



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.

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA 26 APRIL 2020

From the Rector,

Have you ever wondered what makes someone qualify for sainthood? From time to time I have pondered on this and, if I consider many of the more well-known saints, I can see a common thread. Many of them were close disciples of Jesus, such as Peter, James, and John. Many were martyred for their faith. Some were more well known for the way they lived and how they cared for the poor or the underprivileged, such as St Francis of Assisi or St Benedict of Nursia, and even more recently St Teresa of Calcutta, aka Mother Teresa. Others, like Catherine of Siena, whom we celebrate today, are not so well known. Yet, all of them have been canonised by the Church because they were deemed worthy of becoming saints.

I did some research into Catherine of Siena and, I must confess, I found parts of her lifestyle to be quite disturbing. Apparently, she fasted and cut off her hair to avoid marrying her dead sister's husband, and later, at the age of twenty one, she had a mystical marriage with Jesus. I personally find this behaviour hard to comprehend but I also acknowledge that others may have interpreted this as an indication of devout faith and holiness. Our Prayer of the Day acknowledges that God 'gave to God's servant Catherine special gifts of grace to understand and teach the truth in Christ Jesus.' This sounds to me like the Church acknowledged Catherine's special behaviours as godly, so any attempt on my part to be critical of her behaviour could be seen to be dishonouring of this perceived godliness.

St Paul touches on this in his letter to the early church in Corinth where he describes the different ways people interpret Jesus' actions on the cross. Paul describes the cross, not as a symbol of foolishness as some would claim it to be, but rather as the power of God. Many were quick to write off the cross as a foolish act with little real value. However, St Paul describes the cross as the very power of God that can save people for eternity. I guess it all depends on our perspective and how we look at things.

So, back to Catherine of Siena and the other saints of the Church. Next time you are inclined to write someone off as being a religious fanatic, or a foolish person, perhaps it might pay to pause and ponder: What if I am in the presence of a future saint of the Church. Just because I don't get what they are on about, doesn't mean that God isn't using them in a very

powerful way. As the writer of the Letter to the Hebrews says, "some have entertained angels without knowing it." (Hebrews 13:2)

It may serve us well to treasure every encounter as a gift from God.

Every blessing



Matthew

Birthdays: Nathan Josey

News: 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 on 6686 2094, so we can organise to post them out to you.

Change to Rev Cathy's days off: During this time when our services are being delivered online, Rev Cathy has changed her days off to Saturday and Sunday.

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 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 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 26 APRIL 2020
SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

Ctrl+Click or just Click on the following [Couch Church - St Catherine of Siena](#) to watch the service online.

Welcome and ANZAC Tribute

Hymn: Christ is the World’s Light

Christ is the world’s light, he and none other;
born in our darkness, he became our brother.
If we have seen him, we have seen the Father:
Glory to God on high.

Christ is the world’s peace, he and none other;
no one can serve him and despise his brother.
Who else unites us, one in God the Father?
Glory to God on high.

Christ is the world’s life, he and none other;
Sold once for silver, murdered here, our brother-
He who redeems us, reigns with God the Father:
Glory to God on high.

Give God the glory, God and none other;
Give God the glory, Spirit, Son and Father;
Give God the glory, God in man my brother:
Glory to God on high.

Frederick Pratt Green (1903-2000)
TIS 246

Gathering Prayer:

God, we gather as your people.
We come to walk a journey together,
to talk and to share along the way,
to meet and to know Jesus.
Help us to marvel at all that Jesus has done for us.
Amen

Sentence:

For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength..

1 Cor. 1:25

Prayer of the Day:

Almighty God,
who gave to your servant Catherine of Siena special gifts of grace

to understand and teach the truth in Christ Jesus:
grant that, enlightened by this teaching,
we may know you, the one true God,
and Jesus Christ whom you have sent;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Readings:

Acts 13:26-33

Paul said, “My brothers, you descendants of Abraham’s family, and others who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent. Because the residents of Jerusalem and their leaders did not recognize him or understand the words of the prophets that are read every sabbath, they fulfilled those words by condemning him. Even though they found no cause for a sentence of death, they asked Pilate to have him killed. When they had carried out everything that was written about him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead; and for many days he appeared to those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, and they are now his witnesses to the people. And we bring you the good news that what God promised to our ancestors he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising Jesus; as also it is written in the second psalm,

‘You are my Son;
today I have begotten you.’”

Psalm 37:31-41

The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom:
and their tongue speaks what is right.
The law of their God is in their heart:
and their footsteps will not slip.
The ungodly watch out for the righteous:
and seek occasion to slay them.
But the Lord will not abandon them to their power,
nor let them be condemned when they are judged.
Wait for the Lord, and hold to his way:
and he will raise you up to possess the land,
to see the ungodly when they are destroyed.
I have seen the ungodly in terrifying power:
spreading themselves like a luxuriant tree;
I passed by again, and they were gone:
I searched for them, but they could not be found.
Observe the blameless and consider the upright:
for the peaceable shall have posterity.
But transgressors shall be destroyed altogether:
and the posterity of the wicked shall be cut down.
Deliverance for the righteous shall come from the Lord:
he is their strength in time of trouble.
The Lord will help them and deliver them:
he will save them from the ungodly and deliver them,
because they come to him for refuge.

1 Cor. 1:18-25

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Hymn: Praise to You, O Christ Our Saviour

Refrain

*Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour
Word of the Father, calling us to life;
Son of God who leads us to freedom:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!*

You are the Word who calls us out of darkness;
you are the Word who leads us into light;
you are the Word who brings us through the desert:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Refrain

You are the one whom prophets hoped and longed for;
you are the one who speaks to us today;
you are the one who leads us to our future:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Refrain

You are the Word who calls us to be servants;
you are the Word whose only law is love;
you are the Word made flesh who lives among us:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Refrain

You are the Word who binds us and unites us;
you are the Word who calls us to be one;
you are the Word who teaches us forgiveness:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Refrain

Bernadette Farrell (1957 -)
TIS 258

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John

Jesus said, “As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

“I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become

completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

John 17:18-23 (NRSV)

Sermon

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:

Risen Lord, in this time of worldwide tension due to the coronavirus, be with all who feel fear, confusion and helplessness. Make yourself known to all who feel bewildered, abandoned, and afraid, and give them your peace. Inspire the leaders of the nations so they may reduce fear and guide their nations with wisdom and discernment.

Risen Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for your church, as it navigates new ways of proclaiming your gospel, through the use of modern technology. May we open your word of love, forgiveness, and eternal life to those who are still walking in darkness.

Risen Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of earth, sea, and sky, as the soulful notes of the trumpet fade in this year of a different, life-changing battle, we pay tribute to those who fought to preserve our way of life and freedom, so many to the point of death. We will remember them. And we uphold, Lord, those in the frontline of today’s grim fight against a hidden, silent enemy, the coronavirus. Keep them safe as they put themselves at risk daily to keep us safe. Guide our scientists Lord, so they may be successful in their quest for a life-saving vaccine.

Risen Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

As you made yourself known to your disciples who were locked behind doors in the upper room, may you today make yourself known to all who are behind the locked doors of pain, grief, and distress, and bring to them healing and peace. We pray for all in need of healing, for body, mind, and spirit. 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 Leadbeater, Margaret Waller, Maureen Colburt, Lynda Garde, Sue Hurford, Rachael Hampton, Alton Rowe, Ros Rowe, Elaine Frederiksen, Karen and Ben Shaw.

Risen Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

We remember all who have died in your love, especially Catherine of Siena, and we remember those of this parish who have gone before us.

We remember especially Neal Watt, and pray for Maisie Stratton, and Vicki & Philip Goulding, and all of Neal’s family who are feeling his loss so keenly right now.

We pray for Carney Goodger and his family as they grieve the loss of Ellen. We give thanks for her contribution to parish life, and commend her soul to God’s eternal care.

Risen Jesus, **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:

Return to the Lord your God, who is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Joel 2:13

Let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive
mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us now confess our sins to almighty God.
Heavenly Father,
you have loved us with an everlasting love,
but we have broken your holy laws
and have left undone what we ought to have done.
We are sorry for our sins
and turn away from them.
For the sake of your Son who died for us,
forgive us, cleanse us and change us.
By your Holy Spirit,
enable us to live for you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Absolution

Hymn: Praise With Joy the World's Creator.

Praise with joy the world's Creator,
God of justice, love and peace,
source and end of human knowledge,
force of greatness without cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory,
power to rescue and release.
Praise the Son who feeds the hungry,
frees the captive, finds the lost,
heals the sick, upsets religion,
fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence,

Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.

Praise the Spirit sent among us,
liberating truth from pride,
forging bonds where race or gender,
age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure,
foolishness none dare deride.

Praise the Maker, Son and Spirit,
one God in community,
calling Christians to embody
oneness and diversity.
Thus the world shall yet believe, when
shown Christ's vibrant unity.

John L. Bell(1949 -) and Graham Maule (1958 -)
TIS 179

Sending Out Prayer:

Most loving God,
you called us into the world you love.
Give us grace to live thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.

Amen.

Blessing

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