

# HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



## SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2023 SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

<https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUUpja05YTXFCNON4MGRiSFVIRlI0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366  
Password: 033643

### SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

8am Holy Communion  
Celebrant & Preacher: Revd Lynda McMinn  
10am Holy Communion  
Celebrant Revd Anne Dudzinski  
Preacher Revd Lynda McMinn

### WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

12 Midday Communion Service and lunch

### SUNDAY 1 OCTOBER

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

### Coming soon:

Thurs 28 Sept: Community Lunch  
Tues 3 Oct: Afternoon Tea with James Alison

### Bank details for direct debit:

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

## God's Generosity

Matthew 20: 1-16

The gospel today ends with a question: "Are you envious because I am generous?"

The parable of the workers in the vineyard strikes at the heart of our notion of fairness. I'm sure we all remember as children, checking to see that we had the same amount of cordial in the glass as our siblings or the same share of whatever was being given out. Very early on, we develop a sense of what's fair and protest loudly if we think something is not fair, just like the workers who worked for the whole day.

In a world where we measure value by effort, then perhaps it's not fair. If we go back to the beginning of the reading, Jesus says: "The kingdom of God is like..." and then tells this parable. He ends with a focus on envy and generosity. Two different ways of being in the world. What's a worldview based on human effort or meritocracy like? It's a worldview of scarcity. That's what breeds envy. It says: "There's only a certain amount to go round and I will make sure I get my share. If someone else gets more, then there's not enough for me." This worldview

creates divisions, separates people and makes everything a competition for the finite resources available.

Jesus is saying the Kingdom of God is **NOT** like this.

Jesus presents an alternative based on generosity – a worldview of grace. In this worldview everything is a gift and there is more than enough for everyone. Grace reveals the goodness of God. The only precondition of grace is that we show up and open ourselves to receive what God is giving. This parable invites us to see beyond what we think we deserve to the fathomless mystery of grace. We get so much more than what we deserve. This reminds me of one of my favourite quotes by Frederick Buechner: "Listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery it is. In the boredom and pain of it, no less than in the excitement and gladness ... because in the last analysis all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace."

What do you choose, envy or generosity?

Sue Dunbar

## A life changing conversation

K hadn't been to St John's Care (SJC) Centre since 2022. When he recently returned, I sat down with him to ask him how he had been.

K has been homeless for over 25 years. After the breakdown of his marriage and a deterioration of his mental health, he left the home he had lived in for most of his life. After some time couch surfing, he took to living on the streets and began using drugs. K visited Centrelink and got into an argument with one of the staff members. This led to him leaving and never returning.

This has meant that for over 25 years, K has received no welfare payments, and has relied solely on the support of community organisations, and generous individuals. During our conversation, K reflected on his negative experience with the staff member all those years ago. "I wasn't in a good place when I entered that building and when I left I decided I never wanted to go back. I lost trust in the system and society in general", he said.

We spoke at length about his regrets, his successes and his biggest challenges. K conceded that living without welfare payments made life incredibly difficult. While not having used drugs in 10 years, K had burned bridges with almost all his family and friends. His life consisted of travelling to various organisations for food and other types of support. K still had some unresolved mental health issues.

I could feel a level of trust being built between us and I offered to help K in applying for income support. After some moments of deliberation and some reassurance from me, K accepted my offer.

We booked and paid for a session with a GP and I referred K to an organisation which offers free sessions with a psychologist. I assisted K with filling in the appropriate paperwork and getting to and from his appointments. K has been back to SJC for food regularly and we have been able to provide him with a few other household items.

Last week K received his first welfare support payment. The excitement on his face was palpable. Over the coming weeks I will support K in applying for housing and hope to find him somewhere safe and stable to live.

It is amazing how powerful one conversation can be in changing the trajectory of someone's life forever.

*Robbie Speldewinde Operations Manager*

**Items Required:** tinned fish, tinned fruit & tinned vegetables; pasta meals

## Brilliant Creator

*"all creation shows your glory, heaven and earth draw near your throne, singing, 'Holy, holy, holy'"*. (TIS 99)

God's love for us is so great that he showers us with countless gifts and blessings. He lavishes his love on us and it's all about for us to see. Just sit awhile and look, unwrap each bit of his beauty before you and enjoy with thanks and praise, marvelling at the brilliance of the creator. The other day I picked a small piece of the forget-me-not flowers from the garden and placed it in the lapel of my vest. All day long I saw and reflected the love of God for me, a God who will forget-me-not.

May the God of life bless you and keep you today and always.

*Anne, servant of the Lord*



Forget-me-not

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

# WE ARE HIRING!

ASSISTANT MINISTER,  
PERMANENT PART-TIME (3 DAYS PW)  
ENQUIRIES- REVD DR WAYNE BRIGHTON  
**0407 408 333**

**HOLY COVENANT**  
**ANGLICAN CHURCH**  
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## Assistant Minister, permanent part-time (3 days pw)

Holy Covenant is recruiting a permanent part-time position (3 days a week) commencing February 2024. We're looking for an engaging person who can connect well with families and build our relationships with those living and working in our neighbourhood. The position would be suitable for an ordained person or someone engaged with the ordination process as a student. Enquires to the Revd Dr Wayne Brighton (0407 408 333).

### Declutter Your Home Workshop

Are you wanting to reduce the amount of stuff in your home? Are you downsizing or assisting others to relocate? Would you like to develop your understanding of how to approach the sometimes daunting task of decluttering?

Join the Covenant Care Declutter Your Home Workshop running over 3 Thursday mornings in October at Holy Covenant.

Learn tips and techniques, gain insights and have fun in a supportive environment. Feeling uncertain? Bring a friend!

The workshop is being conducted by Jennifer Berrie, the Household Support Team Leader at Covenant Care. Jennifer has previously taught *Declutter Your Home* classes at community education evening classes and at the University of the Third Age, and has helped many

people to lighten up their homes.

**When:** 12, 19 & 26 October 2023, 9.30am-12.30pm

**Where:** Holy Covenant Anglican Church, 89 Dexter St Cook.

**Cost:** Free

**Bookings:** Use the sign up sheet on the back noticeboard, or contact Jennifer via email [nurse@holycovenant.org.au](mailto:nurse@holycovenant.org.au) or phone 0491 086.





## Christian Leaders—Catherine Keller

Catherine Keller practices theology as a relation between ancient hints of ultimacy and current matters of urgency. As the George T. Cobb Professor of Constructive Theology in the Theological School and Graduate Division of Religion of Drew University, she teaches courses in process, political, and ecological theology. Within and beyond Christian conversation, she has all along mobilized the transdisciplinary potential of feminist, philosophical, and pluralist intersections with religion.

Keller's most recent book *Facing Apocalypse: Climate, Democracy, and Other Last Chances* is a "dreamreading" of our current global crisis—particularly the threat of climate change and ecological devastation. Keller suggests that John's prophetic Apocalypse is not a foretelling of future events, but a parable of our present reality, which exposes the deep spiritual roots of these threats.

You can learn more about Keller's work in social and ecological justice, poststructuralist theory, and feminist readings of scripture and theology at her website: <https://catherineekeller.com/>



## When is a murder a wedding banquet, and who dunnit?

Exploring how Matthew's Jesus puts us on the spot

An evening with James Alison, hosted by Benedictus Contemplative Church.

Internationally renowned theologian and author James Alison promises to open new dimensions of the text of Scripture and the meaning of Jesus.

Where: St Ninians, 150 Brigalow St, Lyneham or via Zoom (link supplied on registration.)

When: Tuesday 3 October at 7pm.

Cost: \$10

Registration: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1114238>

## School holiday changes

Due to the youth & children's leaders being at Youth Camp from 22-24 September, there is no Kids' or Youth Church at the 10am service on Sunday 24 September.

Kids' and Youth Church will resume on 15 October.

# TRIVIA NIGHT

SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER 2022  
HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH  
89 DEXTER ST COOK  
RSVP: [OFFICE@HOLYCOVENANT.ORG.AU](mailto:OFFICE@HOLYCOVENANT.ORG.AU)



What is the Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait Islander Voice?  
Get informed at [Voice.gov.au](https://voice.gov.au)



Get informed.  
[Voice.gov.au](https://voice.gov.au)

## Synod Reflections

Representatives of ministry units and agencies from around the Diocese gathered in the Snow Concert Hall at the Canberra Grammar School for its Synod, a Greek word which means assembly or council. Anglicans don't always grasp the significance of this model for governance when much of our lives are lived in parishes or congregations.

Three dynamics are always evident when Synod gathers. First, the bishop is the president who sets the direction and shapes the culture of our church. Second, the bishops' office reports about their management, policies and vision for the future. Third, the people and not just the clergy get to participate by voicing their concerns and discussing matters of interest to them. Synod is a reminder that no parish lives in isolation and an encouragement that differences and even tensions exist that we are stronger together.

Our parish was represented by Wayne, Anne Ranse, Lynda McMinn, Merri Bacon, Belinda Moss and Russell Rollason. The following matters featured prominently in the Synod discussions:

1. Concern by evangelical leaders about trends of attendance. Average weekly attendance has fallen by 25% since 2017. This trend stirred calls for parishes to make greater efforts at evangelism particularly as the population of Canberra and the region is expected to double by 2060. Bishop Mark foreshadowed a diocese conference about evangelism in 2024.
2. The Revd Canon Associate Professor Uncle Glenn Loughrey was the synod guest speaker. He spoke strongly about the forthcoming referendum and explained the significance of connection between voice, treaty, truth-telling and Makarrata as the process for a renewed peace within the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Reactions were mixed. While many appreciated his reflections about the debate others were offended by his reflections about racism and Aboriginal spirituality.
3. Lynda led a debate about the diminishing level of

women in full-time stipendiary roles as parish rectors. Ministry statistics presented often highlight how women comprise a third of clergy however Lynda showed how the actual number of women in parish leadership roles have diminished precipitously. In 2015, there were 1 woman bishop, 3 archdeacons and 13 rectors yet by 2023 this had diminished to 3 rectors, 0 archdeacons and a bishop soon to retire. The synod accepted her request for a working group to investigate this disparity, to talk with women about their experiences and identify appropriate remedial strategies.

4. Wayne led the debate asking the synod to express its support for the Voice. The conversation highlighted concerns about how the church should engage in political affairs. Some thought it was inappropriate for the church to express any view while others were dismayed that the church would consider being silent about core matters of equity and fairness in our country. Arguments appealing to ignorance, arrogance, mistrust and fragility were addressed. The Synod agreed to support the creation of a Voice 'as a vital step in walking together with First Nation's people towards reconciliation' by a very narrow margin (Yes – 86, No – 80, Abstentions – 12).

5. Russell presented a motion concerning poverty in Australia which drew attention to the rising number of children living below the poverty line. It welcomed the commitment to tax reform but requested the federal government ensure adequate funding for health, housing, education, aged and disability care, welfare and overseas aid at a time when there is much pressure for tax cuts to benefit the wealthiest Australians (Yes – 132, No – 4, Abstentions – 13).

6. Wayne advanced a motion of appreciation for Bob Arthur expressing the Synod's 'deep gratitude for the faithful, thoughtful and longstanding service' by Bob over five decades. It prayed for both Bob and Kath trusting that the journey ahead would be filled with faith, hope and love. It was accepted with a standing acclamation.



## Nungalinya 50th Jubilee

The Nungalinya 50th Jubilee Celebration was a wonderful success! Over 400 people attended the day, with so many highlights! There were Bush Tucker and Bible Gardens tours, current courses and Nungalinya-through-the-decades displays, the 'Freedom: the Nungalinya Jubilee Story' hour long

documentary, spear making, art and weaving sessions and a large scale dinner and fellowship evening of dances and songs! Copies of the Jubilee Booklet and a reflection from Bishop Greg Anderson can be downloaded from the Nungalinya website: <https://www.nungalinya.edu.au/News/freedom-the-nungalinya-jubilee-story>



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Blessed are those who have loving pets in their lives.

Pet owners and safely controlled pets are encouraged to join us at 11.45am on Sunday 8 October, at the Jamison Centre. Wet weather venue: Holy Covenant Anglican Church, 89 Dexter St Cook

### No more jars!

Many thanks to those people who have been dropping off jars for the jam makers. There is currently an abundance of jars, so please don't drop off any more until after the fete.

## PRAYER POINTS

### IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ Survivors and emergency workers in Libya, Morocco and other sites of natural disasters
- ⇒ Peace in Ukraine and the withdrawal of Russian troops

### IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ Willingness to listen to Australia's First Peoples and success in the Voice referendum
- ⇒ Preparations for extreme heat over the rest of Spring and Summer
- ⇒ People, animals, habitats and property affected by fire

### IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of The Murray
- ⇒ Parishes of Tumut, Adelong & Tarcutta
- ⇒ South-West Slopes Ministry District (the Parishes of Batlow and Tumbarumba)
- ⇒ Ministry to prisoners and prison officers; Kairos ministry.

### IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Di Mutch, Melanie Cantwell and Ella & Lilly; Maurice Nevile; Tobias Nevile; Chris Olsson; Sue Paice; John and Gillian Painter; and Thomas Parkes.
- ⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer (often for long term needs) including Barry & Sandra Button; Bev Barnes; Brian and Elaine Dennis; Glenys Wimmer; Ann & Peter Bazeos; Alice Farrington; Bev Chambers; Gracie Bonnett; Ewan Garside; Bob and Kath Arthur; Elaine Gifford; Ellie, Prue & Ken Wedgwood and anyone known to us personally

### COMMEMORATIONS

## COLLECT for 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Loving and righteous God,  
your boundless generosity exceeds  
all that we can desire or deserve,  
and you give to the last worker all you promised to  
the first;  
liberate us from all jealousy and greed,  
that we may be free to love and serve others,  
and in your service may find our true reward;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

### Rector

The Reverend Dr Wayne Brighton,  
0407 408 333      rector@holycovenant.org.au

### Assistant Minister & Community Chaplain

The Revd Wendy Robertson  
0481 458 037      hccommunitychaplain@gmail.com

### Youth Coordinator

Tobias Nevile      youth@holycovenant.org.au  
0468 969 372

### Wardens

Allison Cooper-Stanbury      0410 506 231

### Prayer Vine

Rosemary Kennemore  
6251 2009      kennemorerosemary@gmail.com

### Belonging and Caring

The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton  
0407 408 333      rector@holycovenant.org.au

### Children & Families Worker

Lou Passmore      holycovenantkids@gmail.com  
0411 338 361

### Covenant Care Program Manager

Megan Arthur  
0487 945 615      nurse@holycovenant.org.au

### Covenant Care Program Director and Chaplain

Venerable (EM) Anne Ranse OAM  
0406 379 599      anne.ranse@gmail.com

### Honorary Priests

The Revd Anne Dudzinski  
0413 994 739      annedudzinski@optusnet.com.au

The Revd Connie Gerrity

0429 423 725      connie@gerrity.id.au

The Revd Lynda McMinn

0403 769 991      ellemm99@gmail.com

### Resources Team

0419 255 002

## BIRTHDAYS

Are there any birthdays this week?

## BIBLE READINGS

Exodus 16:2-15

Psalms 105:1-6, 37-45

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16