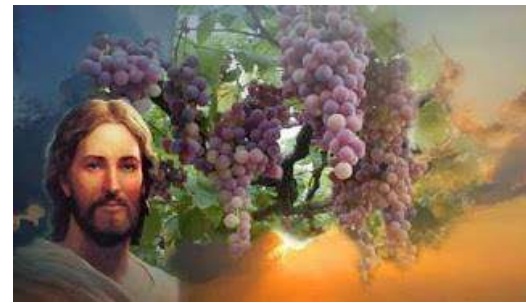


HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 2 MAY 2021
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

LOVE: AS SIMPLE AS IT GETS, AS HARD AS IT GETS

COMING UP

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

<https://adcg.zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRlRlOZz09>

Meeting ID: [882 096 2366](https://adcg.zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRlRlOZz09)
Password: 033643

SUNDAY 2 MAY

Seating limited to 75 people per service.
Sign in using Check In CBR App required
8am Holy Communion
10am Holy Communion
Celebrant and Preacher:
Rev'd Dr Wayne Brighton
3pm Rainbow Fellowship/Colours of God
5pm Twilight Conversation (online only)

SUNDAY 9 MAY

Seating limited to 75 people per service.
Sign in using Check In CBR App required
8am Holy Communion
10am Holy Communion
Celebrant and Preacher:
Rev'd Dr Wayne Brighton
5pm Twilight Conversation (online only)

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

In today's readings the word 'love' stands out. Love is a word used often by Christians, a familiar, comforting, comfortable word, often eliciting warm fuzzies. But we need to look hard at this word. It may also be sharp edged, multi-layered, confronting, demand real sacrifice, and require difficult decisions.

Unlike the Greeks, in English we need extra words to make clear what sort of love we are talking about: motherly love, brotherly love, or the love between two people moving towards a committed relationship. We often idealise them. In reality we know that all these loves can be sorely tested and can break and destroy.

Another kind of love recognised by the Greeks is *agape*. *Agape* love, favoured by New Testament writers is often translated 'unconditional love'. This love is not a walkover, pushover, or doormat kind of love that tolerates disrespectful or abusive behaviour, injustice, or bullying. Rather it is a love that has the other firmly in mind, a persistent, faithful caring, a real desire for the other's wholeness and healing. It is a discerning, wise, forgiving love.

Love is integral to both Testaments. In the Old Testament we are commanded to love God and to love our neighbours as we love ourselves. Jesus linked those two commandments in a new and

deeper way, arguing that on these two commandments sat all the Jewish Scriptures. His call to love is echoed in the writings of his followers.

Love is certainly at the heart of our Christian identity: *God is love* (1JN4:16a). We are profoundly rooted into this God who loved us before we even came to be. God showed that *agape* love in its fullness, in the life and death of Jesus.

But *agape* love is also integral to our life as Christians. We are called to be a community which loves; which loves within the community and those beyond. By living in love we demonstrate that we live in God and God lives in us. Our identity and life style intersect. Love is made complete and drives out fear. We cannot confine or limit this call to love. Indeed, we are challenged by its inclusivity, its demands.

*"To love is also good
For love is difficult.
For one human being to love
another is perhaps the most
difficult task of all,
the epitome,
the ultimate test.
It is the striving
for which all other striving
is merely preparation."
(Raine Maria Rilke)*

Merilyn Clark

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ST JOHN'S CARE ASSISTS STRUGGLING FAMILY

I was at my desk last week when I received an email from a young mother needing some assistance with food. H had a young family and was expecting the birth of her second child in a couple of months' time. She explained that her husband uses the car during the day for work, and that they were unable to visit the Centre during our opening hours. She wondered whether St John's Care would be able to arrange for some food to be delivered to her home address.

With the help of a volunteer, I began to prepare a family food pack for H and her family and made the trip after work.

As I arrived at the house, H was standing in the driveway with her young son in her arms, smiles beaming across their faces. H introduced herself and her son, and showed me into the backyard and into the room that they were renting. H insisted on getting me a glass of water as I helped her unpack the groceries. There was very little food in the fridge and pantry, and it was quite clear that this family was doing it tough.

We sat down and began to discuss their situation, and the financial fears and concerns that surrounded the imminent arrival of their daughter.

H explained that her husband worked as a cleaner at a local school, but his hours were restricted as he was not a permanent Australian resident. Between working and caring for his pregnant wife, he volunteered his time within the local Nepalese community, always happy and willing to give back.

Their 3-year-old son had delayed speech and language development, and found it hard to communicate with those around him. Upon realising that their son's speech patterns were abnormal, they had taken him to see a GP who had advised them to enrol him in a specialist early learning centre. After doing some research, H quickly became aware that this was well out of their budget.

I asked H whether she and her husband could come into the Centre when they were free the following week. I wanted us to figure out a plan to support them going forward and earlier this week they came in to see me. I prepared a school pack complete with a dinosaur pencil case for the young boy, and watched as he rummaged through the bag and its contents excitedly.

With the couples' cooperation, we contacted their mobile, internet and energy providers to gauge the costs of the services. By switching their mobile, internet and energy providers, the couple were able to save over \$440 a month. In addition to this, St John's Care was able to financially contribute towards their current energy bill, saving the couple hundreds of dollars.

H and her husband were pleasantly surprised at the generosity of St John's Care and could not be more appreciative as they waved goodbye. St John's Care will continue to work closely with this family and will continue to support them as they welcome the fourth member of their family.

H would like to sincerely thank all of the donors, volunteers and staff who are involved in providing a high level of support and assistance to those in the community who need it most.

Regards,

Robbie Speldewinde

Items required: Cup-A-Soup, tinned meat, small fruit snacks for school lunches, children's toothbrushes, savoury biscuits

SEE HIS FINGERPRINTS

For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in faithfulness to you. Psalm 26:3

What a magnificent moon there has been in the night sky these last few nights. Perfectly round, its mountains visible and its shine sneaking in and out of grey thin clouds. To look up and see it is a wow factor.

Then in the light of day, as if caught unawares of the coming change of season, there was a tree covered in thick green foliage and from a closer look there were some branches of changing colour, of bright red leaves.

A faithful God who night after night brings out the moon and season after season brings out his glory.

Patsy Clairmont wrote these words: *'Experience God in so many different ways.'*

Grace and peace from the Lord Jesus Christ

Anne, servant of the Lord

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



God's glory

CEO SLEEPOUT

The CEO Sleepout fundraiser for the homeless was launched on Wednesday 14 April. 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/>

News from your Parish Council

At its April meeting, Parish Council:

- Considering holding 2 mini-fete's in 2021, pending Convenor's and a COVID Plan:
 1. White elephant stall
 2. Book stall and garden stall
- Noted that the mental well-being program will commence in May.
- Approved the purchase and installation of a dishwasher in the Rainbow Centre.

Joh Sheehan
Parish Council Chair

Hawker Men's Luncheon Forum

(an activity of Christ Church Anglican, Hawker)

Wednesday 12 May 2021 11.45 am to 2 pm
Birrigai Cafe, Kangara Waters, 2 Joy Cummings Place,
Belconnen.

\$27 per head for 2 course lunch (including Tea or
Coffee)

Event starts formally at noon.

Dr Mark Strelnikow

**"Musings on COVID, vaccination and Christian
faith in medicine"**

RSVP by Thursday afternoon 6 May to Bruce Hooley
(6251-7124, or brucehooley.1@bigpond.com)

LOOKING DEEPLY

A contemplative approach to
reconciliation

with Dr Heather Thomson

ANSD Quiet Day

Saturday 29 May 2021

9.30 am to 3pm

Please RSVP by Friday 21 May to ansdact@gmail.com

Venue: Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture

Cost: \$30 (cash only on the day) Electronic transfer to
"Australian Network for Spiritual Direction" | BSB
032-719 | Account 301 994 | Reference: SurnameQD



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.

DINNER CLUB

1st Tuesday of the Month

Will be meeting on 6th May at 6pm

Good Food! Good Company! Good Vibrations!

Come to the Southern Cross Club in Jamison

Confirm attendance with Hilary 62518166



Seeking parishioners with a flair for organisation

Parish Council is considering holding two mini Fêtes in 2021:

1. White elephant stall
2. Book stall and garden stall -6 November

In order for these and important community events to proceed, we need a Convener. If you have a passion for organisation, wish you help the parish build community connections this may be you. If so, please speak with Wayne or one of the Wardens.



NOAH'S ARK PET MINISTRY – WHERE ALL ARE INCLUDED AND NONE ARE LEFT BEHIND.

Last week an elderly lady had to experience having her 18-year-old, very frail feline companion put to sleep. Through this ministry she was accompanied to the vet and returned home where we buried 'April' in the back yard and held a short prayer service and laid roses on the grave, followed by afternoon tea.

At Kippax shopping center I encountered a young man with a disability who was busking and with him was his small assistance dog on a mat. It was a cold day. I purchased a dog blanket from one of the shops and asked him if I could give his dog a treat and a warm blanket. He agreed with a broad smile and thumbs up. I gave him my business card and encouraged him to call me if he needed anything for his dog at any time.

Pastorally this ministry is proving very beneficial to pet owners. If you need prayers for yourself and your pet, or want to acknowledge a milestone in their life or have a memorial service for a deceased pet or you know someone who could benefit from this ministry please don't hesitate to contact me.

Archdeacon Anne



Rest in peace April



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 in positions of authority, for all who will be called upon to make difficult decisions this week. We remember those who make decisions that affect the life of this planet. We pray for all who do research into healing and the renewal of the earth

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 Adelaide
- ⇒ Archdeacons: Archdeacon for the Diaconate and Head of the Household of Deacons
- ⇒ Area Deans
- ⇒ Professional Standards Board and Committees
- ⇒ Victims of physical and sexual abuse and the continuing implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission including the National Redress Scheme

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ Congregations—8am Sunday
- ⇒ Children's Ministry -
- ⇒ Parish Council/Wardens— for an organiser to help with the parish dinner
- ⇒ Holistic Care Nursing Ministries—that clients and volunteers will stay well as winter approaches and that new clients and volunteers will hear about our services and come along to our programs
- ⇒ Rainbow Playgroup
- ⇒ Lids4Kids
- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Catherine D'Cruz; Judith Ann Daniels; Lou Daniels; Steve Daniels; Audrey Dargan; and John Dau.
- ⇒ 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

Thursday 30 April: Jean Metters (d. 2017)

Tuesday: Gladys Matilda Gordon (d. 1994)

Thursday: Mavis Roberts (d. 1994)

COLLECT for Fifth Sunday of Easter

O God,
form the minds of your faithful people,
that we may love what you command
and desire what you promise,
so that, amid the many changes of this world,
our hearts may there be fixed where true joys are to
be found;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

READINGS

Acts 8.26-40
Psalm 22.26-32
1 John 4.7-21
John 15.1-8

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

Children's Worker

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children@holycovenant.org.au

Youth Leadership Team

Tobias, Lou and Remus
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Wardens

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Joh Sheehan 6251 7151
Allison Cooper-Stanbury 0410 506 231

Prayer Vine

Rosemary Kennemore
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Belonging and Caring

Reverend Dr Wayne Brighton
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Curate and Community Chaplain

Wendy Robertson
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Holistic Care Nursing Ministries

Program Manager

Rhonda Thorpe
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Holistic Care Nursing Ministries

Program Director and Chaplain

Venerable (EM) Anne Ranse OAM
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Honorary Priests

Reverend Anne Dudzinski
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Reverend Connie Gerrity

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Resources Team

0419 255 002

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- Monday:** Prue Wedgwood
- Tuesday:** Isaac James
- Friday:** Kerin Cox
- Saturday:** David Clark, Clayton Gumbrell