

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2022
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

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

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

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366
Password: 033643

SUNDAY 13 FEBRUARY

8am and 10 am Holy Communion
Preacher and Celebrant:
The Rev'd Dr Wayne
Brighton
5pm – Twilight Service

SUNDAY 20 FEBRUARY

8am and 10 am Holy Communion
Preacher and Celebrant:
The Rev'd Dr Wayne
Brighton
5pm – Twilight Service

Coming Up

19 February Gardening Day &
Working Bee
1 March Pancake Tuesday and
AGM, from 5.30pm
2 March Ash Wednesday Service
6pm (beginning of Lent)

Bank Details for Direct Debit are:

Bank: Commonwealth Bank
Branch: Jamison Centre, ACT
BSB: 062 907
A/C No: 802588
Name: Holy Covenant Anglican Church

Jesus was a revolutionary. A radical. He messes with our heads. He upends how we think the world should work. He was counter cultural. In a world that privileges self actualisation, attainment, self confidence that valorises individual choice and building one's Facebook image, Jesus throws the cat amongst the pigeons. This is clear in today's Gospel reading, also known as the Sermon on the Plain. It is a slightly different version to the better known Sermon on the Mount as presented in Matthew. It presents a topsy turvy world where the things that are common sense and common custom are turned on their heads. The desirable are undesirable and the undesirable desirable. In fact Jesus affirms that the hungry, the poor, those who hurt, and those who mourn are to be celebrated. He equally asserts that those who are full, fulfilled, rich, comfortable or of high repute are at peril.

Jesus was concerned with our character, our core bearing, what drives us, our soul, our true selves, who ultimately we are. He calls for a new standard of behaviour and a new way of living. This involves a new way of seeing and being in the world. The Beatitudes, from the Latin *blessing*, describe what it means to be a follower of Jesus. There is a huge contrast between worldly values and the values Jesus affirms.

The Old Testament is filled with God taking the side of the poor, the afflicted, the hurt and hurting, the downtrodden, the widow, the oppressed. It is also filled with entreaties for us to also support them. Those who follow Jesus should both see the world and act in the world as God does. This in essence is the call of love; to express this love not only to those who deserve it but towards those who do not.

Wealth, comfort, happiness and being held in good repute are not the goals we should set for ourselves. Jesus says that those who prioritise these things are to be pitied for their reward is temporary, ephemeral, immediate. The things that ultimately count, that have eternal meaning and purpose and which are part of God's way are not to be found in prioritising happiness, wealth or good repute. Jesus is calling us to get our priorities right. We are called to feed the poor, comfort the afflicted, house the homeless. We are called to take their side.

The Sermon on the Plain comforts the afflicted and afflicts the comfortable. Taking care of the least is what we are called to do. This is indeed a radical reorientation and inversion of the way so much of society sees the world.

Clive Rodger

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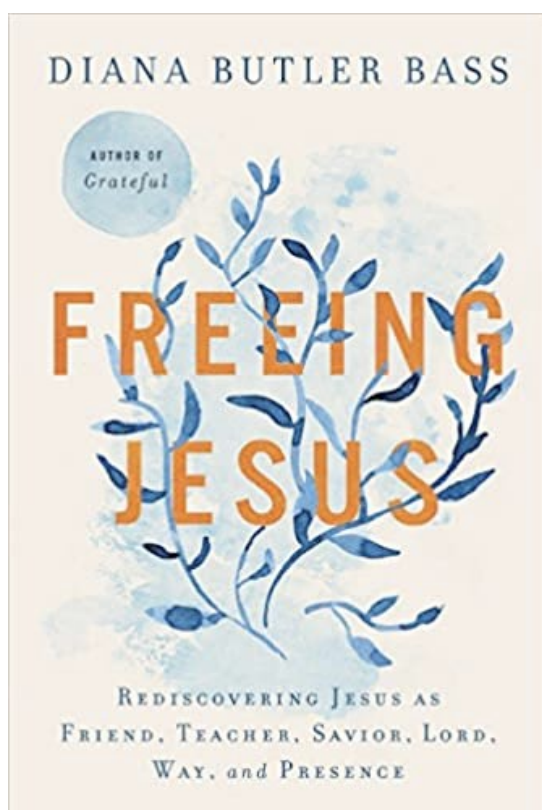
Lenten Study—Ways We've Known Jesus

Have you noticed how your understanding of Jesus has changed over the years?

As we grow and our needs change, the way we think about and engage with God can and does shift, even when Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. Sometimes we might need a big God who meets us as Saviour and Lord. Other times we encounter someone more intimately as a Friend or Teacher. Sometimes what matters is God's direction as Way or Presence. However we have encountered God, there is always more to discover.

Beginning March 3rd, Wayne will lead a small group online using Diana Butler Bass' book *Freeing Jesus: rediscovering Jesus as friend, teacher, saviour, lord, way and presence* as our conversation guide. Let him know you'd be interested by SMS or email. The book is available in hardcopy only for between \$35 and \$45.

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.amazon.com.au%2FFreeing-Jesus-...&e=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAgQjRxqFwoTCKjd5PGD9vQCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAD>



Volunteers needed—Breanna Smith's Funeral

Breanna's funeral will be held at Holy Covenant on Wednesday 16 February at 12.30pm. Volunteers are needed for the following tasks:

- Set up: at 10.30am
- Ushering
- Serving afternoon tea and drinks (the family are providing food, that will need to be plated)
- Packing up: after 3.00pm

Please let the office know if you can assist:

Email: office@holycovenant.org.au

Ph: 6251 6100

Zoom Chat Is Back!

THURSDAYS 10:30 in February. Feeling isolated or alone? Or just keen for a chat? Join in the fun on the below link and connect with your Holy Covenant community. Any problems with connecting, please call Wendy 0481 458 037

[https://adcg.zoom.us/j/8820962366?](https://adcg.zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRlI0Zz09)

[pwd=YUUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRlI0Zz09](https://adcg.zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRlI0Zz09)

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Exploring Faith Matters - returning in March

Exploring Faith Matters or EFM for short, is a program of theological reading and reflection in a learning community. A group meets at Holy Covenant on Thursday evenings beginning in early March. Participants read and reflect on the text of the Old Testament, New Testament, History of Christianity and Christian Ethics. An information evening will be held on Thurs 10 March at 7:30pm in the Rainbow Centre. More information is available from the [EFM website](#), or phone Merri Bacon on 6251 1110 or email merri.bacon@bigpond.com. RSVP for the information night by 6 March, so that numbers can be managed for COVID restrictions.



Thanks for the lessons

SJC received a call from a woman last

week who was clearly in distress. H is a young woman who lives with her mother and her two young sons, (one of whom has autism) in a small 3-bedroom townhouse. She sleeps on the couch to allow her mother and children a bed and bedroom of their own.

H's mother lives with disability. Recently she has become increasingly unwell, and her disability has made the simple things in life incredibly difficult. She is losing vision in one of her eyes and has trouble moving around the house. As a result of her worsening condition, H's mother is no longer able to drive, and as she is the sole license holder in the family, this has put a strain on the family's ability to attend medical appointments, social gatherings and other activities that require a trip in the car.

H reached out to St John's Care to assist her with the costs of obtaining her driver's license, so that she can transport her sons and her mother to appointments, and other events. As she was nearby at the time of the call, I encouraged her to visit the Centre so that we could provide her with some food and discuss the best way to assist her moving forward.

Shortly after the initial call, I met her at the Centre, and we sat down in the sun to have a chat. At this stage the family were relying on travelling by foot and bike, however this was not sustainable and restricted their travels to within a short distance of their home.

The volunteers prepared a family pack for H, with fresh meat, vegetables, fruit, and dairy. As they had travelled to the Centre on foot, we provided them with some Myway bus cards topped up with enough credit for the family to travel around for the next few weeks. To take the financial pressure off the family, we provided the children with vouchers for new school uniforms, for the upcoming semester, and schools packs complete with backpacks, books, lunchboxes, and stationery – thanks to our donors for kindly providing these.

We sat down with H and were able to obtain some subsidised driving lessons for her to complete the remaining requirements for her license. She was overjoyed and thankful that St John's Care had provided her with a 'lifeline'.

'This is going to solve so many problems that our family is facing. Thank you so much', she said.

St John's Care will continue to support H and her family and looks forward to seeing her driving the family car up the

driveway in the coming weeks!

Many thanks to the St John's Care family of supporters, volunteers and donors.

Items required: School supplies (backpack, lunch boxes, drink bottles, pens pencils and pencil cases) juice boxes

You are invited to Godly Play Core Training

When: 2-5 March 2022, 9am-5pm

Where: Radford College Bruce ACT.

Cost: Full fees \$650. Scholarships available for volunteers, part-time workers etc.

Registrations close Monday 22 February or when all places are filled. Registration and scholarship forms are available at <http://godlyplay.org.au/training>

Questions? Contact Rev. Katherine Rainger via email: Katherine.rainger@radford.act.edu.au

What is Godly Play?

The result of a lifetime of research and practice by theologian, author and educator The Rev. Dr. Jerome Berryman, the Godly Play® method is a curriculum of spiritual practice exploring the mystery of God's presence in our lives. The Godly Play curriculum engages what is most exciting about religious education: God inviting us into—and pursuing us in the midst of—Scripture and spiritual experience. Godly Play practice teaches us to listen for God and to make authentic and creative responses to God's call in our lives. Based on 40+ years of research and practice, Godly Play is a creative, imaginative approach to Christian formation and spiritual guidance.

Come and take a look at God's wonders, they will take your breath away. Psalm 66:5 (MSG)

There is something about coming across a feather on the ground, it's like a message has been left for me and I find myself picking it up, admiring it and taking it home to add to the collection of 'feather messages' in the jar in my sacred space. So many times, I come home from my walk, feather in hand. I marvel at the colours, the bird that owned it AND the God that made it. I never cease to be amazed at the creation of God, the detail, the beauty, the 'tidiness' of a feather. Today I didn't have to go far to receive a feathered message, it was right there on the garden table, in my space, left for me by a tiny bird. As I noticed it there, I said to God, Let's have a look at this together and a quietness fell all around me.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Anne, servant of the Lord.

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



Bless the messenger.

Resumption of Regular Activities

As we return from the summer break and deal with the on-going COVID situation, many of our regular activities are returning. This list, to the best of our knowledge, summarises the current situation:

Services

Twilight Service – on Zoom

Wednesday midday – delayed until March

Groups

MOTH – online

EFM - in person, early March

Morning Tea & Chat – online

Tai Chi, Have a Good Yarn, Dinner group, Community Garden, Playgroup – in person

Crafty Crew – delayed until March

Tuesday & Wednesday Yoga – in person

Colours of God – delayed until March

Wednesday meditation - online

Lenten Study – online March 3rd

Children & Families

Kid's Church – in person

Postponing pizza night until March

Youth & Family picnic – in person 20 Feb

Youth

Fruitful Fridays – in person

Holy Covenant Nursing Ministries

Covenant Care—delayed until March

Morning Teas—delayed until March

Trash & Treasure—in person March 19th

Covenant Care Birthday Celebration—TBA

20th Feb, John Knight Park, 11.30am

What to bring:

BYO picnic lunch, outdoor games, sun protection

Come and join in on the fun!



Parishioner seeking accommodation

A member of our church family is looking to rent a 2 bedroom property close to Belconnen, that is at ground level, for \$500 or less per week. Thus far, they haven't had any success, and are wondering if anyone in the church might know of something coming available soon.

If you can help, please email the office, and Megan will pass the information on.

Could Gaza be a better place for women and children?

What does the word 'Gaza' bring to mind? Probably not nutrition, yet nutrition is one of the many needs in the Gaza strip.

AID's partner Al Ahli Arab Hospital, as it battles with crises related to COVID-19 and renewed political conflict, has started a longer-term program to address malnutrition and AID is supporting it.

In this, the first year, the project will provide a health consultant for 250-300 at-risk children, with 100 of these to be followed up with a six-month nutrition support program.

In addition, the program aims to empower women. It provides training to 25 women as 'community organisers', and how to use these community organisation skills to promote good nutrition in their communities. Whilst the focus is on nutrition, the community organisers will also talk to other women about empowerment tools such as self-care, how to influence public decision making, and women's roles in the community. From the 25 trainees, ten will subsequently be given a small stipend to support their community organising activities.

This is a bold project, especially in communities that face such an array of challenges. AID and the Ahli plan to expand this into a three-year program, reaching hundreds of malnourished children and helping hundreds of women play a stronger role in their communities.

AID and the Anglican Board of Mission (ABM) hope to raise



\$37,870 for this project in 2022. Donations to this fund are tax deductible. You can donate online at the [ABM website](#) or ask the office for a donation form.

Conversation with Auntie Jean Phillips

Auntie Jean has been educating Australian Christians for decades on the true history of these lands now called Australia. Auntie Jean has said to many Australian Christians, "Your history is our history, our history is your history."

Auntie Jean will share about her work in Aboriginal ministry over the past 60 years, including her current ministry with Aboriginal peoples across South East Queensland, opening our eyes to the reality of the injustices facing Aboriginal peoples and the importance of acknowledging our shared history.

Day: Tuesday 15th February, 2022

Time: 7:30pm

Where: [Online via Zoom](#)

Cost: Flexible ticket prices - all money will go to Auntie Jean's ministry



Exciting Learning Opportunity!

Now that school's back, is it time for you to try learning something new? Maybe it's to get more involved in the community? Then why not combine both by enrolling in a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Introductory Course.

This 5 day course is a great way to get a feel for pastoral and spiritual care and includes topics such as: What is Pastoral/ Spiritual Care; empathy, grief and loss, spiritual reflection and self-care. It runs on 5 Wednesdays from Mar 2 to Mar 30, 9-5pm in Queanbeyan and costs \$400. It is followed by a longer CPE unit for those interested in more in-depth training in spiritual care. Enrolments close soon.

Please contact Susanne Schmidt for enrolment on 0431 243 486 or at susannecpe@gmail.com

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ Recovery efforts in Tonga & Madagascar
- ⇒ The work of the World Food Program in the Horn of Africa and Afghanistan
- ⇒ Peaceful resolution of tensions in and around Ukraine

IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ Safety and security for transgender, intersex and non-binary school students
- ⇒ Progress for the Federal Parliament in implementing the recommendations of the Jenkins Report
- ⇒ Continued reductions in rates of COVID infections across the country

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Ministry with Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ⇒ St Paul's Manuka & St David's Red Hill
- ⇒ St David's Close Self Care Units
- ⇒ Aged Care Chaplaincy
- ⇒ Calvary John James Hospital
- ⇒ Parliamentary Christian Fellowship
- ⇒ Prime Minister Morrison, Opposition Leader Albanese, all members and senators
- ⇒ Strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous peoples, for the benefit of all Australians

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Hugh and Sarah McWilliam, Jenny Madden, Jean Main, Rob Maron, Bec and Benjamin Marston and Margaret Martin.
- ⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer including Barry Button, Elizabeth Grant, Bev Barnes, Brianna Smith's family, Claire Whelband and anyone known to us personally.

COMMEMORATIONS

- Sunday: Phyllis Elizabeth ("Teddy") Oldfield (d. 1994)
Monday: Julie Ann Shelley (d.1978)

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- Sunday: Bea Duncan
Tuesday: Ken Wedgewood, Jean Main
Wednesday: Jenny Lange

Anglican News

The February edition of Anglican News will be available on the Diocesan website soon. Once it is available, you can [download it here](#)

COLLECT for 6th Sunday after Epiphany

Righteous God,
you challenge the powers that rule this world
and you show favour to the oppressed:
instil in us a true sense of justice,
that we may discern the signs of your kingdom
and strive for right to prevail;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

READINGS

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalm 1

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

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Youth Coordinator

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