

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2023
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

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 26 FEBRUARY

8am Holy Communion
10am Holy Communion
Celebrant and Preacher:
The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton
5pm Twilight Conversations

WEDNESDAY 29 FEBRUARY

12 Midday Communion Service and lunch

SUNDAY 5 MARCH

8am Holy Communion
10am Holy Communion
Celebrant and Preacher:
The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton
5pm Twilight Conversations

Coming up:

Pizza Night: March 3
Missional Spirituality pt 2: March 9
Men's Dinner: March 10

Bank details for direct debit:

Bank: Commonwealth
Branch: Jamison Centre ACT
BSB 062 907
Account No: 802588
Name: Holy Covenant Anglican Church

The power of myth

"Fable has broad shoulders and can carry more truth than fact can." (Barry Hughart) The story of Adam and Eve and the serpent and the apple is fable. Or, rather, myth. That is, a story containing truth. "Myths are clues to the spiritual potentialities of the human life" (Joseph Campbell). In such stories we look for the truth rather than focussing on trappings such as "which variety of apple?" "was the snake venomous?". We have to dig a little to discover its truths.

I will approach this story indirectly. We as humans experience through our senses. We observe patterns – day and night, the seasons, ... And when we observe patterns we speculate. We hypothesise, form laws and test them. These laws help us to understand the world in which we live. Over time, these understandings coalesce into coherent bodies of knowledge and understanding we call Theories – electromagnetism, Newtonian gravity, general relativity, etc. We call this Science. The technologies that ensue enable us to construct flying machines, determine our GPS location, build bridges that don't fall down and make smart phones. These are an integral part of our lives.

But they do not determine who we are. Science helps us understand the world in which we live. But it does

not tell us what makes us human. It does not address love, altruism, compassion, morality, the knowledge of good and evil. It is these that give meaning to our lives.

Today's OT story is a creation story. It is not telling us how we came to be, but who we are. We are created to know good from evil, to love, show compassion, develop codes of ethics. This story begins to answer the two fundamental defining questions of any community of faith: "Who are we?" and "How shall we live?" (James Sanders).

This odd little story, easily dismissed, situated in the creation myths of Gen. 1-3, precipitates us on a journey. A journey that encompasses the ten commandments (Ex. 20:1-17); leaving gleanings for the needy and the stranger (Lev. 19:10); doing justice, loving mercy and walking humbly before God (Micah 6:8); loving God with all our heart, soul and strength (Deut. 6:5), our neighbours as ourselves (Lev. 19:18), and elaborated upon by Jesus in Matt. 5 "but I say to you". A journey that shapes our relationship with our kind and with our God. A journey that determines who we are and who we are to become.

The season of Lent encourages us to continue this journey, and to reflect upon it.

David Clark

St Mark's Commencement Lecture

27 February—7pm

Hear St Mark's Director, the Revd Associate Professor Andrew Cameron explore the complex and often confusing intersection between emotions and ethics and how Christian theology can offer guidance on this important subject.

The event will be held in the Durie room and over Zoom (<https://charlessturt.zoom.us/j/5426137945>)

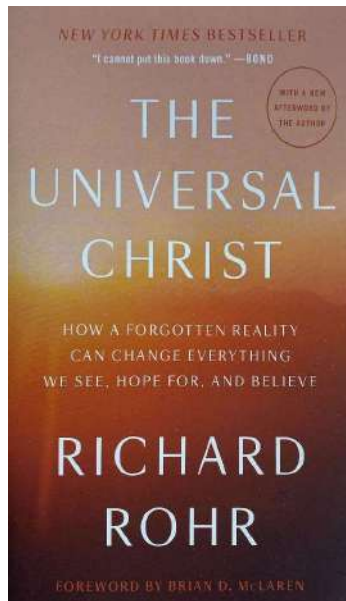
RSVP for catering to 02 6272 6252

Lenten Study

Lightning in a bottle is one way of thinking about how the divine presence was contained within the person of Jesus. Another way, is to see Jesus as reconnecting us with the majesty of love, which is God's presence within you, me and the entire cosmos.

Join us for a six week tour with Richard Rohr as we read together, *The Universal Christ*.

Meeting over Zoom on Wednesdays from 7.30pm.



Unexpected Gifts.

Love divine, all love excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down. (Charles Wesley)

Silent in the sacred space I saw a feather; so colourful, dressed in shades of blue, dancing in the breeze then gently it rested at my feet. Little gifts. Little messages of love!

In response I said a silent prayer: Creator God -you clothe all your creation in beauty – may we also dance in the breeze leaving little gifts, little messages of love where we have been. Amen.

May the peace of God fill your life every single day.



Anne, servant of the Lord

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

Dressed in shades of blue

A Long Way from Home

Last week a volunteer came to my desk and asked if I could come and have a chat with a young man who had come to the Centre. As I opened the front doors, I was met by a scared and uneasy face.

G had spent most of his life in Africa, living with his sister and parents. Two years ago, his parents managed to save enough money to send him and his sister to Melbourne. He was accepted into Melbourne University, and both siblings worked in retail to make ends meet.

About 3 or 4 months after arriving in Australia, G's sister met her boyfriend, and the pair moved in together.

Although he was happy for his sister, G was now left to live alone and was now missing his main source of support in Australia. He decided it was time for a change and so he sold his belongings and transferred to the Australian Catholic University (ACU) in Canberra where he was due to start this week. He had saved enough money to pay for 3 weeks of rent upfront in Canberra and would use his Centrelink income to get by.

On his way up from Melbourne, he stopped at a rest stop to get sleep. He was awoken by an unfamiliar figure at his car door and was subsequently robbed. His wallet, bank cards, ID and cash were taken from him. I could sense the level of fear in his voice as he recounted the events with tears streaming down his face. He reported the crime to the police, and then continued his journey to Canberra, before being referred to St John's Care by the police.

One of our volunteers began to put together a food pack for G, as we continued our conversation. We provided G with blankets, pillows, and some gift cards to purchase some basic cooking utensils.

I contacted the ACU to explore some long-term accommodation options whilst he studied. After multiple phone calls, G was contacted by a staff member from ACU who offered him affordable rent, and St John's Care covered the required upfront payments.

G was absolutely thrilled; his demeanour began to change. With an understanding of his employment history, I referred him to a relevant job agency. He has been offered an interview as a disability support worker and will meet with his prospective employer this week.

The collective effort of everyone at St John's Care has propelled this individual towards a more successful future.

Robbie Speldewinde, Operations Manager

Items required: Tomato Sauce, Muesli, Tinned meat e.g., Irish stew, Olive oil, toothpaste

LENT AS A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

Lent is a time when we make more room for God by discovering the freedom, hope and healing that lies at the heart of Jesus' ministry. Why not take the journey with us?



WEEK
1



TEMPTATION (Matt 4.1-11)

Jesus was tempted through hunger, insecurity and powerlessness. Where are you vulnerable in life?



WEEK
2



DIRECTION (John 3.1-17)

People without a sense of direction or purpose can find themselves in trouble. Do you know where you are going in life?



WEEK
3



ISOLATION (John 4.5-42)

Shame weakens our sense of self and connection with others. God overcomes our shame by being with us. How might shame be holding you back?



WEEK
4



BLINDNESS (John 9.1-41)

We all have blindspots or things that we can't or won't see about ourselves. How might God help you to see yourself better?



WEEK
5



LETTING GO (John 11.1-45)

People get stuck when they can't let go of the things, places or people they love. Where might you feel stuck in life?

We never have to deal with temptation, restlessness, isolation, blindspots or being stuck by ourselves. God came to be with us in the person of Jesus. A new chapter in our lives can always be written with God's help.

Out of Office

A reminder that Megan's office hours are unpredictable for the next few weeks while she is supporting her mother through radiation treatment. Best contact is email: office@holycovenant.org.au

Out of Office

Lent & Good Friday Appeal

The national mission agency of the Anglican Church of Australia is the Anglican Board of Mission (ABM). Anglicans in Development (AID) is wholly-owned by ABM, and operates ABM's Sustainable Communities Program.

This year, the AID Lent & Good Friday Appeal supports the work of the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem, via the outreach of the Ahli Hospital in Gaza and a new youth empowerment project.

Shorouq is a young mother, who lives in one of the most marginalised parts of Gaza City. Her two-year-old daughter, Hala, was screened and selected to be part of the Ahli's child nutrition program to address her malnutrition.

In Shorouq's words, "We are living in deplorable conditions. We are unable to meet our fundamental demands. We are completely reliant on [United Nations] food assistance, which is insufficient because we also require medicine and cash to purchase other necessities.

"I heard about the free nutrition program that Ahli Arab Hospital implemented...The Ahli was a compassionate and delightful place for us as they cared for my daughter and provided us with the necessary medications, vitamins, and biscuits that supported her quick recovery."

As well as being good news for little Hala, the Ahli's program was also good news for Shorouq on a more personal level, as she received health and nutrition training both in her home and her community from women community trainers (mobilisers) who have been especially trained by the Ahli.

Shorouq continues: "I acquired more and more knowledge; my health awareness increased through the Ahli's 'woman-to-woman approach'. Their community mobiliser visited me twice a month, correcting my misconceptions and wrong health behaviours, and improving my communication skills, and gender and protection concepts. All of this knowledge and skills positively impacted my



life.

"After participating in the individual awareness workshops, I became stronger, I can face the injustice that may occur, and I can protect myself alone. My awareness of my rights and responsibilities was raised; I am capable of solving my problems alone now. I have good communication channels and dialogue with my husband... And I succeeded to change some negative behaviours for myself and my husband such as helping me in the home, since I



have a risky pregnancy.

"Many thanks to the Ahli Hospital and to AID, and to all the people who care for vulnerable groups and provide assistance to the needy," Shorouq remarks graciously.

Your support of this appeal will empower many vulnerable women

like Shorouq, and will give their children a much greater chance of a healthy life.

You can donate to the AID Lent & Good Friday appeal online: <https://www.abmission.org/appeals/appeals-major/lent2023/>

Life Context Workshop

All are welcome to the Intensive Journal workshop coming up in Canberra led by Kate Scholl. The workshop is co-hosted by Eremos and the Benedictus Contemplative Community.

- Friday and Saturday 3 - 4 March 2023
- 9:30 am-5 pm Friday and 9 am – 4:30 pm Saturday (AEDT)
- Venue: **St Ninian's Uniting Church** 150 Brigalow St, Lyneham ACT

Often we desire to live more authentically and to feel more connected to our 'soul' or 'spirit'. This workshop introduces the Intensive Journal® process developed by Ira Progoff which is a practical tool to explore our inner stirrings and become more grounded in our own life. No prior experience with journal writing is needed.

Cost: \$180 or \$160 for Eremos and Benedictus members. Bookings close **28 February** or when workshop is full.

\$20 discount for previous participants who have the Intensive

Journal workbook.

For more details or to register go to: https://www.eremos.org.au/index.cfm?mod=ule=event&pagemode=indiv&page_id=1779967

More information about Kate and the workshops can be found on the Eremos website: <https://www.eremos.org.au/intensive-journal--workshops>

This workshop is on our Facebook page as an event. Please share! <https://www.facebook.com/events/525190239628575/>

Questions? Contact Kate at events@eremos.org.au or tel 0425 211 065



Men's Dinner—March 10th

The first Men's Dinner for 2023 is happening!

Our guest speaker is Paul Collins. Paul is an historian, broadcaster and writer. A Catholic priest for thirty-three years, he resigned from the active ministry in 2001 following a dispute with the Vatican over his book *Papal Power* (1997). He is the author of seventeen books. The two most recent are *Absolute Power. How the pope became the most influential man in the world* (New York: Public Affairs, 2018) and *The Depopulation Imperative. How many people can earth support?* (Melbourne: Australian Scholarly 2021). A former head of the religion and

ethics department in the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), he is well known as a commentator on Catholicism and the papacy and also has a strong interest in ethics, environmental and population issues.

Paul will speak on the topic ***Where to from here for Catholics and Anglicans?***

www.paulcollinscatholicwriter.com.au

When: March 10th, 6pm

Where: Worship Centre

What: BYO drinks

Cost: \$15

RSVP: office@holycovenant.org.au by March 8th

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ The physical and mental health of the people living and working in the Türkiye-Syria border region
- ⇒ Withdrawal of Russian forces on the 1st anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine
- ⇒ Recovery efforts in New Zealand
- ⇒ Reducation of tensions in the Korean peninsula

IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ Peace and healing for those testifying to the Sackar inquiry into gay hate crimes
- ⇒ Transparency and accountability in our federal, state & territory politics

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of Wangaratta
- ⇒ Sapphire Coast Anglican Church, Wambiri Youth and Conference Centre & Sapphire Coast Anglican College
- ⇒ Anglicare South East, Bimbimbie Park/ Albert Moore Gardens, Merimbula, Sanananda Park/ Hugh Cunningham Gardens, Tura Beach and Ross Wotton Gardens, Eden
- ⇒ St John's Bega
- ⇒ The Church's ministry in holiday resorts, and the work of evangelism in every parish and institution throughout the Diocese

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Hugh and Sarah MacWilliam; Jenny Madden; Jean Main; Rob Maron; and Bec and Benjamin Marston
- ⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer including Barry Button; Bev Barnes; Brian and Elaine Dennis; Colin & Marilyn Tolano; Glenys Wimmer; Ann & Peter Bazeos; Maggie Watts; Alice Farrington; Bev Chambers, and anyone known to us personally

COMMEMORATIONS

26 Feb Betty Joan Cooper (d. 2008)
Jennifer Ellen Baines (d. 2019)
Elizabeth Joyce Jennings (d. 2019)

BIRTHDAYS

26 Feb Rick Tilden
27 Feb Rika Kobayashi
1 Mar Ursula Conan-Davies
3 Mar Richard Taylor

BIBLE READINGS

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-21
Matthew 4:1-11

COLLECT for 1st Sunday of Lent

Gracious God,
out of your love and mercy
you breathed into dust the breath of life,
creating us to serve you and one another:
call forth our penitence and acts of love,
and strengthen us to face our mortality,
so that we may look with confidence for your
salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

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