

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 12 APRIL 2020—EASTER DAY

REFLECTION

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://zoom.us/j/8820962366?](https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRll0Zz09)

[pwd=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRll0Zz09](https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRll0Zz09)

Meeting ID: [882 096 2366](https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRll0Zz09)

Password: 033643

For Kid's church the meeting room is:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/417454216>

EASTER SERVICES

Thursday 9 April **Maudy Thursday**

6pm

Friday 10 April **Good Friday**

8am and 10am

Sunday 12 April **Easter Day**

8am and 10am

9.30am Kid's Church

SUNDAY 19 APRIL

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

Celebrant and Preacher:

The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton

Twilight Conversation - in recess for school holidays

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

We travelled to Tuross on the Australia Day long weekend. It was a dispiriting trip. From about 15kms east of Braidwood to about 5kms north of Moruya the landscape had been devastated: burnt, blackened, charred and scarred. It was profoundly disturbing, knowing the extent of life (both human and animal) that had been lost or turned on its head from the conflagration. And over that weekend, more fires raged.

Now the rain and time have brought new life, new shoots, new growth and with it new hope. The epicormic growth on the eucalypts, the flourishing of ferns and palms and the emergence of grasses covering the charred earth brings joy. Surviving animals and birds are coming back.

Currently our lives have been upended again, by Covid-19. For many of us it means social isolation in our homes. For many of us it brings fear and a host of uncertainties. And now we cannot be together to celebrate Easter.

The most significant event in world history tells the story of new life, new hope and a new way of living and being in the world. The resurrection of Jesus ushers in a new aeon. It demonstrates the consistent theme of Scripture that God's love is everlasting (Jeremiah 31.3) and that life and salvation prevail over fear and death. One can survive the sword and find grace in the wilderness. In the midst of the trauma and despair of the Israelite people in captivity in Egypt God brings freedom, new hope and a new way of living. This is worthy of celebration with tambourines and dancing.

Even in the midst of the despair which many of us feel at the moment with Covid

-19 we are reminded that God rebirths his people and brings hope and new life. At this time it is worth reflecting on the Hebrew word *hesed* used by Jeremiah. It is generally translated as "faithfulness". It really means God's unbreakable connection with us. His covenantal love which endures forever. This is wonderfully expressed by Paul in Romans 8: 31-39: nothing can separate us from the love of God, even Covid-19.

The story of Lazarus reminds us that at this time God is weeping with his people, feeling our pain, sorrow, grief, rage and despair. God weeps with us, but also brings new life.

On Easter Sunday we celebrate Jesus rising from the dead. In telling this narrative Matthew highlights that although one of the world's most powerful empires has inflicted the most appalling and humiliating of deaths upon Jesus, God has the last word. Crucifixion was a tortuous and demeaning death. Yet the Roman Empire cannot defeat God. God's unbreakable connection with us means that there is life in the midst of death, justice in the midst of injustice, wholeness in a world of brokenness. God's embodied life is in all.

God raises Jesus from the dead in bodily form. God has power over death and the tyranny which caused it. The resurrection has social implications. It brings the church into being. The eleven disciples regrouped (even though some doubted) and were now empowered to proclaim the Good News assured as we are that Jesus is with us to the end of the age. God does indeed have an unbreakable connection with us even in these troubled times.

Clive Rodger

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

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

WEBSITE: <https://www.holycovenant.org.au>

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.

Children and Young adults

Kid's church is now on Sunday at 9:30am at <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/417454216>

Youth Group will be continuing to meet for 'Fruitful Fridays' each fortnight (resuming 3 April) via Zoom! For more information, including the Zoom link and password, people can contact youth@holycovenant.org.au.

Small Groups

Small groups are an important way of staying connected with others even when we can't meet in person. Some groups that have made the transition include:

- a grow group for those wanting a richer experience of discipleship and to discover more about helping others grow in faith meets fortnightly on Tuesday nights.
- a meditation group meets weekly over ZOOM on Wednesday nights.
- EfM group which meets on Thursday nights.

Pastoral Offices

Weddings and funerals can continue to be held at Holy Covenant, provided that the prescribe numbers and social distancing requirements are adhered to. For weddings this is the celebrant

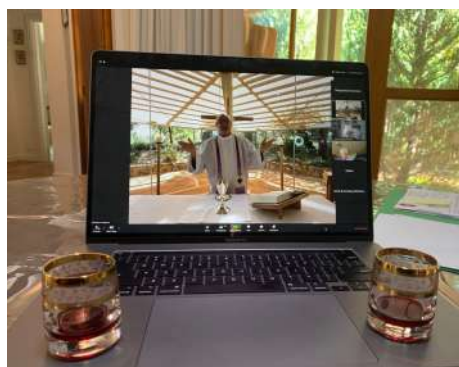


Photo: Marg and John Christensen

plus the couple and two witnesses. For funerals this is the celebrant plus 9 family members. *Baptisms, home communions and visits* by clergy are similarly suspended due to the risk posed to the person and the clergy alike, except in cases of emergency. However, pastoral visits can still be undertaken by phone or video connection.

Pastoral Needs

A big thank you to all who helped with our survey concerning pastoral care needs in the parish. The Belonging and Caring team are using the information to better support those who feel like they need a little more contact during their self-isolation. In the coming weeks, the Bulletin will feature some tips and pointers for managing anxiety and depression which can arise from extended periods of being either home alone or trapped with loved ones!

Alternative Worship arrangements

Morning services will be pared down to to approximately 45 minutes. 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.

Participants should mute their microphones and may turn off their video camera if they wish.

Music

Social distancing requirements in the worship space means that it is not possible for musicians to be present in the sanctuary when the service is televised. We are making use of recorded music on a limited basis to help people feel less self-conscious about singing along at home.

Responses

We love responsive prayer. However it is difficult to do with open microphones due to the lag that happens. If one person wishes to volunteer at the beginning of the service to read the responses that would greatly assist others to join in.

RAW POTENTIAL: SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE AGE OF CORONA VIRUS

Raw Potential supports young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. For our young people, the world of

COVID19 seems to have stopped everything – their usual supports and connections have closed, and they're not supposed to congregate in groups. Yet life still goes on, albeit with even more barriers to working towards good health, housing, employment, good mental health and the all-important social connections.

Raw Potential is keeping on keeping on, and supporting young people over the phone, with video calls, with short outdoor visits, emergency food relief, and with support for things like clothing and bedding for the coming winter. We are taking extra precautions around our own health and safety, and we are working to educate our young people about the latest updates from the government. Many don't have access to TV or radio, and some don't have phones.

Over the last few months we've been working with a 19 year old woman called Jamella* who has no permanent address and who has been couch surfing. She was making great progress and enrolled to study aged care – she really felt drawn to the work, but the course was cancelled, and disappointingly we had to start again from scratch. Jamella was soon invited to an interview at a big box retailer, was accepted for an internship, and was very excited!

Around that time, a lovely couple dropped into St John's Care and donated a gift card, and specified that it was for a 19 year old woman who needed a little help. We knew instantly that Jamella was the right recipient for this gift, and when we passed it on to her, she cried, so relieved that she could buy the black clothing she needed for work.

Some weeks have gone by, the world has changed, and I caught up with Jamella last Friday. Her internship is going really well, she's been working hard and while there's some uncertainty about whether the business can offer her a permanent job just now, her manager has already offered her a brilliant reference for the future. She's decided to stay on to gain more experience and build a longer work history with the company, and as she feels young and robust, said "I can be out with the customers and help keep some of our older workers safe, and besides, I just love helping people".

We're really proud of her achievement, grateful for the gift card that made all the difference for her, and thankful that we can continue to support young people like Jamella in these very difficult times.

Kind regards,
Gabrielle Penn

Raw Potential

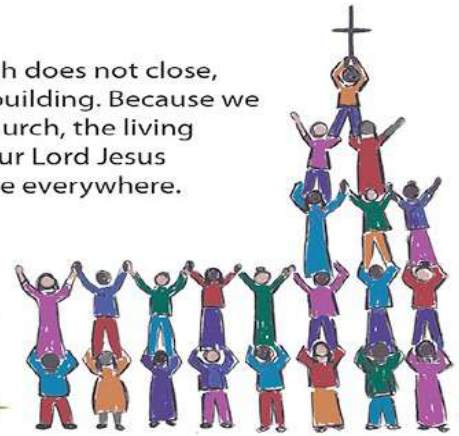
*name has been changed

Raw Potential items required: small individual hand sanitiser, supermarket gift cards of \$20 & \$50, adult colouring books and journals, new textas, new UNO/playing cards or similar

St John's Care items required: nappy soaker, shampoo and conditioner, canned fruit and veg, small gifts/ for women



The church does not close,
only the building. Because we
are the church, the living
body of our Lord Jesus
and we are everywhere.



HOLY WEEK

Beauty From brokenness, hope for despair. Lord in the suffering this is our prayer. (TIS 690)

I held the rough, dirty, round bulb in my hand before I sank it into the garden soil and I marvelled at its potential. Who would think that in that mass there would be something special, something of delight and beauty yet if you were to slice it open it would reveal nothing but a cluster of fibre. Marvelling at it in my hand I spoke to it asking, 'How is it that something so rough and plain can turn into something so beautiful and perfumed a glorious flower. How does that happen?' Then I realised my questioning is not to the bulb but to God. In our rapidly changing world in this time we can look and question many things, for example, how the blackened charred and burnt trees can ever hold their beauty again yet there are many signs of new growth with the eucalyptus leaves showing their beauty in the red and green new fresh tips merging up the trunks.

Life comes from death, resurrection occurs, and beauty rises.

May the Lord of Peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways.

Anne, servant of the Lord.

From 'Come Walk With Me' reflections.' <https://comewalkwithme-reflections.blogspot.com>



A mystery with an Easter insight.



A big thank you to Mel Clark for leading our Lenten Study this year on the book of Job. The circumstances of providing the study proved almost as difficult as those confronted by Job himself. Participant views about suffering, grace and God's relationship with humanity have been transformed by Mel who is a gifted teacher.

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, and many thanks to those who have recently joined this group.

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

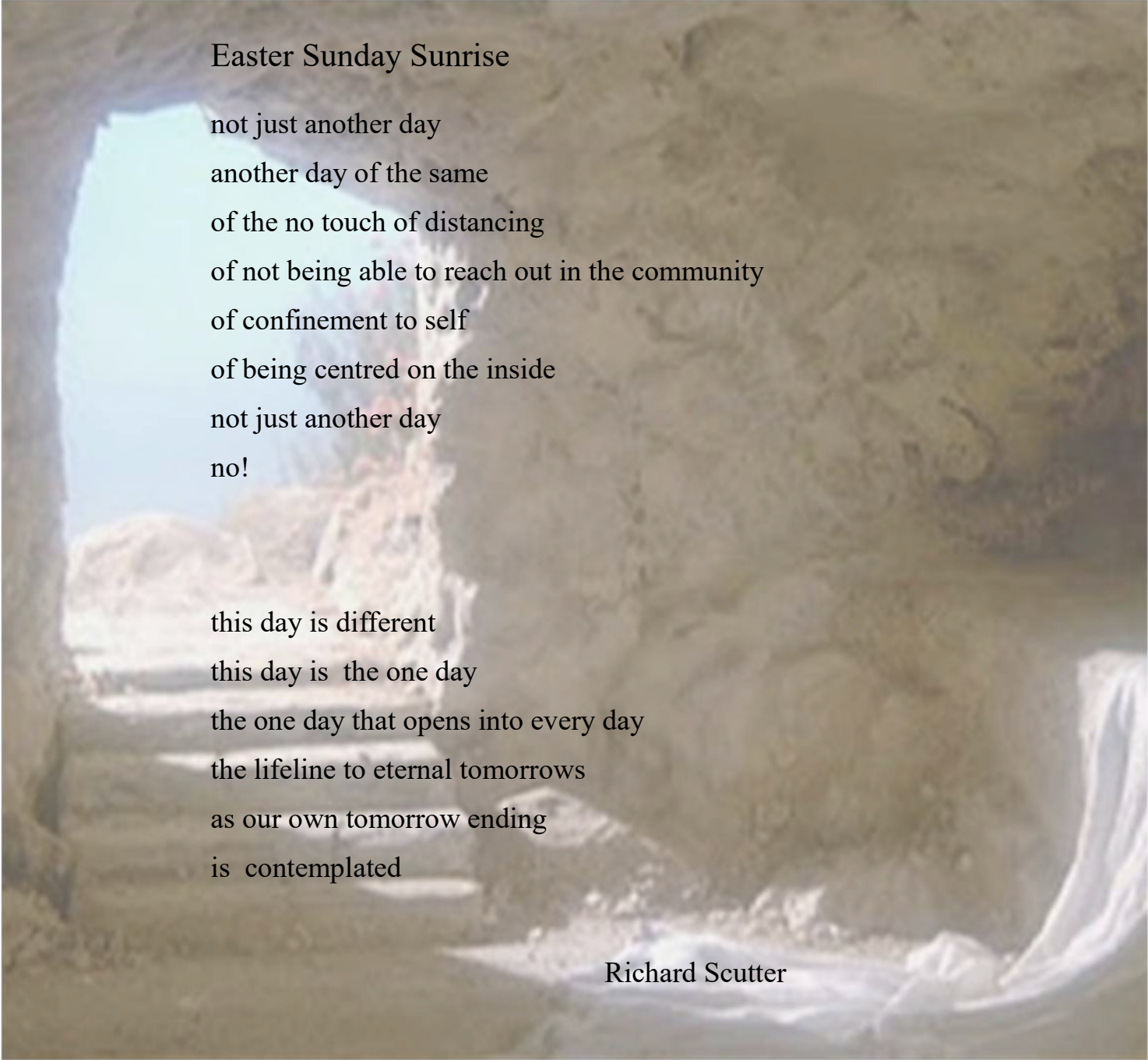
The parish bank account is with the Commonwealth Bank at the Jamison Centre. The BSB is 062-907 and account number is 0080 2588. Please contact me if you have any questions about this process.

I plan to have a short financial update in next week's bulletin.

Blessings.

Paul Shelley

Warden and Acting Treasurer



Easter Sunday Sunrise

not just another day
another day of the same
of the no touch of distancing
of not being able to reach out in the community
of confinement to self
of being centred on the inside
not just another day
no!

this day is different
this day is the one day
the one day that opens into every day
the lifeline to eternal tomorrows
as our own tomorrow ending
is contemplated

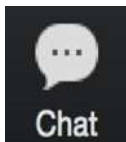
Richard Scutter

TIPS FOR USE OF ZOOM

CHAT

The "Chat" function is found on the bottom right of the meeting window.

1. Click **Chat** to instant message with other participants while in the meeting.
2. In the **Chat** panel, click the dropdown to select if you want the message to go to everyone in the meeting or a single participant.



HOW TO RAISE YOUR HAND

In real life, many of us often talk at once. ZOOM can struggle when more than one person talks at a time. If you want to make a point without interrupting others the raised hand function is very useful.

***You can only raise your hand when zoom is in session.**

****If connecting via a Smart Phone, Tablet, or Computer, please use the Zoom App to be able to access all functions, including raising your hand.**

By Phone: Press *9

By Computer:

Click "**Participants**" on the Zoom Menu Bar.

(The Zoom menu bar appears at the bottom of the Zoom window once the meeting begins. If you don't see the menu bar, move your mouse slightly and the bar will appear. The bar disappears after a few seconds when in full-screen mode.)

The white Participants box that appears after you do Step 1 has a **Raise Hand** command at the bottom, just click that to raise your hand.



By Tablet:

Click "**Participants**"

Choose "**More**" at the bottom of the Participants screen

Choose "**Raise Hand**"

On the screen a blue hand will appear on your box. This will let everyone know that you have a contribution to make to the discussion and are able to do so without jumping in. A sure way of getting noticed!



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.



Be Nourished & Sustained through Daily Prayer

1. **Download** the *epray DAILY* app FREE from your app store



2. **Log in** to the app with your **Four-digit parish access code**
Set your default bible, and you're ready to go!!

Your Parish Access code is

5313

- Scripture available in NIV and NRSV
- Uses An Australian Lectionary
- Simple Design
- Use Everyday

HCNM UPDATE

The HCNM staff are still on deck and learning how to do things remotely. Lyn, Jennifer and Anne call our Covenant Care and community clients and isolated volunteers without internet on a weekly basis. Jennifer has also done some client shopping, delivered casseroles and collected bags of clutter, all from a safe distance.

I am emailing our volunteers on a weekly basis and we are preparing our autumn newsletter. We will also be looking at sending cards to our clients as getting something in the mail often brings some joy.

I have asked our volunteers to provide me with any jokes, memes and videos that will give people a laugh. This week, I will be asking them to send in stories about life in isolation, photos, recipes, decluttering efforts and the like that can be shared with everyone.

I have also been thinking about how we can help others such as small businesses and charities. We

have recently had the windows cleaned and next week the garden will get its autumn haircut. Other possibilities might be home delivery from a local restaurant and donations to charities that help humans and animals. Also, contributing to parish funds through direct debit is very helpful.

Wayne is hoping to re-purpose the Parish Bulletin as a communications tool, so perhaps some of the above might translate well across the parish and help keep our spirits up. If you think that's a good idea, you could let him know and provide some input too!

Finally, if you are able to make a casserole at any time and put it in the Parish freezer, that would be great. If you need it collected, please call me and I can pop around to your doorstep and collect it.

If HCNM can help people at any time, please use the bulletin contact details and let us know.

Rhonda Thorpe
Program Manager

ANGLICAN NEWS

The April Anglican News is now available.

Please note that the Anglican News won't be printed and mailed out to parishes during the ADS office and church closures. A version is available on the website at the link below.

To the page:

<http://anglicancg.org.au/news-and-events/anglican-news/>

Straight to the pdf:

<https://anglicancg.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Anglican-News-April-2020.pdf>

DIOCESAN RESOURCES

Bishop Mark is planning to do a series of weekly reflections.

The link is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORvmpFoOAY4>.

Other resources are available on the Diocesan website through the 'Keep Connected at a Distance' page <https://anglicancg.org.au/keep-connected/>

HAVE A GOOD YARN



Have a Good Yarn group is knitting up a storm

Remember the good old days when we could all get together in the same room - reasonably close together and have a yarn?

Keen on any ideas about getting together again!

Sandra Ross



HOLISTIC CARE NURSING MINISTRY

HCNM remains open even if the programs and visits are suspended. Lyn, Jennifer and Rhonda rare 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.

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

- ⇒ We pray for your world: for the welfare of all your people and for your creation entrusted to our care; for all in positions of authority; for men and women in their daily work.
- ⇒ Roll away the stones of hatred and greed, Transform us with your spirit of justice and righteousness, that all your people may share in the freedom of your risen life.
- ⇒ Governments to receive the best possible advice and support to contain COVID-19 and protect their people

IN AUSTRALIA.

- ⇒ wisdom, peace and protection for the Australian people as we deal with COVID-19 and what it will mean for our lives.
- ⇒ We ask You to free those living with abuse physically, mentally or spiritually, from their oppression.

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of Grafton
- ⇒ Holy Covenant, Jamison
- ⇒ Christ Church, Hawker
- ⇒ Calvary Hospital, Bruce: Anglican Chaplaincy Team
- ⇒ Clare Holland House (ACT Hospice), Barton: St John's Canberra Clergy: Coral Park/ Bill McKenzie Gardens
- ⇒ St James', Holt
- ⇒ Pray for: Anglicare activities in caring for and supporting older people in both in home and out of home care including nursing homes, hostels, independent living units and in the general community; for staff; and volunteers.

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Michaelee Thornton; Rhonda Thorpe; Marilyn Tolano; Jenny Tomkins; Anthony, Susan, Elizabeth and Michael Troy.
- ⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer including Dorothy Parsonage, Elizabeth Grant, Andrew Hill, Joh Sheehan, Phil Bloomfield, Lexie Winders and anyone known to us personally.

COMMEMORATIONS

Monday: Ross McGregor Mitchell (d.2018)

Wednesday: Beatrice Alice Woodwell (d. 1987)

COLLECT FOR EASTER DAY

Glorious Lord of life,
by the mighty resurrection of your Son
you overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we,
who celebrate with joy Christ's rising from
the dead
may be raised from the death of sin
to the life of righteousness;
through him who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

READINGS

Jeremiah 31.1-6

Psalms 118.1-2, 118.14-24

Colossians 3.1-4

Matthew 28.1-10

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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Holistic Care Nursing Ministries Program Director and Chaplain

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Reverend Connie Gerrity
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Resources Team

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