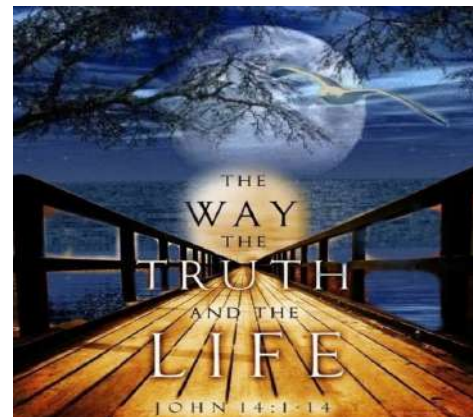


HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 10 MAY 2020 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

CORONA STAY-IN: 7 SUNDAYS

In recognition that our congregations contain many people who are vulnerable to the coronavirus, at the Diocese's request, we have ceased physically meeting for public worship. We will continue to worship online via ZOOM video conferencing. To join us, use the link below.

<https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUplaj05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRll0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366

Password: 033643

For **Kid's church** the meeting room is at 9.30am:

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

SUNDAY 10 MAY

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

Celebrant and Preacher:

The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton

5pm Twilight Conversation

SUNDAY 17 MAY

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

Celebrant and Preacher:

The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton

5pm Twilight Conversation

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

DO NOT LET YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED

*Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you,
All things are passing;
God only is changeless.* (St Teresa's Bookmark)

Today's reading introduces Jesus' Farewell Discourse to his Disciples (John 14-17) in which – among other things – he seeks to prepare his vulnerable band for the sense of abandonment and betrayal, not to mention the persecution and scattering, that will inevitably follow his death.

Jesus begins with the familiar words of reassurance: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?' Although these words are often read at funerals, they also have an obvious application to this life – especially in times of disorientation and crisis.

When Jesus asks his disciples to believe in him, he is in fact asking them to trust him. A lot of this is hypothetical for the disciples at this point. They have consistently failed to listen when Jesus has tried to talk about his upcoming death, and they will not realise

what Jesus means when he says, 'I am the way, the truth and the life' until later. And there is a sense that we too only come to understanding by walking the path ourselves. Sometimes it is a steep learning curve, and our understanding is never complete but always evolving in response to what life asks of us. Yet we have an inner compass that tells us if we are on track or not.

There is always more to learn; we are always on the way. Faith is never just intellectual assent to a set of doctrines that assure us of 'certain certainties'. It is never just knowing about. It is always about saying yes to the divine invitation: 'I'll show you the way. Come and see the place prepared for you'. The reference to 'many dwelling places' reminds us of the abundant hospitality of God where all are welcome. Do we extend this same hospitality to ourselves, others and to God?

Frances MacKay.

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 2.0

Meeting the challenges

Holy Covenant moved into the digital world six weeks ago when social gathering restrictions became necessary as a way of protecting the wellbeing of members following the outbreak of COVID-19.

So much has happened since then. We have navigated our way through worshipping, meeting and meditating over Zoom. New patterns of pastoral care have been established. A new website and Facebook page have come online. Children and young adult groups have stepped boldly into a new space. The Weekly Bulletin has expanded with new contributors helping out.

Although the challenge to adopt and adapt to a new ways was steep, members took it in their stride and embraced these ways of staying connected with enthusiasm and courage.

Looking ahead

Now governments are beginning to relax restrictions. It might be time for us to start thinking about our own journey out of enforced isolation.

- what have we grieved or missed the most?
- what gifts, skills and insights have we discovered and wish to keep?
- what things are less important and could be left behind?
- what things might we do differently moving ahead?

In all likelihood, return to church life will need to be staged on the basis of last in, first out. This could mean meeting in small groups (10 people) before we are able to meet as congregations (50 people or more). We might also have to think about how social distancing could work in practice, specifically about seating. We might also need to think about how we share Communion together safely. Hospitality with things like morning teas, dinners and special events may also need to look different. How do we stay in touch when privacy is valued highly?



Photo: Marg and John Christensen

Although many have valued meeting over Zoom, how could those who need to remain shut-in stay connected with us? These are not easy questions to answer when our sanctuary looks like a movie studio!

Sharing our gifts

Much energy and attention has focussed on keeping our congregational members encouraged and engaged. Yet as our city emerges from hibernation, I wonder about what fresh opportunities might be found for us to engage with our neighbourhood in fresh ways?

In a world that's hungry for peace and thirsty for justice Holy Covenant has many gifts to share. I wonder what we could build around the gifts below:

- pastoral care, where sharing life together is a matter of learning how to love one another with God's help and not just absorbing new theological information about God;
- inclusion, where everyone has a future and not just a past because everyone gets to share their gifts no matter their heritage, background, gender or orientation;
- reflection, where God speaks to us through life and invites us into a relationship where Scripture is interpreted in conversation with history, science and experience.

I wonder what things have you observed in your neighbourhood? Are there gifts, skills and talents that might be appreciated by our neighbourhood? Put another way, how could we let the neighbours know that our doors are open once again?

Wayne



WHEN LIFE HAS LEFT YOU RAW...

Raw Potential, with the generosity of the community, can help our young people who are struggling with homelessness and difficult circumstances, to see their potential.

♪ "I sing because I'm happy...I sing because

I'm free..." ♪

Andy loves to sing, but for some time now he's struggled with his mental health for the last few years after having a breakdown and being unable to work. This week he was one of four recipients of a generous clothing donation; a perfect fit for a few new pairs of trousers, shirts and shoes. The local church have been very supportive and assisting with social connections and occasional food, but Andy had lost his voice and his mojo. Having new clothes gave him such a lift that he sang "His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He cares for me" ...and then said he literally felt his self esteem go through the roof.

Boogie loves computer games and skateboarding, has a lovely dog, but does it pretty tough in a single parent family. He loves his mum, but she is often away as she works as a cleaner, sometimes at night. He was really grateful to receive some trakkie-dacks, shorts, polo's, t-shirts, sneakers and a pair of boots – all his size. He said "I can't believe they're all brand-names; usually I have to have stuff from Kmart and I feel like the poorest kid". Boog got straight on his skateboard and showed me a few tricks. He was obviously feeling good.

Keiran has been homeless for almost a year now, and just last week got news that he'd been successful in applying for a private rental flat over in Queanbeyan. I asked if he needed anything, and he said "shoes and clothes" and when he said his size, I knew that the donated items would fit him perfectly. When I arrived with the clothes, Keiran's only pair of shoes had the soles coming off, and I was able to give him 5 pairs of shoes, four pair of moleskin pants, and a number of shirts. Keiran had tears in his eyes when he thanked me, and said "this is better than Christmas".

Chip plays electric guitar in a band that plays retro style music with a modern twist. Their look is smart suits in the 50's and 60's style. Chip lost his job in hospitality and has been couch surfing because he was unable to pay the rent. He needed some new clothes, and some of the donated shirts were a great fit. As it happened, a lovely pin-striped suit had also been donated, and he star-jumped with excitement and said "finally something is going right for me, this suit will be great for job interviews and gigs".

I phoned the kind donor of the clothes to pass on the thanks of all the men who received them. It was an emotional moment, but the impact of one person's generosity has been profound for these four young men, and they all felt like someone was looking out for them. It's important to look out for each other during these difficult times, but particularly our young people, many of whom are living with some extreme challenges.

Kind regards,

Gabrielle Penn

Raw Potential

Items required: Nappy wipes, tinned soup and olive oil

CASSEROLE BANK

The casserole bank is getting a bit low. If anyone can make a casserole and leave it in the church freezer that would be great.

Please make sure it has the date and all the ingredients listed on the label.

GEMS OF OUR FAITH

The King of love my shepherd is (TIS 145)

More and more we look to a source of comfort and grounding in troubled times and the words of this beautiful hymn have been a great source of comfort.

So much of the words of the Christian life journey hold comfort and deep peace, gems of our faith, the very words that keep us walking side by side with Jesus through the ups and downs of life, they are words of warmth and give us a sense of being cared for, held, brought back, saved, loved, hugged.

Picture this thought. You can't see Jesus but he is right beside you, gentle yet strong, his rod and his staff in his hand.

Grace and peace from the lord Jesus Christ

Anne, servant of the Lord.

<https://comewalkwithme-reflections.blogspot.com>



Words of the Christian journey.

COMMUNITY GARDEN CALLOUT TO ALL GARDENERS

Are you taking the extra time at home to catch up on some of those Autumn gardening tasks: dividing raspberries, strawberries, rhubarb, asparagus?

If so, if you have any extra cuttings the community garden would greatly appreciate them.

Please contact

Joh Johann@sheehan.id.au or

Allison Cooper-Stanbury

allison@cooperstanbury.com

if you would like to make a contribution.

GROW GROUPS

Some Grow Groups have started in the parish. Some have started to ask, what is a grow group and what are they growing?

What does a Grow group do?

Grow Groups help participants become better disciples who are more confident at helping someone else become a disciple too. Put simply, they are about spiritual transformation.

While God loves us deeply and always accepts us for who we are, God also encourages us to imitate Christ in our outlook, attitudes, behaviours and aspirations. By learning God's ways, we become what we were created to be. But growing to become the best version of our true selves is hard, challenging and uncomfortable.

Why join a Grow Group?

For many people, church life can feel like this,

*Do what you have always done.
Repeat the tried and the tested.
Risk nothing, learn nothing.
Fake it and get through.
Give in to the same old, same old uncritically.
Go home on autopilot.*

The relationship between worship spaces and discipleship is like the connection between mountain chalets and skiing or the surf club and the beach. While there is nothing wrong sitting in the club house all day, skipping the saltwater or the snow is to miss out on a larger and more dynamic experience. After all, surf clubs and chalet's were built so that people had a place to rest after a day's skiing or swimming with the family.

Similarly, worship spaces exist so that disciples have a place to rest after being engaged in God's mission. They're a place of encouragement and friendship so that we're stronger to take on the challenges that emerge. Discipleship viewed this way might look a little more like this:

*Venture beyond the familiar.
Range wider than routine.
Delve beneath the certain.
Hold truth with an open heart.
Break from the programmed whatever it be.
Take a different way home.*

How do Grow Groups work?

The surf or mountain slopes can feel daunting. A Grow Group is like having a team with an instructor who helps you to master the basics so that you can manage new things and help others learn how to become disciples too. Learning among friends helps our confidence and competence to grow by taking on challenges that stretch our souls and enliven our spirits.

A grow group helps people attend to a variety of challenges. For some, they might be of a personal nature such as looking for direction or an opportunity for character change. For others, it might be around learning new ministry skills or confidence to join God in mission. Whatever it is, the group focusses on two core questions, 'What's God saying to me?' and 'what am I going to do about it?'

Most people get frustrated in life or stuck in faith when things seem to keep repeating. Presently, we are learning about the circle of spiritual breakthrough. The circle encourages us to reflect on Kairos moments as they happen, those moments when the opportunity for change arrive. Breakthrough happens when we understand those moments and follow-through with appropriate action. Frustration happens for some people because they jump to action without thinking things through first. Others get stuck because of analysis paralysis as they reflect without ever working out their action plan. Learning about the circle helps us to help others who also experience feeling stuck or frustrated.

Where will Grow Groups take us?

This focus on reflection and action means that Grow Groups are not like any bible study we've done before. They're not just about learning new ideas or content. They're about transforming our outlook, attitudes, behaviours and aspirations.

For our parish, there are two benefits to running grow groups. First, people will become more excited about seeing God at work both in their lives and others around them. Second, people will become more confident to participate in God's mission where they live.

When leaders become more confident disciples who know how to help someone else follow Jesus in all they say and do, justice and peace will grow in world. New things have already started to grow in our parish. The Community Garden is one example. The Yarn group is another. Existing things will get stronger. Kids and young adult ministries will become stronger too. We'll become a more vibrant and effective parish as we learn to work with God in the neighbourhood.

When can I join a Grow Group?

If you're looking for something different for church life or something more from God or yourself, you might just be having a Kairos moment.

Wayne is looking at starting a third Grow Group in May/June for another 5-10 people. If you'd like to be involved or want to know more, why not give Wayne a call? He'd love to have a ZOOM coffee with you.

Wayne

FIND US ON FACEBOOK



Holy Covenant is plunging into the world of Facebook. The goal is to broaden our visibility and to help others peek inside to see what we're up to as a church. We are setting up some groups as forums where people can discuss ways of helping our community to grow stronger.

So why not "like" us at <https://www.facebook.com/HCJamison/> and join in the conversation?



Spark conversation in your faith community

A new study group will commence in June. *Animate Faith* is a 7-session program aimed at helping us to dig into questions we have about faith and spirituality.

Topics include seeing faith as a quest, reclaiming spirituality, the revolution of Jesus, life in abundance, thinking about cross, the Bible is worth reading, and the church as an imperfect family.

Sessions involve video, discussion and thinking aloud. The series is suitable for anyone exploring faith for the first time and everyone interested in discovering things afresh.

Interested? Email Wayne on rector@holycovenant.org.au for more info and to join in over ZOOM. Meeting times are flexible but Tuesday or Wednesday evenings may work best with possible start beginning 1 June.



MORE TIPS FOR USE OF ZOOM

Getting the camera right!

Most of the time, as a member of a zoom congregation camera placement doesn't matter. But there are some times when it can be useful.

When you are doing a reading or prayers, it can be useful to have your picture well presented. Or when you are talking to others after the service.

Some things to think about are:

Position the camera right: If you are the sole person being presented by the camera then ideally, you want the camera to be straight on or slightly above you, pointing downward for the most flattering angle. If the camera is angled up at you, you'll show off your nose hair and a lot of chin.

Fill the frame: Position yourself so you're squarely in the middle of the frame, with your nicely lit, smiling face filling up at least one third of the space.

Other tips can be found at the following site:

<https://www.seattletimes.com/life/how-to-look-good-on-zoom-basic-tips-that-will-help-you-appear-more-professional-while-video-conferencing/>

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 Kenemore at 6251 2009; rkmore@grapevine.com.au

CRAFTY CREW

Need an activity to do at home?

Crafty Crew has been busy recycling cards for use at Church /on order from St John's Care/ or Anglicare.

I am willing to get items to you with examples if you are bored and need an activity. You supply scissors to cut paper and artistic talent.

Ring Gillian 6253 1058

SEEING THE EARLY CHURCH IN A ZAMBIAN SCHOOL

by Sue Edmondson

In our Twilight Conversation about Acts 2: 43 -47 I was prompted to revisit an extraordinary experience I had the previous night where I experienced something of the qualities seen in the very early church.

Seventy-nine participants met for a day of prayer about a boarding school in Zambia over Zoom. Most were in the UK with a mix of former staff still working, teenage children lounging on the couch and a sprinkling of former students.

The school started as a response to a leader in the charismatic movement from the UK, who shared a vision about having a school to prepare boys and girls for higher education overseas via Cambridge exams. That was not the only '**sign or wonder**'. The school's unique ethos and culture is a wonder in its own right being multi-racial from the start, even though this was a big step for whites, especially for missionaries.

As Covid-19 struck, the government decreed that all schools had to close, even though this rural boarding school was a safe place to be. The school has continued to provide education and pastoral care to students even though it only has 12 hours of electricity a day.

Parcels of food and cash were given to those on campus '**most in need**'. All staff agreed to a 25% pay cut. Term 2 fees were in doubt. Local churches were at a loss as to how to meet and many were frightened.

Early on, the school accepted the fact of **financial inequality**. It found ways to help with fee assistance and living conditions for professional staff, whether Zambian or expatriate. An expat might buy butter and cheese on a shopping trip, but shortages such as toilet paper were borne by all. So

many hardships could be because of **friendship**, and **personal discipline** borne of the commitment to people and '**the teachings of the apostles**'.

The vision for holistic discipleship has been strong. Gifts of individuals in sport, outdoor education, physics, maths and design have been welcomed for over 30 years. There is now an outdoor education centre in an impoverished country, used by many. A farm that supply the school with fresh produce now supports a recognised qualification in agriculture for changing times. Volunteers and donations have transformed the empty paddocks one step at a time.

Families have **continued gifting the school in many large and small ways**. Gradually the ethos extended beyond exams to **giving to their community**. There is a sense of love and thankfulness for what has been received whether as a student, (often still not well off), or a staff family who was both blessed and challenged by the experience. People love to return there.

The reality is that **necessity prompted prayer**. Somehow people came together across the world. Meeting online you could experience the vigour, practicality, friendship, welcome, openness view and **concern for the country**. People had great **enthusiasm for and pleasure in what God had given them**. And quietly online, older individuals introduced themselves to ex-students they had not met. So **hospitality and welcome continues**.

Sue is a member of the 5pm Twilight Service. She and her husband Ray have supported several Zambian students complete their studies at the school and university in the UK

HOLISTIC CARE NURSING MINISTRIES

At the end of last week, I had a phone call to say that there were some meals available for our clients if I wanted them. I was expecting half a dozen meals. However, I was delighted to find that there were enough so that every HCNM and Covenant Care client who wanted one could get it.

With help from Lyn, Jennifer and two volunteers we were able to distribute meals to everyone this week. The clients and carers were thrilled to receive the food and to have contact, albeit at a distance with the person who delivered the meal. I was also able to briefly see the other HCNM staff, a couple of volunteers and some clients this week for the first time since the lockdown commenced.

Jennifer has been working this week with a couple of our community clients using this time to declutter their homes. Both are making good

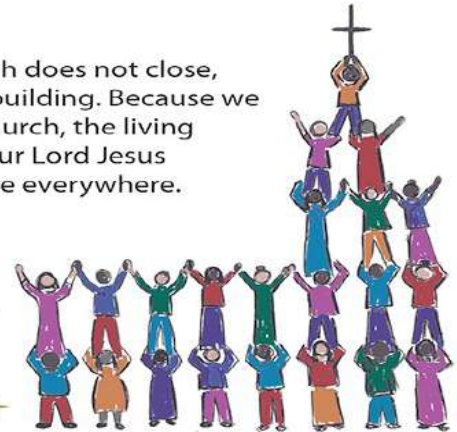
progress.

Staff and volunteers continue to phone clients weekly to catch up and offer assistance, where required and appropriate.

As always, if you need HCNM help, our details are on the Bulletin back page.

Rhonda Thorpe - Program Manager

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



FROM THE ACTING TREASURER

Dear friends

Over the past six weeks a large number of parishioners have commenced direct giving. We now have some 65 individuals and families exercising their stewardship by direct credit of their offerings on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis.

During April our total income was \$24,750 of which \$22,800 was direct giving of offerings. Our expenses were about \$23,000 so you can see that we are a little bit ahead.

The parish council and I want to thank you all for exercising your stewardship in this way. It really makes a big difference in helping us to manage the parish budget and meet our financial obligations most of which will continue through the current shutdown. Our expenses will vary

from month to month, but on average we need about \$20,000 each month.

The Diocese is submitting a JobKeeper claim on behalf of all parishes and other ministry units. We have provided them with details of past and estimated future income and expenditure as part of this process.

If you would like to make your offerings by a regular direct credit, the parish bank account is with the Commonwealth Bank at the Jamison Centre. The BSB is 062-907 and account number is 00802588. Please contact me if you have any questions about this process.

Blessings.

Paul Shelley

Warden and Acting Treasurer



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.

PARISH CYCLE OF PRAYER

The weekly bulletin has lots of prayer points as we ask God for help in our world, nation, the Anglican Church and for members of our congregation by name.

We thought it might be appreciated to have a prayer cycle for all the ministry and groups that work through Holy Covenant and for those who lead them. Consequently, we'll be featuring some areas of activity each Sunday over a five week cycle. Why not follow up with a note letting someone know you've just prayed for them?

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

⇒ We pray for the world: for respect for its creatures, for wise stewardship of its resources, for just sharing of its bounty.

IN AUSTRALIA.

⇒ Pray for those continuing to be affected by drought and the aftermath of bushfires.

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

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

⇒ Bishop to the Defence Force Rt Revd Grant Dibden

⇒ Defence Force Chaplains: Regular - Full Time; and Reserve – Part Time

⇒ St Philip's O'Connor

⇒ Churchwardens; members of Parish Councils; and Lay Leaders.

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

⇒ Congregations – 10am Sunday

⇒ Young adults ministry (Dougal, Celeste, Remus, Sarah, and Tobias)

⇒ Holistic Care Nursing Ministries (Rhonda Thorpe and Anne Ranse)

⇒ Shovel Community Garden (Joh Sheehan)

⇒ Resources group (Paul Shelley)

⇒ Tai Chi

⇒ For all members of our parish family including Harris, Helen and Tanya Boulton; Heather Boyd; Wayne, Meg, Darcy and Iona Brighton; and Richard, Mel and Matthew Browning.

⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer including Dorothy Parsonage, Elizabeth Grant, Andrew Hill, Joh Sheehan, Phil Bloomfield, Judith Ann, Lexie Winders, Roger Hallows, Jenny Hall and anyone known to us personally.

COMMEMORATIONS

Tuesday: May Barrington (d. 1991); Joan Eva Williams (d. 2019)

Wednesday: Jill Montgomery (d. 2002)

Saturday: William Donald Roberts (d. 1989)

★

★ **BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK** ★

★ **Tuesday:** Gwen Hallows ★

★ **Wednesday:** Penny Clarke ★

★ **Thursday:** Audrey Dargan ★

★ **Saturday** John Christensen ★

★

COLLECT FOR 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

Everliving God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
give us grace to love one another,
to follow in the way of his commandments,
and to share his risen life;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

READINGS

- Acts 7.55-60
- Psalm 31.1-5, 31.17-18
- 1 Peter 2.11-25
- John 14.1-14

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

- Children's Worker**
Wendy Robertson
children@holycovenant.org.au
- Youth Leadership Team**
Dougal, Celeste, Remus, Sarah, and Tobias.
0477 497 675(Dougal); youth@holycovenant.org.au
- Wardens**
Paul Shelley 6251 1568
Joh Sheehan 6251 7151
- Prayer Vine**
Rosemary Kennemore
6251 2009; rkmore@grapevine.com.au
- Belonging and Caring**
Joh Sheehan
6251 7151; Johann@sheehan.id.au
- Holistic Care Nursing Ministries Program Manager**
Rhonda Thorpe
0487 945 615 ; nurse@holycovenant.org.au
- Holistic Care Nursing Ministries Program Director and Chaplain**
Venerable (EM) Anne Ranse OAM
0406 379 599; anne.ranse@gmail.com
- Honorary Priests**
Reverend Anne Dudzinski
0413 994 739; annedudzinski@optusnet.com.au
- Reverend Connie Gerrity
0429 423 725; connie@gerrity.id.au
- Resources Team**
0419255002