

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 16 MAY 2021
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

LOVE: THE ROUTE TO WHOLENESS AND JOY

COMING UP

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

<https://adcg.zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRlloZz09>

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

Password: 033643

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 conversations

SUNDAY 23 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 Youth Alpha

Coming up

Sun 16 May - 11.30am Dive Deeper —
Why do worship?

Fri 21 May - 6.00pm Men's Dinner

Sun 23 May - 2.00pm Book Launch for
Susan Joy Nevile

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 this month's readings John's letter has been exploring the centrality of love to the identity and life of Christians. This keyword 'love' occurs 43 times in this letter, 32 times in 1 John 4:7-5:3!!! The heart of John's message is that God is love and Jesus' commandment to love is not optional but fundamental to followers of Jesus.

Thomas Merton, the American contemplative monk, recognising how radical this demand is, confrontingly wrote: *"Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business, and, in fact, it is nobody's business. What we are asked to do is love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbors, worthy."*

Such loving is revolutionary; changing us, changing others, a gift to ourselves, and to our neighbour. Today's reading must be seen through this lens of love. Because of God's love for us, *"God has given us eternal life and this life is in his Son"* (1 Jn 5:11b).

Eternal life is a radically changed life because we are living in fellowship with God, no longer strangers but friends. In John's Gospel reading some of the hallmarks of this new life in Christ are: a sense of unity one with another (Jn 17:11c), a full measure of Christ's joy within us (Jn 17:13b), and our sanctification by the truth, which is God's word (Jn 17:17).

But we continue to live within the human condition. *Agape* loving needs

to be learned and discerned through all the vicissitudes of life we encounter in daily living, and the passage of our years. How to love but stand up for justice. How to love but stand against evil. How to love but refuse to be bullied or oppressed. How to love when we are uncomfortable. How to face our own demons and griefs without lashing out against others. How to forgive others so we are not bound by the past but can reclaim our hope and joy through Christ. We must study repeatedly the word of God which testifies to the love of the Father and the Son. We must be persistent in prayer, open to God's truth. We must remember that Jesus calls us to know completeness of joy in the midst of our living.

Michael Leunig's prayer is apt: *"We pray for the fragile ecology of the heart and the mind. The sense of meaning. So finely assembled and balanced and so easily overturned. The careful ongoing construction of love. As painful and exhausting as the struggle for truth and as easily abandoned. Hard fought and won are the shifting sands of this sacred ground, this ecology. Easy to desecrate and difficult to defend, this vulnerable joy, this exposed faith, this precious order. This sanity. We shall be careful. With others and with ourselves."*

Merilyn Clark

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A CALL FOR HELP

I received a call from a young woman the other day who was eager to know how we might be able to support her and her 3 young children.

HT had been living at a Women's refuge in Canberra for over 12 months after her partner became aggressive and violent towards her. This pattern of behaviour continued and resulted in HT spending weeks in hospital.

We arranged to meet at the local shops closest to the refuge where they live, so that I could give her some groceries and we could have a chat about some ways we could best support her family.

Our phone conversation was brief, but it was quite evident that she needed as much assistance as we could give. She told me she was worried that her car did not have enough petrol to get back.

I began to prepare some bags of groceries, fresh fruit and vegetables, and some meat to take to her. My colleague added a couple of hand-made fleecy blankets and warm socks for the kids. We took the groceries outside and loaded up the car, with the wind and rain swirling around us.

We arrived at our destination and waited for HT, discussing the sense of fear she was no doubt experiencing. Shortly after, a slim woman wearing thongs walked towards us holding a baby in her arms. She introduced us to her three young children, aged 11 months, 5 and 9.

It was evident that HT was cautious and reluctant to open-up at first. She peered down at our St John's Care badges and seemed to feel at ease. "Thank you so much for coming to meet me here. I am always in fear that my ex is somewhere around", she said.

We loaded the groceries, blankets, and warm clothes into the boot of her car while the kids were running bare foot splashing in the puddles and having fun!

We provided HT with some fuel vouchers, and encouraged her to visit St John's Care whenever she felt the need to. She was thrilled to hear this, and her sense of gratitude was unmistakable.

She mentioned that one of the biggest challenges of living at the refuge was not having family and friends around to support her with parenting. I referred her to family support services for assistance with parenting and she gladly took their phone number.

HT has since called SJC and thanked us for the food and support provided. She feels more hopeful now that she is aware that there is support out there for her. She is also connected with family support services.

She explained that her children had particularly liked the warm woollen hand-made socks and blankets that we had given them. We have put aside some more warm blankets and items of clothing for her to pick up next time she visits our Centre.

We would like to sincerely thank all of the fantastic organisations that have reached out to us with warm knitted clothing and blankets, and our donors who allow us to support and assist so many Canberrans.

Warm regards,

Robbie Speldewinde, Programs Coordinator

Items Required: Cup-a-Soup, tinned meats, small fruits for school lunches, children's toothbrushes, savoury biscuits.



Please join us to celebrate

St John's Care 30th Anniversary

23rd May 2021 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm

We will have a celebratory service in St John's Church

45 Constitution Avenue, Reid ACT 2612

Followed by afternoon tea and the launch of

Celebrating 30 Years A History of St John's Care

compiled by Grace Koch

Please RSVP by Wednesday 19th May to Tracy 02 62487771 or admin@stjohnscare.org.au

WIDE, WIDE AS THE OCEAN

As the water fills the sea, the earth will be filled with an awareness of the glory of the Lord. Habakkuk 2:14

On a recent trip to the South Coast, I spent some time just looking at the ocean, it's vastness and seemingly never-ending space and I recall some statistics I had read which said: There is approximately 236 million, trillion gallons of water on the earth and 98% of that is in the ocean.

Habakkuk the prophet compares God's glory to water that fills the sea. That's one heck of a lot of God's glory!

How often do you think about the glory of the Lord and try and take in its magnitude, its richness, its blessings? Next time you walk on the beach or paddle in the sea, reflect on Habakkuk's words and try and grasp some sense of the magnitude of the glory of the Lord.


Grace and peace from the Lord Jesus Christ

Anne, servant of the Lord

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



As wide and vast as the Lord's glory



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 every 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?

FILM NIGHT



Come along to a film night (family friendly) at 7pm on the 28th May in the Worship Centre. Snacks provided, all welcome.

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

POSITION VACANT

Trinity Christian School is seeking applications for the following position. This position is currently advertised on the Trinity Christian School website for filling:

Non-teaching position

- School Uniform Shop Assistant – part-time position for approximately 12 hours per week with four weeks annual leave

Applications close at 9:00am Tuesday 25 May, 2021.

To complete an application form, please refer to the link below:

<https://www.tcs.act.edu.au/employment/administration-support-positions-available>



MEN'S DINNER

FRIDAY 21 May
 6.00 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



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.



ARANDA MEN'S GROUP MEETING THURSDAY 27 MAY 2021

The Aranda Men's Group will meet at the Parish Centre up at St Vincent's, at 6:15 PM on Thursday 27 May 2021

Peter Kabaila will give a presentation on his work with Vietnamese Orphanages during the Pandemic.

We will have pizzas and chips with fish for those who can't eat pizza. There will get a couple of garlic free pizzas.

We will need to sign in using the **Check In CBR App**. If you have problems, someone else can assist.

Cost is \$15 with any excess funds being donated to Vinnies at the end of the year.

If you could please respond by COB Tue 25 May to Paul Pearson (paul.pearson@bigpond.com)

domestic and family violence

a conversation with Lifeline
about recognizing and responding

Thursday 3 JUNE, 7pm



@ HOLY COVENANT CHURCH, 89 Dexter Street, Cook, ACT 2614
Register online at <https://www.dvalert.org.au/dv-aware-cook-holy-covenant-anglican-church-cselif04773>



Abusive relationships are everywhere. No one plans or intends for them to happen. But they do. Controlling relationships can happen at any age to anyone, whether straight or queer, elderly, disabled or with kids.

As a carer it can be hard to notice the warning signs. It can be even harder to know what to ask or how to offer someone help. So if you're concerned for someone you care about who's living with a controlling relationship, why not find out more? Registrations essential.

2021 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

All Christian churches in the ACT are invited to celebrate the 2021 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, **Sunday 16 May - Saturday 22 May**.

During this week all Christians are invited to pray together for the visible unity of the body of Christ, which Jesus himself prayed for in John 17:21:

"That all of them may be one, Father.....so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

In Canberra we are marking the week with an Opening and Closing event and all churches are invited to take part in the week long "Thy Kingdom Come" prayer movement, praying for more people to come to know Jesus.

The Opening Service is Sunday 16 May 6.30pm at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 1 State Cir, Forrest ACT 2603.

This service also marks the 30th Anniversary of the 1991 World Council of Churches' International Assembly in Canberra, "Come Holy Spirit." Worship, including Taizé and world music, will be led by the WCC Reunion Choir.

Registration and information can be found at bit.ly/christian-unity21.



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.

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 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>

read more about the book at: coventrypress.com.au

read more about the author at: susanjoyneville.net

The Closing Service "The Upper Room" is Saturday 22 May, Pentecost weekend, 2 - 4pm at Awaken Church, 490 Sulwood Drive, Kambah ACT 2902.

Leaders & teams from all Christian Churches are invited to gather together to pray and seek renewal in mission across the Canberra Region.

The event is co-hosted by the ACT Churches Council, Alpha Australia and the Catholic and Anglican Dioceses of Canberra Goulburn.

Registration and information can be found at bit.ly/alpha-upper-room.

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ Strengthen, O Lord, all who work to meet the needs of the world. We pray that talents may not be lost through neglect or discouragement. We remember all who work in commerce and in industry, We pray for farmers and agricultural workers, for fishermen and all who work upon the sea
- ⇒ We pray for those affected by the coronavirus in India

IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ For all those living in abusive relationships that they may be know God's care and experience health and healing, wholeness and strength, calmness and peace

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of Newcastle
- ⇒ St George's Anglican Life Centre, Pearce
- ⇒ Parish of Arawang
- ⇒ St Matthew's, Wanniasa
- ⇒ Lanyon Valley Anglican Church
- ⇒ St Mary-in-the-Valley, South Tuggeranong
- ⇒ Anglicare activities in partnership with parishes and with government: child care, foster care, young people and families; for staff and volunteers in regional offices and in Goulburn; for clients, for Anglicare Appeals; and bushfires recovery work

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ Congregations—5pm Sunday
- ⇒ Youth Alpha
- ⇒ Rainbow fellowship/Colours of God
- ⇒ Meditation—Tuesday lunchtime, Wednesday evenings
- ⇒ Exploring faith Matters
- ⇒ Grow Groups
- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Remus Douglas; Anne and Gary Drummond; Anne Dudzinski; Georgina and Andrew Dudzinski; and Sue Dunbar.
- ⇒ 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: William Donald Roberts (d. 1989)

COLLECT for Week of Christian unity

God, you are the vinedresser who cares for us with love. You call on us to see the beauty of each branch united to the vine,
the beauty of each person.
And yet, too often the differences, the pains and struggle in others make us afraid.
We withdraw into ourselves.
Our trust in you is forsaken.
Come and direct our hearts toward you once again.
Grant us to live from your forgiveness
so that we may be together and praise your name. **Amen**

READINGS

Acts 1.15-17, 1.21-26
Psalm 1
1 John 5.9-13
John 17.6-19

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

Children's Worker

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Youth Leadership Team

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Wardens

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Prayer Vine

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Belonging and Caring

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Holistic Care Nursing Ministries

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Reverend Connie Gerrity

0429 423 725; connie@gerrity.id.au

Resources Team

0419 255 002

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Sunday: John Christensen
Friday: Lainie Robertson