



# **BALLINA & LENNOX HEAD ANGLICANS**

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.

## **EASTER DAY 12 APRIL 2020**

### **Pastoral message from the Rector**

From the Rector,

The psalmist wrote long ago: "This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:24). I wonder if we can still do this today. Can we rejoice, even with all the COVID-19 isolation and fear that abounds at this time? Despite all that is challenging us, can we still rejoice and be glad?

Lots of people are telling me their plans for when this crisis is over, when they can get back to life as they once knew it. I get the feeling that there will be a great sense of joy and relief when the crisis has passed, and we are no longer threatened as we are now. In our Easter morning Gospel reading from St Matthew, perhaps the reaction of the two Marys gives us a glimpse of that joy that can come after a terrible event has passed. They had come to the tomb full of grief, expecting to mourn the death of their beloved Jesus. What happened next turned their grief into joy as they discovered that Jesus was no longer dead, but alive. They ran with a mixture of 'fear and great joy' to tell the disciples what they had discovered. Their mood had changed from one of grief and sadness to joy. Even their body language changed because they were running to tell the others. This was such good news that they could not delay in sharing it. I suspect we will be running to see our loved ones face to face when COVID-19 passes, and we will do this with great joy, even if, like the two Marys, there is still some degree of fear remaining.

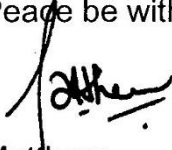
So, back to the psalm. Can we still find Good News even though the crisis has not yet passed? Can we still find things to rejoice about in each new day, even though there is also such a strong presence of fear, or do we have to hold off on finding any sense of joy until the crisis is over? For me the challenge is being able to trust God enough to find joy in the midst of the crisis. I think this is what the psalmist invites us to experience, and I believe it is the right way to go, and that it is also very healing.

This Easter, let us pause for a few moments to think about the blessings that God is giving us each day to rejoice in. Let us balance this with the very real fear that COVID-19 is causing but let us also take up the invitation from the psalmist to acknowledge that 'This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.' Just as God, through Jesus, conquered death, so too let us trust that God will help us to conquer COVID-19. In the

meantime, let us live as people of the resurrection and celebrate life as much as we can, full of hope and joy, knowing that God is with us.

Happy Easter!  
Every blessing

Peace be with you,



Matthew

**Birthdays:** Megan McQueen, Karen Rantissi, Fran Bourne, Dorothy Fahey, and Marj Cradock.

## CONTACT US

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**“COUCH CHURCH”: WORSHIPING GOD AT HOME**  
**SUNDAY 12 APRIL 2020**  
**EASTER DAY**

*Ctrl+Click on [Easter Day Couch Church](#) to watch the service online.*

**Call to Worship:**

Come with joy.  
Come with praise.  
Come with expectation and wonder.  
He has been raised from the dead!  
Come and worship our risen Lord.  
Amen.

*Sharing the light of Christ*

**Hymn: Jesus Christ is risen today**

Jesus Christ is risen today  
*alleluia!*  
our triumphant holy day,  
*alleluia!*  
who so lately on the cross  
*alleluia!*  
suffered to redeem our loss,  
*alleluia!*

Hymns of praise then let us sing  
unto Christ, our heavenly king,  
who endured the cross and grave  
sinners to redeem and save.

But the pain that he endured  
our salvation has procured;  
now exalted he is king,  
and the angels ever sing:

Anon., Lyrica Davidica1708  
TIS 362

**Gathering Prayer:**

Risen Lord Jesus,  
we gather today to celebrate.  
We gather to share in the joy of your resurrection.  
The stone has been rolled away,  
death has been defeated,  
you have overcome all the powers of darkness.  
May we know your risen presence with us today.

Amen

*Sentence:*

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 118:24

### **Prayer of the Day:**

Glorious Lord of life,  
by the mighty resurrection of your Son  
you overcame the old order of sin and death,  
to make all things new in him:  
grant that we, who celebrate with joy  
Christ's rising from the dead;  
may be raised from the death of sin  
to the life of righteousness  
through him who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **Readings:**

#### **Acts 10:34-43**

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

#### **Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24**

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his mercy endures forever.  
Let Israel now proclaim:  
that his mercy endures for ever.  
The Lord is my strength and my song:  
and has become my salvation.  
The sounds of joy and deliverance:  
are in the tents of the righteous.  
The right hand of the Lord does mighty things:  
the right hand of the Lord raises up.  
I shall not die but live:  
and proclaim the works of the Lord.  
The Lord has disciplined me hard:  
but he has not given me over to death.  
Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them

and give thanks to the Lord.  
This is the gate of the Lord;  
the righteous shall enter through it.  
I thank you that you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.  
The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.  
This is the Lord's doing;  
it is marvellous in our eyes.  
This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

### **Col. 3:1-4**

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

### **Hymn: Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord**

*Refrain:*

*Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,  
alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.*

Jesus is Lord of all the earth;  
He is the king of creation.

*Refrain*

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:  
Jesus has died and has risen.

*Refrain*

We have been crucified with Christ;  
Now we shall live for ever.

*Refrain*

God has proclaimed his gracious gift:  
New life for all! Alleluia!

*Refrain*

Come, let us praise the living God,  
joyfully sing to our Saviour.

*Refrain*

Donald E. Fishel (1950 - )  
TIS 390

### **The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew**

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee;

there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

Matthew 28:1-10 (NRSV)

*Sermon*

**Creed:**

I BELIEVE in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our  
Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;  
from there he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Intercessions:**

Risen Lord Jesus, as our world is in the grip of this deadly virus, we give thanks for the efforts of our Federal and State governments to help those who are affected by COVID-19, and for the financial support to all who have lost their jobs or businesses. We pray for those nations who are buckling under the pressure of both the medical and financial impact. Roll away the stones of greed and selfishness which may prevent others from receiving the food and other supplies they need.

Victorious, risen Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

Risen Lord Jesus, we pray for your worldwide church: for our brothers and sisters in Christ, and for the people of our parish today. We give thanks for the efforts of so many people who enable us to worship you online, as we share in giving thanks for your victory over death.

Roll away the stones of discord and unbelief. Transform your church with your spirit of wisdom and truth, that we may be, in the world, a witness to your risen life.

Victorious, risen Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

Risen Lord Jesus, we pray for the communities of Ballina and Lennox Head, in which we live and work; for our families, especially those that are far way, our friends and all whom we love; for the forgotten and undervalued people of society.

Roll away the stones of apathy and selfishness and transform our lives with your spirit of love and forgiveness, that we may share in the joy of your risen life.

Victorious, risen Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

Risen Lord Jesus, we pray for all who suffer: for the hungry, and the homeless, especially those stranded in other countries, and on cruise ships, due to the virus; for those in tent cities in so many locations. For the lonely and friendless; for the sick, and the sorrowing, and all who care for them.

Roll away the stones of pain and despair Lord, transform the lives of all who suffer with your comfort and balm, that they may share in the hope of your risen life.

Victorious, risen Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

Praise and honour to you, Jesus Christ, for you have broken the bonds of death.  
We give thanks for all your faithful people of every age; for Mary Magdalene, Peter and John  
and for all who have seen you and believed.  
Roll away the stones that prevent us from following in the footsteps of all your saints.  
Victorious, risen Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

#### PACT Prayer-

Loving Lord, our Risen Saviour, today we rejoice and give thanks that you were raised from the dead on that first Easter morning so that through faith in you, we can have the promise of forgiveness of sins and life forever with you. You alone can bring hope to this world, crippled by the corona virus at this time. You alone can bring healing and peace to all. Help us to share the good news of your resurrection with others, so that they too will place their trust in you, knowing that you love and care for us all. Amen.

#### EAC Prayer-

- We pray that everyone can keep on keeping on until the end of term. We are particularly mindful of the kindergarten students for whom this interruption is very confusing, and the Year 12s who find the uncertainty of this time a source of anxiety.
- We give thanks for the work of the teachers - moving to a remote learning platform is a LOT of work!
- We give thanks for our cleaning team who are giving the school a thorough deep clean.
- We give thanks for those staff who are still working in the school to care for those students who still have to come to school

#### We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

Ria Mars, Joy Swinbourne, Lucy van Eck, Neil Maclean, Norma Meehan, Malcolm Streher, Josh Stanley, Fran Shepherd, Bonnie Kerkenezov, Anne Marie Troutman, Ellen Goodger, Margaret Leadbeater, Margaret Waller, Neal Watt, Maureen Colburt, Lynda Garde, Sue Hurford, Rachael Hampton, Alton Rowe, Ros Rowe, Elaine Frederiksen, Karen and Ben Shaw.

Lana Kane-Herrera died peacefully this week. Our thoughts and prayers remain with Edna and her family at this time .

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray-

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.

## **Confession:**

When we have failed to recognise you as our Saviour,  
when we have failed to acknowledge you as our risen Lord,  
when we have doubted that you are with us:

forgive us, and fill our hearts with joy.

When we have not shared your good news,  
when we have been too concerned with ourselves  
when we have not shared the joy of knowing you with others:  
forgive us, and fill our hearts with joy.

When we have failed to bring hope to the hopeless,  
when we have failed to bring joy to the joyless,  
when we have failed to offer your grace to those who hurt us:  
forgive us, and fill our hearts with joy.

Amen.

*Absolution*

## **Hymn: Yours Be the Glory.**

Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
endless is the victory over death you've won;  
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes, where your body lay.

*Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
endless is the victory over death you've won.*

See, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;  
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;  
let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,  
for the Lord is living, death has lost its sting.

*Refrain*

No more we doubt you, glorious Prince of life;  
life is naught without you: aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conquerors through your deathless love;  
bring us safe through Jordan to your home above.

*Refrain*

Edmond Louis Budry (1854 - 1932)  
TIS 380

## **Sending Out Prayer:**

Take with you the joy of the risen Lord,  
and share the good news!

**Amen.**

*Blessing*