

20 March 2020

Being church during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

Church services have been suspended for an indefinite period, effective immediately. There will be no services in the parish on Sunday 22 March. We have set up several ways to help you stay connected, and to worship and pray.

St Mary's Quiet Space: We have created a Quiet Space in St Mary's. This will be available Monday to Saturday 9.00 am to 3.00 pm and on Sunday mornings from 9.00 am to 12.00 noon.

St John the Baptist Quiet Space: We have created a Quiet Space in St John the Baptist. This will be available on Sunday mornings from 8.00 am to 10.00 am.

Facebook: Our parish Facebook page has regular updates, sermons and contemplations, and other encouraging material to help you and your loved ones stay connected with God in these challenging days. Simply find and like our Ballina and Lennox Head Anglicans Facebook page.

Website: Our parish website <http://anglicanballina.com.au/home/> has regular updates to keep you informed of any changes.

Parish Office: At this stage we will try and have staff in the office Monday to Friday from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm, however they will work with the doors closed. The phone will be checked regularly so feel free to leave a message (02) 6686 2094 or email office@anglicanballina.com.au.

Phone calls: We have a team of people who will make regular phone calls to our parishioners to check in and see how everyone is going. Please check with the office if you are not sure if we have your current contact details.

Clergy: Matthew and Cathy are available anytime you need to contact us. Matthew can be contacted on mattj1958@gmail.com or 0458 862 098 and Cathy on revridd@gmail.com or 0427 836 988

Mailout: At this stage we hope to produce a weekly mailout to keep you up to date. Where we have email addresses, we will send these to you. Please ensure the office has your email address if you would like to receive regular updates.

If you know of any parishioners who haven't received this email, ask them to ring the office and provide their email address.

Financial giving: During this time we continue to minister to our people and our community, although in different ways. Our budgetted expenses still need to be met. You can continue to support the church through regular giving in the following ways:

1. Direct deposits through AfGD (Anglican funds Grafton Diocese) known as Parish Provider. Application form is attached.
2. Direct deposit to the Parish of Ballina Working Account BSB 705-077 Account Number 00040134 by arrangement with your bank. Use reference: Offering.
3. Leave your envelope in the locked parish letter box outside the office
4. Contact the office by phone or email if you would like someone to collect your offering
5. Post cheques to the parish office 24 Burnet St, Ballina NSW 2478

Op Shop: As a safety precaution we have closed the Op Shop. Please refrain from donating goods to the Op Shop until it reopens.

Here is a prayer that Bishop Murray sent out for us to use at this difficult time.

Loving God,
source of healing and comfort,
at this time of fear, fill us with your grace
that the sick may be made whole,
this virus contained and a cure found.
Strengthen those who care for the sick,
calm the anxious
and protect the most vulnerable
in the power of the Spirit and
in the faith of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



DIRECT DEBIT REQUEST (DDR)

Surname Name

Given names

Address

Postcode

Telephone Mobile Phone

Parish to receive contribution

Request and authorise AFGD to process the amount specified below through the Direct Debit system from an account held at the financial institution below subject to the terms and conditions of the Direct Debit Agreement.

Financial Institution name

Address

Postcode

Details of account to be debited

Account name

BSB number

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Account number

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Credit Card

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Credit Card expiry date

--	--	--	--

Amount to be debited at any one time \$

Date for first debit to occur / /

Debit to be made: weekly fortnightly monthly
 quarterly yearly

Acknowledgment and signature of account holder:

By signing this Direct Debit Request, you acknowledge having read this and understand the terms and conditions under which debit arrangements are made between you and the AFGD as laid down in this DDR and in your Direct Debit Agreement

SIGNATURE(s) Date

Send form to: AFGD 50 Victoria St, Grafton 2460



ANGLICAN PARISH OF BALLINA

St Mary's Ballina

St John the Baptist Lennox Head

*“An inclusive Christ-centred community,
growing in our relationship with God
and the wider community”*

*We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the
Bundjalung nation, and pay respects to their elders past and present.*



SUNDAY 22 MARCH 2020
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Jesus, Light of the world, only you can bring healing to our troubled world. As the people of the world struggle to deal with the current Coronavirus pandemic, we pray that all will have their eyes opened to see that through you, they will have peace in their lives and confidence to journey on with hope for the future, knowing that you are always with them. Surround us Lord, with your love and your peace as we go about our daily lives and help us to shine your light in this world. We pray in Jesus name, Amen.

Prayer and Care Team (PACT)

Today we learn about spiritual blindness. Let our eyes be open to spiritual things, so that, like the man born blind, we may see Jesus and follow him

- Pray for all who seek to follow their Lord. Pray too for a clear vision from God
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church of Melanesia.

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MU THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK Nurturing

This week begins with Mothering Sunday and then Lady Day follows on Wednesday. The observance of Mothering Sunday is still well observed in the UK. Prayers and liturgies are available on the MU website. Posies and cake touch every heart and there is much to be gained by the recognition of those who nurtured our faith whether mother, father or ‘the lady who showed me the place in the prayer book’. Let us be that nurturing person and help to hand down the care.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep. Isaiah 40:11.

This week as we also remember Mary Sumner’s vision, let us pray for those children unable to be cared for by their parents and who need the safety and security of foster parents. Love is the healer of all wounds. Let us pray for those children starved of love.

From the Rector

When I was a child of about eight or nine, we had a family friend around the same age called Heather, and she was blind. Heather was born blind, so she had never been able to see. This was quite amazing for me because suddenly I realised that I had always taken my sight for granted. The thought of not being able to see was confined to games of blind man's bluff or when mum and dad told us to turn the lights off and go to sleep. Being in a state of permanent darkness never occurred to me until I met Heather.

From what I understand, and can remember, Heather was born blind because something happened either during the pregnancy or as a result of some genetic problem in her family. It was scientifically explainable. However, in today's Gospel, there is a story of a man who was born blind, a bit like Heather, except the cause seemed to be understood from a completely different angle. The disciples assumed that someone had sinned, and this caused the man to be blind. They asked Jesus, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" I find this to be an extraordinary claim that when something goes wrong, someone must have sinned. This opens the door for all sorts of blame and guilt, which surely cannot be healthy for us.

Jesus used the man's situation to do two things. Firstly, he used his divine power and gave the man his sight. Secondly, he used this situation to draw people's attention to God. He said, "He was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him." For me this removes the blame and the guilt. It shows us that God can use every situation to bring about good things. It is not always about finding the cause, i.e. who is to blame, but finding a way to use the situation for good. Can you think of a time when this has happened for you? I think it is a much better way to use our energy, don't you?

Every blessing
Matthew

Sunday 29 March The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezek 37: 1-14 Psalm 130 Rom 8: 6-11 Jn 11: 1-45

PARISH PRAYER POINTS

We pray for - Ria Mars, Joy Swinbourne, Lucy van Eck, Neil Maclean, Norma Meehan, Malcolm Streher, Josh Stanley, Fran Shepherd, Bonnie Kerkenezov, Lana Kane-Herrera, Anne Marie Troutman, Ellen Goodger, Margaret Leadbeatter, Margaret Waller, Neal Watt, Maureen Colburt, Lynda Garde, Sue Hurford, Rachael Hampton, Alton Rowe, Ros Rowe, and Elaine Frederiksen.

In March, we remember the anniversary of the death of: Allan Leadbeatter, Phyllis Herbert, Ken Brumley, Ivy Langley, Molly Fitzgibbon, Allen Harten, Helen Cross, Kenneth Bolt, Kath Thomas, Cyril Swift, Kevin Richards, Elva Ball, Iris Pittman, Dorothy Hughes, Brian Smith, Thomas Dorey, Peter Guy, James Sigley, Alma Anderson, Pamela Scott, Norman Watkins, Constance Langley, Otway Halliday, Kenneth Guthrie, William Izzard, Cecil Phillips, Angus McMaster, Ralph Barnes, Graham Knight, Aileen Walton, Samuel Richardson, Patty Cant, Harold Blewitt, Dulcie Sheen, Edward West, Toby Spindler, Mavis Horner, Ronald Smith, Betty Cooper, Ella Waugh, Kevin Leonard, Vicki Fayle, Mervyn Allan, Maurice Hart, Julianne Irvin, James Willoughby, Lesley Woodfield, Gregory Doyle, Betty Knudson, Peta Hunter-King, Tom Iredale, Raymor Watkins, Ina Woolnough, Robert Graham, Barry Chisholm, Walter Strong, Charles Catt, Betty McCarthy, Mervyn Dawes, Janette Tindale, Walter Kellner, Ivy Arnold, Gordon McCully, Nellie Toone, Joan Hunting, Rhoda Baker, Colin Saul, Bob Thomas, Earle Payne, Anthony Cook, Arthur Parkes and Raymond Small.

Birthdays: Ellen Goodger, Norma Whitfield, and Max Riches

Hospital Visiting has been cancelled for the near future.

THIS WEEK TOGETHER

Monday - Friday		9am - 4pm	Op Shop-CLOSED
Saturday		9am - 12md	Op Shop-CLOSED
Sunday	22 March	7.00am	Holy Communion-Cancelled
Fourth		8.30am	Holy Communion-Cancelled
Sunday in Lent		10.00am	Holy Communion-Cancelled
		3.00pm	Concert Cancelled
Monday	23 March	9.00am	Meditation-Cancelled
		7.00pm	Monday Study & Fellowship-Cancelled
Tuesday	24 March	9.00am	Lenten Contemplation-Cancelled
		9.00am	Craft Group-Cancelled
		5.30pm	Lenten Contemplation-Cancelled
		7.00pm	Threshold Choir-Cancelled
Wednesday	25 March	10.00am	Holy Communion Cancelled
		11.30am	10am Choir Rehearsals-Cancelled
Thursday	26 March	10.30am	Coffee & Chat-Cancelled
		10.30am	Service-St Andrews Chapel Cancelled
		11.00am	Coffee & Conversation-Cancelled
		2.00pm	Property Committee-Admin Building (tbc)
Friday	27 March	10.30am	Service-RSL Lifecare Cancelled
Saturday	28 March	8.45am	Lions Youth of the Year-Cancelled
		9.00am	7am Singers Rehearsal-Cancelled
Sunday	29 March	7.00am	Holy Communion-Cancelled
Fifth		8.30am	Holy Communion-Cancelled
Sunday in Lent		10.00am	Holy Communion-Cancelled
		12.30pm	Cursillo Information-Admin Building

MISSION FOR MARCH: ABM LENTEN APPEAL. Mission details are listed on the envelopes. The envelopes can be found in the foyers. There are 5 different envelopes in total.

EAC Prayer Points

- As we move rapidly to the pointy end of term, we pray for the staff and students as they complete and mark the many assessment tasks.
- We continue to pray for the Year 7 cohort as they continue with their Mental Health First Aid training.
- Within the school it is yet another full week as we have students competing in a variety of inter school sporting activities; Year Nine Community outreach; Chapel for the Year 8 and 9 cohort; and an excursion for the year 10 - 12 Visual Art Students.
- We pray too for the success and smooth running of the College Open Evening.

EAC PRAYER PARTNERS: This is where we pray for Year 12 EAC students, and as members of this group we each have one student. If you are interested in being a prayer partner please contact the office or Pat Kerr on 0412 297 766.

LENT PRAYER & REFLECTION: Cancelled

BUSH CHURCH AID (BCA) BOXES If you have not already returned your BCA box please hold onto it until further notice.

ORANGE SKY LAUNDRY VAN: St Mary's is the base for our region's Orange Sky laundry van. We are still seeking more volunteers to offer 2-3 hours each week or fortnight. Want to know more? Talk to Rev Cathy.

WHILE YOU CAN'T GET TO CHURCH, here are some ways to keep connected and sustain your faith:

- Make sure the Parish office has your email address and phone number so we can keep connected with you.
- Watch Songs of Praise on ABC, Sunday mornings 11.30 am
- Download ePray (an app for your Smartphone). This will give you Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer for each day.
- Grafton Cathedral will broadcast their Sunday service on Facebook. You can watch this at any time by liking 'Grafton Cathedral' Facebook page.

POSTPONED OR DISCONTINUED until further notice:

- All music concerts including Sunday afternoons;
- Provision of hospitality involving food: morning tea after services; funeral catering; Easter breakfast at St John the Baptist; any catering at any parish activity;
- Aged Care facilities services and visiting;
- Home Communion;
- Hospital visiting. Clergy will visit as required;
- Coffee and Conversation- monthly at Lennox Head;
- Coffee and Chat;
- Thursdays Craft Group;
- Monday Meditation;
- Monday Night Study Group;
- Bus Ministry: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory - cancelled. Refunds will be organised; Bran Nue Dae - to be advised.
- Martha's Pantry: cooking;
- Threshold Choir;
- Grief Group;
- Op Shop: Closed as from close of business on Tuesday 17 March 2020
- Parish Office (see Mailout 1)

Rector	The Ven Matthew Jones	St Mary's Church	Cnr Burnet & Norton Sts., Ballina
Associate Priests	The Rev Cathy Ridd The Rev Richard Brown The Rev Margaret Davis The Rev Ivan Shepherd	St John the Baptist Church	Fern St., Lennox Head
Parish Office Administrator	Cathie Guest	Parish Office	24 Burnet Street, Ballina 2478
Op Shop	Cnr Grant & Tamar Streets Phone: 6686 0868	Parish Office Hours	9.00am to 3.00pm, Mon - Fri
EAC Principal	Mr Rob Tobias	Parish Phone	6686 2094 Mobile: 0458 862 098
EAC Chaplain	The Rev Sally Miller	Email	office@anglicanballina.com.au
		The Rev Cathy Ridd Mobile	0427 836 988
		Email	revridd@gmail.com
		Web	www.anglicanballina.com.au
		Emmanuel Anglican College	62 Horizon Drive, Ballina Phone: 6681 5054

EFTPOS is available for any payments in the Parish Office.

The Anglican Parish of Ballina in the Diocese of Grafton is committed to protecting your privacy.