

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 29 MAY 2022
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

<https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUcja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRlI0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366

Password: 033643

SUNDAY 29 MAY

8am and 10 am Holy Communion
Celebrant and Preacher:
The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton

5pm: Twilight Conversation

WEDNESDAY 1 JUNE

Communion Service and lunch: 12
midday

SUNDAY 5 JUNE—Pentecost

8am and 10 am Holy Communion
Celebrant and Preacher:
The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton
10am led by Youth & Kids Church
3.30pm- Colours of God

5pm: Twilight Conversation

COMING UP

30 May: Reconciliation Day
4 June: Parish Planning Afternoon
6 June: Family Pizza Night

Bank Details for Direct Debit are:

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

That They May Be One...

'I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may be all one.' (Jn 17: 20)

These words from Jesus' High Priestly Prayer come near the end of his final teaching discourse. Themes developed in the previous four chapters are now gathered into a sublime vision of evolving intimacy and union where all is connected, and all is well.

Yet as TS Eliot reminds us, 'Between the idea[]/and the reality... falls the shadow'. Just look at the history of the Christian Church. We may know of congregations riven by unresolved disagreements about doctrine or behaviour. We ask: Where is the inclusiveness of Christ? Where is the love that is supposed to bear witness to a sceptical world of the reality of God's presence in our midst?

Often what we see is more about power and control springing from fear and competitiveness – more about enforcing conformity than encouraging people to become who they are meant to be in God.

The oneness that Jesus speaks of embraces diversity and can allow for conflict. I like the way Julian of Nor-

wich speaks of 'oneing' and being 'oned' into God, because this suggests a dynamic process of reconciliation. Often the discordant elements within us or within our communities need to be heard and acknowledged before they can be reconciled and healed. Transformation, healing, and integration take time, often requiring a profound shift in the way we see ourselves, God and those around us.

We need to grow in our capacity to love. I love St Paul's recommendation: *'Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ'* (Ephes. 4:15). Yet there is the crunch, when each party thinks they know the truth. Sometimes it is hard to recognise the God or Christ the other is claiming as their authority!

Perhaps it is helpful to think about our families and communities as contexts given to us to learn how to love, and how to grow to know the One who is both Truth and Love. Then we can be agents of Love and Reconciliation in the world around us. Serendipitously, tomorrow is Reconciliation Day in Canberra!

Frances MacKay

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Strong Survivor

U is a middle-aged woman who had initially reached out to SJC for

support when her daughter fell pregnant at a young age in 2020. Since then, we have provided U, her daughter, and her grandchild, with support including fresh fruit, vegetables, meat, baby formula, wipes, and nappies.

U has experienced trauma from a young age through to the present day. Despite this, she has always continued moving forward with a positive outlook and has made every effort to provide her daughter and grandchild with the type of upbringing she was never afforded herself.

In recent months, U had managed to save up enough to purchase car, and enroll in an online course, with hopes of being able to gain full-time employment – something she was very much looking forward to. SJC had supported her with book packs, and schooling supplies, and assisted her in the enrollment process – things were looking positive, and I enjoyed seeing her and hearing about the progress she was making with her course.

I was sitting at my desk early this week when I received a call from U that deeply saddened me. I listened carefully, her words interrupted by hurried breathing and sobbing.

“I am a complete mess; I feel so broken” she said. U recalled the breakdown of her relationship over the previous two weeks, and how her ex-partner became increasingly aggressive. U had suffered extreme physical abuse at the hands of this man and had ended up in hospital with 3 broken ribs, and a punctured lung. He has been apprehended and is in police custody.

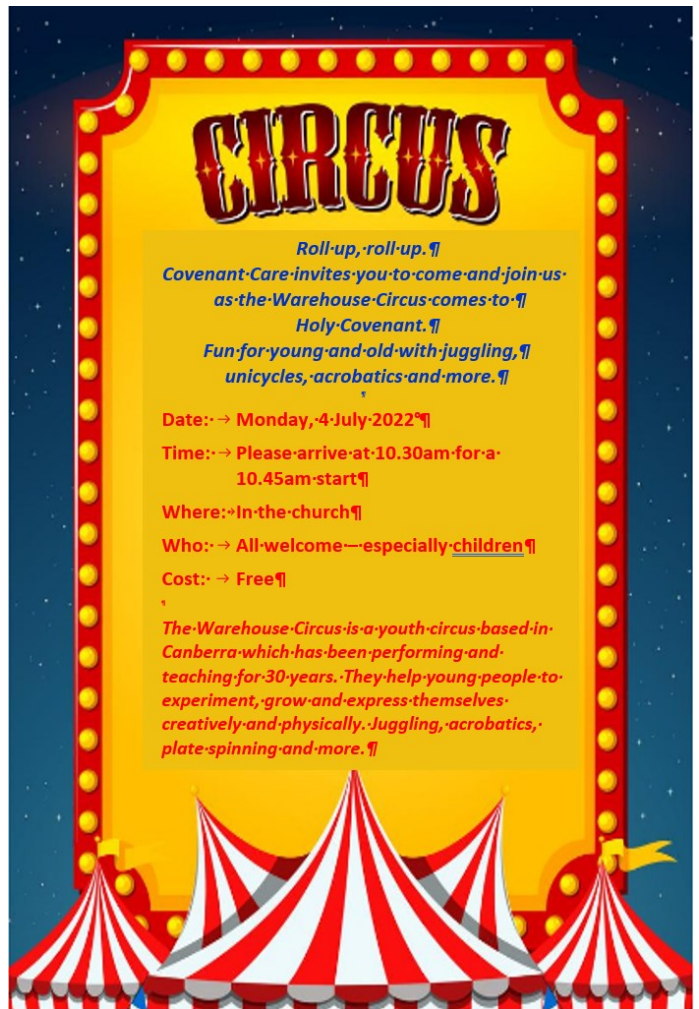
Over the last two weeks, U had missed important deadlines for her online course and was unable to be contacted, missing important calls, meaning she is yet to receive her government income this fortnight. U is recovering from her injuries and is being supported by Domestic Violence Crisis Services.

As I am writing this, the volunteers are preparing several bags of groceries for U and her family. I have contacted a local pharmacy to order a few items to assist U in her recovery and will deliver them along with the food to her this afternoon. We will also work with U to get an exemption for her course and complete the necessary steps to reinstate her support payments.

I look forward to providing all our supporters with positive news regarding U's recovery in the coming months.

Robbie Speldewinde, Operations Manager

Items required: juice poppers, cooking oil, tomato sauce, savoury biscuits



A touched heart

Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see their God. Matthew 5:8

My gaze rested on a spent rose, visible from my sacred space. It had come to bud, flourished in its life and brought awe and wonder to many a passerby, but now it was fading. It had run the race of life and rested quietly on the bush, dropping its petals one by one. As my gaze deepened into meditation I reflected on an elderly lady in our church service in the nursing home, a beautiful Christian soul who faithfully attended the services and participated, even in her dementia. Since I saw her last her health had deteriorated and she had transitioned into a day bed and was seemingly asleep. I looked at her and thought, 'she is on her way to God.' As communion was distributed, she was gently tapped on the shoulder to see if she was conscious and her eyes opened wide and in a very clear, strong voice she said, 'I am still here!' She received her communion before falling back into sleep. It was a wonderful God moment that truly touched my heart. I read this quote some time ago: 'A touched heart means that in some way God has come.'

Grace and peace from the Lord Jesus Christ

Anne, servant of the Lord



I am still here!

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

Parish Planning Afternoon—Part Two

After a busy afternoon of setting goals for our ministry groups at the first session, now it's time for step two—developing a plan to achieve those goals. If you are a leader of one (or more) of our ministry groups, please join us at the Worship Centre at 1pm on June 4th.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday
4
June

Parish Planning Part
Two

Afternoon tea will be provided.

Church Carpet

The church carpet was professionally cleaned a couple of weeks ago.

You may note that some stains cannot be removed. This is mainly because spillages were not cleaned up when they occurred. The main culprits are coffee, hot chocolate and various food-stuffs (particularly chocolate cake).

We ask for your cooperation in cleaning up any spillages immediately after they happen. Cleaning materials are in the cupboard in the multipurpose room, and there is a small battery-powered vacuum cleaner next to the cupboard.



**ACT Churches Council
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

**A Service for National Reconciliation Week
4.30pm, Sunday 29th May
Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture
15 Blackall Street, Barton**



This year the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity coincides with National Reconciliation Week.

Please join the ACT Churches for an ecumenical service of reconciliation and healing. We invite all Canberra churches to reflect on how to listen to the Uluru "Statement from the Heart" and respond in real and practical ways.

The service will include an act of acknowledgement and commemoration led by Making Peas/ce reconciliation ministry focussing on colonial era conflicts.

All are welcome to gather for the lighting of the fire at 4pm at the Meeting Place fire circle. The service will begin outside at 4.30pm. We will move into the Chapel after sunset at 5pm. The service will conclude at 6pm, followed by refreshments.



Organised by the ACT Churches Council

Contact Rev Tim Watson: rector@holycrosshackett.org.au

#NRW2022 #wpcu2022





ZAMZAM FOUNDATION
بنیاد زمزم

ZamZam Foundation Australian Launch & Fundraiser

Join us for an evening of Afghan food, fashion, art and music. All proceeds go towards food and supplies for vulnerable women and families in Afghanistan.

TICKETS \$30 per person

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Live music performance by Fred Smith
- ✓ Afghan cuisine tasting and fashion show
- ✓ Art photography and silent auction
- ✓ Guest speakers including Virginia Haussegger and former Afghanistan MP and ZamZam Foundation president, Dr Nilofar Ibrahim

TIME & DATE
7:00pm - 9:30pm
11 June 2022

VENUE
Multicultural Hub
Level 2, 180 London Circuit

TICKETS & EVENT DETAILS – bit.ly/ZZFundraiser2022

ACT FOR PEACE
CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER
THROUGH THE **actalliance**

**Week of Prayer for
Christian Unity**

The 2022 theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – *We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship (Matthew 2:2)* – was chosen by the Middle East Council of Churches.

As we prepare for Pentecost, I hope you will make time to celebrate this annual event, glorifying God by coming together and working with church communities and their congregations.

Even when faced with uncertainty and even despair, I remember the power of prayer. Prayer brings hope. Prayer unites. Prayer strengthens.

Please join me in prayer and ask God to comfort, protect and provide for refugees and displaced people around the world who are suffering.

Andy - Act for Peace

Bible Society Oceania Alliance

On May 19th, the Bible Societies of Australia, Papua New



(PNG) and the South Pacific celebrated the formation of the Bible Society Oceania Alliance.

The goal is to support the capacity of local Bible Society teams as they share the Gospel with their communities. It's an opportunity to create a more collaborative regional Bible Society that works more closely on:

- Scripture translation
- Bible distribution
- Church engagement and training
- Bible-based literacy programs.

Find out more at the Bible Society website.

Christ Church Hawker Quarterly Men's Luncheon Forum

Tuesday 31 May, Birrigai Café Kangara Waters
11.45am—2pm. Cost \$32 for a 2-course meal, including tea & coffee.

Dr Bob Miller is speaking on "Through the lens: archaeology and photography in a post-Christian society." Working with a variety of national and international universities and institutions, Bob has photographed in Cyprus, Greece, Jordan, Syria and Turkey, on sites ranging from Neolithic, Bronze Age, through Iron Ages and Classical Greco-Roman eras to Byzantine and Medieval periods. His photography is extensively represented in a number of collections. Embracing digital techniques and providing images using sound principles of design and technology have been a hallmark of Bob's photography. Bob is also an active member of Mosaic Baptist Church in Page.

RSVPs to Bruce Hooley by Thursday 26 May
(6251-7124; brucehooley.1@bigpond.com)

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ For refugees and displaced people, that donations will multiply to meet increasing need
- ⇒ Empowerment for human rights defenders
- ⇒ A just end to the war in Ukraine, and complete withdrawal of Russian troops

IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ A smooth transition for our new federal government
- ⇒ New opportunities for reconciliation

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Province of Papua New Guinea
- ⇒ Theological Colleges & Church Schools of the Anglican Church of Australia
- ⇒ Special Ministries: Military Christian Fellowship: Business Life
- ⇒ Religious education in schools and parishes in both ACT and NSW
- ⇒ Education for Ministry Diocesan Coordinator
- ⇒ Confirmation Preparation: Confirmation candidates, the Catechumenate and Alpha programs
- ⇒ Outreach and ministry amongst youth.

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including James Collier; Ursula Conan-Davies; Mark and Allison Cooper-Stanbury; and Kerin Cox.
- ⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer including Barry Button, Elizabeth Grant, Bev Barnes, Claire Whelband, Ted and Penny Lilley, Catherine Lorimer and anyone known to us personally

COMMEMORATIONS

- Sunday:** Ken Mugford (d. 2005)
Thursday: John Philip Lane (d. 2012)
Friday: Isabel Hazelwood (d. 1994)

Anglican News

The May edition of Anglican news is available [here](#).

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

COLLECT for Seventh Sunday of Easter

Almighty God,
whose blessed Son before his passion prayed for his disciples
that they might be one, as you and he are one:
grant that your Church,
being bound together in love and obedience to you,
may be united in one body by the one Spirit,
that the world might believe in him whom you have sent,
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives with you now and always. Amen.

READINGS

Acts 16:16-34
Psalm 97
Revelation 22:12-22
John 17:20-26

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

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