

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 3 MARCH 2024
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

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

<https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUtpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSEVIRlI0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366
Password: 033643

SUNDAY 3 MARCH

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

WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH

12 Midday Communion Service and Lunch

SUNDAY 10 MARCH

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

Coming soon:

Working Bee: 16 March
Parish Picnic: 17 March from midday
Holy Week Services: Maundy Thursday 28 March, Good Friday 29 March 8 & 10am, Easter Day 31 March 6, 8 & 10am

Bank details for direct debit:

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

The Cleansing of the Temple

The context of today's gospel may seem somewhat remote to us. Hopefully, our understanding has evolved from a time when the main ritual in the temple was animal sacrifice, making it more like a slaughterhouse than a house of prayer. What sort of God would want such practices?

Jesus was incensed that money changers and dove sellers were turning God's house into a market place. It's likely that he was attacking not just an abuse of the system but the system itself – a lucrative system which taught a vengeful God who must be placated by animal sacrifices. We don't offer animal sacrifices any more, or buy pardons, but do we still find it hard to believe that God loves us and is not out to condemn us? Do we try to make bargains with God or score brownie points rather than admit our deep need of grace?

The architecture and rituals of the temple were designed to keep

people at a distance. Jesus taught that the kingdom of God is near – within and among us, and the epistles declare that we are, individually and collectively, temples of the Holy Spirit.

The world is God's temple. God's healing presence is available to all people, everywhere and in all circumstances. Yet we can experience God as absent or distant. What helps us to find the God who is already there in our lives and our world? From a Nazi concentration camp, Etty Hillesum wrote: *'There is a really deep well inside me. And in it dwells God. Sometimes I am there too. But more often stones and grit block the well, and God is buried beneath. Then he must be dug out again.'* What stones or grit might be blocking your well at the moment?

Perhaps we need to pray with Michael Leunig: *'God, help us find our confession; the truth within us which is hidden from our mind; the beauty or ugliness we see elsewhere but never in ourselves.'*

Frances MacKay

welcome

THE REVEREND DR BILI



healing ministries in an Anglican led Wholeness and Healing Centre. Coming from an Islamic background, Bili feels she has a unique perspective to offer concerning her bi-vocational experience.

Parents of three grown daughters, Bili and her husband live with their dog Oscar and cat Pip. Bili remains active in teaching at the ANU Medical School, where she has chaired a year 3 committee and led clinical skills at Queanbeyan Hospital. She retains admitting rights to Queanbeyan Hospital and has worked in the Emergency Department while caring for elderly patients in nursing homes.

Having completed her MA (Theo), Bili is transitioning into ordained ministry.

Bili joins Holy Covenant's ministry team on 3 March 2024 as a Deacon Assistant Minister. She was ordained to the Diaconate on Saturday 24 February. Prior to her ordination she was a long-term member of Christ Church Queanbeyan and a lay leader at St Paul's Ginninderra.

Our New Assistant Minister

The Revd Dr Bili Malek joins the team at Holy Covenant on Sunday 3 March, and we are thrilled to have her with us. You can read Bili's introduction below.

Born in Prague in former Czechoslovakia, Bili escaped with her family to Australia via Austria during the Prague Spring as a child. She completed most of her schooling in Canberra, where she met her husband, Stuart, at High School.

Having worked as a doctor for many years, including fifteen years in the UK with her family, Bili has been involved in ministry both in the United Kingdom and Australia.

She has worked as a hospital Chaplain and a team leader, training others in Chaplaincy. She has led pioneer outreach services and participated in team





Canberra Day Appeal

This week, St John's Care launched its Canberra Day Appeal. The Canberra Day Appeal is the region's largest fundraising campaign and is hosted by Hands Across Canberra. St John's Care has participated in the appeal for the past few years, and thanks to our supporters, has raised much needed funds.

The appeal supports over 300 local charities and community organisations and tens of thousands of people who they work alongside and support. Hands Across Canberra is matching donations received by organisations up to \$2,500 through fundraising provided by the Chief Minister's Charitable Fund.

As you may be aware, we have seen a significant increase in the number of community members who are accessing our service over the past few years (approximately 1000 households sought support from St John's Care in December 2023).

The increase in those seeking support from St John's Care, coupled with the constantly increasing cost of food and other goods, has meant that providing support to vulnerable members of the community is more expensive than ever.

This year we are hoping to raise \$20,000 to go towards supporting our growing number of clients!

Funds raised through the appeal will go directly towards providing basic support to those who need it. This support includes fresh and nonperishable food items, clothing, bedding, as well as medical, transport, and utility bill assistance.

I would like to thank those who have already donated to the appeal.

If you would like to make a donation to our Canberra Day Appeal, please visit: <https://giving.handsacrosscanberra.org.au/event/st-johns-care>

Robbie Speldewinde Operations Manager

Items Required: 500 ml cooking oil, 1 litre UHT full cream milk, sweet and savoury biscuits, deodorant.

Shafts of sunbeams

Pre-dawn darkness suddenly shot with rays of light, shafts of sunbeams lighting up the Eucalyptus tree like the burning bush with brilliant orange and red hues. It was just a sunrise, just a tree - but I knew it was God and on the beath of prayer I whispered '*Good morning, Lord.*'

Macrina Wiederkehr said: *You slip into my life like the night and day, like stars and sunrise - I know that you are God.*

Lord, as you bless us with light at the sun's rising, shine on us now with Love.

Anne, Servant of the Lord.



Good morning, Lord.

Positions Vacant

Do you like helping volunteers to achieve their full potential? The church team is looking for a new parish organiser to help manage the office and Covenant Care team. Both roles are available 2 days per week. Megan Arthur will be stepping down from these roles effective 26 March due to an increase in her personal caring responsibilities Please contact Revd Wayne for more information.

Please email office@holycovenant.org.au to request a copy of the role description for either of these positions.

Making a home

Settling into a new home takes more than furniture, pots and pans. It takes family, friends and a whole network to help people feel safe and connected.

But what happens if you don't know anyone? Or that all the people who love you are stranded overseas in strange places? Or if you find the expectations around everything from sending your kids to school, driving or even shopping for your favourite foods difficult and weird?

Communities can play an important role helping refugees settle in Australia by providing simple forms of assistance that make a big difference.

In 2022 the Federal Government launched the Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Program as a way for community based groups to support 1,500 refugees start a new life in our strange place. Such programs have proven successful in the UK, US, NZ and Ireland.

As an Anglican Community, we can find better ways of working together so that some people can start a new life in our city.

Come along to learn more and discover how you and your parish could work with others to assist refugees is a practical way.

When: Saturday 16 March 2024, 10.30am

Where: Good Shepherd Anglican Church, 157 Carruthers St, Curtin,

For more information, contact Revd Wayne.



Book Launch—21 March 2024

Dr Heather Thomson—No Sense of Entitlement

How might we keep alive the interests and concerns of protest theologies and the constructive contributions they make? Feminist, liberation, and postcolonial theologies offer guiding questions for this task:

What is the purpose of theology?

Whose interests are being served?

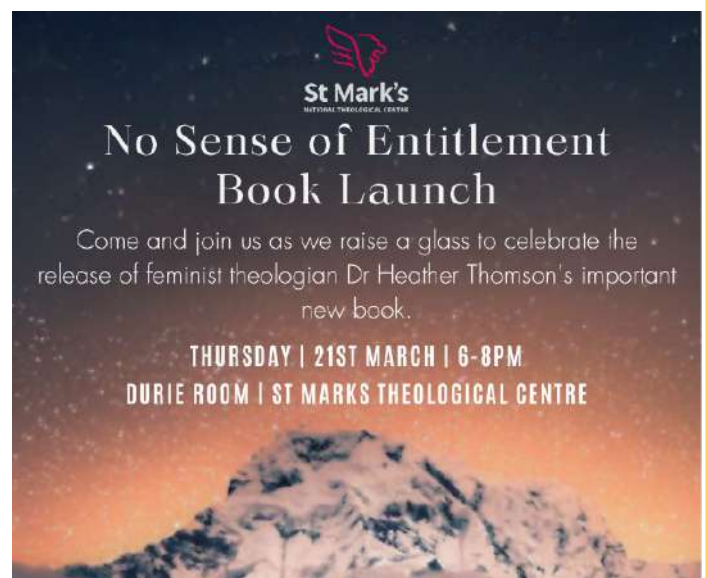
What might be the public effects of this theology?

This book attends to these questions through a collection of publications over the lifetime of one feminist theologian. Growing up in Australia as these new protest theologies were emerging, Thomson recalls the influences that went into forming her as the theologian she became.

When: Thursday 21 March, 6-8pm

Where: Durie Room, St Mark's Theological Centre

Bookings: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/no-sense-of-entitlement-book-launch-tickets-846782127137>



The Prayer Tree

In her page one reflection, Frances quoted from a prayer by Michael Leunig. Here is the full text of that prayer, which is published in Leunig's book 'The Prayer Tree':

God help us to find our confession;

The truth within us which is hidden from our mind;

The beauty or the ugliness we see elsewhere

But never in ourselves;

The stowaway which is smuggled

Into the dark side of the heart,

Which puts the heart off balance and causes it pain,

Which wearies and confuses us,

Which tips us in false directions and inclines us to destruction,

The load which is not carried squarely

Because it is carried in ignorance.

God help us to find our confession.

Help us across the boundary of our understanding.

Lead us into the darkness that we may find what lies concealed;

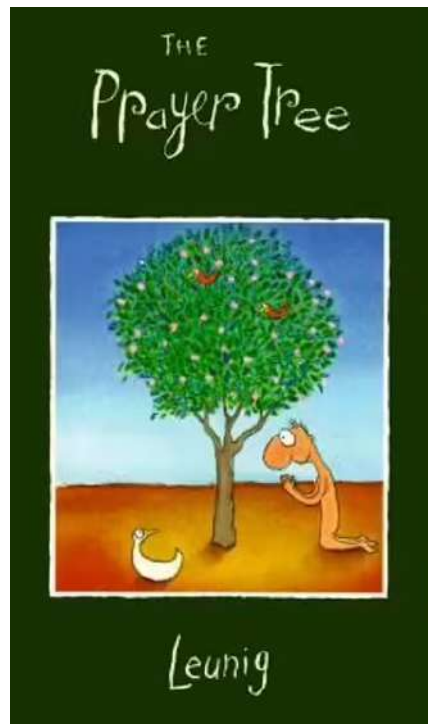
That we may confess it towards the light;

That we may carry our truth in the centre of our heart;

That we may carry our cross wisely

And bring harmony into our life and our world.

Amen.



Palm Sunday Rally

When: 1pm Sunday 24 March

Where: Garema Place

Watch Bishop Mark's video here: https://youtu.be/X_JONfBGuJY?list=UU5H14doEOSbT6bJhW3Z_a3g

**JUSTICE FOR
REFUGEES
PERMANENT VISAS NOW**

Lenten study update

The Lenten study is moving online from Wednesday 21 February. If you can't commit to every week, just come along when you can! You can access the study on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTXFCN0N4MGRiSFVIRlI0Zz09>

Women's Afternoon Tea

23 March

The Belonging & Caring Team are organizing a Women's afternoon tea.

Save the date! More details next week.

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ A just peace and an end to occupation in Ukraine and Palestine
- ⇒ Responsible developments in Artificial Intelligence
- ⇒ Safety for journalists

IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ Housing and food security for all Australians
- ⇒ Joy and safety for everyone at Sydney Mardi Gras
- ⇒ Dr Yang Hengjuin and his family

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of Armidale
- ⇒ St Saviour's Cathedral, Goulburn; the Cathedral Chapter, and all aspects of the work and ministry of St Saviour's Cathedral, the mother church of the Diocese
- ⇒ Friends of St Saviour's Cathedral
- ⇒ Lucas Tooth Scholar: The Reverend Gavin Krebs
- ⇒ Anglican Women of Australia
- ⇒ Chaplaincy & Pastoral Care Goulburn Health Service
- ⇒ Anglicare Canberra and Goulburn

IN OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

- ⇒ For all members of our parish family including Eileen and Ian Sykes; Caroline, Richard and Oliver Taylor-Steele/Taylor; Michaelee Thornton; Rhonda Thorpe; Anna, Rhys, Georgia & Lucy Thorpe; Rick and Fran Tilden, and Marilyn Tolano.
- ⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer (often for long term needs) including Barry & Sandra Button; Bev Barnes; Glenys Wimmer; Bev Chambers; Bob and Kath Arthur, Neville Hurst and anyone known to us personally

COMMEMORATIONS

- 6 Mar Christopher Charles Heyde (d. 2008)
7 Mar Margaret Thea McCaw (d. 2023)
9 Mar Barbara Ruth Mugford (d. 1997)

BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Mar Richard Taylor
5 Mar Gillian Painter
7 Mar Marg Christensen
9 Mar Lynda McMinn

BIBLE READINGS

- Exodus 20.1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1.18-25
John 2.13-22

COLLECT

Lord our God,
by your Holy Spirit
write your commandments upon our hearts
and grant us the wisdom and power of the cross,
so that, cleansed from greed and selfishness,
we may become a living temple of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

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