

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 31 MAY 2020 DAY OF PENTECOST

CORONA STAY-IN: 9 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?](https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUuja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRlloZz09)

[pwd=YUuja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRlloZz09](https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUuja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRlloZz09)

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366

Password: 033643

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

[https://us04web.zoom.us/](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/417454216?pwd=NlFwSk1tMWUNBS0Y2NHVxemd5MlW0wZz09)

[j/417454216?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/417454216?pwd=NlFwSk1tMWUNBS0Y2NHVxemd5MlW0wZz09)

[pwd=NlFwSk1tMWUNBS0Y2NHVxemd5MlW0wZz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/417454216?pwd=NlFwSk1tMWUNBS0Y2NHVxemd5MlW0wZz09)

Meeting ID: 417 454 216

Password: Kidschurch

SUNDAY 31 MAY

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

Celebrant:

The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton

Preacher:

The Venerable (EM) Anne Ranse OAM

5pm Twilight Conversation

SUNDAY 7 JUNE

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

MANIFESTING THE SPIRIT FOR THE COMMON GOOD

Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit; ... varieties of services but the same Lord; ... varieties of activities but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given a manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Cor. 12)

A recurrent theme in Jesus' farewell discourse (Jn. 14-17) is the promise of Jesus' continued presence with the disciples through the Holy Spirit whom God will send after he leaves. This Spirit will not only console, but equip them to continue his ongoing work in the world.

Today's gospel tells us how, on the evening of his resurrection, Jesus appears to the disciples who are huddled in fear behind locked doors. After greeting them ('Peace be with you') and showing them his wounds, he commissions them: 'As the Father has sent me, so I send you'. 'Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.'" And what of all his teachings is to be the focus of their mission? Forgiveness: 'If you forgive the sins of any they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained'.

Every word and detail of this tender and intimate scene is important not only for the disciples but for us. Locked doors

cannot keep Jesus out. Are we open to the peace he offers in the midst of our anxiety and confusion? Do his wounds remind us that our wounds do not automatically disappear when we commit our lives to God? Indeed they often have a role to play in helping us to be compassionate. And what do we make of this focus on forgiveness?

The day of Pentecost (Acts 2) is a much more spectacular and public affair. Instead of a gentle breath, there is a demonstration of power through a violent wind and tongues of flame. In a reversal of the 'Babel' story in Genesis, the ability to speak in 'other languages' not only draws in a 'multicultural' crowd, but points to prophetic utterance that can transcend ordinary tribal barriers. A transformed Peter reminds us that *God's intention is to pour out God's Spirit on all flesh.*

In light of this, how might I/we cooperate with the work of the Spirit in my life and the life of our community and the wider world?

Frances MacKay

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MOVING FORWARD

Parish Council has developed a COVIDSafe response plan. The plan aims to help our ministry and activities resume in ways that are safe, while minimising the risks of any outbreak and helping people know how manage any outbreak should one eventuate.

The plan has used the resources provided by the Diocese with social distancing restrictions applied to each ministry and activity undertaken by or at Holy Covenant. Ministry leaders and group coordinators have been consulted about these arrangements. These measures need to be reviewed and adjusted each month.

The need to adhere to the social distancing requirement of 4 square metres per person will be particularly challenging. This will limit Holy Covenant's seating capacity in the Worship and Rainbow Centres as follows:

Worship space – 35 people, not including sanctuary party, musicians or AV team
Chapel – 4 people
Kitchen – 4 people
Office – 3 people
Red Room (Rainbow) – 7 people
Purple Room (Rainbow) – 4 people
Mushroom (Rainbow) – 5 people

Restarting groups

The ACT government eased restrictions at midnight on 30 May allowing for indoor gatherings of up to 20 people. This will impact our church in several ways.

Small groups of less than 20 people are able to restart in-person meetings provided that they discuss their plans with the rector, observe hand hygiene, room occupancy limits and keep an attendance roll. Groups that meet in homes can resume also provided that the organiser keeps a list of attenders for contact tracing purposes. The sanctuary team will resume. Other groups may wish to continue meeting over Zoom, after all winter is coming! Kids and young adult ministries plan to keep meeting this way.

Step 3 will allow for larger groups to meet. The ACT Government is expected to make an announcement



Photo: Mark Cooper-Stanbury

concerning this stage on 19 June. Should the ACT make this step, Holy Covenant will resume in-person worship at church in July.

Worship

With reduced occupancy, our worship will look and feel different. Parish Council has agreed to the installation of video equipment to allow Zoom streaming when in-person worship recommences. The equipment will be installed in a way that is discrete and so not interfere with attenders moving about the worship space.

The cost of purchasing and installing the cameras and video feed equipment will be approximately \$3,400. Parish Council believed that this project was essential even if unbudgeted. Parishioners are welcome to make a donation to cover this unexpected cost.

With only 35 seats available in the worship centre on Sunday, the wardens are discussing options that will allow those who wish to attend to do so. We plan to contact people shortly to see who wishes to continue participating over Zoom and who may wish to resume in-person worship. In all likelihood, those attending in person may be asked to attend twice per month.

When services resume, they will all need to make use of the overhead screen. We realise that this will be a significant shift for those at 8am who prefer printed prayer and hymn books. Holy Communion will be in bread only as the common cup cannot be used. Given the indefinite nature of this restriction, the parish may wish to consider using individual cups during this period. Sadly, the greeting of the peace and holding hands at the end of the 10am service will be discontinued. We also are looking at ways to allow for morning tea with minimal handling of items and utensils.

A copy of the COVIDSafe response plan will be made available on our website shortly.

Wayne





RAW POTENTIAL WORKING HARD FOR RICKY

Ricky was living in an apartment with his cat, when in the middle of the night he was woken by flashing lights, then a knock on the door and a lot of shouting. He opened the door to a fireman telling him to get out immediately as there was a fire next door. His cat, Simba, shot straight out the door and into the night.

Wearing only a pair of boxers and a t-shirt, he was given a blanket and joined the other residents standing out in the cold watching the flames. Consequently, his apartment was fire and water damaged and almost all of his personal property had been ruined. He was left with only the clothes he'd been given.

Arrangements were made for him to be taken to an emergency shelter. The next morning a worker from a welfare service came by with some op-shop tracksuit pants, t-shirt, hoodie, new underwear and a pair of canvas sneakers.

Being 18, with significant hearing loss and no family nearby, Ricky's situation is challenging. He does not drive, his hospitality job ended a few weeks ago due to COVID-19, and there's not a lot of face-to-face support available at the moment.

Raw Potential were called to assist by another agency who arranged the initial emergency shelter placement. On visiting him there, his first concern was Simba his cat. Simba had not been seen, even though neighbours were keeping an eye out for him.

His next concern was for some additional clothing – he only had the few items initially supplied by the support worker. So we took a trip to Kmart together with a gift voucher that had been kindly donated. We were able to get him a large duffle bag and enough new clothes and underwear to get him through a few days. We then brought him into the St John's Care Centre for a few extra items of clothing.

Raw Potential is following up with Housing. They say it will be a few months until his flat is cleaned up, repainted, recarpeted and fit to live in again. Ricky is currently being temporarily housed in a country town, where there is limited transport and even more limited work opportunities. As he can't hear very well on the phone, he can't easily catch up with his mates. He is really concerned about his future and his mental health.

SJC have connected Ricky to a service that can do some video mental health support using an AUSLAN interpreter. We will continue to advocate for Ricky to be moved back closer to where he can access public transport and employment opportunities. We've also notified the RSPCA and local vets about Simba and printed out some "lost cat" signs to put up around where he was living.

Ricky is really grateful for the help that Raw Potential have been able to offer so far. There's a long way to go in helping him get back on his feet again. But with regular check-ins and support for the next few months, we're hoping that Ricky will soon be back home and that Simba will be snuggled up on his bed. Hopefully it won't be long before Ricky is back working in hospitality.

Kind regards,

Gabe Penn, Raw Potential Canberra

(St John's Care is the service provider for Raw Potential Canberra.)

Items required: Pasta sauce, 500ml oil, toothpaste, full cream long life milk

GOD'S GLORY IN THIS DARK WORLD

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us. Psalm 67:1.

I have heard it said that in the dark times will there be singing? Yes there will be singing, about the dark times and, and I say, can you see God's glory shining in the dark times? I say yes, you can see God's Glory shining in the dark times and it revealed itself just yesterday when I was putting a lovely coloured feather from a Crimson Rosella into one of the journals for a grandchild and I wrote: The colours of this feather are just so beautiful but you need to take it out in the light to see them. God's Glory is still revealed in this dark world. It shines through you and me in acts of kindness and coloured feathers through the light of Christ .

Grace and peace from the Lord Jesus Christ

Anne, servant of the Lord.

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



NEWS FROM THE RESOURCES TEAM

You may have noticed when watching the Zoom services that the shade sails had gone from the area behind the Sanctuary. They have been taken down temporarily so the external painting can be done. This project has been on our list since late last year and it has finally got under way.

Another external job that has commenced is the cladding of the southern and western fascias with Colorbond sheeting.

Inside the Worship Centre, one of the Sanctuary chairs has been repaired and the lectern Bible is currently with the bookbinder to have the spine repaired.

We have not had a working bee for the past couple of months. However, one is being planned for Saturday 20 June to do some cleaning up around the grounds.

Paul Shelley

LEARNING TO LOVE

Reimagining Church

I wonder what church looks like for you? For most people, church looks like a clubhouse with a minister that wears a white dress, old-timey music and lots of standing, singing and being quiet. When viewed this way, church appears like package that we consume based on our preferences, much like the galleries we visit, the restaurants we eat at or the movies we watch.

What we may not see or appreciate is that church is something we create together. Church happens when we love God, love one another and love our neighbours together. This is what Jesus did when he took time out to pray, hang with his students and travel from village to village showing people what God's kingdom looks like.

We create church by growing all kinds of things to help people to nurture love in these dimensions too. Worship, prayer and meditation help people to develop our love and deepen our understanding of God. Fellowship dinners, small groups and hospitality after the service help us to grow in love for one another. The nursing programs, community gardens and helping St John's Care help us to grow in love for our neighbours who don't go to any church.

Of course, everyone can develop their own practices too. I'm using Michael Curry's podcast series on *the Way of Love* to learn how to love God more deeply. I'm exploring community organising as a way of learning how to love my neighbours. I'm also learning to grow Grow Groups as a way of learning to love one another.

Learning Community

In order to help us to reimagine church as something we create together I attended our third Learning Community event with Joh Sheehan and Allison Cooper-Stanbury earlier this month.

We were encouraged to think about what spaces we create to enable love to grow. We were encouraged to think about our parish and how these dimensions feature in every ministry or activity we share together.

Most churches have all three dimensions working in their life but not every activity cultivates all three

dimensions together. Many activities focus on one or two dimensions. The challenge to growing church is to notice which spaces we use and where new spaces are needed. By paying attention to these three dimensions we are better able to create opportunities for people to connect.

Stretching

At the moment, I'm thinking about our services at 8am, 10am and 5pm and how each dimension is present. Our worship expresses our love for God while hospitality cultivates our love for one another.

But how do we show our love for our neighbour who may not think of coming to church? How do people become aware of God if all they see are crazy religious wingnuts on the news?

The point is not to get critical and despondent. The challenge is to get better by intentionally cultivating those things otherwise overlooked and ignored.

So how do I love Holy Covenant's neighbours? I'm also thinking of ways in which we might use ZOOM, Facebook and YouTube as ways to help our neighbours get a peek inside God's Kingdom and how we encourage it to grow in our neighbourhood.

I wonder how each dimension appears in your life? Is one dimension overlooked or overshadowed? What hopes and desires of the heart do you have? What dimensions do you see in the activities you share at Holy Covenant? How might we develop those dimensions in every activity that we share together?

Church is something we create together. As we share our life we have the opportunity to rest, grow and transform the world.

Wayne





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.

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/HCCJamison/> and join in the conversation?

WEEKLY BULLETIN

There have been some people who haven't received the Weekly Bulletin and Tracking Sheets in time for the Sunday Zoom service. This is due to email not being totally reliable. The Weekly Bulletin is normally emailed, with the Tracking Sheets for 8am and 10am services on Friday. If you haven't received it by Saturday, please send an email to the office and we will try to get it to you before Sunday so you can use the tracking sheet for the Zoom service.

Thanks Phil

JAM JARS

Please note that Margaret Meggs no longer requires jam jars.

The Meggs have moved so please do not leave jars at the old address (or the new address).

David Meggs



National Reconciliation Week is an annual celebration held from 27 May to 3 June that encourages us to build relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous peoples of all cultures in these lands now called Australia. This year's theme is "In This Together". Regardless of our background or heritage, we can make a new future by working better together.

National Reconciliation Week is an invitation to all Australians to learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories, to share that knowledge and help us grow as a nation. To find out more about what churches are doing this week, visit https://www.commongrace.org.au/reconciliation_week_2020_church_resources

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

⇒ Spirit of the living God, we pray for the world; for all its people and the creation entrusted to our care, that the earth may be renewed by your spirit.

IN AUSTRALIA.

⇒ We acknowledge the pain and shame of our history and thank you for the survival of Indigenous cultures. May God's Spirit give us the courage to accept the realities of our history and the love to build a better, more inclusive future for our Nation.

⇒ Pray for those continuing to be affected by drought and after effects of bushfires: in particular farmers and country areas.

⇒ Provide wisdom, peace and protection for the Australian people as the restrictions associated with COVID-19 are eased.

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

⇒ The National Council of Churches in Australia

⇒ Council of the Church in South-East Asia (Anglican) and the Christian Conference of Asia (Ecumenical)

⇒ ACT Churches' Council Inc

⇒ Religious Orders serving within the Anglican Church of Australia

⇒ Partner relationships between our Church and other Churches of Asia and the Pacific especially those in Indonesia our nearest geographic neighbour.

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

⇒ MOTH: Pray for ongoing compassionate and open hearted gatherings

⇒ Scrabble and the community groups that use our facilities – pray that they will keep safe and healthy, and for wisdom on when they might resume their activities.

⇒ Barnabas Ministries: Please pray for the ministry and programs of Barnabas Ministries as they endeavour to offer soul care via online platforms.

⇒ For all members of our parish family including Audrey Dargan; John Dau; Evelyn, Jey, Hannah, Sarah, Elizabeth and Mary David-Hoole; and Elaine and Brian Dennis.

⇒ 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: **John Philip Lane (d. 2012)**

Wednesday: **Isobel Hazelwood (d. 1994)**

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

★ **Friday:** Merrie Hepworth

COLLECT FOR DAY OF PENTECOST

Almighty God,
at the feast of Pentecost
you sent your Holy Spirit to the disciples,
filling them with joy and boldness to preach
the gospel:
empower us with that same Spirit
to witness to your redeeming love
and draw all people to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

READINGS

Acts 2.1-21 Psalm 104.26-37
1 Corinthians 12.1-13 John 20.19-23

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

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