

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



COMING UP

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=YUcja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRlI0Zz09>

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

Password: 033643

SUNDAY 21 FEBRUARY

Seating limited to 75 people per service.

8am Holy Communion

No registration required (sign-in only)

10am Holy Communion

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

Celebrant and Preacher:

The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton

5pm Twilight Conversations

SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY

Seating limited to 75 people per service.

8am Holy Communion

No registration required (sign-in only)

10am Holy Communion

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

Celebrant and Preacher:

The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton

5pm Twilight Conversations

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 21 FEBRUARY 2021

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

LENT I MARK 1:9-15

WILDERNESS AS LIMINAL SPACE

Lent asks us: 'How much reality about yourself can you bear?' (Daniel O'Leary)

God help us to find our confession,

The truth within us that is hidden from our mind,

The beauty or ugliness we see elsewhere but never in ourselves. (Michael Leunig).

Can you face your life as it is; can you look at the pain and darkness as well as the power and light in the human soul, and still say yes? (John Welwood)

Mark is nothing if not concise. In six short verses Mark reports Jesus' baptism, the temptation in the wilderness and the beginning of Jesus' public ministry: 'The time if fulfilled and the Kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news (v.15). It is hard to escape a sense of urgency in these words and in Mark's approach generally. A more contemplative reading reveals layers to the narrative, including its invitation to us.

Jesus' baptism is a confirmation and validation of a sense of call that has probably always been with him. The words, 'You are my Son, the Beloved, in whom I am well pleased', are very like those addressed to the disciples at the Transfiguration. Only this time they are addressed to Jesus. Then almost immediately Jesus is thrust into the wilderness, 'driven' (Luke and Matthew say 'led') there by the Spirit. There his sense of call – of himself as the Beloved – is challenged. In the expanded version supplied by Matthew and Luke, the temptations are each prefaced by the words, 'If you are the Son of God...'

Wilderness in the Bible is the place where identity and calling are tested

and forged. For Jesus it is the liminal space between baptism and public ministry where he encounters both angels and demons (wild beasts in Mark). And sometimes we might find it hard to distinguish between them when we are thrust into wilderness by life-disrupting events (e.g., experiences of loss that challenge our sense of who we are) or when we choose to go there, taking time out from business as usual to pray and reflect.

The season of Lent invites us to spend time in reflection on, and recalibration of our lives – which might be another way of thinking about repentance. What difference might it make if we were to see ourselves as being led or driven there by the Spirit?

Wilderness is not just an individual experience. We go there in solidarity with others, who might not be physically present, but who will be impacted by what we find there, just as we are impacted by what others have found in this space. What is gleaned in wilderness is our gift to others as well as to ourselves.

Frances MacKay

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SMALL GROUPS FOR 2021

A wide range of groups operate in the parish. Some have a spiritual focus while others emphasise social connections. In general, three types of groups operate:

1. *Spirituality* groups where the focus is explicitly about growing as disciples through prayer and study. We have groups that do meditation, Education for Ministry, reading groups like Lenten studies, Monastery of the Heart and Grow Groups.
2. *Social* groups where the focus is a social activity that is fun and which provides opportunities to meet new people and have different experiences. Such groups include our Yarn group, Scrabble, Tai Chi and Playgroup.
3. *Missional* groups where the focus is a shared activity where participants engage in God's mission through acts of loving service. Such groups include the Holistic Care Nursing Ministries, the Community Garden, Kids Church and the young adults' Fruitful Fridays.

These groups will be featured over the next weeks with a focus on why they are important and how you might become involved.

BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

Ever wondered what Christian faith is about? Ever thought why Anglicans do things the way we do?

We are looking to start groups to help you know a little more about what it means to follow Jesus in the world today.

Baptism is the doorway into discovering faith, as much for children as for adults. Baptism is available to everyone irrespective of their age.

Confirmation provides a window for those who were baptised as children to make a deeper discovery of faith as adults.

Why not contact Wayne on 0407 408 333 for details.

'Have a Good Yarn'

Have a Good Yarn group is a chat and knitting group and that we have received lots and lots of wool. So now we need more knitters and no more wool thanks

Meeting on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month 10.30am to 12 pm in the worship centre. The next one is 23rd February

Any queries to Sandra Ross 0408438770

sandaross@ozemail.com.au



A LONG WAY FROM HOME

Last week a volunteer came to my desk and asked if I could come and have a chat with a young man who had come to the Centre. As I opened the front doors, I was met by a scared and uneasy face.

A.B had spent most of his life in Africa, living with his sister and parents. Two years ago, his parents managed to save enough money to send him and his sister to Queensland. He was accepted into the University of Queensland, and both siblings worked casually to make ends meet.

It was modest living, but they both appreciated their new chance at life in Australia and enjoyed living with each other. About 3 or 4 months after arriving in Australia, A.B's sister met her boyfriend, and the pair moved in together.

Although he was happy for his sister, A.B was now left with no close contacts and was now missing the only support pillar he had in his life. He decided it was time for a change and so he sold his belongings and transferred to the University of Canberra where he was due to start this week. He had enough money to pay for 3 weeks of rent upfront in Canberra and would use his Centrelink income to get by.

On his way down from Queensland, he stopped at a rest stop to get sleep. He was awoken by an unfamiliar figure at his car door and was subsequently robbed. His wallet, bank cards, ID and cash were taken from him. I could sense the genuine fear in his voice as he recounted the events with tears streaming down his face. He reported

the crime to the police, and then continued his journey to Canberra, before finding St John's Care via the Google search engine.

One of our volunteers began to put together a food pack for A.B as we continued to discuss his past, and the circumstances that led to our conversation. We provided him with blankets, pillows, and some gift cards to purchase some basic cooking utensils.

I contacted the University of Canberra to explore some long-term accommodation options whilst he studied. After numerous long discussions, A.B was contacted by a staff member from UC accommodation who offered him rent for \$150 a week, with no upfront payments required.

A.B was absolutely thrilled; his demeanour was incredibly uplifting. With an understanding of his employment history, I referred him to a relevant job agency. He has been offered an interview as a disability support worker and will meet with his prospective employer this week.

The collective effort of everyone at St John's Care has propelled this individual towards a more successful future. SJC staff would like to acknowledge the instrumental roles of donors and volunteers in allowing SJC to provide this level of service within the Canberra community.

Robbie Speldewinde,
Programs Coordinator

Items required: soap, shampoo + conditioner, tinned fruit, tinned vegetables

Frontals made by Ruth Hingston

Frontals capture the changing fabric of church life

Local textile artist Ruth Hingston has made several sets of the embroidered cloths that decorate Holy Covenant at diverse times of the year. These altar, pulpit and lectern coverings are contemporary and vibrant, reflecting our identity as an inclusive and engaged community.

Walking the steps on the Christian path

Ruth's purple set is the latest in our collection. Her striking design features a pathway of 40 silver stones, shining against a dark background.

The focus is on the spiritual journeys we make in the leadup to Christmas and Easter. While the mood varies with the season, both Advent and Lent are periods

of waiting. They allow us to reflect and grow in faith as we anticipate the religious calendar's most important events.

"Lent is a solemn time of introspection," Ruth says. "I was thinking about walking a path, step by step. It's a serious search."

She points out that the steps on the pathway are not always even and smooth. Instead, they can be rough or slippery.

"You may have taken a step and you didn't even know it," she adds.

On a symbolic level, this suggests how "sometimes it feels like we don't always know where we're going". But Ruth strives not to be "too prescriptive" and her subject matter is open to more than one interpretation.

"There's room for the congregation to bring their own life experience and imagination to the work," she says. "Viewers may relate to different things in it."

Crossing between inner and outer worlds

For the purple set, Ruth has drawn on images that connect with the pebbled labyrinth on the other side of the church's glass windows. This movement between interior and exterior spaces enhances the sense of flow between the building's architecture and its surrounds.

The links between setting and materials run deep. The Daniels family gifted the frontals in memory of their parents, Beryl and Jack. Ruth was pleased to hear that Jack Daniels had been a stonemason. She was further

delighted to learn that Beryl had loved patchwork.

Ruth has called on the craft's techniques, incorporating little leaves, flowers and ladybirds into her scenes. Textural detail comes from crystals she picked up at op shops as well as sequins, beads and sparkling buttons. They catch people's attention and provide something for them to contemplate.

"I chose this deep violet velveteen because the light is absorbed into the fabric," Ruth explains. To relieve the darkness, she used silver materials to

outline the pathway that snakes through the trio of hangings. The metallic sheen contrasts with the sombre colours of Advent and Lent.

Getting the design right was not

straightforward. Ruth knew it had to be expressive without dominating the busy area.

"It's a very challenging sanctuary with that backlight," she admits.

Picturing the word of God

Ruth did her first-year New Testament studies at St Mark's around three decades ago. From the start, she was striving for a deeper understanding of the gospel. This has helped her to represent the various liturgical seasons in a meaningful way.

She recalls the early influence of Bishop Ian George. When he was rector of St John's in Reid, he decided to move away from traditional symbols, opting for church frontals that were new and modern.

"That's where it all began," says Ruth. "I was interested in how to depict the Christian faith in an Australian context."

Landscape is a dominant theme in our culture and the natural realm fascinates Ruth. The Hallelujah series, which honours the life of Tamara Batterham, shows Belconnen's hills and unique roadmap. This white set comes out when we celebrate Christmas and Easter.

Ruth stitches familiar sights into her pieces. The recognisable lines of the Brindabellas, the rugged terrain of Mount Painter and the stars that twinkle in the southern sky become part of our spiritual landscape.



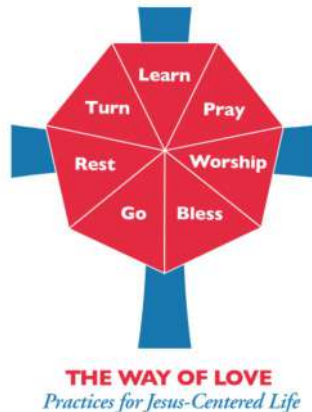
THE WAY OF LOVE—OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

For many folks, lent is a period of 40 days where they try to give up 'bad' things like cigarettes, milk in their tea or chocolate after dinner. Usually they get grumpy and family members implore them to give up.

In truth, it's an opportunity for us to consider the pattern of our life and seek renewal in the deep things of God. Seen this way, Lent can be a time to start something new. I'd like to invite you to take a journey with me over the next six weeks in the lead up to Easter. There are many ways to think of this journey. One way to see it is learning the way of love.

The way of love is a series of practices for living a Jesus-centred life. These practices can transform not only ourselves but our families, friendships and workplaces. The way of love mirrors Jesus' journey towards Jerusalem. It is a time to consider how pain, destruction and disillusionment don't get to have the last word in God's world.

The first step is to TURN. This involves recognising the ruts that we've become accustomed and that a new life beckons (Mark 9.2-9).



The next step is to LEARN. Learning something new is never easy whether it is riding a bicycle, snowboarding or discipleship. It's easy to start by assuming that we know everything already - after all how hard can it be? Soon we feel self-conscious about all that we don't know and can't do along with grazed knees and mild concussions.

Discovering a new life takes practice as the rhythms of God's Kingdom - its nearness, seeing differently and growing in confidence (Mark 1.9-15) - need to be worked deeply into our assumptions, values and

patterns of living with others.

Learning the way of love can change us and sow the seeds for renewing the world too. If you want to read more, why not have a look at Michael Curry's, *Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times* or listen to his podcast *The Way of Love*.

Wayne

EXPLORING FAITH MATTERS (EFM) FIND OUT MORE

Are you looking to take your faith journey deeper? Come and hear from past participants who have done and are currently doing EFM and see what the program has to offer.

We learn together in community, read scripture and explore how our faith and theology intersects with the world around us as we look at different theological tools which help us reflect on our traditions, culture, experience and positions and discern where our own interests and passions dovetail with the work of faith.

For more details go to <https://www.efmaustralia.org/>

Information evening will be held on
7:30pm Thurs 4 March
Red room, Rainbow Centre

CASSEROLES



Thank you to all our wonderful cooks who have replenished the parish casserole bank. It is now looking very healthy again. If you need

to give out a casserole to someone, please take something from the freezer and remember to fill out the form on the front of the freezer.

GOD OF WONDER AND DELIGHT.

God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind. Genesis 1:25

God is such a 'wonder doing God.' I mean really, you can't hear a kookaburra laugh, or see an echidna with its long snout in an ants nest and not wonder about God as a smile comes across your face. What beauty, what creation, what fine works of art, what joy and add to that a darling baby koala asleep on its mothers back, cuddled in and resting in the fork of a branch, both asleep, two heart beats snuggled in peace and love. God is indeed a 'wonder doing God.'

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
Anne, servant of the Lord.

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



PARISH DIRECTORY

A new Parish Directory is available. Please contact Phil in the Office to get one.

FEBRUARY ANGLICAN NEWS

The February Anglican News is now out and is available on our website for any printing required.

To the page:

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

Straight to the pdf on the website (larger size for printing):

<https://anglicancg.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Anglican-News-February-2021.pdf>

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

⇒ For people who have become possessed by greed or selfishness, for all who have become insensitive to the needs of others

IN AUSTRALIA

⇒ For those who struggle day to day whether due to homelessness, unemployment, under employment or over work

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

⇒ Diocese of Rockhampton

⇒ Parish of Holbrook

⇒ Parish of Gundagai

⇒ Pray for: 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—for energy and fresh connections

⇒ Belonging and Caring Team

⇒ MOTH (Monastery of the Heart)

⇒ Work Health and Safety

⇒ For all members of our parish family including Celeste Sandstrom; Richard and Maureen Scutter; Joh Sheehan; Paul and Heather Shelley; and Peter and Carol Sherman.

⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer including Barry Button, Elizabeth Grant, Judith Ann, Bev Barnes, John Blue, Anne and Peter Bazeos, Violet Hart and Lucia Horciu and anyone known to us personally.

COMMEMORATIONS

Sunday: **Baden Clarence Powell (d. 1991)**

Thursday: **Clifford Jack Daniels (d. 2005)**

Friday: **Betty Joan Cooper (d. 2008)**

Jennifer Ellen Baines (d, 2019)

Elizabeth Joyce Jennings (d. 2019)

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Wednesday: **Christine Mitchell**

Saturday: **Rika Kobayashi**

COLLECT for first Sunday in Lent

God of the new and eternal covenant,
as the forty days of the great flood
swept away the world's corruption
and watered new beginnings of righteousness and life:
grant to us, who are washed clean and born again
in the saving flood of baptism, the wellspring of your
grace,
that your gift of new life may flourish once again;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy
Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

READINGS

Genesis 9.8-17

Psalm 25.1-10

1 Peter 3.18-22

Mark 1.9-15

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

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