

# HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



## SUNDAY 16 AUGUST 2020 ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### WHEN THEY TRY TO KEEP YOU OUT – PUSH IN!

In-person public worship has restarted but on a restricted basis. Please use the URLs below so that we can manage attendance and contact information. Registration available from Monday. We will also continue to worship online via ZOOM video conferencing. To join us, use the link below.

<https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRlloZz09>

Meeting ID: [882 096 2366](https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRlloZz09)

Password: 033643

For **Kid's church** the meeting room is at **9am:**

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

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

Meeting ID: 417 454 216

Password: Kidschurch

### SUNDAY 16 AUGUST

Seating limited to 35 people per service.

8am Holy Communion

<https://www.trybooking.com/BKTDD>

10am Holy Communion

<https://www.trybooking.com/BKTDE>

Celebrant: Reverend Connie Gerrity

Preacher: Reverend Anne Dudzinski

5pm Twilight Conversation

### SUNDAY 23 AUGUST

Seating limited to 35 people per service.

8am Holy Communion

<https://www.trybooking.com/BKTDF>

10am Holy Communion

<https://www.trybooking.com/BKTDG>

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

The Gospel for today (Matthew 15:21–28), where Jesus cures the daughter of the Syro-Phœnician woman is one of the more difficult passages in the New Testament for three reasons.

First, it seems to say that Jesus crossed into Gentile territory, whereas his call was only to Israel. The KJV states that Jesus went away to the “coasts of Tyre and Sidon”, but other versions translate it more correctly as “the region of Tyre and Sidon”. Historically, both cities were disputed territories, prosperous communities filled with Greek temples, stadiums and hippodromes that scandalized their Jewish neighbours. Jewish people considered inland areas to be part of Israel, although they were sparsely populated. Jesus was passing through this territory and looking for a place where he could teach the disciples without the crowds noted in preceding chapters.

Second, it is the only passage in any of the Gospels where Jesus heals someone far outside the Jewish covenant community. In Matthew 8, Jesus healed the daughter of a Roman Centurion who was considered a God-fearer or a Gentile who showed great sympathy, generosity and kindness to Jewish people.

Third, the passage seems to show Jesus discriminating against Gentiles by responding in a prejudiced way to this woman in need. Many religiously observant Jews considered Gentiles to be ritually unclean and unacceptable to God, worth no more than the scavenger dogs found in the cities and towns of any middle eastern country. He insults her by suggesting that one doesn't throw the

children's food (i.e. the blessings of God meant to nourish His people Israel) to those unworthy of receiving it. The insult may be compounded because it might imply that the woman was a prostitute.

On the surface, this treatment seems rude in the extreme. How are we to square this with Jesus gracious treatment of Jewish seekers of the Kingdom and of our understanding of God's love for all persons as stated again and again in both the Old and New Testaments?

Some help is given when we consider the word Jesus uses is not the general word for a dog (κύων — kuōn) used elsewhere in the NT. He instead uses the diminutive or affectionate word for a pet or puppy (κυνάρια — kunaria). The allusion is that the Israelites might be the chosen ones but Gentiles are beloved and have a place in the house of Israel too.

We don't know what tone of voice Jesus used that day. I imagine that Jesus was smiling and using a great deal of irony. He had been asked by the disciples to get rid of her. Jesus points out that his calling is to the House of Israel and that the blessings are for the Jews, and that there is a certain wrongness about giving them to Gentiles. The woman is up to it, standing tall in the face of discrimination by letting God know her needs, saying that even the pets have a right to any scraps left by the children!

We see in this passage a presage of the command of the risen Jesus to spread the Good News far and wide to those who are inside and outside God's covenant people.

*George Gerrity*

**RECTOR:** The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton, 0407 408 333, [rector@holycovenant.org.au](mailto:rector@holycovenant.org.au)

**OFFICE:** 6251 6100, [office@holycovenant.org.au](mailto:office@holycovenant.org.au)

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

## COVID UPDATE

As we have seen, circumstances concerning COVID-19 can change rapidly as many return travellers to Canberra from Melbourne discovered recently when they were held at the border for days. As a community, there are a few things we need to be aware about:

1. **Unnecessary travel** – as outbreaks emerge ACT residents are being discouraged from travelling to places like Newcastle and greater Sydney, including the Blue Mountains, Central Coast and Wollondilly Shire.
2. **Communion** – more space is needed when we come to communion. You may wish to remain standing rather than kneeling at the rail. Markers will be installed to help us maintain spacing. We are keeping the bread and wine covered during the service and uncovering them only when required.
3. **Morning teas** – those helping in the kitchen with hospitality must wear gloves where possible. Only servers should use the milk jug with fresh spoons available for stirring. Please help the servers by letting them serve you.
4. **Awaiting test results** – congregation members will need to be tested from time to time. Following medical advice is important including the need for self-isolation. If you need to be tested, please tell the rector and keep them informed of the results. Telling congregation members can cause alarm.
5. **Watching over Zoom** - its great that so many get to participate over Zoom. Please be aware that when your video camera is on the whole congregation can see you moving about in your dressing gown and eating toast during the service.

6. **Enquiring about others** - one of the joys with Zoom is allowing everyone to chat after the service. Please be mindful about the privacy of others, particularly when asking about medical needs especially if it is not your story to share.

On Monday 10 August, places of worship in the ACT moved to **Stage 3.1**. Unfortunately, this means that the restriction of one person per 4 square meter spacing for worship, weddings and funerals still applies.

The ACT Government is also encouraging congregations to minimise **singing**, and the use of musicians and choirs where possible. In order to retain our songs we are rethinking some components of our service. This is why we're not saying the psalm, reciting the creed or singing the responses as we used to.

At present, the use of **face masks** at worship in the ACT has not been suggested even though NSW Health has adopted this recommendation. Congregation members are welcome to wear masks as they feel comfortable. Masks are available at the door but they are not required at present in Canberra.

The **audio visual** team is continuing to refine the settings of our equipment for Zoom. New cameras have been installed and team members are learning how to use the equipment. Audio recordings of the sermon are available. If you have problems during the service, please use the chat function for **!Sound desk** to alert the operator.

Wayne

### EXERCISES FOR THE 50 PLUS

Classes have started at **Scullin Salvos Hall**

on Mondays at 9.30am or Thursday at 11am.

Bring a mat, band, and dumb bells if you have them

\$10 a class

Only 20 per class

You will need to book in

Duncan Craig

0404 373 157

[Duncancraig@boomerabbs.com.au](mailto:Duncancraig@boomerabbs.com.au)

These are the first classes to start up.

Duncan will look to Holy Covenant classes if demand indicates they are needed.

Note that these classes are NOT YMCA classes; they are being led by Duncan who previously led the YMCA classes at Holy Covenant

### WEAR IT PURPLE DAY

On Sunday 30 August, congregation members may like to wear something purple to church. Schools and hospitals across Canberra are encouraging people to do something similar in order to build supportive and inclusive communities where rainbow young people feel safe and empowered. For those wanting to participate, it is a way for us to love and support to our own rainbow friends, family members and all who belong to churches everywhere.



## WORKING TOGETHER

Last week we received a call from another community service organisation. They had a client, Erica \*, who was going through tough times.

Erica is caring for her grandchildren and supporting other family members with health problems. Not only that, but her father had recently passed away, her house had been vandalized and it needs significant repairs.

On top of all this is the disruption and isolation caused by the pandemic, which is making everything worse.

In the midst of her grief and challenges, Erica is trying to be the pillar of strength for her family.

She needed to travel to Cobar for her father's funeral, but with limited funds this was not going to be possible. The last thing she wanted was to run out of petrol somewhere in regional Australia with her two grandchildren in the car.

Luckily, between the other community service and St John's Care, we were able to provide her with some fuel assistance and other essentials for the trip.

It's thanks to our supporters that we can assist people with these types of challenges. Food and blankets are just one part of what we can do.

In this case, a family's grief would have been compounded if they could not have made it to the funeral. The fuel card didn't just buy petrol. It enabled the family to connect and comfort one another in a very difficult time.

It would have been such a shame for them to forgo this important time together just because they couldn't afford a tank of fuel.

When you support St John's Care, you're not just supporting people's physical needs – you're supporting the whole person, and their family, at some of the most difficult times in their lives.

Kind regards,

SJC team

**Items Required:** Cooking oil (500ml), sweet biscuits, cornflakes, tinned fruit, peanut butter/Vegemite

\* not her real name

## LOOKING FOR GOD

*When morning gilds the sky my heart  
awakening cries, may Jesus Christ be praised.*

*TIS227*

Morning comes pushing aside the last shades of the night and I like to spend that time, those last few minutes of darkness with no one except God.

Every day I look for God and every day I find him. He is in those moments of morning walking, he is in the silence, he is in the first song of the early birds. He is present in my rising and welcoming with treasured gifts of beauty, of colour, of tiny precious sightings along the walking path.

The kiss of the new day finds me meeting with God where I left him the previous evening.

Are you still looking for God? He is there.

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

*Anne, servant of the Lord.*

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



*Morning has broken*

## QUIET DAY

**Saturday 5 September, 10am - 3pm**

**Worship Centre**

With growing uncertainty about travel between the ACT and NSW, it seemed better to offer a quiet day in the parish rather than a residential retreat at this time. Sarah Bachelard will lead the day.

The day is an opportunity for us to breathe and reconnect with God in the middle of turbulent times. Online registrations will open next week



## A TASTE OF TAIZE

Earlier this year, not long after the onset of the Covid-19 Pandemic, a friend gave us a link to broadcasts of prayer services from Taize, in France.

We have had the broadcasts playing most mornings during the lockdown - often just in the background (or so it seems) - & yet their presence has been gradually growing in my awareness. I marvel at the apparent ease with which the service moves from one language to another, sometimes from the mouth of the same person.

I did not realise at first that the broadcast included vision. Each day Marg tunes into the service on her phone which she sets up in the kitchen. She has become familiar with the pattern of the service, and has also noticed some children who are involved in the service to varying degrees. We suspect they are the children of a staff member or volunteer and we look out for them each day. There are also visitors we see sitting in the worship space, though we rarely see their faces as they and the Brothers are usually facing away from the cameras. Of course we have known about Taize for a very long time, and some years ago had the privilege of spending some days there. Yet over recent months its gentle rhythms have become a part of our daily life; it seems that we - and thousands of others around the world - have become part of that community, that special place.

If you are interested in receiving the broadcasts, it is necessary to connect to the link on the Taize website.

*John Christensen*

### AUGUST ANGLICAN NEWS

The Anglican News for August is now out.

To the page:

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

Straight to the pdf:

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

### Holy Covenant Youth Group

Young adult ministry is happening at church.

**Fruitful Fridays** is our gathering in the worship space on Friday nights from 6 - 8.30pm. They meet every fortnight, with the next event scheduled for 21 August, 4 and 18 September (with an early finish).

Young adults are meeting **every Sunday** from 10am. So families, now is the time to come to church!

## WIDER WORKS

Each year, Parish Council considers how it might support financially the work of other Christian organisations locally, nationally and internationally. In 2020 a new approach was adopted in order to: (a) give more support to fewer projects over a longer horizon; (b) create space to provide gifts to new initiatives each year; and (c) to support emergency relief as and when crises occur.

On this basis, Parish Council decided to provide \$2,000 to support the following projects for each of the next three years (2020-2023):

- Embracing Ministries (disability support, Canberra)
- Tikondane (supporting education, healthcare and entrepreneurship in Zambia)
- Companion House (supporting healthcare and legal assistance for refugees and asylum seekers, Canberra)
- St John's Care (emergency relief, Canberra)
- Anglican Board of Mission (first nations support and international development)
- Equal Voices (supporting gender and sexual diversity, national)

Organisations to receive gift of \$2,000 for 2020 included:

- Anglican Overseas Aid (international development)
- Canberra Refugee Support (supporting resettlement in Canberra) and
- Nungalinya College (first nations ministry education).

Approximately \$2,000 would be held in reserve for emergency relief in 2020, passing to St John's Care in December if unallocated.

The rector and wardens would welcome your suggestions for initiatives to receive a gift in 2021.

*Wayne*

### HCNM UPDATE

Our Covenant Care clients held their second Zoom get-together last Monday. It worked much better than the first one. We are now getting a program in place for each fortnightly get-together with entertainers, book reviews, quizzes and any other activities that work well on Zoom. We are still delivering meals to our most vulnerable clients on a fortnightly basis and to other clients every few weeks. With restrictions easing, it is now possible to have a cup of tea with some clients as well as delivering the food. Jennifer is working with several community clients to provide support and assist with decluttering. We lost one of our former Covenant Care clients last week. Archdeacon Anne took part in her funeral service on Thursday. Management Committee will meet on 15 July to review our current situation and consider a possible timeframe for returning to limited face-to-face contact and what would need to be done to achieve that.

*Rhonda Thorpe Program Manager*

## WORKING BEES

The Resources Team is always looking for new members to help keep our gardens and grounds looking beautiful. If you are able to help for a couple of hours on a Saturday morning, once a month, please contact Paul Shelley (0419 255 002) for details. On-the-job training available, plus time off for a delicious morning tea.



## PRAYER POINTS

### IN THE WORLD

⇒ For those caught in war and conflict; for victims of natural disasters, starvation and disease, especially those affected directly or indirectly by coronavirus.

### IN AUSTRALIA

⇒ Thank you for the refreshing rains that have been received, over NSW and Victoria.  
⇒ Continue to pray for wisdom in our response and our government's response to the coronavirus pandemic.

### IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

⇒ Diocese of Newcastle  
⇒ St George's Anglican Life Centre, Pearce  
⇒ Arawang  
⇒ St Matthew's, Wanniasa  
⇒ Lanyon Valley Anglican Church  
⇒ St Mary-in-the-Valley, South Tuggeranong  
⇒ Anglicare activities in partnership with parishes and with government: child care, foster care, young people and families; for staff and volunteers in regional offices and in Goulburn; for clients, for Anglicare Appeals; and bushfires recovery work.

### IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

⇒ Congregations – 5pm Sunday which is seeking to connect with those looking for a more relaxed expression of church.  
⇒ Belonging and Caring Team—We give thanks for the work being done by the Belonging and Caring team and pray that we all may be aware of the needs of those around us finding life difficult and offer them some support.  
⇒ MOTH—We pray that all members of the MOTH group may stay safe, free from danger and well in this difficult time of the Covid19 pandemic  
⇒ Quiet Day and Parish Day Out - will be times of refreshment and renewal during times of upheaval and uncertainty.  
⇒ Work Health and Safety  
⇒ For all members of our parish family including Noel Montgomery; Sally, Dylan, Dougal and Jemima Mordike; Belinda and Philip Moss; Diane, Melanie, Lilly and Ella Mutch; and Maurice Nevile.  
⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer including Barry Button, Elizabeth Grant, Andrew Hill, Phil Bloomfield, Judith Ann, Lexie Winders, Roger Hallows, Jenny Hall, Bev Barnes, Graham Bonnett, John Blue, Anne and Peter Bazeos and anyone known to us personally.

### COMMEMORATIONS

**Wednesday:** Ian Main (d. 2004)

## COLLECT FOR 11th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

God of freedom,  
you have broken the tyranny of sin  
and sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts:  
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your  
service,  
that all people may know the glorious liberty of  
the children of God;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy  
Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen

## READINGS

Genesis 45.1-15  
Psalm 133  
Romans 11.13-32  
Matthew 15.21-28

## MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

### Children's Worker

Wendy Robertson  
children@holycovenant.org.au

### Youth Leadership Team

Celeste, Remus, Sarah and Tobias  
0474547531 (Celeste); 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

The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton  
0407 408 333; rector@holycovenant.org.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

★ **Sunday:** Jamie Gumbrell  
★ **Tuesday:** Maurice Nevile, Isla Robertson