

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 9 MAY 2021
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

LOVE: A REVOLUTIONARY FORCE

COMING UP

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

<https://adcg.zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTXFCNON4MGRiSFVIRlloZz09>

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

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)

SUNDAY 16 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 writers continue to explain the importance and place of love for each believer and within the community of faith. Love is no mere ideal we aspire to. Rather, we are commanded to love: to love God, to love others. Love is not a matter of our choice. The writers also bring the work of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, into this complex exploration of the centrality of love.

It is the Acts reading that reveals the revolutionary force of love. The impact and importance of love shattered attempts to constrain or to restrict it long before the more theological exploration of love unfolded. We may not establish boundaries around the community of faith, around whom we are to love: that choice is God's. On this, the readings are unequivocal.

The Acts' reading picks up immediately after Peter has been witnessing to the people about Jesus and reminding them that Jesus is Lord of **all** (Acts 10:36b). Suddenly the Holy Spirit came upon **all** those who heard Peter's message (Acts 10:44). Watch the contrasting emphasis in the next verse. This outpouring of the Spirit even on **the Gentiles present** astounded **Peter's circumcised followers (believers)**. Clearly an exclusive mindset was operating amongst those early believers: they saw this call to follow and believe as limited to the circumcised. (Jewish male believers bore on their bodies the mark of circumcision as a manifestation of Jewish identity, of belonging to God and each other.)

They were simply following traditional Jewish custom in excluding Gentiles from their midst. With the outpouring of the Spirit upon Gentiles too, the Spirit revealed the truth that these old boundaries could no longer be maintained. Christ indeed was Lord of all: Gentiles were to be included in the community of believers. They too were to be loved and were commanded to love. But they did not receive circumcision to mark their belonging. Peter, capitulating before the force of the Spirit's revealing truth, said "Can anyone keep these people from being baptised with water." This along with receiving the Holy Spirit was now the mark of belonging. In this radical revolutionary act Peter had pushed the boundaries of love and belonging outwards to embrace these once outsiders. God had chosen them; how could Peter have acted otherwise! Imagine their astonished joy! But little wonder that Peter was called to account for his radical actions before his fellow apostles and believers in Jerusalem. By drawing them all into this inclusive vision of love and belonging, Peter's revolutionary loving action in accepting Gentiles in their newly emerging community of faith became mainstream.

*"Love one another and you will be happy"
It is as simple and difficult as that.
There is no other way. Amen (Michael Leunig)*

Marilyn Clark

RECTOR: Reverend Dr Wayne Brighton, 0407 408 333, rector@holycovenant.org.au

OFFICE: 6251 6100, office@holycovenant.org.au

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



SINGLE FATHER FACING THE TOUGHEST OF TIMES

AW left a voice message on St John's Care answering machine late in the evening asking for someone to call him back urgently. The following morning, I returned the call and AW answered. I could hear children in the background which sounded like a normal household getting ready for school. Except it was not a normal morning. AW told me that his partner, the mother of their four children (two boys and two girls), had packed up and left two weeks prior. He did not know her whereabouts and could not go to work because two of the four children were under the age of five. They used to stay at home with their mum when he was working as a bricklayer and tiler.

Prior to this event, he wasn't receiving any Centrelink assistance. As a matter of fact, he had never received any assistance during his 25 year tradesman career. He was stressed and very uncomfortable asking for help.

AW told me that he was devastated and in a state of despair as he suspected that his partner had been using substances. After her departure, he and the children were left with an electricity bill close to \$5000! He explained that he would earn the money and his partner would pay the bills. Two weeks prior to his partner leaving, he gave her enough money to cover half the electricity bill. Unfortunately, the bill was left unpaid.

He cried on the phone. He said, "I just don't know what to do. I don't even know if there is any help". I invited him to come to SJC and he and the children arrived two hours after our conversation (it was school holiday). We assisted him with enough food to last two weeks for six people and gave him vouchers to buy some extra winter clothes for the kids. I made a few phone calls to other agencies including Care Financial to make an appointment for AW so that financial counsellors could look into advocating for him regarding imminent bills he had.

I also referred AW to Parent Line, a single fathers' group and then we called a Centrelink Community Worker on his behalf. The biggest problem AW was facing was that he couldn't work anymore due to his parenting responsibilities. The family left with plenty of food, some toys and clothes for the kids. They all had smiles on their faces. The children loved that a volunteer had packed a bag full of goodies just for them - this was a special prize for being patient while their dad was in a session room with me working out how to improve their situation.

The good news for this family is that they are now receiving Centrelink assistance, and are supported by SJC as well as numerous other agencies.

Unfortunately, it is going to be a tough road for AW while he finds the right balance between parenting and looking for ways to earn enough money to support himself and his four children. He said that although he is facing the toughest times in his life, he is grateful that he found St John's Care. It is tough to be a single father, but he wants to be the best father he can be!

As always, thank you to St John's Care donors for their continuous support!

Kind regards,

Nailia, SJC Case Manager

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



FAMILY PIZZA NIGHT

Friday 14 May from 6pm.

Come along to the church to chat and hang out with folks from our neighbourhood.

BYO drinks,

\$5 per person for pizza.

RSVP to Wendy 0481 458

037.

FUEL FOR THE DAY

For your steadfast love is before my eyes. Psalm 26:3

The flow of the autumn mist was like a whisper on the breeze as it lifted to give way to light and clear and bright of the new day and never more glorious were the colours of autumn. It is such a special time when we pause and take in the sights around us, not only take them in for their beauty but for the footprint of God that has created for our pleasure.

As little sanctuaries of God we need this fuel for the day – these times when the Lord's presence is marvelously before us. Stop, pause, see and give thanks.

Grace and peace from the Lord Jesus Christ

Anne, servant of the Lord

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



The Lord's presence before us

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



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



DIVE DEEPER

Why do worship?
16 May, 11.30-12.30pm

Worship is weird. We step in.
We take a journey.
We leave a different person.

If you've ever wondered why we do what we do at worship, how you can help and what will make it better, why not come to our monthly conversations about worship following the 10am service?

Time to Celebrate



Our parish birthday is fast approaching. Planning is underway, but we need some help.

If you enjoy a good party and have a gift for organisation and could assist, please speak with Wayne or one of the Wardens.

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

'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 12.30 pm in the worship centre. The next one is 11th May 2021

Any queries to Sandra Ross 0408438770

sandraross@ozemail.com.au

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.

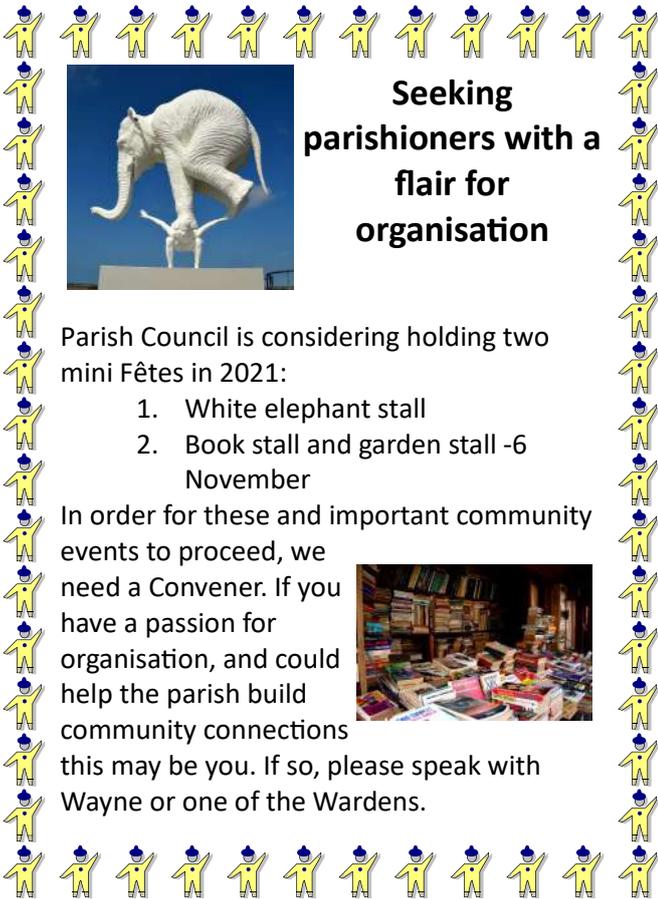
\$27 per head for 2 course lunch (including Tea or Coffee)

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)



Seeking parishioners with a flair for organisation

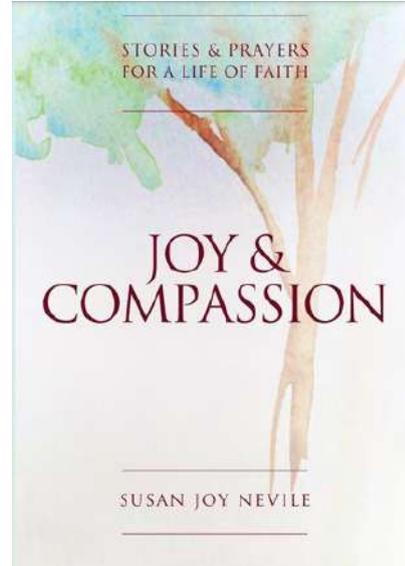
Parish Council is considering holding two mini Fêtes in 2021:

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, and could help the parish build community connections this may be you. If so, please speak with Wayne or one of the Wardens.



You're invited to the book launch and celebration of *Joy and Compassion: Stories and Prayers for a Life of Faith* (Coventry Press, Melb.), by the late Rev'd Susan Joy Nevile



It's on Sunday 23 May, from 2-3pm at The Chapel, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture 15 Blackall Street (cnr Kings Avenue) Barton.

There will be some words from... Prof. Quentin Grafton (Crawford School, ANU); Adj. Prof. Maurice Nevile (author's husband, who compiled/edited the book); and The Ven. Anne Ranse (Archdeacon Emeritus, OAM) RSVP and register at: <https://www.trybooking.com/BQUYR>



MEN'S DINNER
FRIDAY 21 May
7.00 PM START
WORSHIP CENTRE

Nich Hill on "The Church of England and the Abolition of Slavery (1772-1833)"

Cost: \$15
Contact: Quentin Grafton
0410 680 584"

read more about the book at: coventrypress.com.au
read more about the author at: susanjoynevile.net



YOUTH ALPHA

Sometimes we have big questions about the meaning of life and who we are becoming.

Starting on Sunday 9 May between 5-6pm a group of young adults will meet and do Youth Alpha.

So, if you're between 11-18 years old why not come along?

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ Pray for control of the coronavirus outbreak in India
- ⇒ Guide all leaders in industry and commerce; may the goods of this world be neither hoarded nor squandered

IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ Give thanks for mothers and those who mother.
- ⇒ In your kindness watch over refugees and asylum seekers, those separated from their loved ones, those who are lost, and those who have been exiled from their homes. Bring them safely to the place where they long to be, and help us always to show your kindness to strangers and those in need

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn
- ⇒ Bishop-in-Council and the Ministry Executive, the Anglican Church Property Trust and The Pelican Foundation
- ⇒ Diocesan Synod
- ⇒ Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture
- ⇒ Diocesan Public Issues Commission
- ⇒ All Saints' Ainslie
- ⇒ All Saints College
- ⇒ Pray for: Growth of the Anglican Investment Development Fund and The Pelican Foundation.

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ Congregations—10am Sunday
- ⇒ Young Adults Ministry—prayer for guidance, wisdom, and understanding
- ⇒ Shovel Community Garden—pray for an increased sense of community
- ⇒ Resources Group -for a successful working bee on Saturday.
- ⇒ Tai Chi—give thanks for the good attendance at Tai Chi and members who volunteer to do Sitting Tai Chi at CC once a month to keep everything moving!
- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Evelyn, Jey, Hannah, Elizabeth, Mary and Sarah David-Hoole; Jenny DeBont; and Elaine and Brian Dennis.
- ⇒ 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

- Wednesday:** May Barrington (d. 1991)
Joan Eva Williams (d. 2019)
- Thursday:** Jill Montgomery (d. 2002)

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- Wednesday:** Gwen Hallows
- Thursday:** Penny Clarke
- Friday:** Audrey Dargan

COLLECT for Sixth Sunday of Easter

Loving God,
your Son has chosen us
and called us to be his friends:
give us grace to keep his commandments,
to love one another,
and to bear fruit which will abide;
through him who is the true vine,
the source of all our life,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

READINGS

- Acts 10.44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5.1-12
John 15.9-17

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

Children's Worker

Wendy Robertson 0481458037
children@holycovenant.org.au

Youth Leadership Team

Tobias, Lou and Remus
youth@holycovenant.org.au

Wardens

Deranie Jackson 0408 443 709
Joh Sheehan 6251 7151
Allison Cooper-Stanbury 0410 506 231

Prayer Vine

Rosemary Kennemore
6251 2009; rkmore@grapevine.com.au

Belonging and Caring

Reverend Dr Wayne Brighton
0407 408 333; rector@holycovenant.org.au

Curate and Community Chaplain

Wendy Robertson
0481458037 warobertson4@gmail.com

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