

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



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://adcg.zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRlI0Zz09>

Meeting ID: [882 096 2366](https://adcg.zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRlI0Zz09)

Password: 033643

Kid's church will be meeting in the Rainbow Centre.

SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER

Seating limited to 75 people per service.

8am Holy Communion

No registration required (sign-in only)

10am Holy Communion

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

Celebrant and Preacher:

The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton

5pm Twilight Conversation, final for the year

SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER

Seating limited to 75 people per service.

8am Holy Communion

No registration required (sign-in only)

10am Holy Communion

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

Celebrant and Preacher:

The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton

5pm Blue Christmas

For Christmas services see page 3.

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

SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 2020 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

JOY

I wonder what it is that brings you joy? Is the anticipation of what might be coming under the Christmas tree? Is it holding the tickets in your hand to go to the cricket? Is it something new you brought for yourself or even someone else? To have joy in our life is essential for healthy living but there is a greater joy, a deeper joy, the joy of the Good News that Jesus came into the world as our Saviour and that has the power to bring us great joy. That joy flooded the hearts of the shepherds, the angels, the wise men, all the heavenly hosts and Mary and Joseph. It still has the power to overwhelm our hearts with rejoicing.

Joy, this joy we carry within us, is a part of my life. Is it also in yours?

I felt real joy, faith joy, when I saw all the hampers donated by Rotary to be distributed by the Holistic Care Nursing Ministry to

our clients in need in the community. In giving and receiving, that brings joy.

I was listening to an Aboriginal man busking at the shops, playing his didgeridoo. A lovely young gifted player. He was covered in white ochre and had an animal fur across his shoulders and a head band on. He stepped towards me, bowed his head and asked if I would give him a blessing – it was so genuine. I made the sign of the cross on his forehead and said a prayer; I felt a great surge of the Holy Spirit as did he. That was a great joy.

May your hearts be filled with the joy that only Jesus brings. And this Christmas may your heart overflow with joy bringing light and life and hope to others. Praying you have a joy filled Christmas.

Archdeacon Anne

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**HELP GIVEN IN THE LEAD
 UP TO CHRISTMAS**

A couple of weeks ago Bridgett* came to see Nailia our St John's Care Case Manager. She was so worried that it took her a while to summon enough courage to explain how anxious she was concerning a \$450 electricity bill that she had to pay. The bill meant she would have no food for the coming weeks.

Bridgett suffers from bipolar and the medications that actually help her function well and feel better are very expensive. One of the medications costs \$48 per 30 tablets and the other is \$52.

She is also looking for work as a qualified disability support worker. However, she needs to manage her mental health first before she can gain employment.

SJC helped Bridgett to pay for some of her medications and assisted with paying a portion of her electricity bill. When we gave her a Christmas Gift voucher, she was so happy that tears flooded her eyes!

Another client named Tom* came to SJC in early November, needing to talk to someone about his struggles as a full-time carer of his mother, who has serious liver disease.

Tom is only 22. He said he loves his mum and wants to care for her, but it has become too much for him both physically and emotionally.

He pays for the utilities and does all the chores in the house. He regularly takes his mum to Canberra Hospital for her liver treatment visits and specialist appointments.

Tom said sometimes he just wants to cry out loud but has to contain himself as he doesn't want to let his mother hear him. We suggested some organisations that are able to support him and sat with him while he called Carers ACT.

He and his mother were also struggling to buy enough food for themselves and their two cats. SJC assisted them with food for two weeks, a Christmas hamper and an essentials voucher. Their two cats also received tinned and dry food.

When all of the supplies were loaded into his little old Daihatsu, Tom looked relieved and said to the volunteer, "I just want to give you guys the biggest hug! Thank you heaps!" The volunteer replied, "Let's thank our generous donors."

Kind regards,
 Nailia Belleski, SJC Case Manager

*not their real names

Please note that we are still taking donations for our present room, e.g. toys and gift cards

Items required: cereal, small packets of sultanas for lunches, tinned vegetables and peanut butter.

ST JOHN'S CARE CHRISTMAS PRESENT BOX

This is the last week for present donations for St John's. Should you miss the deadline, the presents will be used throughout the year to help with birthdays and other occasions. Please place unwrapped donations of gifts and toys in our box for distribution through the St John's present room. Wrapping paper is also welcome, as are gift cards for teenagers. Please see the notice board for other suggestions.

CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY LUNCH

43 happy people enjoyed our Christmas Community Lunch on Tuesday. It was a great occasion, welcomed after our difficult year.

Paul Shelley led the Christmas singing, accompanied by Heather on the keyboard.

Thank you so much to all to helped on the day, and to those who made donations of slices, cakes and other things for all to devour.

The Lord has decided the number of the stars and calls each one by name. Great and mighty is our Lord. Psalm 147:4-5

I saw it in the puddle of life-giving water by the roadside.
 I saw it in the sky
 night stars being tucked away
 behind soft pink clouds in the sunrise.

I saw it as the sun shone through the crimson autumn leaf
 I saw it in the currawong
 as he called his mates into the dawn.

I saw it in the single, crystal clear raindrop
 that hung from each leaf and blade of grass.

I saw it in the soft blue, perfect formation of the bluebells
 that clutched the side of the road.

I saw it!
 I saw the face of God
 and my soul sang:
 how great thou art!

World famous musician Pablo Casals said:
I find God in the smallest and in the largest things. I see God in the colours and designs. No two things are alike, no two voices the same.

Who but God can do that?
 Be blessed by the face of God that surrounds your days and nights.

Anne, servant of the Lord
<https://comewalkwithme-reflections.blogspot.com>



I saw the face of God in the crystal clear rain drops that hung from the blades of grass.

Some crazy God

did he cry when he was born?
did he know he was different?
did he get one big shock?
if not in the cradle in the stable
but it would sure come later!

I guess not from Mars
with a green spike on his head
but what galactic storm brought an invisible seed?
and how did it appear for Mary?
did she think she was dreaming?

why did he choose the Earth?
and why didn't he send a daughter?
or for that matter a naughty angel?
we are told he only had one son,
some crazy God!

Richard Scutter Christmas 2020

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING UPDATE

Parish Council met on 26 November. Council noted:

- the Stewardship campaign originally planned for December will be deferred until February;
- the finance team is preparing a draft budget for 2021;
- financially the parish has been greatly assisted by JobKeeper which has offset diminished rentals for Rainbow and Worship centres;
- COVID restrictions are easing with the CHECK-IN CBR app allowing for indoor capacity to change to 1 person per 2 square meters. This change should increase seating to approximately 75 people;
- thanks to all who facilitated and assisted with the Great Big Garden Day in the cafe as well as weeding, digging and mulching;
- Wayne is planning to step down as Archdeacon for Chaplaincy in April 2021.

Council has been considering the feasibility of adding an assistant minister to our team. Council agreed to explore the creation of a curacy position that would enable on-job training to those in formation while increasing the capacity for ministry within our limited financial capacity. Wayne is discussing this role with Wendy Robertson who is exploring the diaconate. A more detailed description will be presented at the next meeting with focus on continuing with children's ministry and developing a community based chaplaincy role.

WHAT IS A BLUE CHRISTMAS?

Elvis Presley's music speaks in surprising ways. In 1957 he released the song, Blue Christmas, the first verse of which was

*I'll have a blue Christmas without you
I'll be so blue just thinking about you
Decorations of red on a green Christmas tree
Won't be the same dear, if you're not here with me.*

The song speaks to how hard it can be to get into the Christmas spirit when we're missing family. It's even harder when we are separated from them because of distance, estrangement or grief.

Our Blue Christmas service is a quiet time for reflection and to remember the good times. So if you're missing someone or know someone who is, why not come along to this quiet time together – even though Elvis won't be there.

PARISH COUNCIL 2021 ELECTION RESULTS

Wardens include Joh Sheehan (rector's warden) and Deranie Jackson (people's warden). An additional warden will need to be elected at the AGM on Tuesday 16 February.

As there were the same number of nominations as vacancies, the following members are elected to Parish Council:

Paul Shelley (Treasurer)
Allison Cooper-Stanbury
Sandra Ross
Wendy Robertson
Anthony Troy
Tobias Nevile
Carol Kubanek (Rector's appointment)

The following members have stepped down. We are very grateful for their contribution over a challenging year:

Jayne Murray
Bec Marston

The rector has the capacity to appoint two additional members to Council and will do so in the next month.

Blue Christmas 20 Dec 5pm
missing family and friends

CHRISTMAS EVE
Kid's Christmas 5pm
Candles and Carols 11pm

CHRISTMAS DAY
Traditional Carols 8am
Contemporary Family Service 10am



AT HOLY COVENANT
89 Dexter Street, Cook

CHANGE OF DETAILS

We are currently updating the Parish Roll. If any of your details have changed recently could you please let the office know.

Third Sunday of Advent



The joy of returning home

Today there are more than 60,000 Sri Lankan refugees in India. With the civil war over, many wish to return home to live in peace and freedom, and help rebuild their nation. Act for Peace's local partner, with your support, is helping returnees rebuild their lives by providing training and livelihood support to help families earn an income. **Please give today.**



CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

COLLECT for 3rd Sunday of Advent

Eternal God,
you sent John the Baptist
to prepare the way for the coming of your Son:
grant us wisdom to see your purpose
and openness to hear your will,
that we too may prepare the way for Christ
who is coming in power and glory
to establish his rule of peace and justice;
through Jesus Christ our Judge and our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

⇒ We remember before you all who are seeking freedom, we pray for nations burdened with great debt, for families who have lost their homes, peoples denied justice.

IN AUSTRALIA

⇒ Lord, teach us to appreciate what we have and to be aware of all that is done for us. Let us not take each other for granted.

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Ministry with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island People of Australia
- ⇒ St Paul's, Manuka and St David's Red Hill
- ⇒ St David's Close Self Care Units, Red Hill
- ⇒ Aged Care Chaplaincy
- ⇒ Calvary John James Hospital
- ⇒ Parliamentary Christian Fellowship
- ⇒ Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition, all members and senators, and reconciliation of First Peoples of Australia.

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ The 10am Sunday service.
- ⇒ Young adults group: a prayer for wisdom as we begin to plan for 2021.
- ⇒ The resources group.
- ⇒ Thanks for being able to do Tai Chi in our church space, and for a safe holiday.
- ⇒ Community garden.
- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Lucian, Joshua and Lulu Horciu; Nilantha Hulugalle; Neville and Dorothy Hurst; and Deranie and Phoebe Jackson.
- ⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer including Barry Button, Elizabeth Grant, Andrew Hill, Phil Bloomfield, Judith Ann, Jenny Hall, Bev Barnes, John Blue, Anne and Peter Bazeos, Violet Hart, Belinda Moss and Lucia Horciu and anyone known to us personally.

READINGS

Isaiah 61.1-4, 61.8-11
Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5.12-28
John 1.6-8, 1.19-28

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

Children's Worker

Wendy Robertson
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Youth Leadership Team

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Wardens

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Belonging and Caring

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Holistic Care Nursing Ministries

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Honorary Priests

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Reverend Connie Gerrity

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Resources Team

0419 255 002

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- Sunday:** Allison Cooper-Stanbury, Zoe Rose
- Wednesday:** Katie Wood
- Thursday:** Clare Lawlor
- Friday:** Bev Barnes, Rod Menzies, Phoebe Jackson