

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone

JESUS REPLIED:
“LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.” THIS IS THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT. AND THE SECOND IS LIKE IT: “LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.”
MATTHEW 22:37-39

SUNDAY 29 OCTOBER 2023 TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

<https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSEVIRII0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366
Password: 033643

SUNDAY 29 OCTOBER

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

WEDNESDAY 1 NOVEMBER

12 Midday Communion Service and lunch

SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER

8am & 10am Holy Communion
Preacher: Revd Lynda McMinn
Celebrant: 8am Revd Lynda McMinn,
10am Revd Connie Gerrity

Coming soon:

31 October: Halloween Party

3 November: Pizza Night

4 November: Musica da Camera concert

11 November 9.30am—Fete

Bank details for direct debit:

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

Love—Matt 22:34-46

‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’
(Matt 22:37-8)

What the world needs now is love, sweet love, not just for some but for everyone. The words of this 1965 hit might sound trite, but that isn’t to deny their profound truth. Though I am not so sure about the ‘sweet’... Certainly Jesus’ version is more robust, all-encompassing and challenging. Who can say they come anywhere near obeying this commandment? Especially when Jesus’ radical interpretation includes not only kin and tribe, but enemies and those we perceive as different from ourselves. Especially when we are all wounded in our capacity to love on this scale.

For Jesus, love of God and love of neighbour are two sides of the one coin. Scripture reminds us that we can’t claim to love God if

we don’t love others. Jesus calls us to align ourselves with the heart and mind of God – to try to see as God sees, and love as God loves. Moving beyond the fear driven division and polarising spirit so evident in our world – and if we are honest within ourselves. This is what loving God with mind and heart means.

One of the most practical definitions of love I have heard is that love is paying attention and then responding rather than reacting. Really seeing and listening to others – and oneself – rather than prematurely deciding what is best for them/us. Ring any bells? Maggie Ross (*Icon of the Heart*) applies this to intercessory prayer: *‘True prayer tries to gather what needs attention and let go of it in the love of God’*. Both movements are needed – the gathering what needs attention and the letting go into the inclusive, creative love of God, with whom nothing is wasted and all in the end is Love’s harvest.

Frances MacKay

Specialised support

St John's Care (SJC) has been supporting a young couple (A and B), and their three children since

their arrival in Australia three years ago. I have visited them at their home to drop off food when they were unable to afford petrol and we have chatted on the lawns of St John's. I have watched their family grow and experience periods of joy and elation and I have watched the family struggle and experience the lowest of lows.

A and B came to Australia on study visas with the intention of gaining a level of education that is not offered in their country. They knew moving to another country with two young children and limited resources would be difficult.

A and B noticed their daughter K wasn't reaching some developmental milestones; this was especially evident during K's first week of school. She was unable to engage with teachers or other students and learn in a class environment and was bullied by some of her peers.

Over the next 6 months, A and B spent their money having various tests to determine what K's condition might be and working out the best way to support her. They regularly attended St John's Care for support with food and scripts and worked as often as their visa conditions allowed. I recall many tearful conversations where A and B were uncertain about how they could afford to provide necessities for their kids as well as specialist support for K.

A and B sought constantly to provide their children with the upbringing that they never had themselves. SJC were able to provide weekly food support including nappies, and fresh food to ease the financial burden. After liaising with ActewAGL, we switched the family to a cost effective energy plan and contributed towards the energy bill.

I wrote an application for a school which specialises in supporting children with intellectual disabilities. K was accepted to begin the following term. SJC helped A and B access financial support for education, and paid for K's uniforms, as well as providing her with a school backpack. After her first week at school, K visited SJC with her parents after school and the difference in her demeanour, confidence and overall personality was striking. K has made gradual yet exciting progress in her literacy, numeracy and communication skills. K has made friends and been invited to another child's birthday party – something she had never experienced before.

A and B complete their studies next month; having found a nurturing environment for K and embedding themselves in the community, they now call Canberra home. Their next challenge is applying for visas which will allow them to stay in Australia beyond 2024. As always, St John's Care will be there to support them on that journey.

Robbie Speldewinde Operations Manager

Items Required: Vegemite, jam, tomato sauce, deodorant, shampoo & conditioner.

Gather me in Lord

May the Lord cause you to flourish.

Psalm 115:14

Sitting in the sacred space and pondering the beauty of God in his creative work in the garden. Thinking, what a paint palette he must have - pink and yellow and red and blue and green and all the variations of those colours.

Among the flowers in the miracles of their lives I am enriched in my faith. For who can look on creation and not see the creator? In the stillness I hear a tiny bee humming and I know that God is with me. As I look a small prayer passes through me saying: 'Gather me in Lord. Gather me in as one of your creations; enable me to flourish and grow.'

Mane Nobiscum Domine. Remain with us Lord

Anne, servant of the Lord



Variants of colour

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

Reduction in Wider Works Giving

Due to the increase in the size of the Parish budget deficit, Parish Council has resolved to reduce our wider works giving for the rest of 2023. If you have any questions regarding this or other financial matters, please contact Mark Cooper-Stanbury via email at

treasurer@holycovenant.org.au

Christian Leaders— Shane Clifton

Clifton's academic background is in theology and ethics. In 2010, he incurred a spinal cord injury that left him with incomplete quadriplegia. Drawing on the virtue ethics tradition and disability studies, Clifton focused his research on happiness and flourishing with a disability. In 2013 he joined the Centre for Disability Research and Policy as an honorary associate, working with the centre to write *Crippled Grace: Disability, Virtue Ethics and the Good Life*. He spent four years as a researcher and Policy Director at Australia's Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability. His second book, written jointly with his wife Elly, is *Husbands Should Not Break: A Memoir about the Pursuit of Happiness after Spinal Cord Injury*.

Clifton describes his theology like this: "I taught theology for two decades. I have learned that speech about god is too often a claim to white, masculine, straight, abled power, but that the god

revealed in Jesus is our loving Mother and gracious Father, the divine Spirit who resists our theological certainties. I seek god in truth, goodness, and beauty."

You can watch Clifton speak on finding joy on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vlibdau7TK8>

Clifton's website includes links for all his publications and more information: <https://shaneclifton.com/>



Fete—11 November

Seeking donations for the Book Stall

We welcome donations of books in good condition (fiction, non-fiction, children's), CDs and DVDs from a week before the fete (Sunday 5 November onwards). Please leave your donations on the side verandah of Rainbow Centre. (If the weather is damp, please try dropping off during office hours, and Megan will open up the Rainbow Centre for you.)

NO DONATIONS ON FETE DAY PLEASE.

If you would like to help on the Friday afternoon (10 Nov) to sort books, or on the day to supervise and restock the bookstall, please add your name to the list on back noticeboard or call me.

Jenny Tomkins, Book Stall Coordinator (0468 993 832).



November Christian Leaders

The November focus for our Christian Leaders series is the Creative Arts. Do you have a favourite Christian musician, writer, painter or other arts practitioner? Email the details to the office, and your favourite artist could be featured in the Weekly Bulletin!

Implementing the Parish Dream



At the Prayer Night for the Parish Dream, there were lots of suggestions for ways we can make the dream a reality. So far, the

Leadership Team have focussed on the “developing the ministry team” section, and there’s a few changes coming up.

To involve children more in the life of the church we will be having ‘Question Sunday’ once each month, where the children come up with a question about the church and faith for the grown ups to answer.

We will be sending out an invitation to all the families, to find out which children and young people are interested in being a part of the sanctuary team at the start and end of services. There will be some training available.

In 2024 we will be having a potluck lunch after church every 5th Sunday.

We have advertised the Community Chaplain position for 2024—please pray that the right person will see the opportunity and join our team.

St Mark’s Information Evening

2 November 2023

Have you ever thought about studying at St Mark’s Theological College? The College Information Night is happening soon!

When: 2 November 2023, 5.30—7.30pm (in person) or 6-7.30pm (online)

Where: Durie Room, St Mark’s National Theological Centre, 15 Blackall Street Barton, ACT 2600

Cost: Free

- Meet faculty and students
- Course information and Q&A
- Taster mini-lectures: theology and the Bible
- Library highlights and treasures
- Light refreshments

Join in person by purchasing a free ticket from

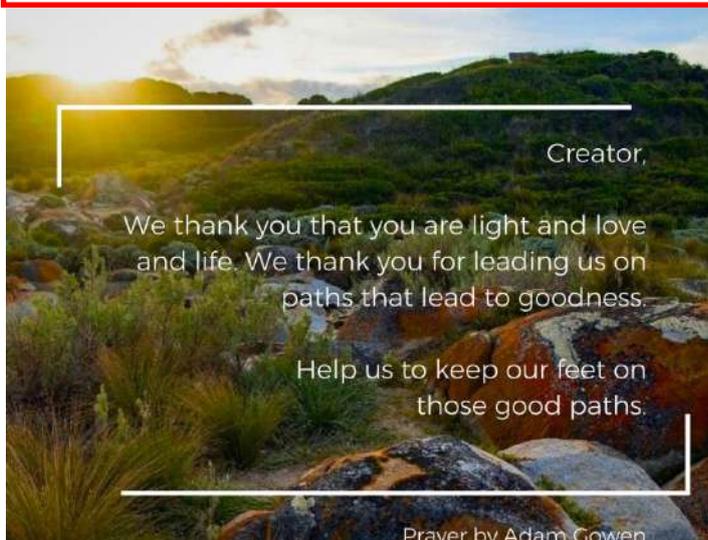
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/st-marks-information-evening-tickets-730054732357>

or online at: <https://charlessturt.zoom.us/j/5251692579>

INFORMATION EVENING

THURSDAY
THE 2ND OF NOVEMBER

IN PERSON: 5.30-7.30PM
ONLINE: 6-7.30PM



PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ Peace in Israel, Gaza & the West Bank, an end to occupation and the return of hostages
- ⇒ Peace in Ukraine and the withdrawal of Russian troops

IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ Food and housing security for all Australian
- ⇒ Next steps after the Voice referendum
- ⇒ Those impacted by fire

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Province of Papua New Guinea
- ⇒ Theological Colleges & Church Schools of the Anglican Church of Australia: staff & students
- ⇒ 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
- ⇒ Outreach and ministry amongst youth

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Hugo Walker; Peter and Wendy Ward; Susan Webb; Prue and Ken Wedgwood; Audrey and Stuart Wells; Tony Willis; and Leo and Glenys Wimmer.
- ⇒ 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; Bob and Kath Arthur; Ellie, Prue & Ken Wedgwood; Reg Holmes; and anyone known to us personally

COMMEMORATIONS

- | | |
|--------|--------------------------|
| 30 Oct | Florence Olsen (d. 1995) |
| 1 Nov | Arthur Olsen (d. 2005) |

BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------|---------------|
| 29 Oct | Clive Rodgers |
| 30 Oct | Ian Matters |
| 2 Nov | Raphael Wood |
| 4 Nov | Tobias Nevile |

BIBLE READINGS

- Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Psalm 90:1-6,13-17
1 Thessalonians 2:1-13
Matthew 22:34-46

COLLECT for 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

O God,
whose Son has taught us that love is the fulfilment of your law:
stir up within us the fire of your Holy Spirit,
and pour into our hearts your greatest gift of love,
so that we may love you with our whole being,
and our neighbours as ourselves;
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

Rector

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

Assistant Minister & Community Chaplain

The Revd Wendy Robertson
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Youth Coordinator

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Wardens

Allison Cooper-Stanbury 0410 506 231

Prayer Vine

Rosemary Kennemore
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Belonging and Caring

The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton
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Children & Families Worker

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Covenant Care Program Manager

Megan Arthur
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Covenant Care Program Director and Chaplain

Venerable (EM) Anne Ranse OAM
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Honorary Priests

The Revd Anne Dudzinski
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The Revd Connie Gerrity
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The Revd Lynda McMinn
0403 769 991 ellemm99@gmail.com

Resources Team

0419 255 002