

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



TODAY IN THE PARISH

On 17 March, the Diocese requested that we cease meeting for public worship. This step was taken in recognition that our congregations contain many people who are vulnerable to the coronavirus. We will continue to worship online via ZOOM video conferencing. To join us, use the link below.
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8820962366>
Meeting ID: [882 096 2366](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8820962366)

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

Celebrant:

The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton

Preacher:

The Venerable Emeritus Anne Ranse

5pm Twilight Conversations

Raised from the grave

The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton

SUNDAY 29 MARCH

PASSION SUNDAY

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

Celebrant and preacher:

The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton

Celebrant and preacher:

The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton

5pm Twilight Conversations

Entering Jerusalem

The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton

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

SUNDAY 29 MARCH 2020 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

THE RELENTLESS PRESSURE OF DARKNESS

The darkness of the inner Lenten journey is compounded by the external pressures we are now experiencing: the threat of corona virus; accelerating death tolls in many countries; difficulties of accessing food and other staples; the realities of physical distancing on relationships with family, friends and strangers; closing of familiar, comforting Sunday worship services. Confusion, fear, grief, uncertainty in the face of the breakdown of social life as we have known it, intensify that sense of darkness.

Some feel hopeless, paralysed, as though they have one foot in the grave already: *"our bones are dried up and our hope is lost, we are cut off completely"* (Ezek37:11). Where is God in this? How do we move forward as Christians when such relentless darkness assails us?

Addressing that extreme sense of abandonment, C.S. Lewis, in *Screwtape Letters*, has the senior devil advise the junior devil: *"Be not deceived Wormwood, our cause is never more in jeopardy, than when a human, no longer desiring but still intending to do our Enemy's will,*

looks around him upon a universe in which every trace of Him seems to have vanished, and asks why he has been forsaken, and still obeys." Obedience demands that we love in whatever circumstances we find ourselves.

Through Ezekiel, God promised his people restoration: *"I am going to open your graves and bring you from your graves"* (Ezek37:12). Paul reminded early Christians: *"to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace"* (Rom8:6). Jesus declared to those confronting Lazareth's death: *"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live."* (Jn11:25). And our hopefilled psalmist sings: *"I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope."* (Ps130:5)

Lord, in this darkness before the hope of Easter, remind us that You love us. Let Your word speak afresh to us. Help us in our struggles to love, trust and obey You. May love be our guiding flame. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Merilyn Clark

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HOLY COVENANT DIGITAL

We are exploring alternate options to continue meeting together for worship, prayer and encouragement.

Parish Contact information

To help us stay in touch, please make sure the office has your current contact details like phone numbers and email addresses.

Weekly Bulletin

Publication will be in pdf and emailed to all parish members with only a small print run made available on Friday (10 copies). Format revisions are being considered and we are hoping to include additional material from a variety of contributors. Possible contributions include reflections, spiritual practices and information about managing our emotional wellbeing during stressful times.

Church Building

It was hoped that the building could remain open for personal prayer and limited social connection. Government advice is that buildings should remain closed. Buildings can be used to live-stream or record services provided they are behind closed doors with social distancing protocols observed.

Alternative Worship arrangements

We will meet online for worship on Sundays via ZOOM at 8am, 10am and 5pm. Participants may join the meeting by using the link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8820962366> or on opening the app using the Meeting ID: [882 096 2366](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8820962366).

Morning services will be pared down to to approximately 45 minutes. Music options are limited until some technical issues can be resolved. Those rostered for readings and intercessions are encouraged to participate by reading from home. Holy Communion by extension will be used and members are encouraged to have a little bread, wine or juice handy.

Copies of the prayer book service for Holy Communion will be emailed to 8am worshippers. Tracking sheets for 10am worshippers will also be



Photo: Marg and John Christensen

emailed.

Feedback from our first meeting was very positive. Many appreciated filming it from our sanctuary as this is a familiar and peaceful setting for congregation members. While there are some technical limitations, these are being overcome. Participants are reminded to mute their microphones and can turn off their video camera if they wish.

Children and Young adults

Conversations are under way about how the parish can meet the spiritual needs of children and young adults. Stay tuned!

Small Groups

Where possible, we'll be encouraging people to set up small groups online. ZOOM limits video conferencing with more than 3 participants to 40 minutes. The parish is exploring subscription offerings to allow multiple rooms for video conferencing. If you wish to set up a room, please contact Wayne.

Pastoral Needs

We are looking at ways to develop our pastoral capacity. A survey has been developed <https://forms.gle/VrjMnVTBZZqmBGYZA> to help with planning how we might manage the response and recovery phases of this emergency. One way is with the creation of phone chains which allow participants to take turns calling members each day to check in on their health and wellbeing

HOLISTIC CARE NURSING MINISTRY



HCNM remains open even if the programs and visits are suspended. Lyn, Jennifer and Rhonda are continuing to help clients. Jennifer is working Mondays in the office. Rhonda

will be there on Thursdays. If you need to talk with the team, please phone or email them. The casserole bank is fully loaded and ready to go. HCNM is helping people with shopping, picking up scripts and distributing frozen meals. If you'd like to help out, contact Rhonda on 0487 945 615.



MANAGEMENT OF COVID 19

SJC is operating in accordance with the SJC Pandemic Protocols.

Monday 16th March the decision was taken to temporarily close SJC.

A person on site developed flu-like symptoms. When the symptoms became apparent the person was asked to leave and seek medical

advice. Subsequently the person was tested for COVID-19 .

There was no client contact and limited, if any, contact with volunteers. Contact was with staff.

Technically we were not required to close but did so to protect clients and volunteers as staff had spent significant time with this person and therefore could now be carrying the virus.

Information as to alternative agencies where assistance could be received was placed on the SJC front door, Facebook and telephone-answering message.

Tuesday 17th to Monday 23rd – closure awaiting test results.

Staff were working from home. A volunteer was on site in the Parish Centre to assist any clients with referrals and available (limited) assistance

ACTION ONCE TEST RESULTS ARE RECEIVED

If the results had confirmed COVID-19, Centre would be cleaned in accordance with appropriate standards. Staff in contact would be required to undertake 14 days Isolation/quarantined in accordance with Government regulations

REOPENING OF CENTRE

SJC reopened as test results were negative.

Staffing levels will be reduced if Isolation/quarantine for some staff is necessary. Quarantined staff will work from home unless unwell.

SERVICE DELIVERY DURING PANDEMIC

Clients will not be invited into the Centre but will wait outside

Pre-packed hampers will be given

Assistance for bills or case management support will be provided over the phone

Social distancing, hand washing and other precautions including no staff or volunteer on site who has cold or flu like symptoms or who is in any way unwell, will be actioned

Monthly Friday lunch is cancelled till further notice

These are under constant review with the changing circumstances

IMPACT ON SJC

Currently SJC is holding 3 weeks' supply of most goods. During the first months of the year our demand is always high. This year demand was even higher as we responded to the bush fire crisis by sending a large amount of food to the South Coast and to the evacuation centres in the ACT. Our Planned food collections have now been cancelled. Alternate resourcing is being investigated with anticipated higher costs to SJC. To cover the additional costs in providing food an appeal will be launched next week.

Sarah Murdoch – Executive Officer

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

The Parish is rebuilding its website. We'd love to be able to use photos from around the church and Belconnen region. If you're a budding photographer, why not submit a creative photo—winners announced on Easter Sunday—April 12. Please email submissions to the office.

EASTER SERVICES

We will meet for worship online via ZOOM video conferencing. To join us, use the link below.

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Meeting ID: [882 096 2366](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8820962366)

Sunday 5 April **Palm Sunday**

Monday 6 April **Holy Week 5pm service**

Tuesday 7 April **Holy Week 5pm service**

Wednesday 8 April **Holy Week**

12noon Communion and lunch

5pm service

Thursday 9 April **Maundy Thursday**

6pm service

Friday 10 April **Good Friday**

8am and 10am services

Sunday 12 April **Easter Day**

8am and 10am services

4pm Kid's Easter Celebration

NOTE: the Holy Week services on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are at 5pm NOT 6pm

ROSTERS AND CLEANING

Going digital means that while some of the work has changed, other jobs remain.

Sunday worship will involve fewer roles for the time being. Sides people and morning tea volunteers may stay home. Similarly, those who help with the cup in the sanctuary may need to wait before they can help in this way once more. Those that help with Friday printing of bulletins and tracking sheets will have more time off.

Cleaning is a job that never goes away. Cleaning the worship space will still be necessary but hopefully not too long as usage is down.

Thanks to all who continue to help in these ways!

ROADIES WANTED

Holy Covenant now has a Digital team to help with filming and editing worship on Sundays. No experience necessary. At present it involves moving cameras, sound recording and a little post production. If you are interested, please contact Wayne for more information.

HOLY COVENANT IS OPEN

They say a week in politics is a long time. It's even longer when trying to keep up with all the advice and changes required by the emergency of COVID-19.

Most emergencies like the devastating bushfires that swept through coastal and mountain forests during January have four phases – preparedness, response, recovery and reconstruction. Holy Covenant will be open through them all.

Preparedness is that phase that happens at the beginning of every fire season. People are reminded about the need to have a fire plan and to clear leaves away.

Response is what happens when the emergency is on your doorstep. Firefighters, police and ambulance are frantically trying to save lives and property as evacuations are declared and containment lines established.

Recovery follows shortly after as evacuation centres are established and evacuees are sheltered, fed and kept informed. Chaplains come in as shock gives way to confusion, anger and despair.

Reconstruction gets underway when assessors move in and blocks are cleared. People start making decisions about whether they want to rebuild or relocate elsewhere. They start to work through their emotional reactions, particularly fear, guilt and grief.

Living with this emergency will be similar yet different. Preparedness is happening rapidly as aged care facilities and hospitals getting ready. Walk-in clinics and government welfare support packages are part of this phase.

Preparation also saw the Diocese request suddenly that we cease worship and small group meetings. All of this is our part in limit the spread of this infectious virus among our members.

As a parish, our preparations will allow us to stay open even though our doors are closed. We have started to used video conferencing for worship – a new experience for all!

New plans for Holy Week are well underway for figure

out how we might share a time of reflection when we can't use the church building together. We're learning how to pull together music, video, photography and text for reflective stations you can do at home.

Team meetings by video are happening. Some of our small groups have made the transition and other ideas are bubbling away. We're all learning about video and microphone settings. Learning to put our hands up like we did in school is an old experience.

Our new website was launched this week. Dougal Mordike and Ian Matters did a wonderful job preparing a site that looks contemporary and accessible. Zoe Rose proved an invaluable adviser. We've tried to make it easy to find things like sermons and the weekly bulletin.

Phone trees are being set up to help members stay in touch on a daily or weekly basis. For those who can't get out much, a phone call from a friend can make a big difference.

Of course, the inability to meet will have a significant impact on the parish's finances. Approximately 1/3 of our income comes through the weekly offertory so if we can't meet, a financial shortfall may emerge creating challenges of its own.

For 2020, the major challenge was to grow by finding new ways to connect with our neighbours. Little did I imagine that the challenge would come so quickly. Nevertheless, opportunities are emerging to connect with our neighbours, many of whom may find staying home isolating, boring, and depressing. Groups that share goods and offer connections are springing up everywhere and we can and should be involved.

As the response, recovery and reconstruction phases get underway, many in our community may find themselves thinking more about their priorities and perspectives. Some may wonder about God's presence or responsibility for this mess.

Holy Covenant will stay open through it all. We will discover new ways of being church and be better for it, after all God has put us in the neighbourhood to be a blessing to all. So while the doors of our building may be shut our community remains open to pray, support and encourage everyone.

Wayne Brighton

FROM OUR ACTING TREASURER

Dear friends

I trust you are keeping well, physically and mentally, during these difficult times. Holy Covenant will continue to be "a place for everyone" so please let us know if you need someone to talk to or if you require some other support

I am writing to you in relation to our parish finances.

There will be some savings in expenses as a result of the suspension of parish activities, however much of our expenditure will continue at the current level as we have many fixed costs.

Our income, on the other hand, will be substantially reduced, largely as a consequence of there being no Sunday service collections and all hirings of our facilities have ceased. These two items constitute 30% of our income.

We are grateful to those who exercise their financial stewardship through regular direct credits to the parish's bank accounts.

If you routinely contribute via the offertory envelope system or direct cash in the plate, we encourage you to consider setting up a regular direct credit to help us meet our financial obligations, or making a weekly bank transfer of your offerings.

The parish bank account is with the Commonwealth Bank at the Jamison Centre. The BSB is 062-907 and account number is 0080 2588.

Please contact me if you have any questions about this process.

Blessings.

Paul Shelley

Warden and Acting Treasurer

DIOCESAN RESOURCES

Bishop Mark is planning to do a series of weekly reflections. The link is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3QbigaPxOtM> Other resources are available on the Diocesan website through the 'Keep Connected at a Distance' page <https://anglicancg.org.au/keep-connected/>

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE OF ZOOM

Control video and audio settings: -



"Mute" and "Stop Video" controls are located along the bottom left of the meeting window. - Clicking on the feature once will disable it; clicking it again will turn it back on.

PRO TIP: If there is a lot of background noise in your environment, turning on the mute button until you want to speak can decrease distracting noises for other participants. As the host of a Zoom meeting, you can control these functions for all participants (just inform them you are muting them beforehand and don't forget to return to them). -

PRO TIP: If the internet is bad, disabling video can help maintain a better overall internet connection using just audio.

IN SORROW AND IN PRAYER

A reflection during Lent as we look on the Tree of Hope and the Leaves of Remembrance for the animals who died in the bush fires:

Dear God, It is with heavy hearts, we pray for over one billion of our wildlife that have lost their lives in the bush fires. The sheer number is incomprehensible but you know each and every one of them by name. Dear Lord, take and hold each one and restore them into new life with you where there is no pain, no suffering, no harm. Just love. O Lord of the living we pray for a world that does not harm your creation. Amen



DONATIONS

St John's Care is always grateful for donations. If you're able to assist...

♥ Our website

Donate button

<https://www.stjohnscare.org.au>

♥ Our Facebook page

St John's Care

♥ Direct Debit

Name: St John's Care

BSB: 702 389

AC No: 052 094 90

♥ Credit Card by phone

Please call the office on 6248 7771

♥ Cheque

Please send to

GPO Box 219 Canberra 2601 ACT

♥ Gift Cards

Supermarket gift cards of \$20 & \$50

Donations of non-perishable food and vegetables can be made between 9.30am — 2pm Mon-Fri directly to St John's Care.

We are extremely thankful for your support.

The SJC Team

PRAYER VINE

The parish has a group of people who love to pray for us and everyone called the prayer vine. They are happy to pray for you or anyone with a need of any description. Sometimes people ask for prayer about work and family situations, surgery, or other concerns. To request prayer, simply contact Rosemary Kennemore at 6251 2009; rkmore@grapevine.com.au

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

⇒ the people and governments of all countries savaged by COVID-19, and for the protection of countries still free from the virus

IN AUSTRALIA.

⇒ wisdom, peace and protection for the Australian people as we deal with COVID-19 and what it will mean for our lives

⇒ the Australian Government to receive the best possible advice and support to contain COVID-19 and protect our people and the economy

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Province of Papua New Guinea
- ⇒ Theological Colleges and Church Schools of the Anglican Church of Australia: staff and students
- ⇒ Special Ministries: Military Christian Fellowship; Business Life
- ⇒ Religious education in schools and parishes in both ACT and NSW; SRE NSW Safe Ministry Administrator; especially for chaplaincy in ACT schools at this demanding time
- ⇒ Education for Ministry Diocesan Coordinator: Parish groups
- ⇒ Confirmation Preparation: Confirmation candidates, the Catechumenate and Alpha programs
- ⇒ Pray for: Outreach and ministry amongst youth.

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Celeste Sandstrom; Richard and Maureen Scutter; Joh Sheehan: Paul and Heather Shelley; and Peter and Carol Sherman.
- ⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer including Judith Ann Daniels, Dorothy Parsonage, Elizabeth Grant, Andrew Hill, Joh Sheehan, Phil Bloomfield, Lexie Winders and anyone known to us personally.

COMMEMORATIONS

- Sunday:** Norman Kennett (d.2005)
- Monday:** Yvonne Greening (d.2005)
- Wednesday:** Jessie Henderson (d. 2001); Bob Rose (d.2005)
- Saturday:** Coral Violet Patricia Powell (d.2019)

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- Sunday:** James Collier, Merri Bacon
- Wednesday:** Sandra Ross, Elaine Gifford, Emma Tindal-Clarke
- Thursday:** Karen Ferguson
- Saturday:** Elizabeth David-Hoole
- Saturday:** James Collier, Merri Bacon

COLLECT FOR 5th SUNDAY IN LENT

Life-giving God,
your Son came into the world
to free us all from sin and death:
breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit,
that we may be raised to new life in Christ,
and serve you in holiness and righteousness all
our days;
through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

READINGS

- Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130
- Romans 8:6-11 John 11: 1-45

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

Children's Worker

Wendy Robertson
children@holycovenant.org.au

Youth Leadership Team

Dougal, Celeste, Remus, Sarah, and Tobias.
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Wardens

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Joh Sheehan 6251 7151

Prayer Vine

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Belonging and Caring

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Holistic Care Nursing Ministries

Program Director and Chaplain
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Honorary Priests

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Reverend Connie Gerrity
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Resources Team

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