



Anglican Parish of Bass-Phillip Island  
St Augustine's, San Remo St Paul's, Bass  
St Philip's, Cowes  
[www.anglicanparishbassphillipisland.org](http://www.anglicanparishbassphillipisland.org)  
Rector – The Rev'd Jo White Mobile - 0490 831 299  
Telephone – 5952 2608  
Email [-revjobpi@gmail.com](mailto:-revjobpi@gmail.com)  
FIFTH IN EASTER 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021  
Choose Hope, Love, Justice

MON 3<sup>rd</sup> 10.00am - 1.30pm Mary Talbot Room open  
TUES 4<sup>th</sup>  
WED 5<sup>th</sup> 10.00am – 1.30pm Mary Talbot Room open  
THURS 6<sup>th</sup> 10.00am – Holy Communion St Philip's, Cowes  
Worship Resources and online worship prepared today  
FRI 7<sup>th</sup> Chat 'n Chew Drop in Centre, Emmaus Room, Cowes  
SAT 8<sup>th</sup> Rev'd Jo's Day Off  
Market Day at St Philip's – Sausage Sizzle and Devonshire Teas  
10.00am – 1.30pm Mary Talbot Room open  
SUN 9<sup>th</sup> Sixth in Easter  
10.00am Holy Communion St Philip's, Cowes  
12.30pm Holy Communion St Augustine's, San Remo, followed by lunch  
12.30pm Prayer Praise Proclamation, St Paul's, Bass, followed by lunch  
[If you are attending St Augustine's or St Paul's please bring your lunch and enjoy fellowship around the table after the service.]

Please note that each week a service of the word is available at [www.anglicanparishbassphillipisland.org](http://www.anglicanparishbassphillipisland.org) this service includes Bible Readings, prayer and a sermon.

### **COVID-19 Current Information**

Masks are no longer mandatory when attending worship. Indoor services continue to be restricted by a density quotient of 1 per 1.5sqm. Please register your attendance using our QR code or sign in manually. All previous instructions still apply including sanitiser, social distancing, deep cleaning and keeping a record of attendance.

Following easing of restriction Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April unfortunately churches have not had their density quotient adjusted. Current density quotients still apply in the last easing of restrictions and the 1.5 sqm still applies if using QR Code or 2 sqm if not QR Code registration. Provincial bishops are writing to the Gov't collectively to advocate for an easing of restrictions for churches.

### **Bookings advised for all services**

**St Philip's** - book with Michaela 0400 134 449

**St Paul's** - book with Sandy 0449 594 737

**St Augustine's** - book with Ida 0468 374 356



We meet for worship on the lands of the Bunurong people; Gunaikurnai people; Woi-Wurrung people and wish to acknowledge them as the Traditional Owners. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

### **This week's roster**

**St Paul's** – Reader: B. Maghanoy; Prayers: L. Maghanoy; Chalice: D. Wilson

**St Augustine's – Leader:** A. Garrett; Input: R. Prideaux; Children: D. Garrett

**St Philip's** – Welcome: W. Gladman; Reader: C. Prescott; Intercessions: Rev. Jo; Vestry: R. Aitkin; PowerPoint: L. Heflingers; Morning tea: F. Guimaraes & J. Stephenson

– Please contact Wendy Gladman regarding St Philip's roster [gladmanwendy@gmail.com](mailto:gladmanwendy@gmail.com)

### **Next week's roster 9<sup>th</sup> May**

**St Paul's** – Leader: S. Ridge; Preacher: L. Ridge; Reader: L. Ridge; Prayers: Rh. Hayhurst; Chalice:...

**St Augustine's** –

**St Philip's** – Welcome: A. Prideaux; Reader: G. Gijbers; Intercessions: R. Prideaux; Vestry: L. Heflingers; PowerPoint: J. Bell; Morning tea: P. Leditschke & ...

**Today's Readings** – Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 22:26-31, 1 John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8

**Readings for 9<sup>th</sup> May** Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-12; John 15:9-17

### *The Sentence of the Day*

In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

### **Acts 8:26-40**

<sup>26</sup> Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup> So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup> and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup> He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup> Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, May I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup> He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way

rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

*Hear the word of the Lord*

***Thanks be to God***

**Psalm 22:26-32**

From you springs my praise in the great congregation:

**I will pay my vows in the sight of all that fear you;**

The meek shall eat of the sacrifice and be satisfied:

**And those who seek the Lord shall praise him – may their hearts rejoice for ever!**

Let all the ends of the earth remember and turn to the Lord:

**And let all the families of the nation's worship before him.**

For the kingdom is the Lord's:

**And he shall be ruler over the nations.**

How can those who sleep in the earth do him homage:

**Or those that descend to the dust bow down before him?**

But he has saved my life for himself:

**And my posterity shall serve him.**

This shall be told of my Lord to a future generation:

**And his righteousness declared to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.**

*Glory to God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:*

***As in the beginning so now, and forever. Amen***

**1 John 4:7-21**

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup> God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in him and him in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. <sup>15</sup> God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup> So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup> Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the Day of Judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup> Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup> The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Hear the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, chapter 15 beginning at verse 1;**

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. <sup>2</sup> He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and me in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

For the Gospel of the Lord

### **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

#### **Sermon for Easter Five and Feast of St Philip 1<sup>st</sup> May**

The word *abide* appears repeatedly in our readings today. In the first letter of John we hear it six times. In trying to understand how important this word abide is let's turn to a different translation; The Message Bible where we read verses 13-16 of John's letter

This is how we know we're living steadily and deeply in him, and he in us: He's given us life from his life, from his very own Spirit. Also, we've seen for ourselves and continue to state openly that the Father sent his Son as Saviour of the world. Everyone who confesses that Jesus is God's Son participates continuously in an intimate relationship with God. We know it so well, we've embraced it heart and soul, this love that comes from God.

Abiding seems to be about living steadily and deeply in an intimate relationship with God and that relationship is marked by love, love that is expressed mutually – God to us and we to God through his Son Jesus the Saviour of the world.

Our abiding is living with God, living under God's roof, sharing our daily lives with God in a profoundly intimate relationship of love and trust.

In Spanish the expression *mi casa es su casa* is commonly used to express a welcome to one's home. It means far more than just *come in* it says to our visitor come in and make yourself at home. We are to make ourselves at home with God as God makes his home with us. Feeling at home in God's company is a bit like being made welcome to someone's home or being made welcome at church.

We don't feel welcome if there are strictures and rules imposed so that we can't relax. Perhaps the rules around COVID 19 sometimes make us feel less than welcome. I was recently in a restaurant and was not able to make the QR code thingy work. Seeing my frustration the hostess said;

'Don't worry we can do that for you.' so, taking her own phone she scanned the code and took my details. I felt so cared for, so welcome.

When we abide in God and God abides in us that relationship extends naturally and easily into our relationships with others.

Such intimacy with God can seem simple and to some extent it is simple and yet there are many things we can do to enhance and develop our relationship with God. If we neglect our relationship with God we can find ourselves sliding down into what the Christian writer Richard Foster calls the chasm of moral bankruptcy through an absence of human strivings.

Abiding, that is living under the same roof with anyone is not always easy. There are compromises to make. There are new understandings of oneself and of the other to be made. There are new habits to adopt; new ways to do things; new horizons to explore together. God

invites us to live with him in this way; to love him and to learn and experience life with him. A life lived in God and with God is not always easy but it will be a life with a profound sense of fulfilment and joy.

In chapter 15 of John's gospel Jesus is found preaching to his disciples before he goes to the cross. He uses an illustration from nature; that of the vine and the branches. The vine and the branches are lively; the life giving sap is flowing in them. So it is with us, Jesus disciples, when we abide in him and he in us the life force of the risen Jesus (the sap if you will) energises and flows to us and through us.

This passage from chapter 15 is part of what has become known as the farewell discourses. It is here that Jesus begins to prepare the disciples for his departure.

If we allow ourselves the luxury of reading to the end of verse 11 we notice the theme of abiding in joined with the Easter theme of joy. Joy because we know that Jesus is alive, he lives and we live because of him. In verse 11 Jesus says;

I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. (John 15:11)

What at first seems to be a sad farewell is ultimately filled with joy; joy that comes from abiding in Jesus and Jesus abiding in us. That is to say we are filled with joy because Jesus lives under our roof, staying with us and sharing our life. Jesus is himself joyful because he is able to make his home with us. We could say that through the power of the resurrection Jesus finds ultimate fulfilment in making his home in our hearts.

There is an abundance and a fruitfulness that comes from being in this mutual relationship. What the Bible calls abiding. It is a fruitfulness given rich expression in the work of the apostles and evangelists of the early church.

Our reading from the Acts of the Apostles takes up this theme again. Philip the deacon (not to be confused with Philip the apostle who brought Nathanael to see Jesus) this St Philip meets a God-fearer in the person of the Ethiopian Eunuch. What takes place is an excellent example of the fruitfulness that comes from the evangelist's relationship with Jesus.

Philip meets, well it is probably better to say he is led by the spirit of God dwelling in him to find, this Ethiopian. The scripture says that Philip ran to join the Ethiopian in his chariot. He ran. I imagine energy surging through Philip's body as he experienced the Holy Spirit's prompting. This Ethiopian, having been made ready and receptive to the good news wants answers, and needs guidance in spiritual matters.

What the Eunuch says is true; how can he/how can anyone for that matter understand unless someone guides them? Philip helps the Eunuch to understand the scripture and he takes it a step further by proclaiming to him the good news about Jesus.

I guess that's part of what we are to do as disciples - find ways to tell people about Jesus and place ourselves in situations that facilitate such encounters. We are not expected to do this unaided or alone. Before we do such things we are first to abide in Jesus and Jesus in us. This mutual abiding is the powerful and empowering force that enables our ministry.

We cannot begin to proclaim the good news about Jesus without having Him abiding with us/ staying with us/ living with us, flowing through us.

The only way I know to establish a sense of this mutual abiding is to pray, to listen to God in prayer; to spend time meditating on God's love; to sit in stillness and silence and let the spirit of God abide in us and we to abide in God.

The exciting outcome of Philip's conversation with the Eunuch is that ultimately this foreigner seeks baptism/seeks membership into the family of God. In this snap-shot of Philip's discipling we have a template for our own work as disciples. That is to make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 26:19) Not to prevent baptism by imposing church rules and strictures but by recognising the power of God's grace to all who seek him.

Let me conclude with a brief reflection on the words of Jesus from John 15:5

I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

In particular these words:

Apart from me you can do nothing.

It's easy for us to think we are powerful, smart, able, and good but in fact we are not able to do the work of God without abiding in God.

Apart from God we can do nothing.

Abide in God so that we don't fall into the chasm of human striving for righteousness or the chasm of what is the absence of human striving.

No, we must stay on the path of grace.

Abide in God so that we can experience true joy.

Abide in God so that we can share true joy, resurrection joy with all people.

## **PRAYERS FOR 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

Let us pray for the world and for the church.

Heavenly Father, we draw near to you in prayer for the nations of the world; draw all peoples together under your wisdom and grace. Help those with influence to speak up for those who are voiceless. Bring your justice and peace to reign in all places. Bless those countries where COVID 19 is killing so many.

Lord in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we draw near to you in prayer for the church especially the churches in this diocese of Gippsland that are currently vacant, praying that the right person will be guided to minister to the people of Drouin, Traralgon, Trafalgar, and Mirboo North. Bless our Bishop Richard and all in high office in the church that they may know your guiding and refreshing spirit at work in their lives.

Lord in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we come under your roof and protection as we pray for those who are feeling lost and alone. We give thanks for the work of PICAL and other places of care on the Bass Coast. We seek your healing balm and calming presences for those who are sick or recovering from surgery. We pray for our loved ones ... and we humbly pray for ourselves that we might know your abiding presences with us more strongly this day.

Lord in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we can do nothing without the intercession of your Son, Jesus Christ. We bring to mind in prayer the dear departed in the assurance that they are in your tender care. Praying -

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord and let light perpetual shine upon them. Amen.

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

**Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your grace receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name,  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done,  
On earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
As we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
And deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours  
Now and for ever. Amen.**

Prayer



**Hymn suggestions:**

Come Let us Join our Cheerful Songs (TIS 204)

All my Hope on God is Founded (TIS 560)

Feed Us Now Bread of Life (TIS 538)

**THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

*Loving God, we thank you for hearing our prayers, feeding us with your word, and encouraging us in our meeting together.*

Offertory

Thank you for your weekly offering it is much needed. During this COVID-19 period and post COVID-19 your offering can be made by either:

- Placing in the offering bowl at any church service. Use plain envelope if preferred
- Please make cheques payable to Anglican Parish Bass-Phillip Island
- Regular or one-off contributions can be made by internet banking to the Parish bank account, using PayID 0407410011 (or BSB & Acct No. below)
- Visit any Bendigo Bank branch and deposit cash or cheque to Anglican Parish Bass/Phillip Island BSB: 633 000 / Account Number: 169 629 797. Please put on deposit slip: "Offertory" or "Donation" indicating your usual congregation
- If in Cowes, drop your offering in the donation box at St Philip's, Cowes (located outside the front door of the Church)



**ST PHILIP'S – We recommend parking in the church grounds.** Parking in Thompson Avenue is restricted to 1 hour only. 2 hours for those with a Disabled Parking Permit

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** to baking and/or monthly roster at The Mary Talbot Room, San Remo. Contact Rev'd Jo 0490 831 299

Please pray for:

Rene Foulkes, Sue Chambers, Mike Heflingers, Jennie Shields,  
Rev'd George Sansom, Shirley Broad, Kath Kent,  
Len Chatfield, Rev'd Gerald Wall, Sylvia Williams, Tom Sansom,  
Ruby Rose, David Foulkes

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please tell Rev. Jo



St Philip's **FLOWER FUND** needs feeding  
There is a box in the foyer where you can leave your donations.

**Can you help?** Volunteers needed on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month to assist with serving Devonshire Teas and at the Sausage Sizzle.

**Learn a new skill** - We are training new vestry helpers and Eucharistic assistants.  
Speak to Rev'd Jo if you would like to help.



#### DIARY DATES

- 39<sup>th</sup> Synod of Diocese of Gippsland meeting in Sale May 14-16<sup>th</sup>
- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May Parish Council
- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May Holy Communion Mother's Union
- Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May PENTECOST
- Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May congregational meetings for St Philip's and St Augustine's
- Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May congregational meeting for St Paul's

#### Helpful websites

Parish website [www.anglicanparishbassphillipisland.org](http://www.anglicanparishbassphillipisland.org)

Dioceses of Gippsland website [www.gippsanglican.org.au](http://www.gippsanglican.org.au)

Facebook [www.facebook.com/stphilipscowes](http://www.facebook.com/stphilipscowes)

You can help Refugees by putting items in the basket at St Philip's. Most needed items include: honey, tuna in oil, tinned tomatoes, tinned veggies, tinned legumes, sweet & savoury biscuits, black tea bags, dishwashing liquid, shampoo & conditioner, soap bars.

