

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 25 APRIL 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

OUT OF LOVE HE LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US

(John 10:11-18)

COMING UP

To join us on Zoom, please use the link below.

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

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

Password: 033643

SUNDAY 25 APRIL

Kids church resumes

Seating limited to 75 people per service.

Sign in using Check In CBR App required

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

Celebrant and Preacher:

The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton

5pm Twilight Conversation

SUNDAY 2 MAY

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5pm Twilight Conversation

Check In CBR QR Code
for Holy Covenant



Code 941911

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

I think many of us have suffered the loss of a family member, if not two or three, in the two world wars and conflicts since then. My grandfather died from the effects of mustard gas, on the Somme in France. His head stone in a small cemetery in Villas Bretonneux is a witness to his sacrifice, his gift to his country, but it's also, a raw and painful reminder that 'he left behind a beloved wife and three small children in far away Australia.'

In this gospel passage today, we hear of Jesus as the good shepherd who loves his sheep (us) to such an extent that he gave his life so that we might be saved. What an incredible sacrifice. What an incredible gift.

Reflect on this: Have you ever been called to give your life for another? In what have you given your life for others?

I can recall many who have given their life to loving, yet difficult

caring for a partner who has dementia, or a child with a disability.

Perhaps you have a family member who has given their life to serving on mission fields or working in research to combat illness. I gave my life to Christ to love and serve him all the days of my life. Perhaps you have too?

How do we understand this statement of Jesus that he gave his life for me, for you, for us, for the world? Out of love!

Ask God for the humility needed, that we might listen for the voice of the Good Shepherd, allowing him to lead us and trusting that he is leading others too - even if in ways we don't understand. May our hearts and minds grow to be like the heart and mind of Jesus our shepherd who laid down his life for us.

Archdeacon Anne

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UNEXPECTED ASSISTANCE FOR A FAMILY OF EIGHT

Earlier this month I took a call from a quietly spoken lady who I will call SP. She explained that her husband and four children were in urgent need of food assistance. St John's Care was the first phone number they found and called. SP said she didn't expect much but would appreciate some basics. I invited them to come in the next day.

Unfortunately, SP and her husband WH were on a visa that did not allow them to receive any Centrelink support. Her husband was working 1.5 shift days to earn money to pay for food and rent but that was not enough.

The complicating factor was that WH's parents came from overseas just before Covid outbreak and were "stuck" here in Canberra in their home. The elderly parents were under pressure as they felt they shouldn't be eating the food provided by their son, but no matter how much they wanted to help – there was no way for them to do so.

Everyone was under tremendous pressure and with little food to go around, SP and her husband had to turn to emergency assistance. The staff and volunteers at SJC are so glad they did because that's what we are here for!

In the following week we provided the family with enough fresh fruit, vegetables, and frozen food to last them for a fortnight. We also gave them 4 back packs full of stationery and books for their children who are all primary school age. I made referrals to two other agencies for their family needs and for their elderly parents to be assisted with their healthcare requirements.

The family was also given some new and second-hand children clothes (kids grow fast, right?).

SP and WH have called me twice since that first day. They told me they still couldn't believe how much assistance they received from St John's Care! The whole family talked about it over dinner exclaiming, "What an unexpected surprise it was for all of us just when they felt so much despair – thanks to SJC a cloud was lifted, and laughter returned to our home".

The good news for this family is that we have invited them to come to SJC every two weeks to receive food and basics until they recover from their current financial hardship. They expect this will ease when their elderly parents return to their home and SP will go back to work.

St John's Care donors' generous help counts. Thank you so very much!

Kind regards,

Nailia, SJC Case Manager

Items required: Savoury biscuits, tinned fruit 820g, peanut butter, soap, jam (any berry).

DROPS OF LIVING WATER

Jesus said: everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I give them will never be thirsty. John 4:13

I was looking at a large pond of clear crystal water embedded in the paddock and surrounded by long stems of dry grass gently swaying in the breeze, and so it was for as far as the eye could see. But on the edge of the pond were tufts of green grass obviously close enough to the water to be fed.

As I looked, I thought here is a modern-day parable. Central to our Christian life is the living water offered by Jesus that sustains us so we can move out to the barren dry land where others are searching for that life giving water, or need to be refreshed, taking with us 'drops' from the great pond we know so well, to quench the thirst of others.

Who might you be taking 'drops' of the life-giving water to today as you go out into the world to 'love and serve the Lord'?

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Anne, servant of the Lord

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



A pond of life giving water

CEO SLEEPOUT

The CEO Sleepout fundraiser for the homeless was launched last Wednesday. It raises desperately needed funds to support homeless people and the most vulnerable in our local community. COVID has resulted in more homeless people in Canberra needing these services, but also greater challenges in raising funds. If you would like to sponsor Neville Tomkins OAM JP, who is participating in the annual Sleepout for his 10th year, on 17 June, you can go to:

<https://www.ceosleepout.org.au/ceos/act-ceos/neville-tomkins-scouts-australia/>



HOME GROUPS

small groups are a great way for us to get to know others and to grow in faith by having fun together.

A variety of groups will start in May including our GROW GROUPs for better discipleship.

Let the office know if you would like to lead or participate

SMALL GROUPS FOR 2021

A wide range of groups operate in the parish. Some have a spiritual focus while others emphasize social connections. From May, we're looking to get some groups going but we need leaders and participants! 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.

See the sign up board or talk to Wayne about your ideas and interests.

'Have a Good Yarn'

Have a Good Yarn group is a chat and knitting group .

Meeting on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month 10.30am to 12 pm in the worship centre. The next one is 27th April 2021

Any queries to Sandra Ross 0408438770

sandraross@ozemail.com.au



Mind matters for youth:

supporting mental health and wellbeing

With Angie Hazlehurst, Counsellor and Family Therapist

Anxiety, depression, addiction and violence are just some of the things that get in the way of being well. When they happen to ourselves or our loved ones we can feel helpless and stuck.

On the first Thursday night of each month, our church aims to help anyone wanting to take one step towards hopefulness by hosting a topical conversation with mental health practitioners.

These conversations are for anyone experiencing, supporting or just interested to know more about being well – whether they go to church or not.

Each conversation will feature some take away resources for those experiencing distress. Those that support others will have space to talk about and reflect on their experiences. By doing this together, we hope that participants will discover that they are not alone and that a community of love and support exists for them.

The first conversation on Thursday 6 May will be about **Mind matters for youth; supporting mental health and wellbeing**. It will be led by Angie Hazlehurst, a registered counsellor and family therapist. To register <https://www.trybooking.com/BQPRL>

The next conversation will be on Thursday 3 June will be about **recognising the signs of family violence** with Lifeline.

APRIL ANGLICAN NEWS

The April 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-April-2021.pdf>

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

⇒ We pray for all who are walking in the valley of the shadow at this time, all whose lives are hard or being made hard, for all being attacked by evil. May they know your love and protection.

IN AUSTRALIA

⇒ Almighty God, we remember with thanksgiving, those who made the supreme sacrifice for us in times of war. We pray that their offering of their lives may not have been in vain. May your grace enable us this day to dedicate ourselves to the cause of justice, freedom and peace; and give us the wisdom and strength to build a better world.

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

⇒ Diocese of The Northern Territory
⇒ Parish of Cooma
⇒ Parish of Berridale and Snowy Mountains
⇒ Snowy Mountains Chaplaincy
⇒ Parish of Southern Monaro
⇒ Pray for: Premier of New South Wales and Leader of the Opposition, Chief Minister of the ACT and Leader of the Opposition, and their respective Governments and the Opposition parties.

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

⇒ Congregations—12 Noon Wednesday
⇒ Rainbow Fellowship/Colours of God -
⇒ Tues lunchtime meditation - Give thanks for the growing interest in the group and pray for our leaders and all who attend
⇒ Wed evening meditation - Give thanks for all members past, present and future and for those leading
⇒ EFM - Give thanks for the interest from new parishes joining us this year and pray for all participants and our mentors
⇒ Grow Groups
⇒ For all members of our parish family including James Collier; Ursula Conan-Davies; Mark and Allison Cooper-Stanbury; Kerin Cox; and Anthony and Sandra Cuthbert.
⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer including Barry Button, Elizabeth Grant, Judith Ann, Bev Barnes, Anne and Peter Bazeos, Violet Hart and Lucia Horciu and anyone known to us personally.

COMMEMORATIONS

Sunday: Norma Alexander (d, 2001)
Lesley Hadzontonis (d. 2009)

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Sunday: Jay Lundie
Thursday: Melinda Ross
Friday: Carolyn Lundie
Saturday: Eleanor James

COLLECT for Fourth Sunday of Easter

Jesus, good shepherd of the sheep,
by whom the lost are sought
and guided into the fold:
feed us and we shall be satisfied,
heal us and we shall be whole,
and lead us that we may be with you,
where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

READINGS

Acts 4.5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3.16-24
John 10.11-18

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

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