



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.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 3 MAY 2020

Pastoral message from the Rector

In today's Gospel we read about the sheep who follow the shepherd they know and feel safe with, but run away from the stranger they do not know. They will not follow a stranger because they do not know their voice.

I can really relate to this passage. Many of you may know that I recently adopted a second little dog. My little miniature dachshund Maggie was spending a lot of time alone, so I adopted another miniature dachshund, a little boy called Benny as her companion. It has taken a few weeks for him to fully settle in but now he is really relaxed and playful and Maggie adores her new playmate. However, he is very scared of strangers. I can see something of the timid sheep in him that we read of in today's Gospel.

Benny has really become familiar with my voice and he knows me. He knows my voice and comes to me excitedly when I call, yet he shies away from strangers. It takes a while for him to feel secure enough to go to someone he does not know, to someone whose voice he doesn't know.

I wonder if he may feel that he is going to be given away again. Rescue dogs have a history that we cannot fully know or understand so they require a fair degree of patience and work to help them feel safe and secure. If a stranger is near, Benny runs to me for protection. He snuggles into my arms and feels safe.

I think this is the image we read of in today's Gospel in our relationship with Jesus. We can run to him, we can follow him, we can feel safe with him. He knows us and we can know him by his voice. It is a voice of calm reassurance, a voice that promises safety and protection from all that frightens us. Jesus is not an unknown stranger; he is our best friend who loves us so much that he was prepared to die for us. He keeps us safe for eternity.

As I am writing this, Benny is sitting on my lap looking at me with beautiful, trusting eyes. In these strange and uncertain times, may we all feel safe with Jesus, just like Benny feels safe with me. May we turn to Jesus in prayer, may we listen to his voice and

confidently follow where he leads us. In the words of Jesus to his disciples, "Peace be with you."

Every blessing



Matthew

Birthdays: John Grant, Ron Roder, Norma Meehan, and a special mention to Bonnie Kerkenezov who celebrates 100 years this week.

News: Did you take any photos of your candle vigil on ANZAC Day? We are looking for some photos of that moment to send through to the North Coast Anglican. If you are happy to share that moment could you please email a copy to office@anglicanballina.com.au as soon as possible?

Ellen Goodger Funeral Attachment: There is an attachment to the email that gives the link to watch Ellen's funeral at 11am Saturday 2 May for those who are interested. The instructions are included in the email.

SPECIAL COVID-19 APPEAL

To help maintain Parish ministry and the jobs of paid churchworkers through this crisis, the Diocese has opened a special appeal. Contributions to this fund will go first to maintaining paid roles of churchworkers across the Diocese, whether located in Parishes, the Registry or special ministries such as chaplaincies. Click here to find out more and learn about ways to donate: [The Anglican Diocese of Grafton COVID-19 Support Fund](#)

The Every Day With Jesus books have been delivered to the office. If you are one of the people who normally receives one of these books please email the office (office@anglicanballina.com.au) or phone 02 6686 2094, so we can organise to post them out to you.

PACT Prayer:-

Gracious Lord, what a wonderful feeling it is to have you, Lord, caring for us in this time of trepidation. You have honoured our prayers, as we have asked for your guidance, so that we may build up our courage and be able to stamp out the fear that could be with us otherwise. Be with us, Lord, in our hearts this day, and for those who are fearful, may your light shine and radiate upon them. Amen.

EAC Prayer Points:-

As Term Two starts and students 'return' to school, so begins another strange time for teachers, students and families alike.

We pray for:

- The process that all schools are undertaking - a safe return to school.
- Year 12 students, that they may not be badly impacted by the upheaval.
- ALL staff - our cleaners who have worked tirelessly over the past month deep cleaning every part of the school;
- teachers and learning support staff as they try to plan in an ever changing world;
- Admin staff who have kept the 'boat afloat' from afar;

- The Executive team as they try to plan a next step and to look ahead, and the College Council as they encourage and support the school.

We pray too for all our families, our students, their parents, guardians.

Financial Giving to the Parish

During this difficult time, we continue to minister to our people and our community, although in different ways. Expenses still need to be met. To cover these expenses, we will shortly be drawing cash from long term deposits. Our major sources of income to cover expenses are normally provided by the giving of Parishioners and the Op Shop. The Op Shop has ceased operating and giving by Parishioners has been by the various electronic transfer methods only. A small amount of cash has been received but this method is now not to be used.

You are encouraged to support the Parish through regular giving in the following ways:

Direct deposits through AfGD (Anglican funds Grafton Diocese) known as Parish Provider: Application Form is attached. Print, complete and scan it for return as an attachment to the AfGD email address: office@afgd.com.au. Alternatively, you can complete the Application Form attached, photo it with your smartphone and send the photo to the AfGD email address: office@afgd.com.au.

To minimise exposure to COVID-19 please do not use the postal system to deliver the form.

Direct deposit to the Parish of Ballina Working Account: this method enables you to use your bank to electronically direct transfer funds into the following account.

Account: Parish of Ballina Working Account: *BSB:* 705-077 *Account Number:* 00040134.
Use Reference: Offering.

This system enables users to make regular weekly, fortnightly or monthly payments.

Other ways for you to support the work of the Parish are being investigated.

Many of you may be unable to use either of these methods in which case we encourage you to make a catchup donation at some time in the future when current restrictions are lifted and you can afford the outlay.

Hugh McIntosh
Parish Treasurer
3 April'20

CONTACT US

Rector	The Ven Matthew Jones: 0458 862 098		
Associate Priest	The Rev Cathy Ridd: 0427 836 988 or revridd@gmail.com		
Office Admin	Cathie Guest is working from home 9.00am to 3.00pm, Mon -Fri		
Parish Mobile	0458 862 098	Parish Phone	6686 2094
Parish Facebook	Ballina and Lennox Head Anglicans	Parish Email	office@anglicanballina.com.au
		Website	www.anglicanballina.com.au

“COUCH CHURCH”: WORSHIPING GOD AT HOME
SUNDAY 3 MAY 2020
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Ctrl+Click or just Click on the following [Couch Church – The Fourth Sunday of Easter](#) to watch the service online.

Call to Worship:

Jesus says, ‘I am the gate.’
Come, and be loved.
Come, and receive peace.
Come, and find life.
Amen.

Hymn: God is Our Song, and Every Singer Blest

God is our song, and every singer blest
who, praising him, finds energy and rest.
All who praise God with unaffected joy
give back to us the wisdom we destroy.

God is our song, for Jesus came to save;
while praising him we offer all we have.
New songs we sing, in ventures new unite,
when Jesus leads us upward into light.

This is the song no conflict ever drowns;
who praises God all human wrath disowns.
Love knows what rich complexities of sound
God builds upon a simple, common ground.

God is our silence when no songs are sung,
when ecstasy or sorrow stills the tongue.
Glorious the faith which silently obeys
until we find again the voice of praise.

Frederick Pratt Green (1903-2000)
TiS 646

Gathering Prayer:

We come because we know we are welcome, O God.
We come in the name of Jesus.
We come because you call us by name, O God.
We come in the name of Jesus.
We come together to offer you our worship, O God.
We come in the name of Jesus.
Amen

Sentence:

‘I am the good shepherd,’ says the Lord. ‘The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.’

John 10:11

Prayer of the Day:

God of all power,
you called from death our Lord Jesus,
the great shepherd of the sheep:
send us as shepherds to rescue the lost,
to heal the injured,
and to feed one another with understanding;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings:

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Psalm 23

Sung Response from TIS 659

**All sing: The Lord is my shepherd,
and I want to follow wherever he leads me,
wherever he goes.**

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd:
therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He will make me lie down in green pastures:
and lead me beside still waters.

**All sing: The Lord is my shepherd,
and I want to follow wherever he leads me,
wherever he goes.**

- 3 He will refresh my soul:
and guide me in the right pathways for his name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil:
for you are with me, your rod and your staff comfort me.

**All sing: The Lord is my shepherd,
and I want to follow wherever he leads me,
wherever he goes.**

- 5 You spread a table before me
in the face of those who trouble me:
you have anointed my head
with oil and my cup shall be full.
- 6 Surely your goodness and loving-kindness
will follow me all the days of my life:
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

**All sing: The Lord is my shepherd,
 and I want to follow wherever he leads me,
 wherever he goes.
 Over the mountains, the waters and byways,
 valleys and highways he's waiting for me.**

Hymn: O, Let the Son of God Enfold You

O, let the Son of God enfold you
with his Spirit and his love;
let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul;
O, let him have the things that hold you
and his Spirit, like a dove,
will descend upon your life and make you whole.

*Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill our lives;
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill our lives.*

O come and sing this song with gladness
As your hearts are filled with joy;
lift your hands in sweet surrender to his name;
O, give him all your tears and sadness,
give him all your years of pain,
and you'll enter into life in Jesus' name.

*Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill our lives;
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill our lives.*

John Wimber (1934 - 97)
TIS 655

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John

Jesus said "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

John 10:1-10 (NRSV)

Sermon. At various points in the sermon we will sing verses of this hymn.

Hymn: In Heavenly Love Abiding

In heavenly love abiding,
no change my heart shall fear;
and safe is such confiding,
for nothing changes here:
the storm may roar without me,

my heart may low be laid;
but God is round about me,
and can I be dismayed?

Wherever he may guide me,
no want shall turn me back,
my shepherd is beside me
and nothing can I lack:
his wisdom ever waking,
his sight is never dim,
he knows the way he's taking
and I will walk with him.

Green pastures are before me,
which yet I have not seen;
bright skies will soon be o'er me
where dark the clouds have been:
my hope I cannot measure,
my path to life is free;
my Saviour has my treasure,
and he will walk with me.

Anna Laetitia Waring (1823 - 1910)
TiS 588

Affirmation of Faith:

We believe in one God,
who made and loves all that is.
We believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was born, lived, died and rose again
and is coming to call all to account.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who calls, equips and sends out God's people,
and brings all things to their true end.
This is our faith, the faith of the Church:
We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Intercessions:

We pray for all who are hungry and without shelter; for those who are frightened or bewildered; for those in the clutches of unscrupulous and uncaring leaders. We pray for the easing of tensions between the nations. Lead us in the paths of righteousness, that your people everywhere may be free from want.

Loving Shepherd, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are shepherds to your flock, especially Murray our bishop, and for the team who produce our weekly Couch Church service. We pray for the people of Bangalow in this time of transition. We pray for all who have lost their way or strayed from your path. Guide us in your ways, that, following you, we may tread the path that leads to abundant life.

Loving Shepherd, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We bring before your loving eyes the very old, the very young, and those unable to care for themselves; the unemployed, and those who cannot provide for their families. We give thanks for our Federal and State governments as they provide monetary funds to provide the care for those whose incomes have been affected due to the Covid-19 virus. Protect your people from all danger and harm, that they may know your goodness and mercy in their lives.

Loving Shepherd, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving Lord, we thank you that you have made all things new. Thank you for the victory and power in your name paving the way for us to live free. Strengthen us, especially in these dark and troubled times. May the hope of your resurrection colour our days, and the promise of your spirit working in us light up our lives. May the truth in your word guide our journeys, and the joy of your kingdom fill our homes.

Loving Shepherd, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are anxious, due to the separation and isolation requirements; for those with no clear direction in life; for the lonely, and those who grieve for loved ones; for the sick, remembering those of this parish, and we give thanks for those who care for them.. We pray especially for:

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

Comfort us on each dark and stony path, that, in your presence, we may not be afraid.

Loving Shepherd, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all who have heard your call and followed where you have led, for Philip and James, apostles and martyrs, and John, apostle and evangelist. We remember those of this parish whom you have gathered into your fold. Be present with us through all our days and at our life's end bring us safely through the valley of the shadow of death, that we may come to dwell in your house for ever.

Loving Shepherd, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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:

Generous God, you offer us abundant life, yet we ask for more;

you offer us security and sanctuary, yet we seek our own way – despite the risks.

You offer us guidance and direction, and we ignore you and take our own way.

We are sorry for our ingratitude.

We are sorry for our arrogance, and repent, turning away from it.

We are sorry that we think we know best, and repent, turning away from this.

Forgive us, renew us and restore us to abundant life in you,

in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Hymn: To God be the Glory.

To God be the glory, great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life in atonement for sin
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory! great things he has done!*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God!
And every offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Praise the Lord! ...

Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see.

Praise the Lord! ...

Frances Jane van Alstyne (1820 - 1915)
TiS 147

Sending Out Prayer:

Wherever you find yourself in the world,
wherever God leads you,
know that God is with you.
Amen.

Blessing