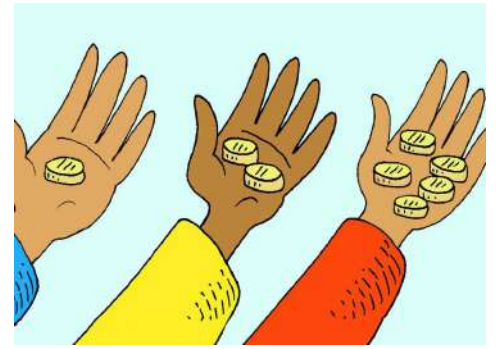


HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2023
TWENTY-FIFTH 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 19 NOVEMBER

8am Holy Communion
Celebrant & Preacher: Revd Dr Wayne Brighton
10am Holy Communion, Baptism & Confirmations
Celebrant: Revd Dr Wayne Brighton
Preacher: Bishop Carol Wagner

WEDNESDAY 22 NOVEMBER

12 Midday Communion Service and lunch

SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER

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

Coming soon:

24 November : Movie Night—The Barbie Movie

Bank details for direct debit:

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

Expectations

Economists are notoriously bad at prediction. Economists also deal with money matters and this parable in Matthew 's Gospel recorded in the last week before Jesus' crucifixion, addresses bags of gold.

We hear much about productivity today. We know about increasing interest rates and how we need to be wise stewards of what is entrusted to us. In the parable three servants are entrusted according to their ability. At that time it was possible to double your money with low risk. The servant who turned five bags into ten was praised for his faithfulness and rewarded with greater responsibility. Similarly with the second servant. The servant with one bag took no risk, did not steward what had been entrusted to him and was reprimanded. His bag of gold was taken from him and given to the one who had ten.

What was given was proportionate. No one received more than he could handle. Failure to act showed laziness or resentment. The bags of gold represent any gift, resource, or other blessing we are given. God gives to us according to our abilities and expects us to utilise the gifts

until he returns. We are responsible for what God has given us. The issue is not what we are given but how we use it.

The parable of the talents, like the parable before it, contrasts two groups—the wise and foolish, the prudent and imprudent, those who prepare for the second coming and those who do not.

These texts remind us that kingdom living requires preparation. This is our opportunity to get it right. This parable reminds us that our earnings belong to God, reinforcing the purpose of wealth. This is not a prosperity gospel. It is a reminder that when much is given much is expected, and that God's gifts to us are meant to be shared. My wife and I support Opportunity International which funds low interest microloans, given to women, to multiply that wealth and break cycles of poverty and disadvantage. From small loans businesses are founded and grow, the family is fed, children are educated and are freed from the prison of disadvantage. It is a reminder that God's grace is given to be multiplied, and that the freedom it bestows cannot be bought.

Clive Rodger

A helping hand

Last week we met a woman looking for some food for her dog Smiley. We provided her with some dog food, some fresh fruit, vegetables and a hot meal to warm her up. She was living out of her car, so we added warm blankets and pillows. Her grateful smile was infectious, and Smiley seemed to share her joy.

We began to chat about the months leading up to her visit to SJC. She had worked at multiple immigration detention facilities, where she had been exposed to traumatic situations. She had fallen on tough times when she was dismissed from her position in the public service. She is appealing her dismissal and can no longer afford rent.

We referred her to One Link - an organisation which provides homeless people with accommodation. We also gave her some contact details for organisations which provide legal advice and support for homeless people. For Smiley, we referred her to Rainbow Paws and Pets in the Park. Rainbow Paws provides free pet food and products in addition to subsidised boarding, desexing and vet care. Pets in the Park run free companion pet health, providing health checks, vaccinations, flea and worming treatments and basic medication for pets owned by people experiencing homelessness.

She is a perfect example of someone who requires the support of organisations like St John's Care. We will continue providing support to her and Smiley, so they can eat and feel safe. We hope to assist her to fight her legal case and find a suitable home. When you support St John's Care, you're not only supporting a person's physical needs – you are helping to support the whole person at the most difficult times of their lives.

Karen Medrano Case Manager

Items Required: jam, honey, tinned vegetables, tuna fish, adult toothpaste and conditioner

Multi-faith prayer vigils for COP28

Join other people of faith to pray for global action on climate change.

2.30-4pm Sunday 26 November and 8-9.30am on Monday 27 November on the lawns in front of Parliament House.

Enquiries: LaudatoSiACT@gmail.com

A glimpse of heaven

May my prayer come to you like the sweet smell of incense. Psalm 141:2

D.H Lawrence said: ' Oh for the wonder that bubbles into my soul.' and that was exactly my sentiment this morning as I stepped into the sacred space. My breath was drawn in deeply taking with it the richness of the perfumes of God that surrounded me; perfumes that floated in the gentle breeze, coming to me like rich gifts. The roses, the jasmine, the sweet peas. All so full of blessings. I read somewhere that God sprinkles tiny hints of heaven on earth that give us a taste of what's to come. A glimpse of heaven on earth.

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

Anne, servant of the Lord



Sweet pea

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

Christian Leaders— Natalya Rusetska

Ukrainian artist Natalya Rusetska graduated from the Lviv National Academy of Arts in 2008. She is inspired by the Orthodox icons tradition but has developed her own style, characterized by small-headed, elongated figures.

In her own words: “My art is about the eternal, the timeless, the extraterrestrial, the hidden. One of the inherent features of sacred art is symbolism. This is a figurative creation that reveals the inner essence of the depicted. Sacred art affects and changes the spiritual state of human.”

You can follow Rusetska on Instagram at natal-yarusetska. The icon pictured here was posted for OrthodoxChristmas in January 2023.



Renovation to move ahead

On Sunday 12 November a special parish meeting was held to hear the latest update on the Rainbow Centre renovation. The project to make better use of the former rectory has been underway since 2021. The rectory has been used extensively for community purposes for more than 15 years providing spaces for kids and youth ministry alongside a multitude of community and spirituality groups. The renovation seeks to:

- create a large community space by removing bedroom walls, bathroom and laundry
- remodelling the ensuite to make it an accessible bathroom
- improve storage space
- improve outdoor areas and disability access
- improve appeal to renters for long-term use in ways compatible with parish needs.

Mark Cooper-Stanbury gave an update on the project while Bob Arthur presented information about the building fund and interest free loans as a way of funding the project's costs. Consideration was given to the installation of external water and

electricity for the community garden; building security with alarms and coded locks; options for kids and youth ministry; and the impact of construction on car parking.

The meeting unanimously resolved to proceed with the renovation at an estimated cost of \$300,000 and to prayerfully consider what gifts and interest free loans might be made available to assist with the the project's completion.

The parish will now present to Bishop-in-Council a request to incur debt in order to borrow the necessary funds through the Diocese's Anglican Investment and Development Fund for consideration at their next meeting on 1 December. We are hopeful that the necessary contracts can be finalised soon after so that construction can begin in February and be complete by May 2024.

Organising for change

My week in the Hunter Valley with the Sydney Alliance was an opportunity to consider how Holy Covenant can build power in our neighbourhood to help people to thrive.

It was an opportunity to work alongside not only leaders from the Uniting and Catholic churches but those engaged in a variety of advocacy groups dealing with matters ranging from the environment, housing, disability, refugee support and union movement.

The highpoint was a delegates meeting where 208 member from over 30 organisations came together in order to work with the mayors of Cessnock and Newcastle on plans for social housing and energy transition from coal to renewables. A highlight was seeing Shaylie a mid 20's peer disability support worker with the lived experience of managing autism not only lead the meeting but pin the Newcastle mayor over commitments to social housing.

It was an experience of how churches and faith leaders can work with others to bring change that benefits everyone.

When it comes to politics, Christians are rarely in agreement about why, how or what kind of engagement is beneficial or necessary. Many would prefer the church to stay out of politics after all, what does light have to do with darkness they ask as St Paul once did. A growing number of Christians are being swept up into Dominionism in response to what they see as an inexorable tide of secularism where religious life is unfavourably diminished and constrained.

Both approaches significantly misunderstand the nature of power and how politics operates in Australia. They see power as something harmful and akin to a sword used for the benefit of some to the detriment of many.

Power is the capacity to make choices. When people work together they can build power for the common good to ensure that decisions work for the many instead of a privileged few.

Holy Covenant is a place where people can thrive. This means that we should understand the power we all hold to make choices that affect the lives of others. When we are committed to work together, we can discern how decision making operates in our city. When we listen deeply, we can discern strategies to bring change. When we understand the pathway, we can take meaningful action to engage with decision-makers.

My hope is that we might engage more deeply with the work of the Alliance so that we can understand more deeply God's call to us in our city and build a culture where everyone can thrive.



Revd Dr Wayne Brighton

Delegates at the Hunter Valley Alliance gathered in Newcastle on 8 November

Seeking a Vacuum Cleaner

One of the Covenant Care clients is in need of a functioning vacuum cleaner. If anyone has a spare one at home that they are willing to donate, please email the Covenant Care office on nurse@holycovenant.org.au



Thank you in advance!

Building Fund

Following on from the Special General Meeting on 12 November, Parish Council now welcomes contributions to the Building Fund to support the redevelopment of the Rainbow Community Centre.



The Building Fund has been established in the form of a cash management account with the Anglican Investment and Development Fund (the Diocese's preferred bank), and will earn interest while funds are waiting to be spent.

Any amount is welcome, as a one-off, regular, or periodic payment. The Fund will be available beyond the completion of the current project, to support future capital projects.

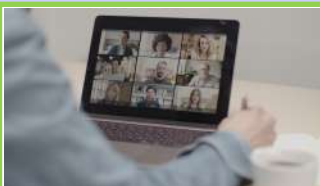
You can make a direct deposit to the Fund using online banking (or phone app):

BSB: 702-389

Account: 05210077

If you have any issues or questions, or would like to use a different method to contribute, please talk with the Parish Treasurer—Mark Cooper-Stanbury—on 0408 417 340 or e-mail: treasurer@holycovenant.org.au

Also discussed at the meeting was the option of making an interest-free loan to the Parish. If you would like to pursue this option, please contact the treasurer, who will be happy to work out the most convenient method for you.



8am service Zoom changes

Zoom will be available for the 8am service on 26 November.

In December Zoom at the 8am service will return to the usual 1st & 3rd Sundays until the 9am combined Summer morning services begin on 24 December.

Working Bee—18 November



Movie Night—The Barbie Movie

Bring your family and friends along to enjoy company, conversation and The Barbie Movie.



PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ A just peace in Ukraine, Israel & Palestine, and the withdrawal of occupying troops
- ⇒ Safety for those impacted by storms in the South Pacific

IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ Flow on effects of the High Court decision on immigration detention
- ⇒ Housing & food security for all Australians
- ⇒ Multi-faith prayer vigils at Parliament house for global action on climate

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of Perth
- ⇒ Young District Anglican Ministry
- ⇒ Mothers' Union
- ⇒ Embracing Ministries
- ⇒ Ministry in our neighbouring Dioceses of Riverina, Bathurst, Gippsland, Wangaratta, and Sydney

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Harris and Helen Boulton; Heather Boyd; Wayne, Meg and Iona Brighton; Valda Bromhead; Lorraine and Geoff Buckland; and Barry and Sandra Button.
- ⇒ 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; Hugh MacWilliam and anyone known to us personally

COMMEMORATIONS

22 Nov Adele Laura Carr (d. 2020)

BIRTHDAYS

19 Nov Reg Holmes

BIBLE READINGS

Judges 4:1-10

Psalms 123

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

COLLECT

Everliving God,
before the earth was formed,
and even after it shall cease to be, you are God.
Break into our short span of life
and show us those things that are eternal,
that we may serve your purpose in all we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in unity with the
Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

Rector

The Reverend Dr Wayne Brighton,
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Assistant Minister & Community Chaplain

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Prayer Vine

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Covenant Care Program Manager

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Covenant Care Program Director and Chaplain

Venerable (EM) Anne Ranse OAM
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The Revd Connie Gerrity
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The Revd Lynda McMinn
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Resources Team

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