

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 2 JULY 2023
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

<https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRlSEVIRll0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366
Password: 033643

SUNDAY 2 JULY

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

WEDNESDAY 5 JULY

12 Midday Communion Service and lunch.

SUNDAY 9 JULY

8am & 10am: Holy Communion
Celebrant & Preacher: The Revd Wendy Robertson

Coming soon:

Thurs 6 July: Community Lunch
Fri 7 July: Pizza Night
Sat 29 July: Parish Dinner

Bank details for direct debit:

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

The Sacrifice of Isaac *Genesis 22: 1-14*

This passage is one many have found disturbing or horrifying. On the face of it, God appears cruel, callous, arbitrary. How can this be the God of love, the God we know? What is this passage saying, and where is God in the story?

Why did God called for Abraham to sacrifice his son? The easy answer is to call it a “test”, but then why test **now** and why **in this way**. The passage opens with “after these things” (*Gen. 22:1*); the previous chapter saw Abraham organising a treaty with the king of the Philistines. Thanksgiving is one reason for a burnt offering. However, the previous chapter also described Abraham driving out Hagar and Ishmael, Abraham’s first-born son, because the child was a perceived threat to Isaac. The two were sent into the wilderness with bread and water. It was through the intervention of an angel that they were saved when their water ran out, but Abraham didn’t know that. Atonement is another major reason for burnt offerings.

Is God calling for a sacrifice because of Abraham sending Ishmael and Hagar into the desert? There might be some sense of justice there, but we are still left uncomfortable with a call to sacrifice one’s own child.

Did Abraham believe he would be killing Isaac? In verse eight he tells Isaac God would provide the sacrifice, which suggests he hoped the story will end another way. The author of Hebrews suggests Abraham fully believed God would revive Isaac, and that his son would return from the dead (*Heb. 11:19*). In either case, we can see Abraham as more than simply following orders and have a sense of his inner turmoil.

Ultimately, God prevents the sacrifice of Isaac and the language of a ‘test’ in verse one implies God never wanted or intended the sacrifice to go ahead. In one sense, this scene foretells the life of another long-awaited beloved son, who carried the wood of his sacrifice on his own back, and whose story ended in a way none expected, affirming God’s love and provision for humanity.

Tobias Neville

Local support

We have been incredibly humbled by the support that we have received from various groups across Canberra over the last few weeks. After a challenging couple of months including being broken into twice and supporting record numbers of clients in April and May, we have warmly welcomed the amazing support we have received.

A couple of weeks ago our dear friends at MTP services donated three Surface Pro computers to us. These devices will be used daily by staff and volunteers to access and update client records, contact clients and specialist services for referrals. We would like to sincerely thank MTP for their ongoing support over the last twelve months and their generous donations of IT equipment.

On Saturday 17 June, members of Holy Covenant held a food drive at Jamison Plaza and collected over 240 bags of groceries. This is a fantastic result and is an indication that our community is aware of the level of hardship that many are facing and is willing to support those people.

Last week I was fortunate enough to be able to visit two primary schools who ran food drives for us over the past few weeks/months. Students and school leaders from Campbell and Florey primary schools organised and facilitated a collection of pantry items for our clients. It was a pleasure to have a chat with so many children who are enthusiastic about supporting those doing it tough in our community. I would like to thank everyone who was involved in making the drives successful.

We are so thankful for the support that we have received from these groups/organisations and from individual members of the community.

Robbie Speldewinde, Operations Manager

Items needed: olive oil, women's sanitary items, biscuits, shampoo, men's, and women's deodorant.

Anglican News

This month's edition of Anglican News is available at <https://anglicancg.org.au/news-and-events/anglican-news/>

What's your favourite article this month? Revd Waynes's or one of the others?

9

WAYS TO MAKE THINGS GREAT

BY HELPING AT HOLY COVENANT

jamming with the music team by playing or singing



helping with hospitality after services or pizza nights



reading, praying or leading in the sanctuary



creating small groups for fun, growth or study



pastoral care for those in times of need



welcoming guests and inviting them out



helping with kids church, youth group, camps or adventure activities



sound desk, cameras, computers, copying, service sheets & social media



These are our ideas. Maybe you have another gift or talent you'd like to share? Why not talk to Wayne or Wendy and see what happens



WINTER COMMUNITY LUNCH

THURSDAY 6 JULY 2023

12 MIDDAY

HOLY COVENANT
ANGLICAN CHURCH

<https://events.humanitix.com/winter-community-lunch>

Winter Community Lunch

Do you want to listen to Revd Wendy talk about what chaplains and pastoral care teams can do when a loved one visits hospital? Do you have some time to spare on **Thursday 6 July** or in the lead-up to the day?

We need some helpers for the Community Lunch. Baking cake, biscuits or slices for dessert, setting up, serving lunch and packing up roles are available.

Please email Megan at office@holycovenant.org.au or sign up on the sign-in sheet on the back noticeboard if you can help.

Shalom, the Lord is peace

My peace I give you. John 14:27

There is a peace in us - 'God's peace' - that allows us to jump hurdles and ward off anxiety and sing a song even in hard times. It's a peace that carries us. A peace that sings in our soul. A peace that says 'all is well and all will be well'. It reminds me of the little bird that sat on a fragile twig that hung out over a great waterfall and despite the fragility of the twig, the chasm below and the roar of the waterfall he sat there and he sang and he sang. In all our ups and downs of life remember the words of Jesus: '*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.*' John 14:27.

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

Anne, servant of the Lord

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



Peace!



Let's work for real change
by respecting the
knowledge, culture and stories
of our First Peoples

Parish Dinner 2023

Our 2023 parish dinner will be with Genevieve Jacobs AM. Genevieve is a journalist who has built a career working in print and radio in the Canberra region, including a decade with ABC Radio Canberra and independent RIOTACT. She sits on the Cultural Facilities Corporation board and chairs the Canberra International Music Festival. She is a director of the Conflict Resolution Service, co-chair of the Reconciliation Council and board member of the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture. An active member of her Catholic parish, she is passionate about Canberra and how media can help build vibrant local communities.

When: 29 July, 6-9pm

Where: Holy Covenant Parish Centre

More information: <https://events.humanitix.com/parish-dinner>



The menu will be up on the back noticeboard in the next few weeks. Volunteer cooks will be needed, and that frozen tomato pasta sauce that people prepared earlier this year will be in demand.



Christian Leaders—Love your enemies

Stan Grant, a proud Wiradjuri man, is an Australian journalist, writer and radio and television presenter. As a member of the ABC commentary team during the Coronation of King Charles, Stan was asked what the monarchy represents for Wiradjuri people. He spoke truth, with love, about the dispossession of his people and the real and ongoing pain this causes. Whatever your political views, the vitriolic racism and death threats towards Stan and his family that followed the broadcast are abhorrent.

Stan has given us a tremendous gift, showing us how to 'love your enemies' (*Mat 5:44*).

To his abusers Stan said: *I'm sorry that I must have given you so much cause to hate me so much, to make threats against me and my family. I'm sorry.*

I am down right now. I am. But I will get back up and you can come at me again, and I will meet you with the love of my people. My people can teach the world to love. As Martin Luther King Jnr said: 'we will wear you down with our capacity to love'. Don't mistake our love for weakness. It is our strength. We have never stopped loving and fighting for justice and truth. The hard truths to speak in our land.

Stan has left me pondering how I respond to those who persecute me; treat me as 'less than', or who I find hard to love. What does it mean to wear people down with love?

I think it means maintaining opportunities for yarning, praying with a loving heart, being open to the restorative healing of God while always refusing to accept the detritus some will inevitably throw.



Joh Sheehan

Items for silent auction



One of the parish's main fundraisers is the silent auction (held in conjunction with the Parish Dinner). At a silent auction, items are displayed on tables and people place their bids on a sign up sheet.

Almost anything can be donated. Ideas include:

- Jewellery; cosmetics; vouchers for movies, coffee, a shopping spree at a garden
- alcohol or food – a hamper, chocolates, offers to bake a cake, host a meal
- skills – gardening, ironing, tutoring, babysitting
- good quality small household items – decanters, glasses, paintings
- a weekend at a holiday unit

Speak to Revd Wendy for further information.

In the **week before** the Parish Dinner, donations can be dropped off at the office marked 'for silent auction'.

CEO Sleepout—Thank You

Neville Tomkins OAM passes on his sincere thanks to everyone in the Parish who donated for his CEO Sleepout to raise desperately needed funds for our homeless people. His sponsorships totalled \$52,585 and were part of the \$800,000 raised locally to support Vinnies' programs in Canberra and the local region. All funds raised go to supplementing programs for emergency relief, Night Patrol (offering hot meals and drinks, blankets and reassuring conversations), and street to home assistance. He hopes you can support him again



Thank you!

As mentioned in the St John's Care update on p.2, many bags of groceries were donated at our collection on 17 June. Here's some photos to help us recognise how much food that is.



Covenant Care Update

While it's cold outside, things are certainly hotting up at Covenant Care.

The Day Hospice is so popular that we now have a waiting list! While it feels bad to tell people with life-limiting illness that they are on a waiting list, we don't want to overload the Day Hospice volunteers either.

There are also new Community Clients, which means an increased workload for Jennifer and Mel. One of those clients has this week obtained their very own ACT Housing unit, which is very exciting. That client has almost no personal belongings beyond their clothing, so we are looking for donations of the following household items:

- Refrigerator (max 880 mm wide x max 1750 mm high)
- Washing machine (max 840 mm wide)
- microwave
- vacuum cleaner
- double bed & mattress
- sofa
- armchairs
- curtains: living room window 1710 w x 2170 h, bedroom windows x 4 1070 h x 1070 w, bathroom 1090 h x 940 w and 1090 h x 610 w

Thank you in advance for any support that you can offer. Please email nurse@holycovenant.org.au to arrange collection of your donation.



Thank you from Companion House

Your donations of cookware and utensils to Companion House have been very gratefully accepted. Revd Wendy says that the cookware has been very popular. What a great way to demonstrate Holy Covenant's mission!



Interfaith Dialogues: Faith and the Democratic. Should faith-based traditions engage in politics?

6.00-8.00pm, 12 July, The Chapel, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, 15 Blackall Street Barton ACT.

Free entry.

Turkish cuisine supper provided at 6.00pm, Interfaith Dialogues start at 6.30pm

The Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture and Bluestar Institute are presenting an evening of interfaith dialogue, hosted by renowned political journalist, Paul Bongiorno. Our four faith speakers - Christian, Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu - will come together to discuss the topic of faith and democracy.

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/interfaith-dialogues-faith-and-the-democratic-tickets-598171676587>

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ People in Papua New Guinea impacted by tribal violence
- ⇒ Peace in Ukraine & the withdrawal of Russian troops

IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ Preparations for the Voice Referendum
- ⇒ Food & housing security for all Australians

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of Adelaide
- ⇒ Archdeacons, Area Deans, Professional Standards Board and Committees
- ⇒ Survivors of physical and sexual abuse
- ⇒ Continuing implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission including the National Redress Scheme and the implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care and the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Remus Douglas; Anne and Gary Drummond; Anne Dudzinski; Georgina and Andrew Dudzinski; Sue Dunbar; and Alan and Bea Duncan
- ⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer (often for long term needs) including Barry Button; Bev Barnes; Brian and Elaine Dennis; Glenys Wimmer; Ann & Peter Bazeos; Alice Farrington; Bev Chambers; Gracie Bonnett; Geoffrey Ross; Ewan Garside; Jacqueline Still and anyone known to us personally

COMMEMORATIONS

- 4 July Ted Lilley (d.2022)
- 5 July Arthur William Ryan (d. 1997)
- 8 July Iris Hall (d. 1996)

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 July Jono Elkhuizen
- 7 July Tahli Robertson

BIBLE READINGS

- Genesis 22.1–14
- Psalms 13
- Romans 6.12–23
- Matthew 10.40–42

COLLECT for 5th Sunday after Pentecost

O God,
your Son has taught us that those who give a cup
of water in his name
will not lose their reward:
open our hearts to the needs of your children,
and in all things make us obedient to your will,
so that in faith we may receive your gracious gift,
eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

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