



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 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 10 MAY 2020

Pastoral message from the Rector

I wonder if you ever had the experience at school when the teacher asked if everyone understood, and everyone just seemed to nod in agreement. You didn't understand but were secretly hoping someone else would be brave enough to say they didn't, but it seemed that either everyone else did, or they were just as scared as you were so no hands went up to ask for clarification. I know that happened to me a few times and I have quietly wished I had been brave enough to ask, even if it had made me look foolish in front of my peers

Well, we can be grateful for Thomas in today's Gospel, who, in spite of possible peer criticism, openly says to Jesus that he does not understand what Jesus is talking about. My hunch is that the others did not have a clue either but were probably not game to say so, after all Thomas does say "we do not know" so maybe he was the official spokesperson. Regardless of whether this was a planned strategy or just a courageous act on Thomas' part, I am grateful for those who have the courage to ask difficult questions. Thomas' courage seemed to have worked because Philip then spoke up with his need for clarification, "Show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus responded by saying "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." A thought provoking response!

Are you afraid to ask questions about God and faith? Even more so, are you afraid that other people might ask you questions that you cannot answer? I have a suspicion that one of the reasons many of us do not invite our friends to church is because we are afraid they will ask us to explain things, and we may not be confident doing this. I think today's Gospel tells us not to worry. It is ok to not know, to not have all the answers. I think it is great if people have questions and I think the best response is to be honest and say if we don't know but offer to find out the answers together. This way we can learn and grow together in our understanding of God and our faith. So, bring on the questions and let's encourage each other and, together, may we learn more about God.

Every blessing



Matthew

Birthdays: Marg Gardnir, Jim Pratten, Denis Perkins, and Julie Carter.

Anniversaries: Trevor & Ann Emery, and Deidre & Colin Dagg.

Gwen Brown died very peacefully on Saturday 2 May. Gwen turned 100 in January and has been living in Maranoa Nursing Home in Alstonville for the last few months. Matthew was able to visit her and anoint her prior to her death and she was very peaceful. Her niece was with her when she died and the family has asked to pass on their greetings to the Parish family and their appreciation for the care shown to Gwen over many years. It was her wish not to have a funeral. May she Rest In Peace.

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?

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.

COVID Safe App: Matthew and Cathy encourage all parishioners with a Smart Phone to download the government's COVID Safe App. If you have any questions, please contact Cathy who is happy to help.

PACT Prayer: -

As the Corona virus continues its path of turmoil, hardship and death around the world, hear our prayers dear Lord. We uphold to you, Lord, all those who have been affected by the sting of this virus. We know that there are lessons to be learnt from this pandemic and that life for all of us will never be the same. In the changes that will come, help us, and those that are making the decisions for us, put you first when we reorganise ourselves, our families, our communities, and our countries. Grant Lord, healing to the sick, eternal life to the dead, and consolation to the bereaved families. Look upon us Lord in your mercy, and despite all our failings, forgive and guide us in your path no matter what lies ahead. Amen.

EAC Prayer Points: -

As the school continues to work its way through the maze of rules and regulations with Covid 19:

- We give thanks for the parents who continue to support their children and the staff at this time.
- We pray for Year 12 as they come back to school this week, and for our kindergarten students as they too have some days back on campus.

Amen.

We pray for healing 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.

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”: WORSHIPPING GOD AT HOME
SUNDAY 10 MAY 2020
THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Ctrl+ Click or Tap on the following for Couch Church Service

Call to Worship:

Jesus said, I am the Way – come!

Jesus said, I am the Way and the Truth – come and receive.

Jesus said, I am the Way, the Truth and the Life – come, receive, and respond.

Amen.

Hymn: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

I want to walk as a child of the light,

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world:

the star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain:

In him there is no darkness at all;

the night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God;

shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God,

I want to look at Jesus;

clear sun of righteousness,

shine on my path and show me the way to the Father.

Refrain:

I'm looking for the coming of Christ;

I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race

we shall know the joy of Jesus

Refrain:

Kathleen Armstrong Thomerson (1934-)

TiS 643

Gathering Prayer:

Dear Lord, as we gather in your name,

listen to us and bring us peace;

be our rock and our refuge, that we may be made strong;

let your face shine upon us, that we may show your love.

Amen

Sentence:

‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life,’ says the Lord.

John 14:6

Prayer of the Day:

Ever living God,
who called your Church to witness
that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:
help us so to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may be reconciled to you;
through him who died and rose again
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Readings:

Acts 7:55-60

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Psalm 31:1-5, 17-18

Sung Response from TiS 754

**All sing: You are my hiding-place,
you always fill my heart with songs of deliverance.
Whenever I am afraid I will trust in you.**

- 1 To you Lord I have come for shelter:
let me never be put to shame.
- 2 O deliver me in your righteousness:
incline your ear to me and be swift to save me.

**All sing: You are my hiding-place,
you always fill my heart with songs of deliverance.
Whenever I am afraid I will trust in you.**

- 3 Be for me a rock of refuge a fortress to defend me:
for you are my high rock and my stronghold.
- 4 Lead me and guide me for your name's sake:
Bring me out of the net that they have secretly laid for me
for you are my strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commit my spirit:
you will redeem O Lord God of truth.

**All sing: You are my hiding-place,
you always fill my heart with songs of deliverance.
Whenever I am afraid I will trust in you.**

- 17 All my days are in your hand
O deliver me from the powers of my enemies
and from my prosecutors.
- 18 Make your face to shine upon your servant:
And save me for your mercy's sake.

**All sing: You are my hiding-place,
you always fill my heart with songs of deliverance.
Whenever I am afraid I will trust in you.**

Michael Ledner (1981-)
TiS 754

Hymn: God Has Spoken to His People

Refrain:

*God has spoken to his people, hallelujah!
And his words are words of wisdom, hallelujah!
God has spoken to his people, hallelujah!
And his words are words of wisdom, hallelujah!*

Open your ears, O Christian people,
open your ears and hear good news.
Open your hearts, O royal priesthood,
God has come to you,
God has come to you.

Refrain:

They who have ears to hear his message,
they who have ears, now let them hear;
they who would learn the way of wisdom,
let them hear God's word,
let them hear God's word.

Refrain:

Israel comes to greet the Saviour,
Judah is glad to see his day;
from east and west the peoples travel:
he will show the way,
he will show the way.

Refrain:

Willard Francis Jabusch (1930 -)
TIS 636

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;

but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

John 14:1-14 (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:

How shall we pray today?

We pray, God who is present in every moment, for grace
for those who have so much time on their hands
that they are reorganising everything over and over,
and we pray for those for whom every moment is an hour,
every hour is a day, every day is a week in these endless times.
We pray for those for whom housework is a struggle,
and we pray for those who are one missed payment away
from losing their homes or being evicted from their apartments.

How shall we pray today?

We pray, Jesus who has a heart for the vulnerable, for justice
for those who can return to their offices that have been deep cleaned,
with cubicles and work areas divided with protectors, with safe distancing,
and we pray for those who will be forced to choose
between going back to unsafe conditions and possibly getting sick,
or staying home, staying safe, protecting themselves and their families,
and who may lose their jobs, their health insurance,
and even their right to receive unemployment benefits.

How shall we pray today?

We pray, Spirit who is constantly bringing forth new things, for hope
for those seeking new treatments, new vaccines, new methods
of challenging this terrible virus, and bringing relief to so many,
and we pray for those for whom all these things will be too late,
and for their families who must mourn them from a distance.
We pray for all those who are willing to take part in such studies,
to be human subjects in these trials, to take risks so that those
whose lives are at risk might have their fears and worries relieved.

How shall we pray today?

Let us pray for days that grow longer in hope,
let us pray for days that grow longer with justice,
let us pray for days that grow longer through grace,

let us pray that you will be with us on this day
and all the days to come, God in Community, Holy in One.

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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:

Forgive us, loving Lord, that we have strayed from your way.
Forgive us for the times our lives have not been shaped by your truth.
Forgive us for denying your life in us and in others,
by the way we have lived.
In the name of Jesus, the way, the truth and the life, we pray.
Amen.

Absolution

Hymn: Holy Spirit, Go Before Us

Holy Spirit, go before us,
every mind and heart prepare
for good news of life in Jesus,
for the joyful hope we share.
Gently lead the lost to safety,
gently teach them Wisdom's way,
till they come to seek you gladly,
till we find the words to say.

Holy Spirit, come and help us,
give us words to speak of Christ.
Teach us how to tell all people:
deepest darkness can be light!
Help us tell how faithful God is,
and how Jesus sets us free;
take our words and make them gospel,
so that many may believe.

Holy Spirit, stay to show us
how to serve as Christ served us.
May our words of love be grounded
in love's actions, first and last.

Your good news is news of justice,
and the strong befriend the weak
in your service, till compassion
builds the peace the nations seek.

Elizabeth J. Smith (1956 -)
TiS 420

Final Blessing:

May God bless you, guide you and direct you.

May God bless you, give you strength and the assurance of his love.

May God bless you and fill your life with his presence –
today and always.

*and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you, and remain
with you always. Amen.*

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