

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 14 JUNE 2020

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

CORONA STAY-IN: 13 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=YUplja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRlI0
Zz09](https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUplja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRlI0Zz09)

Meeting ID: [882 096 2366](https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUplja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRlI0Zz09)

Password: 033643

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

[https://us04web.zoom.us/
j/417454216?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/417454216?pwd=NlFwSkMtMWUNBS0Y2NHVxemd5MW0wZz09)

[pwd=NlFwSkMtMWUNBS0Y2NHVxemd5
MW0wZz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/417454216?pwd=NlFwSkMtMWUNBS0Y2NHVxemd5MW0wZz09)

Meeting ID: 417 454 216

Password: Kidschurch

SUNDAY 14 JUNE

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

Celebrant and Preacher:

The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton

5pm Twilight Conversation

SUNDAY 21 JUNE

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

Celebrant

The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton

Preacher:

Rev' Connie Gerrity

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

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

I wonder what the twelve disciples in today's gospel whom Jesus summoned for a new special role felt about moving from the role of learners (disciples) to that of front line participants in Jesus' work among the crowds (apostles)?

These disciples were of course the stayers, They had been with Jesus as he announced the mandate for God's kingdom in the Sermon on the Mount and they had seen Jesus at work among the sick, rich and poor. And they had not been distracted like some others who also said they wanted to be Jesus' disciples but who had drifted away when they found other life priorities — even reasonable ones — which would mean they would be left behind (see Matthew 8: 18-22).

But up to this point they had been asked only to follow— to be with Jesus as he moved around the cities and villages, teaching in synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, healing the sick and presumably supporting Jesus in any way they could. And so it is that Jesus shares with them the overwhelming compassion he feels for the needs of the crowds who press upon him, harassed and helpless, like lost sheep without a shepherd to care for them.— There are so many ready to respond to the good news message, and so many looking for healing and comfort. Jesus expresses his need for help.— He needs the disciples help him.

He chooses these twelve and in spite of the fact that they probably have doubts about their own abilities and are somewhat afraid of mucking up the task, they agree to go. Jesus provides them with the special authority they need to deal with troubled spirits and sickness, gives them instructions about

how to carry out the task he has set them. And then he commissions them to go.

We too are asked to share in Jesus' mission. Our twenty-first century world is also longing to hear of God's love for all people and indeed for all of God's creation.

But note that Jesus commissioning of the twelve has within it many of the same elements that we saw last week in Jesus great commission to the eleven at the very end of Matthew's gospel. But there are some differences.

At the end of the gospel the eleven are commissioned to go into all the world but in today's gospel reading they are asked only to go to Jews —people like themselves. I think that is where we begin in our 'going' too. We begin from where we are — with our families, our friends, our neighbours, the people we encounter every day in our work and our recreational activities. These are the people whom we can befriend., the people we can be there for in times of trouble and the times of celebration. As someone who has been very much influenced by the Cursillo movement, I am very much influenced with the slogan, "Make a friend, be a friend, win a friend for Jesus." But we always need to remember that friendship is a reciprocal relationship: we are to expect no reward for being a friend other than the pure pleasure that friendship brings and the joy of obeying our Lord.

Like the twelve, we too are asked to proclaim the good news of God's love — the good news that God is active in the world and has come among us in Jesus so that all may live in love and peace and justice.

Connie Gerrity

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REOPENING OUR CHURCH

Parish Council has developed a COVIDSafe plan that will help us to reopen our ministry and activities in ways that will minimise the risk of any outbreak.

Holy Covenant's seating capacity in the Worship and Rainbow Centres will be significantly restricted in view of the need to provide 4 square meters per person for social distancing purposes. Consequently, you'll see posters advising of room limits 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

In-person worship will start in July with Step 3

The parish is also planning to have a cleaner come on a weekly basis to take care of the worship space and rainbow centre. While

When cleaning electrical items, such as:

- light switches
- electric piano
- computer keyboards and mice
- photocopier

please only spray the cloth and then wipe the surface down so as not to damage the item. Gloves and cloths are then to be disposed of and hands washed once more.

volunteers ordinarily help out in this way, we recognise that some volunteers are concerned about the potential risks involved.

Cleaning requirements

In order to minimise risks to others, new cleaning requirements will be necessary. Operating our ministries will be easier if people are able to share these responsibilities on the day.

Those helping should wash their hands first, then wear gloves while cleaning, being sure not to touch their face. Any of following surfaces used below are to be sprayed, let dry and then wiped clean.

- tabletops
- chairs (edges where handled)
- kitchen surfaces like benches, taps, drawer handles
- kitchen cups, plates and utensils in dishwasher
- door handles
- desks
- toilet buttons, taps and door handles
- communion tray, lectern and pulpit edges

Restarting groups

Some small groups with less than 20 people have restarted meeting in-person. Tai Chi has recommenced and some external groups are looking to use the property in the weeks ahead. The counselling service will also restart soon. The office will be open on a regular basis too.

Some movie nights have also been proposed for later this month. Not only will this be an opportunity to get out but it will give us all a sense of how our space might work with social distancing requirements in place. You'll soon notice spots on the carpet which will help with seating placement. Family members will be able to sit closer together.

Parish Dinner

On Saturday 25 July the parish will hold its annual dinner with a difference. As we will not all fit in the worship space or at a club, the proposal is to invite hosts to have between 2-8 guests for dinner. Guests may wish to bring a plate to share. Groups will then connect together during the evening over Zoom for a range of activities, interactive games and a silent auction.

We appreciate that some may wish to stay home but we hope that they might consider joining in over Zoom. Others may wish to consider whether host such a dinner or to be someone's guest.

Wayne



Photo: Mark Cooper-Stanbury



WHERE DO THE HOMELESS SLEEP THIS WINTER?

As we all know, winter is here. Because it's so cold I often feel guilty for having a warm place to sleep, while so many people are sleeping rough. As you may have read and seen in the media, people became homeless for so many reasons.

I have a real concern for the homeless in the ACT. I wonder how they are going to cope in the cold and wet this winter. With COVID-19, so many organisations and places are suspended that would normally support some of the most vulnerable people.

A few years ago, many rough sleepers used to sleep in the car parks around the city. Not an ideal situation, but apparently you could usually find a quiet spot, tucked in under one of the *up* or *down* ramps. The concrete was cold, but a few old cartons could protect you a bit and there was some protection from the wind. At least frost did not settle on you.

The most common complaint I hear today is that these sites are no longer available. Security has increased, so unfortunately the homeless are usually unceremoniously moved on. So where are they going to sleep this winter?

Yesterday we had a client come to St John's Care, who we will call Simon (not his real name). He was so cold that he could not talk. I offered him a takeaway coffee and a blanket to help warm him up while he sat in the sun.

Simon and I spoke about why he came into the Centre. He told me that he has been sleeping on the street for 5 months now. He lost his home in the fires. He has not found a job and has found it hard as he can't shower every day and doesn't sleep at night. I asked about Centrelink and he told me that he does not have any documentation to show who he is.

He then mentioned that another homeless person had stolen his tent and sleeping bag while he was getting some food two weeks ago.

While a volunteer was getting him some food, a swag (lucky last), a sleeping bag and some warm clothes, we discussed who might be able to support him. I suggested that we contact Street Law and Onelink to see if they were able to assist.

After our conversation, Simon left feeling warmer and happier knowing that someone was there to help him when he needed it most. He said that he finds it hard to ask for help but he couldn't sleep another night without something warm. He was so grateful for all the support we gave him.

Kind regards,

Jason Haines

Programs and Fundraising Manager

Community Worker SJC

Items required: Large tinned fish, full cream long life milk and Vegemite

MAY GOD'S SONG OVER YOUR LIFE DROWN OUT EVERY LESSER VOICE

Zephaniah 3:17 - a call to rejoice (Paraphrased).

I looked at the thick fog of the dark morning dawn as the mysteries of the day were revealed: bare branches of a fallen tree punched holes in the fog and a magpie, on its lonely branch sang in the coming of the new day and there beneath my window was the fog hidden honey-eater among the branches of the flowering Grevillea. I know it's there for the branches are joyfully bouncing up and down as he gathers the nectar. Even in the fog, there is beauty and a sense of the hidden and yet to be revealed. Sometimes we can only see partly through its darkness. It is so important, as I once read, to remember that darkness is the beginning of light.

Be watchful and thankful today. Jesus is with you.

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

Anne, servant of the Lord.

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



ANGLICAN NEWS—JUNE EDITION

The Anglican News for June is now available.

To the page:

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

Or straight to the pdf (smaller size):

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

A CHURCH THAT SAYS YES!

Holy Covenant is a different kind of church. From the outside we may not look that different with our sung responses and liturgical robes. But something deep within makes us different though it can be hard to put a finger on it.

Is it our worship? Our 8am, 10am and 5pm congregations vary markedly as they are traditional, contemporary and conversational in shape and tone. Our music perhaps? As we manage cathedral choirs, contemporary instrumentation and quiet reflection. Or our commitment to pastoral care? We endeavour to care for everyone, regardless of their background, heritage, age or identity.

I think what makes us different is our culture. We try to be a place that says yes rather than no. It's about our boundaries.

Saying no

Early in my Christian journey I attended churches whose culture was to say no. They were not mean or cold-hearted places. What made them say no was a gospel of obedience. This meant they had rigid and inflexible boundaries built on fear. These boundaries gave two messages. To those outside the message was you're welcome to fit in. To those inside the message was you can never leave because why would anyone want to leave the true church?

What it created was a deficit mindset. Everything was evaluated in terms of conforming with God's laws. People only saw what was wrong in any situation. To belong, people needed to believe the right things and behave in the right way. Everyone was fearful of getting judged by a god who was never pleased and everything was put under the spotlight. Sermons were dissected for their doctrinally sufficiency. Songs were interrogated for theological correctness. Relationships were evaluated and each person judged by the company they kept. I still remember being told by bishop not to eat with a particular person in public lest others leaders saw and thought I shared the person's beliefs, practices and behaviours.

Those who survive in such an environment develop a bulletproof sense of their own rightness particularly as others looked to them for approval, guidance and even rescue. By saying no these churches built a robust culture of constraint, conformity and compliance.

Saying yes

Holy Covenant has a different kind of culture. It's a place where we say yes because our boundaries are built on trust. People can only rest in Christ, grow in God and transform the world when they trust God, each other and themselves. The gospel of God's kingdom helps us to focus on potential, look for opportunities and press for transformation.

Resting in Christ is essentially about experiencing compassion. When asked how often we should forgive others, Jesus replied seventy times seven (Matt 18.21-22). This is not a law to be obeyed so much as an expression of how deep God's compassion is for us all.

The invitation to show self-compassion is an opportunity to grow in love. We are invited to grow in God because God knows and values our potential (Matt 10.1-4). What matters is not getting things right but growing as people who follow Jesus. Jesus invited many to follow him. He crossed lakes, hung out at wells, walked through towns to invite people into the opportunity that is God's kingdom.

Resting and growing leads to transformation. When people say yes to compassion and follow Jesus, the way they see the world shifts. It is not a place to be feared but a realm where God's presence can be discovered, working to bring new life out of situations that seem hopeless and where people feel helpless. We become creative, imaginative and determined to see goodness flourish even in the most barren places (Isa 35.1-8).

A culture that says yes trusts God and each other to rest, grow and to transform the world.

Wayne

PARISH DINNER



Saturday
25 July, 6.30pm

Who would you like to come for dinner? Planning has started for our evening together so book your calendar now!



CEO SLEEPOUT FOR THE HOMELESS

Neville Tomkins is participating, for the 9th year, in the Vinnie's Sleepout on 18 June to support programs for homeless people in Canberra.

To find out more and sponsor him, go to: <https://www.ceosleepout.org.au/ceos/act-ceos/neville-tomkins-scouts-australia/>

As Neville is unable to do his usual door-to-door collections due to COVID-19 restrictions, your online contribution would be deeply appreciated.

FRIDAY FILM NIGHTS

Come and join us for four fun Friday nights of films!

- | | |
|---------|-----------------------|
| 19 June | To Kill a Mockingbird |
| 26 June | The King's Speech |
| 3 July | Mamma Mia |
| 10 July | Beethoven |

Start time 6.30pm. Wear something warm.

We will need to follow Diocesan protocols and maintain our social distances. The films will therefore be shown without an interval. We are limited to a maximum of 20 for the first night, but if restrictions are lifted more we may be able to have 30 for the last three nights.

Sign up is absolutely necessary, on a first come basis. For more information and to sign up please contact Libby at lib@warren.com.au.

CASSEROLE BANK

The casserole bank now has quite a few meals in it. A big thank you to all the anonymous cooks who have kept it filled! We have provided meals this week and are looking to assist another couple of parishioners next week. If you can continue to put a meal or two in the church freezer from time to time that will make sure we have some on hand as needed. Thanks again for keeping it stocked.

Rhonda



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.

FROM THE ACTING TREASURER

Dear friends

During May our total income was \$26,900 of which \$19,300 was direct giving of offerings. This income includes a JobKeeper subsidy of \$6000 as a credit on the salaries bill and a government "cash boost" of \$1245.

The JobKeeper subsidy and "cash boost" are received via the Diocese.

Our operating expenses were \$15,150 and there was a capital expense of \$7000 for maintenance of the southern and western fascia of the Worship Centre.

The Holistic Care Nursing Ministry also benefits from these government grants but this parish program's operations are covered by a grant from the Shakespeare Trust and HCNM's income and expenditure are not included in the above figures.

We are grateful for the large number of parishioners who are providing their givings by regular direct credit.

If you would like to make your offerings by a 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

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

⇒ For those who protest police violence may they receive justice, for those who are silent may they find their voice, for decision makers may they make policies that will lead to life, health and justice for all.

IN AUSTRALIA.

⇒ We pray in thanksgiving for these ancient peoples who have enriched and sustained our continent over all that time. We praise God for the people who nurtured the land here in our parish that we call home.

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Good Shepherd, Curtin & Cross Cultural Ministry
- ⇒ Fred Ward Gardens RSL Lifecare
- ⇒ St Peter's Weston
- ⇒ Pray for: Organisations offering counselling, care and support to families and individuals; and plight of refugees and asylum seekers.

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ Congregations – 10am Sunday pray that God would bring people to our doors who are looking for a church community that listens, cares, respects and includes them.
- ⇒ Young adults ministry (Celeste, Remus, Sarah, and Tobias)
- ⇒ Shovel Community Garden—pray that God would guide the team as they seek how to grow community, grow people and grow produce. (Joh Sheehan).
- ⇒ Resources group and for next Saturday's working bee
- ⇒ Tai Chi pray that folk will feel comfortable in coming and new members will too
- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Andrew Feitz, Jodie Petrov, Oliver and Tobias; Karen Ferguson; George and Connie Gerrity; and Elaine and John Gifford.
- ⇒ 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

Wednesday Nicholas Scott Winders (d. 2015)

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

★ **Tuesday:** Sarah David-Hoole

★ **Friday:** Estelle Robertson

COLLECT FOR 2nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

All-powerful God,
in Jesus Christ you turned death into life,
and defeat into victory:
increase our faith and trust in him,
that we may triumph over evil,
in the strength of the same Jesus Christ our
Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

READINGS

Genesis 18.1–15

Psalms 116.1–2, 116.11–18

Romans 5.1–11

Matthew 9.35 – 10.8

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

Children's Worker

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Youth Leadership Team

Sarah, Celeste, Remus, 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

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Resources Team

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