

COLLECT FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Righteous God,
you challenge the powers that rule this world
and you show favour to the oppressed:
instil in us a true sense of justice,
that we may discern the signs of your kingdom
and strive for right to prevail;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ◆ We pray for Britain as the time for leaving the EU draws nearer.
- ◆ We pray for the multi-national companies that control the exploitation of the world's resources and the distribution of the world's wealth, that boards, CEOs and decision-makers might hold to an ethic that places human rights and needs above the demand for profit.

IN AUSTRALIA

- ◆ We give thanks for the progress in reconciliation between indigenous Australians and those who came later. Pray for all who strive to achieve those steps still needing to be taken, and give thanks for the contribution of so many indigenous Australians to our national and community life.

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ◆ Diocese of North Queensland
- ◆ Queanbeyan and District Anglican Church
- ◆ Community of Celebration and Mary's Place:
- ◆ The Bargain Hunter: other Anglicare recycling outlets
- ◆ Alexander Maconochie Correctional Centre
- ◆ The Anglican School Googong
- ◆ Work amongst needy, unemployed and homeless people of all ages.

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ◆ We pray for the Wednesday communion service and for those to attend it.
- ◆ We pray for all members of our parish family including John and Gillian Painter; Dorothy Parsonage; Nicholas and Judith Platt; Elle and Jerry Platt; Barry, Carol, Joshua, Natalie and Emily Pogson.
- ◆ We uphold those in special need of prayer including Dorothy Parsonage, Elizabeth Grant, Quentin Grafton, Betty Jennings and anyone known to us personally.

COMMEMORATIONS:

Thursday: Baden Clarence Powell (d. 1991)

Tuesday: Colin Buxton (1985)

READINGS

Jeremiah 17: 5-10

Psalm 1

1 Corinthians 15: 12-20

Luke 6: 17-26

Lord God, all power in heaven and earth belongs to you.

Shield us in times of distress and danger,
protect us from all that is evil and destructive,
renew us and refresh us that we may serve you,
and that we may proclaim your power and your glory;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

Children's Worker

Pauline Lovitt
0419 406 011; children@holycovenant.org.au

Youth Leader

Jerry Platt
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People's Wardens

Paul Shelley 6251 1568
Joh Sheehan 6251 7151

Resources

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Prayer Vine

Rosemary Kennemore
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Belonging and Caring

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Holistic Care and Covenant Care

Rhonda Thorpe
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HOLISTIC CARE NURSE

Venerable (EM) Anne Ranse OAM
0406 379 599; nurse@holycovenant.org.au

HONORARY PRIESTS

Reverend Anne Dudzinski
0413 994 739; annedudzinski@optusnet.com.au

Reverend Connie Gerrity
0429 423 725; connie@gerrity.id.au

Have you seen the great article on Covenant Care in the February Anglican News? Worth reading!

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2019 SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

BLESSINGS 1

Blessings

In December I spent sixteen days in Ethiopia with my Aunt Valerie (Maalika). I travelled with Zach and Matt. Everything was different. Every sound, taste, sight, every mindset and way of living. This includes Maalika. She has lost all western attachment to possessions and privilege and is called 'Mother of the Afar' as she is one of them. The land is marginal at best and is the hottest inhabited place on the planet. The Afar move with their flocks of sheep, goats and cattle.

It is possible that the very lifestyle we have constructed includes a rift between us and earth and creature and neighbour and season. We trick ourselves into thinking we are in control.

It is the first time I have been in a completely Muslim society. It was wonderful and weird and instructive, eg a shepherd in the desert drops his prayer shawl among the sheep and bends towards Mecca. I saw three

elements: preparation, submission, availability.

I have been thinking about it for years, but I have come home practicing a kneeling prayer. It includes those three elements: preparation (shoes off, Jesus prayer, breathing, sign of cross); submission (head down kneeling, "Our Father ... on earth as in heaven"); availability (open hands, breathing + mantra).

The blessings and woes deserve our deep contemplation. Jesus, the one who is the Good News brings a new reality into historical presence. These are not ideas of sight for blind, release for captives, liberty for the oppressed, but concrete realities of political import. Compassion matters. Solidarity with the sick, poor and outcast matters. And our contemplation invites the fullness of incarnation, that the verbs of Jesus' presence is wrought in us, of a kind that makes real on earth what is in heaven.

Fr Richard

TODAY IN THE PARISH

8 am Holy Communion
10 am Holy Communion
Celebrant and Preacher:
The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton
4.30 pm Soul Food Conversation

SUNDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2019

8 am Holy Communion
10 am Holy Communion
Celebrant and Preacher:
The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton
4.30 pm Soul Food Conversation

SUNDAY 3 MARCH 2019

8 am Holy Communion
10 am Holy Communion
Celebrant and Preacher:
The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton
4.30 pm Soul Food Conversation

TUESDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2019

7.30 pm Spiritual Pastoral Care course commences

Bank Details for Direct Debit are:

Bank: Commonwealth Bank
Branch: Jamison Centre, ACT
BSB: 062 907
A/C No: 802 588
Name: Holy Covenant Anglican Church

RECTOR: The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton, 0407 408 333, rector@holycovenant.org.au

OFFICE: 6251 6100, office@holycovenant.org.au

FROM THE FEBRUARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Your parish councillors give thanks for:

- Two new members joining the council – Bec Marston and Rob Maron. Profiles of Bec and Rob will appear in the bulletin during March;
- The report from our financial team confirming that our Parish has finished the year in a healthy financial position, including paying off all of our interest-bearing loan and grateful for the \$71,600 in interest-free loans (with members of our parish). This good news was shared with the Parish at our AGM on Tuesday evening, together with the news that our 2018 financial reports have been approved by our

auditor, Wendy Elkhuisen;

- The report from our wonderful Elaine Gifford, fete co-ordinator of excellence for 2018, with some lessons learned and some suggestions for how we can make some improvements in 2019. We agreed that the fete is terrific opportunity to meet and engage with our local community and we've set Saturday 2 November 2019 as the date for our next one. Anyone interested in being our fete coordinator for 2019 should speak to their favourite PC member;
- The terrific work over many years by both Phyl Holmes and Libby Warren as Weekly Bulletin Editor and Parish Administrator respectively.



Raw Potential Canberra, previously known as 'Youth Care Canberra' supports some of our most vulnerable young people who are currently at a 'low' point in their lives.

My name is Nicolle. I am a youth outreach worker for *Raw Potential Canberra* (St John's Care is the service provider). We support at risk, vulnerable and homeless young people. I meet with them at some of the hardest times of their young lives, and we, if they let us, have the privilege to walk alongside them and offer our support, care, information and light.

During my time working in the 'Youth Sector', I met a young boy called Ryan (not his real name). Tragically, Ryan told me that as he grew older, his living environment became unbearable and he was forced to turn to the streets. Living on the streets led him down a dark path he'd always vowed to avoid. He soon found himself taking drugs and engaging in criminal activity just to survive.

Ryan said something to me that will stay with me forever... He said, 'Nicolle, I'm in this situation and I don't know how I got here. It all happened so fast. When you are in such a low place, the lowest of the low, you can't get any lower and you get used to it. Now, I am the low, and being low is much easier than trying to get out of it, especially when you don't have anyone who cares about you'. My heart sank. He was just 15 years old.

As I started to work within the community service sector, Ryan's wise words made me reflect on how our young people must be feeling – low. Ryan was known by other youth workers but was not engaged in any services. I hoped that if Ryan had found *Raw Potential Canberra*, he would have received the relevant support. Sadly, at the beginning of 2018 I heard the news that Ryan had passed away. Unfortunately, he could not find a way out of his low place.

In this life time, and in current situations, this is reality for many. However, where there is bad there can always be so much good. *Raw Potential Canberra* is a program that supports

and advocates for young people, many of whom are like Ryan. We offer them a hand up with respect and empathy for who they are. We often see the potential inside that they currently cannot see.

I know this because I am currently supporting several homeless young people. For example, a young couch-surfing couple who have just found out that they are expecting a baby. I have been working with them for a few months building on our relationship and assisting with strategies to help them and improve their situation. We are in the process of getting a government loan for an accommodation bond, as well as supporting them with referrals, information and access to a good GP. They have a long road ahead of them; but they are on their way and are very positive.

Unfortunately, we will never be able to say youth homelessness does not exist. But *Raw Potential Canberra* can sure start minimising the number of young people on our streets. We will support young people wanting to get out of their 'low', and with help from *Raw Potential Canberra*, they most definitely will.

SJC wish list: 500mls or 1lts Oil, Tomato Sauce 500ml and 1kg or 2kgs flour

Nicolle Applewhite, Youth Outreach Worker

WHAT HAPPENED THIS TIME LAST YEAR? Well done if you answered Wayne became our Rector! Thank you Wayne for your guidance, advice, listening and leadership, your belief that Holy Covenant has a great future and your conviction that God is guiding us there. We are blessed to have you as our Rector and friend.

Thanks to all who came to the **working bee** yesterday. Maintaining our grounds and buildings is important. If you missed this one, the next is on Saturday 16 March.

RESOURCES TEAM

Holy Covenant's Resources Team is responsible for the care and maintenance of our buildings and grounds. A team with these responsibilities (but with different titles) has existed for as long as the Worship Centre has existed – some 34 years. Preventative maintenance starts at the beginning, not when things have got out of hand!

Since the Worship Centre was built, we now have the Rainbow Centre (formerly the rectory), two storage garages, and the HCNM portable.

We need to be good stewards of all these resources to keep them all in good repair so that they can continue to be used effectively for the parish's mission and outreach.

In the early years, much of the work was building paths, retaining walls and gardens – helping to get the Worship and Rainbow Centres well-settled in the landscape. The longer-term members of the parish remember these days very well.

Much of the team's work now is fairly routine and is carried out at the monthly working bees: cleaning drains and gutters, replacing light globes, cleaning the A/C

filters, gardening, sweeping paths, and so on. The Rainbow Centre, for example, is located near some eucalypts so the roof gutters there need to be cleaned out at least every two months!

However, the team also coordinates major projects such as the internal painting of the Worship Centre in 2015 and, more recently, the restoration of the fascia, cleaning and repairs to the Worship Centre roof, and construction of the kitchen porch. We organise specialists when required for such things as plumbing and electrical work, painting, carpet cleaning and door repairs.

The team was heavily involved in the planning and oversight of the major renovations to the Worship Centre in 2010, and in the paving and landscaping of the eastern and northern sides of the Rainbow Centre.

We work with the Finance Team in developing a list of capital works for the annual budget.

The Resources Team currently comprises: Phil Trigge (Convenor), Bob Arthur, Harris Boulton, Cath D'Cruz, Noel Montgomery and Paul Shelley. We meet every two months to review and update our list of tasks and projects. This list usually has up to 30 items on it!

Embracing Ministries are looking for tutor for an 11-year-old with dyslexia in the Kaleen/ Belconnen area. This child would benefit from support with school work and with home life. WWPC and safe ministry training is essential and teaching experience would be desired.

For more information please call Revd Andrea

Mobile 0404 256 714

WANTED: A handyperson with carpentry skills to repair an item of church furniture. Please talk to Paul Shelley if you can help 0419 255 002; epshms@grapevine.com.au



SHOVEL community garden is looking for a weather proof container to store some hand tools and seeds etc. A metal, aluminium or similar container would be fantastic. If you think you have something that may work, please speak with Allison, Joh or Jen.

FAMILY BARBECUE LUNCH

Sunday 24 February 2019 in Rainbow Centre after Church until 2pm

A sausage sizzle and some games for children, youth and the young at heart

Contact: Jerry on 0466 661 860 or Pauline on 0419 406 011

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE NIGHT

We will be having a pancake night on Tuesday 5 March 2019 from 6 pm until 7 pm in the Rainbow Centre. Please bring ready prepared savoury or sweet pancakes to share.

Our AGM was held on Tuesday and was well attended. Thanks was given to the many teams within our parish that do a tremendous amount of work to keep us going and to embody the love of God out into our community. Along with Phyl Holmes and Libby Warren being thanked by warm and sustained acclamation, particular thanks for their many hours of volunteer labour was also acknowledged for Harris and Helen Boulton; the Finance Team and the Resources Team. Together with our paid and volunteer staff we all agreed that there are very many wonderful things happening in our Parish and we are on track for even more wonderful things in the year ahead.

If you didn't get a copy of the AGM reports and would like to read them (they are all fascinating and full of good news!), please see the set on the noticeboard. All of the report writers will be delighted to receive further feedback and encouragement.