

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 9 JANUARY 2022
BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

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

[https://adcg.zoom.us/j/8820962366?](https://adcg.zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRlI0Zz09)

[pwd=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRlI0Zz09](https://adcg.zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRlI0Zz09)

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366

Password: 033643

Kids church and Young Adults will resume on 6 February 2022

SUNDAY 9 JANUARY

9am Holy Communion
Preacher and Celebrant:
The Reverend Anne Dudzinski

SUNDAY 16 JANUARY

9am Holy Communion
Preacher and Celebrant:
The Reverend Connie Gerrity

Coming up

9am Services until 23 January

Morning Tea: in the Worship Centre. Wednesday 12 January 10-11.30am

Bank Details for Direct Debit are:

Bank: Commonwealth Bank
Branch: Jamison Centre, ACT
BSB: 062 907
A/C No: 802588

COVID has made us wary of physical interactions, particularly touch. Which is a challenge when it comes to our wellbeing. Scientists have proven that physical touch, especially hugs, releases hormones that lower blood pressure, decrease stress, and increase happiness. During the lockdowns of 2020 & 2021, many of those who lived alone reported feeling starved of touch – sometimes described as ‘skin hunger’. Skin hunger is why babies in neonatal intensive care units are placed on their parent’s naked chests. Humans have a neurological need for touch.



Touch and human connection – these things matter. They are so important that touch is the vehicle that God has chosen to pass on the physical presence of the Holy Spirit, through baptism:

“Now when all the people were baptised, and when Jesus had also been baptised and was praying the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” (Luke 3:21-22, NRSV).

In the reading from Acts, Peter and John lay their hands on the believers from Samaria. In Acts 2, the apostles are filled with the Holy Spirit after the tongues (as of fire) have rested on them.

What does this mean for us, who live in a society attempting to return to some sort of normal after Christmas, but with added Omicron? It seems likely that we will be living with masks, hand sanitiser and physical distancing for quite some time yet. And the vocabulary of boosters, PCRs and RATs will probably stay with us too. Touch, particularly an uninvited touch from a stranger, has become something that we quite sensibly tend to avoid.

But we Christians have received the touch of God – whether at our baptisms, confirmations or other faith-based experiences. We have a physical, tangible connection with God in bodily form. So as the Christmas decorations come down and the hot cross buns go on sale, this week’s readings encourage us to join Jesus in bringing the touch of God through the Holy Spirit into the world.

For Jesus, the touch of the Holy Spirit set him on the path to crucifixion. Where will the touch of God take us this year? How can we live out our baptisms in action?

Megan Watts

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Wow what a year! It seemed like Christmas

just jumped out of nowhere. Many of the families that came into SJC in December said that they are really feeling the stress of COVID. After experiencing much of the year in lock down, it doesn't feel like an ordinary December.

The Christmas Present Room was very busy and closed on Wednesday 22 December. Presents just keep coming in from the generosity of our wonderful Canberra community. The Christmas Present room was open for 23 days and approximately 550 families came seeking gifts and hampers depending on their needs.

Before the Present Room closed, a young single parent with her four children attended the Centre in need of a Christmas hamper, a few gifts, some groceries, and support with her utility bill.

We spoke for some time, and she explained that things had been tough for her family with a recent relationship breakdown and with lockdown. She had to make a choice either to buy food or have the internet on so her children could attend school remotely. She tried to do both but found this to be impossible and was only a matter of days away from having the internet disconnected.

The SJC Team were able to emotionally support her and provide her with clothing, food, Christmas presents and a hamper and support with the internet bill. We also arranged for her to pop back into the Centre in the New Year to spend some time planning for 2022 in the hope that it will be a little smoother for her.

Our Emergency Relief Centre re-opened on Tuesday 4th January 2022. Over the coming months, the focus will shift towards ensuring our shelves are well stocked following the Christmas break.

The following items would significantly help:

Tinned fruit Pasta sauce Jam
Powdered milk Tomato sauce Deodorants
Oil 500ml 1litre Chicken stock Honey
Tinned vegetables, (peas & corn, beans)
Snacks for School Lunches (Small Fruit Packs etc.) - please no muesli bars

Safe Ministry Training

As part of our church's commitment to help people to thrive, many of our volunteers are required to undertake safe ministry training. The Diocese has responded to feedback and developed a general workshop and another specific to children and youth ministry.

Safe Ministry Essentials (Level 1) is a two hour (approximately) workshop for all clergy and church workers to develop awareness of the Diocesan Safe Ministry policy, protocols, procedures and practices. The training includes biblical foundations, healthy team ministry, screening, boundaries, code of conduct, duty of care, responding to concerns and self-care as church workers. This training costs \$20.

Safe Ministry with Children and Young People (Level 2) is a further two hour (approximately) workshop for all clergy and church workers that work with children and youth to develop awareness of Child Safety. The training includes empowering children, identifying and responding to concerns (risk of harm), reducing the risks of child abuse, and caring for all parties. This training costs \$15.

The **Refresher** provides an overview and update of information covered in the three years since Safe Ministry Training was last completed. The Refresher costs \$15.

The next face to face training sessions coming up where the new course content will be used will be at St Matthew's Wanniasa (5 Laurens Street, Wanniasa ACT):

- Refresher course – Thursday 27 January 2022 – 6:30pm to around 8:45pm
- Levels 1 and 2 – Saturday 29 January 2022 – 9:30 to around 3:30 – with Level 1 before the lunch break.

Registration forms are available from the Parish Office.

And the Silence is Itself

Declare your steadfast love in the morning.

Psalm 92:2

Sometime we can sit so still and quiet as if a bird has landed on our head and our whole being is focused on the moment. Pre-dawn is always such a lovely time with silence, stillness and presence. I was reading a saying by Thomas Merton which said: "This flower, this moment, this silence – the Lord is here. Best because the flower is itself, and the silence is itself and I am myself."

May the Lord of Peace Himself give you peace at all times and in all ways.

Anne, servant of the Lord.

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



Still, quiet, peace.

Want to be more effective at Pastoral Care?

Is your New Year's Resolution to try something new? Maybe it's to get more involved in the community? Then why not combine both by enrolling in a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Introductory Course. This 5 day course is a great way to get a feel for pastoral and spiritual care and includes topics such as: What is Pastoral/ Spiritual Care; empathy, grief and loss, spiritual reflection and self-care. It runs on 5 Wednesdays from Mar 2 to Mar 30, 9-5pm in Queanbeyan and costs \$400. It is followed by a longer CPE unit for those interested in more in-depth training in spiritual care. Enrolments close soon. Please contact Susanne Schmidt for enrolment on 0431 243 486 or at susannecpe@gmail.com

Anglican Board of Mission Project Update

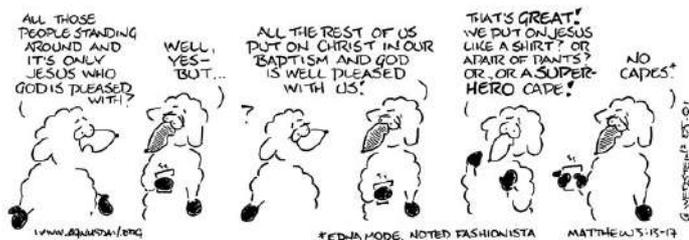
In 2021, after much consultation, the Diocese of North Queensland Synod set out a new structure to give greater authority to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ministries in North Queensland.

Two new autonomous councils have been created: the Meriba Maygi Zageth Anglican Council for Torres Strait Islander ministry, and the North Queensland Aboriginal Anglican Ministry Council.

Most of the congregations in the Diocese of North Queensland rely on non-stipendiary ministry. The new ministry councils provide a structure of the aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglicans to be expressed. However, the Diocese faces severe financial challenges and has called upon the national church to do more to enable ministry and mission in the Torres Strait Islands and the Cape York Peninsula.

This Anglican Board of Mission (ABM) project helps to support a part-time Ministry Development Officer for the Cape York Peninsula and other priority Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mission in the Diocese of North Queensland.

ABM hopes to raise \$25,000 for this project in 2022.



Dog Library?

We had a street library during the last COVID lockdown. Should we add an alternative for the neighbourhood doggos?



Missing!

Has anyone seen Megan's cup? It was here when we closed the office before Christmas, but not here when we returned in the New Year.



Thanks from the Trigge Family

Louisa & Kael's wedding happened at Holy Covenant on Monday 3 January. Please see the noticeboard for the message of thanks from the family.



Anglican Board of Mission works with Anglican Church partners to develop and provide for the spiritual, social and material needs of people, both overseas and within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Australia. ABM helps the Anglican Church and the wider community realise and respond to the call for everyone to be a part of God's mission.

Please see the noticeboard for a thank you card from ABM for our support in 2021.



PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ All those on the COVID frontline, as we begin a third year with the virus
- ⇒ Safety for people undertaking New Year pilgrimages

IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ Safety on our roads as holiday travel continues
- ⇒ Time for rest and recuperation for health care workers
- ⇒ Equality of access to COVID testing and safe isolation facilities as required

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn
- ⇒ Bishop-in-Council and the Ministry Executive, the Anglican Church Property Trust and The Pelican Foundation
- ⇒ Diocesan Synod
- ⇒ Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture
- ⇒ Diocesan Public Issues Commission
- ⇒ All Saints' Ainslie
- ⇒ All Saints College
- ⇒ Pray for: Growth of the Anglican Investment Development Fund and The Pelican Foundation

⇒ IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Nilantha Hulugalle; Neville and Dorothy Hurst; Dal and Christine Hyde; and Brad, Lorna, Noah and Zara Indrele.
- ⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer including Barry Button, Elizabeth Grant, Bev Barnes, Phyl Holmes, Brianna Smith, Claire Whelband and anyone known to us personally.

COMMEMORATIONS

- Friday 7 January:** Pierre Willem Elkhuisen (d. 2007)
Dorothy Joan Williams (d. 2019)

COLLECT for Baptism of Our Lord

Lord God of the nations,
we have seen the star of your glory rising in splendour:
may the brightness of your incarnate Word
pierce the night that covers the earth,
signal the dawn of justice and peace,
and beckon all nations to walk as one in your light.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
in the splendour of eternal light, God for ever and ever.
Amen.

READINGS

- Isaiah 43: 1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8: 14-17
Luke 3:15-22

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

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Reverend Connie Gerrity

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Resources Team

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BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Tuesday: Alan Duncan, Penny Lilley, Pam Steele

Friday: Tobias Feitz

DECEMBER ANGLICAN NEWS

The December Anglican News is now out and is available on the website.

<http://anglicancg.org.au/news-and-events/anglican-news/>