



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 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER 19 APRIL 2020

Pastoral message from the Rector

I think today's Prayer of the Day is so appropriate for the circumstances we currently find ourselves in, and for today's Gospel reading where the disciples were locked in an upper room out of fear. Sounds familiar perhaps! The prayer is as follows:

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt: may we who have not seen, have faith and receive the fulness of Christ's blessing; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

I really resonate with the request to have Christ's blessing now, even though we have not seen the end of this virus crisis. Faith allows us to believe that Jesus is present with us in this time of fear, when we are locked away from loved ones and from our normal daily routine. Faith allows us to believe that Jesus will give us his peace and that we will eventually be sent from our locked rooms to be agents of his peace to those we will connect with. Faith allows us to believe that there will be an end to fear and a whole new life of hope.

Like Thomas, we too may have doubts at this uncertain time. I think this is ok and it is part of our human condition. However, I also think today's Gospel tells us that Jesus is the way to overcome doubt and fear and, if we can trust him, then we will come through this time stronger in our faith, and better equipped to be his disciples in a world which has been changed forever.

In the words of Jesus to his disciples, "Peace be with you."

Every blessing



Matthew

Birthdays: Margaret Gaiter

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) 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	
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Parish Facebook	Ballina and Lennox Head Anglicans	Website www.anglicanballina.com.au

“COUCH CHURCH”: WORSHIPING GOD AT HOME
SUNDAY 19 APRIL 2020
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Ctrl+Click on [Second Sunday of Easter Couch Service](#) to watch the service online.

Call to Worship:

Come, embrace the risen Christ.
Come, embrace the Prince of peace.
Come, embrace his pierced hands.
Come, meet your Lord and your God.
Amen.

Hymn: This Easter celebration

This Easter celebration is not like ones we've known.
We pray in isolation, we sing the hymns alone.
We're distant from our neighbours - from worship leaders too.
No flowers grace the chancel to set a festive mood.

No gathered choirs are singing; no banners lead the way.
O God of love and promise, where's joy on Easter Day?
With sanctuaries empty, may homes become the place
we ponder resurrection and celebrate your grace.

Our joy won't come from worship that's in a crowded room,
but from the news of women who saw the empty tomb.
Our joy comes from disciples who ran with haste to see -
who heard that Christ is risen, and then, by grace, believed.

In all the grief and suffering, may we remember well:
Christ suffered crucifixion and faced the powers of hell.
Each Easter bears the promise: Christ rose that glorious day!
Now nothing in creation can keep your love away.

We thank you that, this Easter, your church is blessed to be
a scattered, faithful body that's doing ministry.
In homes and in the places of help and healing, too,
we live the Easter message by gladly serving you.

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette © 2020

Gathering Prayer:

We are the people of God.
Risen Lord, as we gather today,
may we see you and hear you,
may we feel you and touch you,
may we know your presence with us now.
Amen

Sentence:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3

Prayer of the Day:

Almighty and eternal God,
the strength of those who believe
and the hope of those who doubt:
may we, who have not seen, have faith
and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings:

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover my flesh will live in hope.
For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.
You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

"Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

'He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.'

This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

Psalm 16

Preserve me, O God:
for in you I have taken refuge.
I have said to the Lord, You are my Lord:
and all my good depends on you.
As for those who are held holy on the earth:
the other gods in whom people delight,
Though the idols are many that they run after:
their offerings of blood I will not offer
nor take their name upon my lips.
The Lord is my appointed portion and my cup:
you hold my lot in your hands.

The share that has fallen to me is in pleasant places:
and a fair land is in my possession.
I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel:
at night also he has instructed my heart.
I have set the Lord always before me:
he is at my right hand and I shall not fall.
Therefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices;
my flesh also shall rest secure.
For you will not give me over to the power of death:
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.
You will show me the path of life:
in your presence is the fulness of joy
and from your right hand flow delights for ever more.

1 Peter 1:1-12

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To the exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who have been chosen and destined by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit to be obedient to Jesus Christ and to be sprinkled with his blood:

May grace and peace be yours in abundance.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours made careful search and inquiry, inquiring about the person or time that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated when it testified in advance to the sufferings destined for Christ and the subsequent glory. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in regard to the things that have now been announced to you through those who brought you good news by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look!

Hymn: These Things Did Thomas Count As Real

These things did Thomas count as real:
the warmth of blood, the chill of steel,
the grain of wood, the heft of stone,
the last frail twitch of flesh and bone.

The vision of his sceptic mind
was keen enough to make him blind
to any unexpected act
too large for his small world of fact.

His reasoned certainties denied
that one could live when one had died,
until his fingers read like Braille
the markings of the spear and nail.

May we, O God, by grace believe
and thus the risen Christ receive,
whose raw, imprinted palms reached out
and beckoned Thomas from his doubt.

Thomas Henry Troeger (1945 -)
TIS 649

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:19-31 (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:

Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, we pray for your beautiful creation, scarred by plunder, pollution and destruction. In the wounds of the world, risen Jesus, bring new life to your creation.

And in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, we pray for the peoples of the world, suffering under the impact of COVID-19, scarred by cruelty, hatred and war. In the wounds of the people, Jesus, bring new life to your people.

And in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, we pray for our nation, for our federal and state governments, as they seek to bring financial help to those out of work and whose businesses are struggling under the impact of the virus. Risen Jesus, bring new hope and life to our country.

And in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, we pray for your church, scarred by division, discord and disobedience. In the wounds of your church, risen Jesus, bring healing and new life.

And in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, we pray for the forgotten of our community, scarred by loneliness, rejection and shame. In the wounds of your little ones, Jesus, let us see your wounds. Risen Jesus, bring new life to our communities of Ballina and Lennox Head.

And in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, we pray for the sick, especially those suffering due to COVID-19. We give thanks for all who have died believing in you, and for those who have never seen your face, yet believed in your victory over the grave. Help us to recognise the marks of your presence among us, that we may see and believe and, at our life's end, stretch out your hands to draw us to your eternal presence.

And in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

PACT Prayer-

Loving Lord, 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. Amen.

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.

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:

Prince of peace, we are sorry
that we choose not to forgive but to hold grudges;
that we doubt you and do not trust;
that we choose to rely on our own resources and not on you;
that we believe only when we have proof.
Help us to forgive more readily, and to trust more willingly.
Amen.

Absolution

Hymn: Faith Will Not Grow From Words Alone.

Faith will not grow from words alone,
from proofs provided, scripture known;
our faith must feel its way about,
and live with question marks and doubt.

The pattern Jesus showed, we share:
life comes through death, hope through despair.
God is made known in brokenness,
and faith feeds on God's emptiness.

The church still tells how Jesus came
through death to glorious life again -
the strangest story! Yet, maybe,
our faith will feed on mystery.

Faith takes the little that we know,
and calls for hope, and tells us: Go!
Love and take courage, come what may;
Christ will be with us on the way.

Elizabeth J. Smith (1956 -)
TIS 691

Sending Out Prayer:

Let us feel the touch of peace,
the touch of life,
the touch of the risen Lord,
beside us, behind us, and before us
all the days of our lives.

Amen.

Blessing

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