

HOLY COVENANT ANGLICAN CHURCH

a place for everyone



SUNDAY 19 JANUARY 2025

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY (ABORIGINAL SUNDAY)

Responding to the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12. 1-11)

Last week I started to unwrap the Christmas gift that is Jesus. In my reflection I stated that the Holy Spirit connects all humanity in communion with God through Jesus. Just as Christ is a gift to us, we ourselves are living gifts. I give thanks for this gift of life and if the Holy Spirit is within each of us, then the question is how do we respond back in communion with God as we lead our lives in daily service?

In today's passage in Corinthians, Paul states that each one of us is given specific gifts and he describes the numerous ways in which people respond to the benefit of all. Some people are gifted to heal, some to teach, some to counsel, some to minister, for example. The Spirit's presence is shown in each person to the good of all (1 Cor 12:7). We are all different. We are all unique. We all have a contribution to make. All contributions are important.

The question is what should we be doing? What are you gifted in? You may be gifted in many ways. Have you found your gift? Are you happy in what you are doing in life? If we are young and just about to seek employment this is not an easy question to answer. Finding ourselves may take a long time, realising exactly what we want to do and then being able to go for it. And from a religious point of view, how is the Holy Spirit within us facilitating such choices in life, as we continually make decisions?

Are we naturally gifted one way or another in what we do in life? Someone will often say of another that they have a natural gift. Whether it be for playing the piano or painting a picture; whether it has been the product of discipline, perseverance and hard work, or whether there has been a spiritual marriage within of communion with the Holy Spirit in a clear understanding of the true purpose in life for that person. There are so many factors which may be inhibiting what we really would like to be involved in. Being a woman in relation to seeking ministry in church life is a clear example.

Last week we saw that John the Baptist, like Jesus, had a clearly defined mission in life. During the holiday period I have been reading work by Malcolm Muggeridge. His book on Mother Teresa is entitled with the mission statement Something Beautiful for God. Responding to guidance by the Holy Spirit is a personal affair. I hope you are happy in the way you are living life, but it is wonderful to have such inner guidance to help us in our daily living!

Richard Scutter

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

[https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?
pwd=YUpja05YTxFcN0N4MGRiSF
VIRlI0Zz09](https://zoom.us/j/8820962366?pwd=YUpja05YTxFcN0N4MGRiSFVIRlI0Zz09)

Meeting ID: 882 096 2366
Password: 033643

SUNDAY 19 JANUARY

9am Holy Communion
Celebrant: Revd Dr Bili Malek
Preacher: The Venerable Em
Archdeacon Anne Ranse OAM

SUNDAY 26 JANUARY

9am Holy Communion
Celebrant: Revd Dr Bili Malek
Preacher: Tobias Nevile

Coming soon:

Bank details for direct debit:

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

**CAN
HOPE,
PEACE,
JOY AND
LOVE
GROW IN
ME?**



ASKING QUESTIONS FINDING FAITH

We believe that asking questions
is how we grow.
Many questions are spiritual in nature like,
who am I?
where am I going in life?
how can I be more hopeful, peaceful,
joyful, loving?

Holy Covenant is a safe space
to ask these kind of questions and more.

We believe that God came into the world
so that humanity might find
healing and wholeness,
justice and peace.

So if the world is driving you crazy and the
church you've been to has boxed you in,
maybe its time to start asking some
questions.

So if you are exploring faith for the first
time or wrestling with some
spiritual questions,
why not join our
Being With program in 2025?
God is closer than you think.

summer schedule

MANY OF OUR REGULAR
PROGRAMS WILL HAVE A BREAK
OVER SUMMER

COMBINED SUNDAY SERVICES
FROM 29 DECEMBER - 9AM

8AM AND 10AM SERVICES
RESUME 2 FEBRUARY 2025

KIDS' CHURCH AND YOUTH
PROGRAM RESUME
9 FEBRUARY 2025

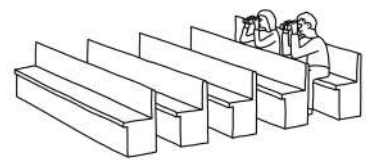
WEDNESDAY SERVICES WILL
RESUME 5 FEBRUARY 2025

NEWCOMERS

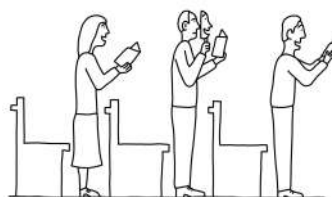
HOW TO GIVE CHURCH A TRY WITHOUT DETECTION



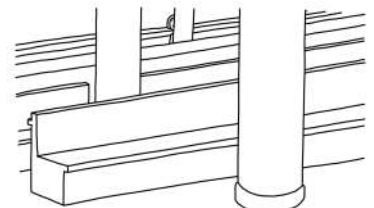
EVASIVE THE WELCOMERS



SIT NEAR THE BACK



TRY TO BLEND IN



MAKE FULL USE OF THE PILLARS

A Mantra for 2025

*Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice.
Philippians 4:4-7*

It is so special to have a sacred space, a place to meet with God one on one. At the moment the sacred space is surrounded with the beauty of a colourful garden, a delight to look at and be in. 'Rejoice and again I say rejoice'. Rejoice at the beauty of your surroundings, rejoice at God's creation - I mean, can you keep the smile off your face when the kookaburra laughs or more so when its baby tries to laugh as well! Or the wonder of seeing a glorious flower growing and forming from the dirt of the earth? Above all rejoice at the birth of Jesus, at his goodness in all we have which is so much more than many and rejoice at his graciousness to us at welcoming us as children of God.

A mantra for this New Year. Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice.'

Blessings.

Anne, servant of the Lord



Rejoice in the beauty.

Future Church Conference—28 January 2025



Future Church Conference is an eclectic gathering of church leaders and Jesus-followers who are eager to take part in forward-thinking conversations about how we do church.

Recognising the harm that has been done in the name of Jesus, we're calling for an urgency of spirit, getting practical, and challenging one another to create safer spaces. We don't expect everyone to agree with what is said. But we do expect people to listen, engage, and make space.

THE DAY CONFERENCE: 9am-5pm

The day conference is set aside for pastors, chaplains, ministry crew, and church leaders who are thinking strategically about how they can lead their churches through the difficult terrain we find ourselves in. We will gather to be refreshed, challenged, and inspired. We'll share ideas, and dream about what the church of tomorrow could look like, today.

EVENING GATHERING: 7pm-9:30pm

In the evening, we open up the doors for lay leaders, volunteers, and all who want to create safer spaces within our communities. Jarrod McKenna will be setting a vision for us as we live into a future of a church that transcends culture wars.

Register here: <https://events.humanitix.com/future-church-conference-2025/tickets>

THE HISTORY OF ABORIGINAL SUNDAY

On January 26 1938, Aboriginal leaders including William Cooper met for a Day of Mourning, seeking equality and full citizenship (though it would take another 30 years).

The Australian Churches were then asked to set aside the Sunday before January 26 as Aboriginal Sunday (previously called Aborigines' Day), a day for Christians to act in solidarity with Aboriginal peoples and the injustices being experienced.

The first Aboriginal Sunday is suggested as occurring in 1941, although was referenced in a letter from William Cooper to the John McEwen, Minister for the Interior written on 19 January 1938 and also referenced in the Herald (Melbourne) newspaper on 18 January 1939.

(Common Grace, https://www.commongrace.org.au/the_history_of_aboriginal_sunday)

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



DATE
20 FEBRUARY 2025



TIME
7:00 - 8:00 PM



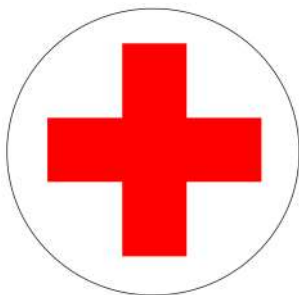
2025 AGM—Call for Reports

We are holding our AGM on Thursday, 20 Feb. If you are the leader of a group here at church, please send a report to Caity in the office —
office@holycovenant.org.au

The deadline for reports is Thursday, 23 January 2025.

Please include in the report: something you are grateful for from 2024, and something you plan on changing to make 2025 even better.

Most group leaders have been emailed, but if you haven't, and you'd like to share about your group, please be in touch! Thanks.



CPR COURSE

Covenant Care is holding a Provide CPR course on 28 January at 3pm. In past years, members of the parish, who are not Covenant Care volunteers have joined in with this training.

If you have joined in the past and/or would like to join in this year, please email Leanne (CC Program Manager) at nurse@holycovenant.org.au or call her on 0487 945 615 by 22 January 2025.

Summer Spiritual Fellowship, Tuesdays 2pm

On Tuesday, Doreen Matters showed us several Cathedrals in England she has visited.

This week, Jenny Tomkins will be showing photos of her trip to India, and some spiritual places she visited along the way.

Please come by and enjoy photos and stories of spiritual places, over a cuppa and biscuits. For more info, speak with Bili.

PRAYER POINTS

IN THE WORLD

- ⇒ For marginalised members of the community who will be negatively impacted as Meta walks back its 'hateful conduct' policy, including women and LGBTIQ+ people.
- ⇒ For all hospital workers and firefighters as fires in California continue to spread.
- ⇒ For all involved in committing to the Gaza ceasefire, including the hostages and prisoners to be released.

IN AUSTRALIA

- ⇒ For social and community workers who help women experiencing D&GBV after over 100 women died from DV in 2024.
- ⇒ For emergency weather services, as the drastic effects of climate change continue to manifest across Australia as severe weather events.
- ⇒ For those experiencing mental illness who are being treated in the NSW public health system, following a mass resignation of over 200 public psychiatrists this week.

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- ⇒ Diocese of Perth
- ⇒ Young District Anglican Ministry
- ⇒ Mothers' Union
- ⇒ Embracing Ministries
- ⇒ Pray for: 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 DI Mutch and Melanie Cantwell and Ella and Lilly; Maurice Nevile; Tobias Nevile; Chris Olsson; Sue Paice; and John and Gillian Painter.
- ⇒ We uphold those in special need of prayer (often for long term needs) including Barry & Sandra Button; Glenys Wimmer; Bev Chambers, Bruce Barnes, Megan McKay, Bob & Hilary Harris, Joshua Salske, Ian Matters, Brian Hepworth, Rosemary Kennemore and anyone known to us personally.

COMMEMORATIONS

- 19 Jan Andre Ronald Eric D'Cruz (d. 2000)
Brian George Dennis (d. 2024)

BIRTHDAYS

- 20 Jan Peter Ward
21 Jan Mary David-Hoole
22 Jan Meg Brighton
24 Jan Andrew Dudzinski

BIBLE READINGS

- Isaiah 58: 6-8
Psalm 36: 5-10
1 Corinthians 12: 1-11
John 3: 16-24

COLLECT

Bountiful God,
whose Son revealed his glory at Cana of Galilee:
help us to believe and obey,
so that, as our Saviour promised,
we may be filled with the wine of new life
and show forth his joy and love;
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of 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

The Reverend Dr Bili Malek
0420 966 866 (SMS only please) bili.malek@gmail.com

Youth Coordinator

Tobias Nevile
0468 969 372 youth@holycovenant.org.au

Wardens

Allison Cooper-Stanbury 0410 506 231

Prayer Vine

Rosemary Kennemore
6251 2009 kennemorerosemary@gmail.com

Belonging and Caring

The Reverend Dr Wayne Brighton
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Children & Families Worker

Lou Passmore
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Covenant Care Program Manager

Leanne McKean
0487 945 615 nurse@holycovenant.org.au

Covenant Care Chaplain

Venerable (EM) Anne Ranse OAM
0406 379 599 anne.ranse@gmail.com

Honorary Priests

The Revd Anne Dudzinski
0413 994 739 annedudzinski@optusnet.com.au

The Revd Connie Gerrity
0429 423 725 connie@gerrity.id.au

The Revd Lynda McMinn
0403 769 991 ellemm99@gmail.com

Facilities & Maintenance Team

0419 255 002