

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 2 APRIL 2023
PALM SUNDAY

SUNDAY 2 APRIL

8am Holy Communion
10am Holy Communion
Celebrant : The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton
Preacher: Revd Wendy Robertson
3.30 Colours of God
5pm Twilight Conversations

WEDNESDAY 5 APRIL

12 Midday Communion Service and lunch.

MAUNDY THURSDAY 6 APRIL

6pm Celebrant: The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton
Preacher: Revd Wendy Robertson

GOOD FRIDAY, 7 APRIL

8 and 10 am
Celebrant: Revd Wendy Robertson
Preacher: The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton

SATURDAY 8 APRIL: 3pm Kids' Easter (with egg hunt)

SUNDAY 9 APRIL

6am Holy Communion , Service of Light
Celebrant: The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton
Preacher: Revd Wendy Robertson

8am & 10am Holy Communion
Celebrant Revd Wendy Robertson
Preacher: The Revd Dr Wayne Brighton
5pm Twilight Conversations

Politics and Palms

There are many Christians who decry the commercialisation and secularisation of Christmas and Easter. But at the same time, most of us participate in the consumerism and cultural complacency that both these festivals are supposed to challenge. This happens with Palm Sunday as well.

It's very easy to get caught up in the marching, and the singing, and the waving of vegetation and forget the point of the original Palm Sunday. That day was deeply political. But to understand the key symbol in that political act, we need to go back further in Bible history.

After God delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, the palm tree and its branches became an important symbol of victory for Israel. After Israel escaped from Egypt, the Lord commanded that they hold a feast to commemorate their freedom from those who had enslaved them for hundreds of years.

From then on, the Israelites observed the Feast of Tabernacles, which lasted seven days. Throughout this period, the Israelites lived in booths made of

palm branches, leafy tree boughs, and brook willows (Leviticus 23:40–43). During the Feast of Tabernacles, palm branches were always carried.

Those palm branches waving in the streets of Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday were symbolic of Jewish freedom from captivity, slavery and oppression. Laying palm branches down for Jesus to ride over says "We want to be free. Jesus is going to bring change, and restore what was lost." What a threat that is to the Roman occupiers and those collaborating with them!

Palm Sunday is possibly the most political Sunday of the year. As Bo Sanders states, "*it is a call for revolution against the powers of oppression, the systems and institutions that occupy foreign lands and repress its citizens with unjust practices and economic policies.*"

What re-positioning do we have to do, to be true to the original intent of Palm Sunday? How should we respond to injustice, occupation, the politics of empire, and economic policies of oppression?

Megan Arthur

A SECOND CHANCE IN LIFE

When we were delivering Christmas hampers last year, I met a person who wanted to know what services St John's Care (SJC) offers to the community. P told me he would be back soon because he really needs help making improvements in his life.

P came looking for me yesterday and summarised many memorable experiences both good and bad. He told me that his life had been full of excuses and some bad decisions which were now affecting his health.

P explained how he was married and told me that he was never a good husband or a good father. In fact, he was blinded by excuses for so long that he lost his family. After that he suffered two strokes and now has difficulty getting around. He takes medication daily, and working is near impossible.

This year P has started to share custody of his three children (every other week). He is trying to do the best he can to improve life for himself and his children. He is trying to lead a much healthier life, as his children are still young and need him by their side.

P and I had a conversation about how St John's Care could help him. One of the goals we identified was to improve his standard of living and that of his children. As he takes a lot of medicine, he suggested that it would be great if SJC could help him with his scripts. I agreed to help him with the scripts once a month, and agreed to provide him with food, especially school snacks, on the weeks when he has his children. We also talked about how to prepare healthy meals. I printed out some helpful information as well as some ideas about using the food which SJC provides.

P was super happy and told me that by receiving this help, he would be able to pay his rent and utility bills. One of his main concerns was the expense of grocery shopping when caring for his children. With the money he receives from Centrelink, he cannot cover his expenses. Getting help from St John's Care means he doesn't have to worry too much about how to stretch his income. Receiving help with food and healthy eating ideas will assist in improving his everyday life.

He was very grateful, and a smile appeared on his face. "Now I will try to be the person and the father that my children deserve and thanks to all of you I will achieve it", he said before saying goodbye.

I would like to thank the donors, supporters and volunteers who have contributed to our organisation, and who have played a part in supporting people like P.

Karen Medrano SJC Case Manager

Items required: pasta, pasta sauce, tinned meat, olive oil, toilet paper

Easter Egg Donations

There are multiple events happening over Holy Week that require Easter Eggs and volunteers.

Firstly, there's our regular egg deliveries to our neighbours. If you can assist Revd Wendy by donating small eggs, or help deliver said eggs to local letter-boxes, please contact her on hccommunitychaplain@gmail.com or phone 0481 458 037 to discuss the delivery timetable.

Secondly, the Kids Easter celebration is on Saturday 8 April at 3pm. We need eggs for the egg hunt and volunteers to help on the day. Please contact Lou on holycove-nantkids@gmail.com or phone them on 0411 338 361.

Please place your egg donations in the labelled box near the servery window.



Anglican News

The March edition of Anglican News is now available. You can download your copy from the Diocesan website: <https://anglicancg.org.au/wp-content/uploads/01.-Anglican-News-March-2023.pdf>

More Progress on the Community Hub

It's great to see the Community Hub being used! Even though it's not quite finished, the painting by the young people looks wonderful. The addition of the Parish name and branding has added an extra dimension to the appearance of the Hub. The presence of a stick and ball library and a water bowl for passing dogs is a delightful addition. Almost all of the seed packets that went into the Hub a few weeks ago are gone, and there's been a fresh set of seed packets added. The library has been pretty much full for a couple of weeks, so we might need to move some books along to make space for more.



Free Suicide Prevention Training

Presented by Wesley LifeForce, this training equips participants with the knowledge and skills to increase awareness of suicide in Australia, identify the signs that someone may be at risk of suicide and appropriate action to take. Effective interventions can make a real difference and save lives.

Tickets available from <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/wesley-lifeforce-suicide-prevention-half-day-workshop-belconnen-act-tickets-599785132477>

Fullness of Joy

In your presence there is fullness of joy, in your right hand are pleasures forever more. Psalm 16:11

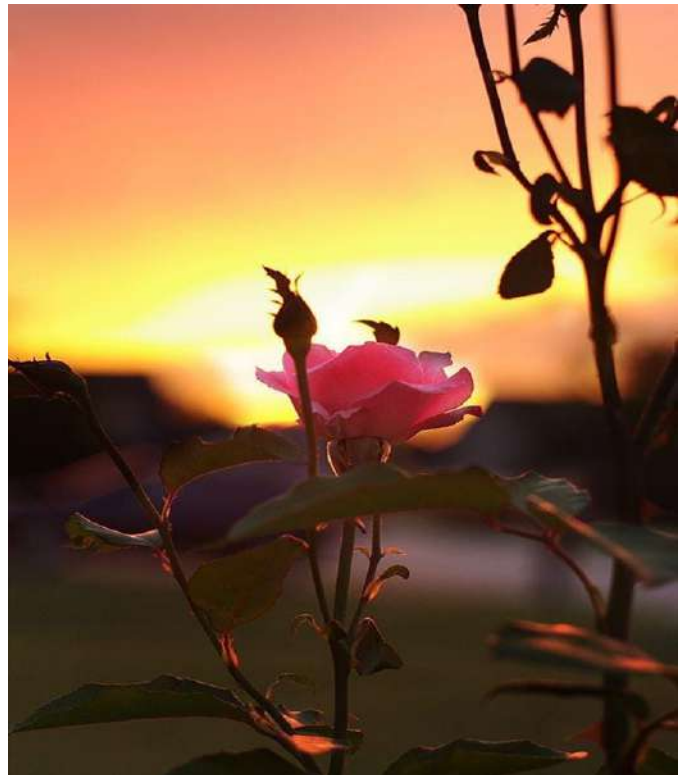
Some mornings are just magnificent.....one almighty 'Hello' from God expressed in the sky of deep red, orange and the fading black of the night. 'Here I am ' it was saying, 'Here I am right here with you. What you are looking at, what you are in awe of, is me.

Meister Eckhart said: Who ever possess God in their being, has him in a divine manner, and he shines out of them in all things: for them all things taste of God and in all things, it is God's image that they see.'

So very very true.

May the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways.

Anne, servant of the Lord



'Hello' from God

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

Learning to Engage

Learning to Engage is an article Revd Wayne wrote for the St James Institute. We will be serialising the article over the next few editions of the Weekly Bulletin.

What might a 22nd Century historian make of present day Australian Christianity? How would they explain the many efforts used to engage a changing nation since the 1960s?

One pattern I've noticed could be called focus, forms and formation. The conversation has come almost full circle with a renewed focus on the nature of Christian identity. Who we are as Christians grows from the vision of discipleship that is anchored in how Scripture is read, the gospel is understood, and what engagement with the world is expected or desired.

Focus, forms, formation

The story told by Christians about Christianity in Australia since the 1960s has been one of perpetual decline. Falling religious affiliation and diminished congregational participation prompted leaders to focus on the nature of Christian identity in a changing world.

During the 1970s, the Evangelical answer was to focus on communicating the gospel to cut through growing secularisation. Pentecostals longed for the Holy Spirit to bring a supernatural revival. By the 1980s, progressives yearned for a genuinely Australian church that would help the nation look beyond its British horizon.

Not everyone wanted what these groups had to offer. Old divisions deepened as groups competed for institutional power.

The conversation shifted through the 1990s and 2000s to how new forms of church might emerge, particularly as traditional structures proved resistant. More flexible structures and better strategies were championed with church planting gaining dominance because new world was said to produce

the most fruit. Yet this strategy had its problems too. Much of the new work was simply repotting old things with a multi-million dollar price tag. Imported techniques trumped patient cultural work that would make for more effective contextualisation.

The conversation shifted again during the 2010s as church planting began to fall short of expectations. People not structures was the key, with better formation being the answer. A different breed of leaders were needed. Men who had extroverted personalities and skills attuned to converting unbelievers rather than sustaining parishes. Yet every minister would not be a missionary.. Leadership continued to be a matter of imitation, not investigation. Many of those who built prominent ministries were shown to be bullies, while the planters they inspired often chafed against any oversight or collaborative endeavour.

Those that notice this movement from focus, forms and formation contend that it all grows from the soil of discipleship cultivated underneath.

At least two streams have become evident, offering competing and contrasting visions for discipleship today.

Next week—Discipleship as control or Discipleship as discovery?

Revd Dr Wayne Brighton



Anglican Historical Society AGM

The meeting will begin with morning prayer, and a Bible Garden tour, followed by lunch and a presentation from the Revd Dr Katherine Ranger, Senior Chaplain at Radford Anglican College. The presentation topic is "Being a School Chaplain Today". The AGM will follow lunch.

- When: 29 April
- Where: Australian Centre for Christianity & Culture, 15 Blackall Street Barton
- Time: 11am for 11.30am start
- Cost: \$25 (includes all refreshments)
- RSVP: by 14 April to Ann Skamp ph 0427 368 195 or email annskamp@aapt.net.au

Nominations for the Executive of the Society are open, and close by 14 April. Contact Ann for nomination forms.

Produce Donations for Companion House

Many thanks to those people who have been providing fresh produce for us to deliver to Companion House. Joh has delivered approximately 1kg of plums, 500g of beans, and 6kg of zucchini. Megan has made a mid-week delivery, with several kilos of cucumbers, zucchinis and tomatoes.

The donations have been very warmly received at Companion House.

The fresh produce donation box is cleared after Sunday services, and during the week if necessary. The excess produce from your garden is most welcome.



Palm Sunday Refugee Rally

On Palm Sunday, 2nd April, churches will be joining other organisations in a rally in Garema Place to seek permanent protection for the thousands of asylum seekers who have been held in various forms of detention for up to 10 years. Speakers at

the rally include Anglican chaplain at Radford College, the Rev. Dr Katherine Rainger, as well as Senator David Pocock and Zahra Hashemi Barat.

The rally starts at 1.00 but faith-based attendees are meeting at 12.30 at the merry-go-round in Petrie Plaza to walk as a group to the rally.



Volunteers needed

Embracing Ministries needs your help! We cannot run our programs without the help of our valuable volunteers. Prior experience or training is not needed as we provide our Volunteers with training in Disability Inclusion and Safe Ministries. The next program we are running will be a holiday program called Little Treasures. Little Treasures is a three-day Christian Holiday Program for primary school-age children including those with special needs.

'Celebrating Easter' is the program theme, with a different part of the Easter story told each day.

The program will operate over three half days from 12th-14th April and volunteers will need to be available from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm. We will also have a get-to-know-you orientation day on the 11th of April between 10 am and 3 pm.

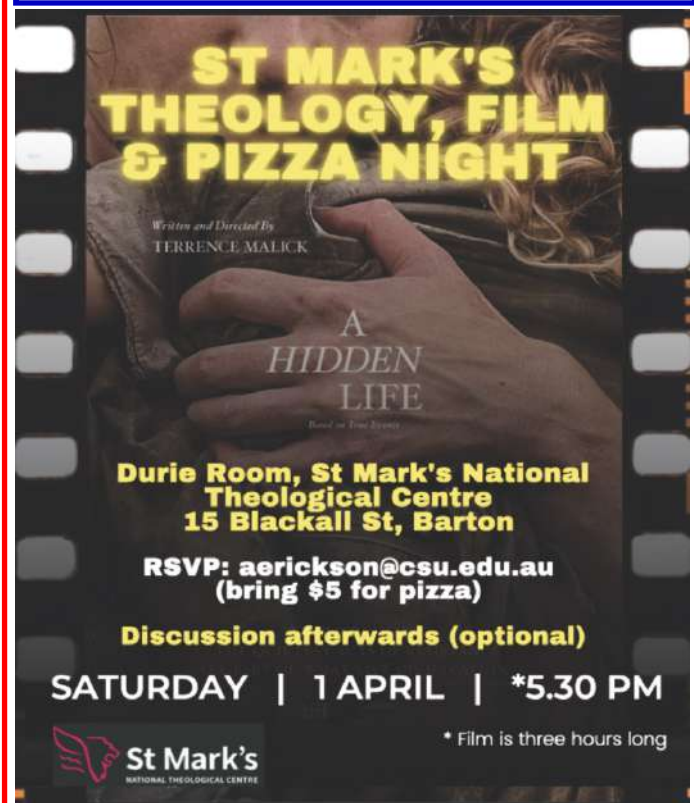
We are looking for Volunteers to provide support in the Preschool – Year 1 room, Year 2 – Year 6 room, as well as two people to drive Vans provided to pick up and drop off selected children who are attending.

If you are interested in volunteering or have any more questions, please phone Andrea on 0404 256 714 or email

Embracingministries@gmail.com .

No Bulletin Sunday 16 April

As Megan is on leave from the Office in the week leading up to Sunday 16 April, we will have a bumper edition Weekly Bulletin on Easter Sunday. So please plan ahead for any items that need to be in the Bulletin!



**ST MARK'S
THEOLOGY, FILM
& PIZZA NIGHT**

Written and Directed By
TERRENCE MALICK


A
HIDDEN
LIFE
Based on True Events

**Durie Room, St Mark's National
Theological Centre
15 Blackall St, Barton**

**RSVP: aerickson@csu.edu.au
(bring \$5 for pizza)**

Discussion afterwards (optional)

SATURDAY | 1 APRIL | *5.30 PM

 St Mark's
NATIONAL THEOLOGICAL CENTRE

* Film is three hours long

Autumn Community Lunch

13 April 2023 at 12 midday

Our first Community Lunch for 2023 is happening on 13 April. All are welcome, including friends, neighbours and family members. Russell Rollason AM, will be speaking on the topic *Listening to the Voice. Understanding the Uluru Statement.*

If you would like to do some letter boxing in your street, there's flyers on the table next to the Weekly Bulletins.

There's a sign up sheet for attendance on the noticeboard at church, or you can email

office@holycovenant.org.au to RSVP. To assist us

with catering, RSVPs should be in by **6 April 2023**.

If you are able to help out on the day, either in the kitchen plating food, or serving, or you can provide a contribution for dessert, there's a separate sign up sheet for that.



PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ Peace in Ukraine and the withdrawal of Russian troops
- ⇒ Safety and security for refugees and asylum seekers
- ⇒ Ethnic minorities and opposition parties in Myanmar
- ⇒ Victims, survivors and families of school shootings in the USA

IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ The work of setting up our National Anti-Corruption Commission
- ⇒ The preparation for the Voice referendum
- ⇒ Practical assistance for those struggling with housing and food insecurity

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of Adelaide
- ⇒ Archdeacons
- ⇒ Area Deans
- ⇒ Professional Standards Board and Committees
- ⇒ Survivors of physical and sexual abuse
- ⇒ The continuing implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, 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 Lou Passmore; Dave, Luke and Maddie Peebles; Barry and Carol Pogson; Anne Ranse; Robin Rawson; and Wendy, Lachlan, Estelle, Isla, Lainie and Tahli Robertson
- ⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer including Barry Button; Bev Barnes; Brian and Elaine Dennis; Colin & Marilyn Tolano; Glenys Wimmer; Ann & Peter Bazeos; Maggie Watts; Alice Farrington; Bev Chambers, Anne Drummond, Gracie Bonnett, Lou Daniels and anyone known to us personally

COMMEMORATIONS

4 Apr—Coral Violet Patricia Powell

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Apr Karen Ferguson
- 4 Apr Elizabeth David-Hoole
- 6 Apr Eileen Sykes

BIBLE READINGS

Isaiah 50.4-9a
Psalm 31.9-18
Philippians 2.5-11
Matthew 21: 1-17

COLLECT for Palm Sunday

Everlasting God,
in your tender love for the human race
you sent your Son to take our nature,
and to suffer death upon the cross:
in your mercy enable us to share in his obedience
to your will
and in the glorious victory of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

Rector

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Allison Cooper-Stanbury 0410 506 231

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Holistic Care Nursing Ministries

Program Director and Chaplain

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The Revd Connie Gerrity

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Resources Team

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