Monday 10 December and is in recess until Monday 11 February 2019. Our HCNM office will be open until Friday, 21 December. We will re-open on Monday, 14 January.

Some of our wonderful volunteers are stepping back next year due to health and other issues. We thank them for all they have given us. Consequently, we are now looking for some more volunteers for all of our programs but particularly for Covenant Care.

In Covenant Care we will have significant vacancies in the kitchen but also in client care, in driving and set up and pack up. Volunteers come in weekly, fortnightly or monthly on a roster basis and can rotate through various roles or stick with the one they are most comfortable with. Covenant Care only operates with a strong group of volunteers to support our clients and currently we have no reserves. This means that our current group will be under pressure next year if we cannot recruit a few more helpers.

Can I encourage you as you think about your volunteering next year to consider if you can help out at Covenant Care. Archdeacon Anne and I would be very pleased to speak with you about what we do and where your skills could be of most use.

We can also speak with you about our other programs: decluttering, outings and client support, all of which can utilise offers of help from our parishioners.

HCNM also has responsibility for coordinating the Casserole Bank. I am currently updating the list of volunteers for this ministry. If you can make a few casseroles when requested, a couple of times a year and are happy to be on the list to be contacted, please let me know. We have plastic containers and **ingredient labels which I can provide to you as required.**

If you take a casserole from the parish freezer to give to someone, please record it on the list on the parish refrigerator (a pen is also attached). We need to report on this ministry, so it is very important to note where our casseroles go. I appreciate everyone's help with this.

I look forward to speaking with you about what we do and how you can help us

Rhonda Thorpe, Program Manager.

Church Morning Tea and Cleaning Rosters

Thank you to everyone who has helped with the Morning Tea and Cleaning Roster this year. We need a few more helpers, please, for both these rosters for next year.

AND . . .

Rainbow Christmas Day Lunch - Tuesday 25th December

Any members of our rainbow family (aka LGBTIQAA++) who are not travelling away from Canberra for Christmas celebrations are invited to Christmas Day Rainbow Lunch at the home of Jen Collier. To ensure that all your favourite Christmas lunch yummys are on the table (and to share the cooking tasks), please let Jen know you're coming - by email to jennifercollier@optusnet.com.au



RSVPs will be accepted in person up to 11.30am on Christmas Day, but strongly encouraged before Sunday 23rd December. Rainbow allies are very welcome to join us - please bring your favourite rainbow darling.



SPIRITUAL CARE
SERIES

SPIRITUAL CARE SERIES 2019

Pastoral care is an important feature of our life together as a parish. It enables us to show our love through service. It also enables everyone to grow as people of faith as we learn to face the challenges of life together.

As carers we often feel more comfortable attending to a person's physical needs but not know how to help with another's often unspoken spiritual needs and questions.

Beginning in Feb 2019, a volunteer training course will run in the parish over 8 sessions. These sessions will focus on things such as understanding the journey of ageing, ageing and spirituality, storytelling, dementia, a new way of life, loss and grief, and self-care for carers. This course will help us not only to understand the challenges associated with ageing but to feel more comfortable talking about our spiritual needs too.

The facilitated course comes with videos, a workbook and support for participants. More information can be viewed at online at:

<https://vimeo.com/258540142>

If you are interested in joining us, speak with Wayne or Libby.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO
ATTENDED YESTERDAY'S
WORKING BEE!!



The value of donations



We opened our Christmas Present Room on 4th December and have been rushed off our feet since. People from all over Canberra turning up to collect a present for their child/ren and a Christmas hamper.

Members of the Australian Department of Jobs and Small Businesses volunteered to staff the present room, for which we are very grateful. The Christmas hampers were very kindly packed by the Lake Ginninderra Sea Scouts at the end of November.

The reactions have been wonderful to watch as people realise that for once they are going to have some lovely presents for their children on Christmas day. Our Programs Manager, Jason Haines, spoke on ABC radio to appeal for food and presents and the response has been amazing.

Lots of businesses have donated as well as individuals and our very own volunteers. When one of our clients, whom we shall call Susan, came in the other day having experienced some intense hardship in her life through no fault of her own, the St John's Care staff decided to give her one of the presents to cheer her up for Christmas.

Not so long-ago Susan had a job, a good income and a house. Following domestic problems, she lost her house, job and consequently was left with no money. Susan told the Community Worker that she felt like she had lost everything and there was nothing to look forward to any more. When Susan received the present, she cried and thanked St John's Care for all their help and support.

She said that although Christmas is not all about gifts, the love and support she received from St John's Care would have been enough. The present was just that little bit more, something she wouldn't usually be able to afford. Susan has two children and she told staff that she usually goes without so that they can have some gifts.

None of this could happen without the wonderful donations from the community.

SJC have given out 1010 toys to children and seen 338 families since 4th December. Eighty of those families were seen last Friday. Without community support we could not have supported this many families. We really appreciate your generosity.

A reminder that our Christmas lunch happens in the St John's Hall on Christmas day from 12pm to 1.30pm. We are anticipating a large crowd who will be served by many community volunteers.

Wish list: Tinned fruit, sweet biscuits and peanut butter.

St John's Care team

PRAYER POINTS FOR THIS WEEK

IN THE WORLD

- ◆ We pray for calm and wisdom across the World as North Korea's nuclear missile program is being expanded.

IN AUSTRALIA

- ◆ We pray for all communities adversely affected by Cyclone Owen and give thanks for those communities enjoying the downpour after extended drought.

IN THE CHURCH

- ◆ Diocese of Newcastle:; St George's Anglican Life Centre; Arawang; St Matthew's, Wanniassa; Lanyon Valley Anglican Church; St Mary-in-the-Valley, South Tuggeranong; Calwell Neighbourhood Centre ; Anglicare Children's Services: Centres at Calwell and Gordon.
- ◆ Anglicare activities in partnership with parishes and with government: child care, foster care, young people and families; for staff and volunteers in regional offices and in Goulburn; for clients, and for Anglicare Appeals. Also the Sudanese community at this difficult time in their country.

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ◆ We give thanks for those who have accepted the Rector's appointment as Warden or Parish Councillor.
- ◆ We pray for Holistic Care Nursing Ministry clients as the program recesses over the holidays.
- ◆ We remember the family of Margaret Walker, a former HCNM client whose funeral is on Friday.
- ◆ We pray for all members of our parish family including Chris Lee and Linda Richardson; Ted and Penny Lilley; Colin Lyons; Frances Mackay; Megan Mackay; Jean Main; Rod and Faye Maron; and Margaret Martin.
- ◆ We pray for those in special need of prayer including Joan Williams, Dorothy Parsonage, Elizabeth Grant, Joh Sheehan, Jennifer Collier and anyone known to us personally.

COMMEMORATIONS

Friday: Thomas Apostle and Martyr

Education for Ministry in 2019

Education for Ministry (EFM) has concluded its year and we are very much looking forward to seeing some familiar and new faces joining us next year.

If you are interested in joining EFM next year and have a preferred evening please let Merri know.

We will hold an information evening in late January or early February, so watch this space.

MINISTRY TEAM

RECTOR	The Ven. Dr Wayne Brighton 0407 408 333	E: rector@holycovenant.org.au Day off: Monday.
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	Ven (em) Anne Ranse, OAM 0406 379 599 (NB)	E: nurse@holycovenant.org.au Day off: Tuesday
CHILDREN'S WORKER	Pauline Lovitt 0419 406 011	E: children@holycovenant.org.au
YOUTH LEADER	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
WARDENS	Paul Shelley 6251 1568 Joh Sheehan 6251 7151	
PRAYER VINE	Rosemary Kennemore	E: prayervine@holycovenant.org.au
WB EDITOR	Phyl Holmes 6251 2007	E: weeklybulletin@holycovenant.org.au

DETAILS FOR NEXT SUNDAY – 23 DECEMBER 2018

Fourth Sunday in Advent

- 8.00 am** **HOLY COMMUNION**
Preacher and Celebrant: Rev'd Katherine Rainger
- 10.00 am** **HOLY COMMUNION**
Preacher and Celebrant: Rev'd Katherine Rainger
- 5.00 pm** **BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE**



TODAY

SENTENCE: Do not fear. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love
Zephaniah 3: 16-17

READINGS:

Zephaniah 3: 14-20
Song of Isaiah (APBA p391)
Philippians 4: 4-7
Luke 3: 7-18

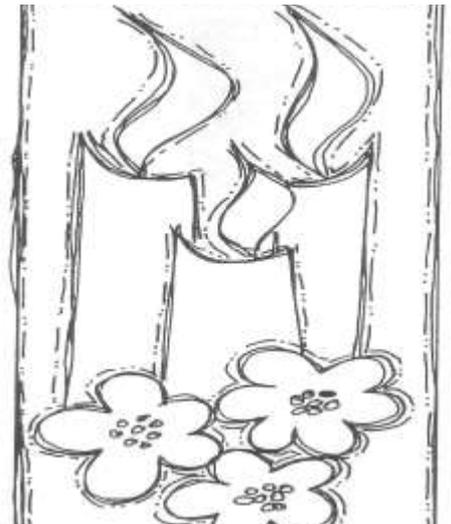


8 am HYMNS - Matthias

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PRAYER

Almighty God,
you sent your Son into a world
where the wheat must be winnowed from the chaff
and evil clings even to what is good:
let the fire of your Spirit purge us of all corruption,
so that, purified, we may wait eagerly for him
whose coming is certain, whose Day draws near,
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy
Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**



	8.00 am	10.00 am
Sidespersons	Brian and Kerin Cox	Helen and Harris Boulton, Janice Green and Perry Wiles
Readers	Rosemary Kennemore Kerin Cox Anne Ranse	Andrew Hill Doreen Matters Mark Cooper-Stanbury
Intercessor	Paul Shelley	Joh Sheehan
Organist	Heather Shelley	Celeste Sandstrom
Word and Prayer	Steve Daniels	Anne Dudzinski
Deacon	Anne Ranse	
Cup	Steve Daniels Anne Ranse	Neville Hurst, George Gerrity, Doreen Matters, Mark Cooper- Stanbury Extra bread: Anne Dudzinski
Morning Tea	Mary Lynn Mather	Rika Amos
Children's Church		Pauline, Katherine
Counters	Tony Willis, Rod Menzies	Mark Cooper-Stanbury, Andrew Hill
Sat 22 December	Cleaning: George Gerrity, Merri Bacon	Flowers: Jen Collier