

# HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



Do Not Be Afraid

Matthew 10:24-39

SUNDAY 21 JUNE 2020

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JUSTICE IS LOVE IN PUBLIC - MATTHEW 10.34-39

## CORONA STAY-IN: 14 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=YUjpa05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRl0  
Zz09](https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUjpa05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRl0Zz09)

Meeting ID: [882 096 2366](https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUjpa05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRl0Zz09)

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=NlFwSktMWUNBS0Y2NHVxemd5MW0wZz09)

[pwd=NlFwSktMWUNBS0Y2NHVxemd5  
MW0wZz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/417454216?pwd=NlFwSktMWUNBS0Y2NHVxemd5MW0wZz09)

Meeting ID: 417 454 216

Password: Kidschurch

## SUNDAY 21 JUNE

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

Celebrant

The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton

Preacher: Rev Connie Gerrity

5pm Twilight Conversation

## SUNDAY 28 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

Jesus' words today seem out of place with his reputation as a preacher who spoke about love and a healer who restored the health of many.

'I didn't come to bring peace. I came to bring a sword,' he said. 'Son and father, daughter and mother... well-meaning family members will become enemies,' he added.

How could something that's so good for the heart and soul be so divisive? Why would something so hopeful cause our closest relationships to fracture?

Jesus declared the coming of God's kingdom. He demonstrated it by healing those who were sick and casting out evil. Those who were healed rejoiced. But opposition also grew. Synagogue leaders questioned his loyalty to Moses. Temple leaders pushed back against this so-called prophet.

This is because Jesus' work had consequences. For if God was moving to put things right then questions would soon emerge about why things were so wrong.

By setting people free, Jesus' broke the cycle of victimhood. Those who were healed could no longer be exploited by persecutors who blamed them for the nation's plight. Would-be rescuers could no longer manipulate them by offering empty promises or distractions. People found themselves as citizens of heaven and new possibilities loomed. Would they join Jesus and become a disciple? Or would they go back to their normal lives?

Those eager for change might have wanted to see more from this Jesus. Those who worried about law and order might fret about what violence would surely follow. Anyone wanting fresh

opportunities would find themselves confronted by those invested in keeping everything the same. So little seems to have changed.

The pandemic issued a call to care for each other. Everyone saw the reality that we are only as strong as the most exposed and vulnerable person in our community. Nightly, unparalleled displays of compassion were demonstrated around the world. We witnessed healthcare workers going above and beyond. People respected sales assistants and cleaners who continued to work because their jobs were deemed essential to our wellbeing. Unemployment benefits were doubled, reaching the poverty line at last. Rough sleepers moved into hotels and accessed help to address their complex medical needs. Political impossibilities were accomplished overnight.

At the same time, such public displays of compassion exposed many inequalities that were easily ignored by so many. How could home renovators receive free money while childcare workers lost their income support? How could police help some while responding with careless violence to others? Who decides which heroes should be lauded on statues and protected in our city parks?

'Justice is what love looks like in public,' said Cornel West, an African American social activist and son of a Baptist preacher. For when the message of love is heard, how can routine injustices be tolerated any longer? But if patient calls for reform are ignored, who is surprised when the mighty are cast from their pedestals by peaceful crowds?

Following Jesus has rarely been as divisive as it is now. Rarely has his message of love been as compelling either.

Wayne

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

## OUR COVIDSAFE UPDATE

Further relaxations of restrictions came into effect in the ACT on Friday 19 June.

Although groups of up to a 100 people can now assemble indoors and outdoors we still need to abide by the social distancing requirement of 4 square meters per person.

This will continue to limit Holy Covenant's seating capacity in the Worship and Rainbow Centres.

Worship space – 35 people, not including sanctuary party, musicians or AV team. This could increase to 40 people if fewer support people are required

Chapel – 4 people

Kitchen – 4 people

Office – 3 people

Red Room (Rainbow) – 7 people

Purple Room (Rainbow) – 4 people

Mushroom (Rainbow) – 5 people

The relaxation means that we can operate both centres according to the floor capacity i.e. we can have groups in all rooms at the one time. Although wedding ceremonies and funerals can have up to 100 people gathered, seating capacity in our venue is limited by amount of available floor space.

### New Arrangements

We are planning to resume in-person worship on Sunday 5 July. This will be easier for the 8am service which is smaller. It will be more challenging for the 10am service which also has kids and young adult ministries to consider, both of which are bigger than the room capacity presently allows. We will provide further advice about this work during the school holidays when we hope that restrictions may ease further.

We understand that some find the experience of using Zoom difficult and unsatisfying. There is capacity for such people to resume in-person attendance. If you'd like to resume coming to worship, please speak to the rector.



Photo: Mark Cooper-Stanbury

Of course, when services resume we'll be trying to do two things at once – cater for the needs of those watching online and those who attend in person. We understand that not everyone will be comfortable or able to return when worship resumes.

We plan to continue offering Zoom so that those who are unable to be present physically can enjoy the experience of God's presence with us on Sundays. The parish has purchased the cameras and video feed equipment at a cost of approximately \$3,400.

Installation is delayed due to shortages of camera supplies. Parishioners are welcome to make a donation to cover this unexpected cost.

*In-person worship will start in July*

### Worship

The format for worship will continue to evolve. In order to reduce the risks of transmission, all services will be using the screen rather than books. Diocesan advice about congregational singing remains confusing and dated. The ACT government has approved choirs and musicians to perform. NSW is lagging in this respect. Consequently, congregational singing will resume but sung responses for Communion will probably be delayed until August. Music videos are likely to continue augmenting our capacity.

Mark Cooper-Stanbury has done an amazing job producing several worship videos for us. Putting together instrumentation, coordinating singers for a virtual choir and finding visuals to accompany such work takes time, energy and vision. We are grateful to all those who have shared in this project so far. More songs for the project are no doubt coming!

Use of the common cup at Communion will continue to be restricted. Given the indefinite nature of this restriction, the rector and wardens wish to know who may or may not want to use individual, disposable cups during this interim period. Sadly, the greeting of the peace, passing of the collection plate 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. The weekly bulletin will be distributed both in print and online.

Parish Council continues to revise our COVIDSafe response plan as restrictions change. Please speak to the rector or Paul Shelley about your group's plan for resuming activity.

Wayne



## CLIENT APPRECIATES ST JOHN'S CARE HELP

A few weeks ago, one of our volunteers approached the SJC Community Worker Steph, to see a client. The volunteer was concerned about a woman called Angie (not her real name) who had a unique and complex situation.

She was living in a tiny cottage without any heating and had no money for food. Angie explained that she had been mistreated by her employer and was suffering with depression and anxiety.

She spoke with Steph and went into more details regarding her circumstances. She told her that she lived in a small house which is attached to her conditions of work.

Unfortunately, she had an accident at work, has been unable to continue her job and is receiving workers compensation. After paying her rent and electricity, Angie was left with no money for food. On top of this she said that she had been given an eviction notice from her employer.

Steph was able assist her by applying to housing and referring Angie to the Centrelink Social Worker. She was also referred to Street Law and her GP so that she could obtain a mental health care plan.

Whilst at the Centre, Angie was able to eat some food and take enough home to last her for the next few days. She was so grateful for all the support and kindness that SJC offered.

We next saw Angie when she returned for our Friday Community Lunch takeaway. She had a chance to enjoy a wonderful hot meal and follow up with the Community Worker on her goals and plans moving forward.

Thankfully, Angie is now well on her way to reclaiming her life back. When she last visited the Centre she had a smile on her face and had nothing but praise for SJC's staff and volunteers for all their help.

Kind Regards

St John's Care Team

**Items required:** Dried pulses (red, green, yellow and brown lentils, chickpeas etc), baby wipes, shampoo and conditioner and laundry powder

## SHOW KINDNESS AND MERCY TO ONE ANOTHER

Zachariah 7:9

The beautiful flower was almost begging me to take hold of it and share it, to give someone joy. As it was I was on my way to visit an elderly lady who has no family or visitors. I did just that, picking it with God's love in my heart. I love the prayer by Richard Bishop of Chichester (1197-1253) Day by day, dear Lord, of thee three things I pray, to see the more clearly, love the more dearly, follow thee more nearly, day by day. In a troubled world where even our neighbour can be alone may our light of Christ shine. May the Peace of the Lord 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>

## ACCOMMODATION WANTED

The Rev'd Peter Kuot is looking for accommodation. A room in a share house if possible. Peter is the leader of the South Sudanese Anglican Ministry and currently studying at St Marks. He is looking to move as soon as possible. If you have or know of anything that might be suitable, please contact Wayne on 0407 408 333 or Peter directly on 0401 281 372.

## OUR LABYRINTH

Are you looking for ways to keep connected with God over the COVID period?

We have a wonderful resource in our beautiful Labryinth that would be well worth taking the time to enjoy on these beautiful winter days.

Enter the Labrynth from the Redfern street corner nearest the office.

The Labrynth can be walked with a prayer or in silence.

Take your time and allow God to speak to you. Take some time in the centre of the Labryinth to give thanks for the good things in your life or lay your burden down in the centre.

Follow the path out with prayer for our pathway out of COVID 19.

## 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 participated, 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 three fun Friday nights of films!

- 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 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](mailto:lib@warren.com.au).

**Come and join us for another great night!**



### 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.

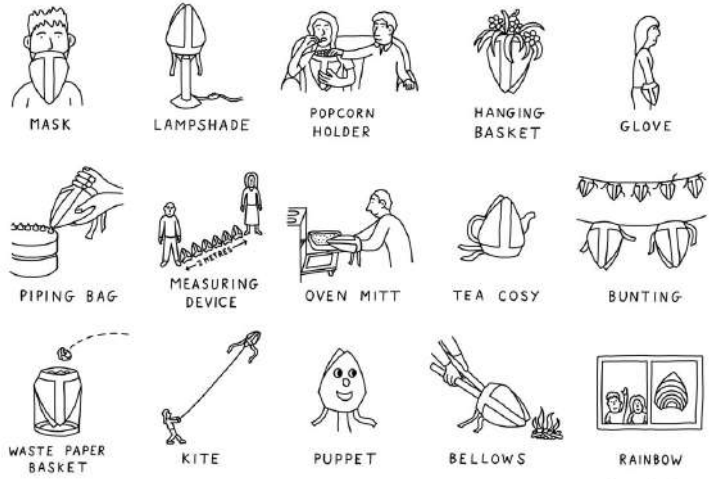
Topics include seeing faith as a quest, reclaiming spirituality, the revolution of Jesus, life in abundance, thinking about cross, the Bible is worth reading, and the church as an imperfect family.

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](mailto: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.

### MITRES

USES DURING A PANDEMIC



CartoonChurch.com

### HCNM UPDATE

Our Covenant Care clients were excited to be able to have their first Zoom get-together last Monday. Not all clients were able to join in but it was terrific to see those that did. It was also great to see some of our lovely volunteers. As it was the first meeting, it was a little chaotic getting everyone set-up but we all enjoyed it anyway. We will continue with this on a fortnightly basis.

Thanks to several generous volunteer cooks, our new HCNM freezer is now well-stocked. This allows us to deliver meals to our most vulnerable clients on a fortnightly basis and to other clients

every three or four weeks. Feedback has indicated how much the clients and carers continue to appreciate this service.

This week, we purchased two new commode chairs which are available for loan to clients, parishioners and others who need a raised toilet seat.

Rhonda Thorpe Program Manager

# Holy Covenant's

## Parish Birthday

### Celebration 25 July 2020



**This survey provides you/your family/household with an opportunity to say how you would like to participate in the Parish Birthday on 25 Saturday July 2020.**

COVID19 restrictions make it difficult for us to hold a large gathering this year. So we are looking at holding smaller gatherings and using Zoom to share parts of the evening as one group. We plan to have a quiz, a silent auction and other fun and games during the night.

Would you be able and willing to be a host a small group in your home from 6.30pm until 9pm? Would you prefer to be a guest for dinner or to stay in and join from home?

Hosts might wish to invite people for dinner, perhaps 4-8 people in order to keep physical distancing requirements. Hosts may provide the meal or ask guests to bring a dish to share. A guest might wish to consider looking after the Zoom connection on the night.

**Surname(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Given Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

1. I/we would like to be a: **Host(s)** **Guest(s)** **Attend from own home** (please circle)

2. I/ we can host some guests in addition to ourselves \_\_\_\_\_(insert number)

3. I/we would like to host the following members of the congregation:

\_\_\_\_\_ (insert name) \_\_\_\_\_ (insert name)

\_\_\_\_\_ (insert name) \_\_\_\_\_ (insert name)

\_\_\_\_\_ (insert name) \_\_\_\_\_ (insert name)

\_\_\_\_\_ (insert name) \_\_\_\_\_ (insert name)

**Surprise me!** (please circle if you don't mind the organisers allocating some guests)

4. I might need some IT help to participate on the night (please circle) YES / NO

5. I might have something for the silent auction (please circle) YES / NO

Please reply to [office@holycovenant.org.au](mailto:office@holycovenant.org.au) by **WEDNESDAY 22 June 2020**

THANK YOU,  
THE ORGANISING TEAM

## 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 peace and good will among nations, especially in the Middle East and for a just sharing of the earth's resources, that we may live as brothers and sisters, children of the same God.

#### IN AUSTRALIA

⇒ For all who are caught up in crime or addiction, for all who are giving their allegiance to wrong things or feel trapped in circumstances beyond their control.

#### IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of Rockhampton
- ⇒ Parish of Holbrook
- ⇒ Parish of Gundagai
- ⇒ Diocesan Candidates training for ordination at St Mark's and elsewhere
- ⇒ Licensed Lay Ministers in Parishes and Ministry Units throughout the Diocese; The Diocesan Centre for Lay Ministry and Mission.

#### IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ Congregations – 5pm Sunday that new people might join us for conversation about God's work in the world
- ⇒ Belonging and caring team
- ⇒ Ever Active gentle exercise program and for the YMCA management team as they plan the resumption of their various activities
- ⇒ MOTH that we might be able to meet in person soon
- ⇒ The Parish Retreat—wisdom about whether to proceed
- ⇒ Work Health and Safety - Gratitude and thanks to God for keeping us all safe and well during this pandemic; and for our continued safety and good health as COVID-19 restrictions begin to ease and we get back to 'normalcy'
- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Dennis and Angela Golubeff; Elizabeth Grant; Janice Green, Perry Wiles and Cassandra Wiles; Jean Groves; and Patrick Guinness
- ⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer including Barry Button, Elizabeth Grant, Andrew Hill, Joh Sheehan, Phil Bloomfield, Judith Ann, Lexie Winders, Roger Hallows, Jenny Hall and anyone known to us personally

#### COMMEMORATIONS

- Monday** Marjorie Baker (d. 1991)  
**Wednesday:** Ruth Durie (d. 2019); Michael Martin (d. 2019)

## COLLECT FOR 3rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Gracious God,  
we who were baptised into Christ Jesus  
were baptised into his death:  
we pray that, as you raised him from death,  
so by the power of the Holy Spirit we may live  
the new life to your glory,  
knowing ourselves to be dead in sin  
but alive for you in Jesus Christ;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy  
Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## READINGS

- Genesis 21.8-21  
Psalm 86.1-10, 86.16-17  
Romans 6.1-11  
Matthew 10.24-39

## MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

### Children's Worker

Wendy Robertson  
children@holycovenant.org.au

### Youth Leadership Team

Sarah, Celeste, Remus, and Tobias.  
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

0419 255 002

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- ★ **Monday:** Peter Sherman
- ★ **Tuesday:** Angela Golubeff
- ★ **Wednesday:** Jo James