



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 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 17 MAY 2020

Pastoral message from the Rector

Have you ever been in a sad or difficult situation when someone has given you a promise of better things to come? Did you believe them? Did it help to make you feel better? Well, this is what happened in today's Gospel.

Jesus is preparing his disciples for his imminent departure. They are sad, and he is consoling them by telling them that he is going to ask God, the Father, to send them another companion in his place. This companion will be the Holy Spirit and he will be with them. Jesus also reminded them that although he was leaving them physically, his spiritual presence would be with them always. In fact, he would be so close that they would be able to feel his presence inside them.

I love this reassurance that we are never fully alone. For many, this time of isolation during COVID-19 has been difficult. There has been a real sense of physical separation from the people we would normally be close to. For many, this has been emotionally difficult, and I have read that health experts have been concerned about increased levels of anxiety and depression and other mental health issues.

I think this is where today's promise from Jesus becomes real for us. Do we feel his presence with us in our isolation? Do we feel the presence of the Holy Spirit inside, especially during these times of social distancing and isolation? This is God's gift to humanity. We are never separated from God unless we choose to be. God is so close that we should be able to feel God's presence and know that it is God. Unlike the Athenians who worshipped an 'unknown God', we worship Jesus who is our shepherd, brother, and friend. He knows us and we can know him. This is how God loves us and, as Jesus said, "I will love them and reveal myself to them."

May you feel the presence of God deep inside you, not only during this current crisis, but always. Every blessing

Peace be with you,

Matthew

Birthdays: Lyn Batterham, and Clare Howell-Smith.

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](#)

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: -

Loving heavenly Father, we praise and worship you for your continuing love and presence with us and all your people throughout the world. We thank you for the dedication of those on the front line putting their own lives and the lives of their families at risk. We ask you will keep them safe and well. As we begin to ease the restrictions of this corona virus may your spirit hover amongst us, touching our lives, challenging us to continue to love and obey you. Help us to listen to the spirit of truth leading us though this time because only in you do we live and breathe and have our being. Through Jesus we pray. Amen.

EAC Prayer Points:-

As we enter into Week 4 of Term 2, we give thanks for:

- The work of the staff in our school;
- For those who have responsibility for the overall cleaning of the school;
- For those who keep the cogs turning in the administration of the school.
- For the teaching staff as they move into an awkward phase of teaching in class and remotely, whilst trying to maintain the appropriate safety measures.
- For those who help with the pastoral care in the school for the students, and those who have been maintaining contact with each parent within the school
- We pray that in these new and interesting times we will have learnt new skills, discovered new strengths, and grown in our appreciation of each other.

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

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“COUCH CHURCH”: WORSHIPPING GOD AT HOME
SUNDAY 17 MAY 2020
THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

Call to Worship:

The Father loves you.
The Son loves you.
The Spirit loves you.
Amen.

Hymn: God Himself is Present

God himself is present,
let us now adore him
as with awe we come before him.
God is in our midst, now
in our hearts keep silence,
worshipping in deepest reverence.
Him we know,
him we name,
come and let us make him
our renewed surrender.

O majestic Being,
I would praise you duly
and my service render to you
in the selfsame spirit
as the holy angels,
ever standing in your presence.
Grant me now
so to strive
evermore to please you,
dearest God, in all things.

Let your glorious light, Lord,
permeating all things,
reach my face and eyes to touch them;
as the tender flowers
open out their petals,
to the sun their hearts unfolding,
so may I,
calm in joy,
hold your rays from heaven,
power within me working.

Lord, make me your dwelling,
let my heart and spirit
be for you an earthly temple:
come, Immediate Being,

my whole life illumine,
so I'll always praise and love you,
so where'er
I may be
there I may perceive you,
ever bow before you.

Gerhard Tersteegen (1697 - 1769)
TIS 121

Gathering Prayer:

Spirit of truth, come close to us.
Unite us into the body of Christ.
Enable us to worship God in Spirit and in truth.
Help us to support and encourage each other.
Help us to love as we are loved.
Spirit of truth, come and abide in us.
Amen

Sentence:

'Those who love me will keep my word,' Jesus promises, 'and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.'

John 14:23

Prayer of the Day:

O God,
you have prepared for those who love you
joys beyond our understanding:
pour into our hearts such love for you,
that loving you above all else,
we may obtain your promises
that exceed all we can desire;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings:

Acts 17:22-31

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has

fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Psalm 66:7-19

Sung Response from TiS 706

**All sing: Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless God’s holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me into life.**

7 O bless our God, you peoples:
and cause his praises to resound,
8 Who has held our souls in life:
who has not suffered our feet to slip.

**All sing: Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless God’s holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me into life.**

9 For you have proved us, O God:
you have tried us as silver is tried.
10 You brought us into the net:
you laid sharp torment on our loins.
11 You let our enemies ride over our heads,
we went through fire and water:
but you brought us out into a place of liberty.

**All sing: Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless God’s holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me into life.**

12 I will come into your house with burnt-offerings:
and I will pay you my vows,
13 The vows that opened my lips:
that my mouth uttered when I was in trouble.
14 I will offer you burnt-offerings of fattened beasts,
with the sweet smoke of rams:
I will sacrifice a bull and the flesh of goats.

**All sing: Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless God’s holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me into life.**

15 Come then and hear all you that fear God:
and I will tell what he has done for me.
16 I called to him with my mouth:
and his praise was on my tongue.

**All sing: Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless God’s holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul,**

who leads me into life.

- 17 If I had cherished wickedness in my heart:
the Lord would not have heard me.
18 But God has heard me:
he has heeded the voice of my prayer.
19 Praise be to God:
who has not turned back my prayer,
or his steadfast love from me.

**All sing: Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me into life.**

Jacques Berthier (1923-94)
TiS 706

Hymn: Spirit of God, Unseen as the Wind

*Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,
gentle as is the dove:
teach us the truth and help us believe,
show us the Saviour's love!*

You spoke to us long, long ago
gave us the written word;
we read it still, needing its truth,
through it God's voice is heard.

Spirit of God ...

Without your help we fail our Lord,
we cannot live his way;
we need your power, we need your strength,
following Christ each day.

Spirit of God ...

Margaret Old (1932 -)

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John

Jesus said to his disciples: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

John 14:15-21 (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:

God of earth and heaven, we give you thanks and praise that you listen when we call on you; hear the prayers we bring for your world and your people.

We give you thanks and praise for the beauty of the earth that you have made, for the intricate detail of each interlocking part. Teach us to respect all earth's creatures, give us wise stewardship of the earth's resources, teach us to share its bounty with justice.

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

We give you thanks for the creative and sustaining power of the human mind and spirit. We pray for all nations, as governments and citizens work together in fighting the Covid-19 virus. We uphold our Federal Treasurer, as he and his department work through the issues of the budget, and deal with the ever-increasing government debt.

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

We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour, who came to live among us, and you raised him from death to life. We pray for your church: for a spirit of repentance, of faithfulness and obedience. We pray for power to proclaim your gospel in sacrament, deed and word. We give you thanks for our parish lay ministers and readers. May your Holy Spirit continue to empower them as they wait, along with the whole community, to be able to lead worship again together. We uphold to you our brothers and sisters in the Mid Richmond Parish, as they seek your guidance for their future ministry after the restrictions of numbers that can attend worship are finally lifted.

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

We give you thanks and praise that you are the centre and source of our being, the provider of all that we have to share. May we have compassion for the vulnerable, acceptance for the outcast, and may we have relationships that are unselfish, forgiving, understanding and loving.

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

We give you thanks and praise that you love your people, caring for us in times of trouble and despair. We pray for all in need: for comfort for the sad, companionship for the lonely, comfort for those who are in pain, and strength for all who care for them. In particular we pray for those who have asked for prayer for healing. We pray 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.

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

We give you thanks and praise that you prepare a dwelling place for all who love you, and you offer your children the joys of everlasting life. We remember your faithful servants of every age. Help us to follow their example so that, loving you, we may set aside all that is displeasing in your eyes, keep your commandments, and grow in your ways.

Father, 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:

God of love, we are sorry and repent
that at times our love for you falters;
that we have wrong priorities;
that we overlook your guidance.

O God, forgive us.

O God, renew us.

Loving Saviour, we are sorry and repent
that we disobey your commandments;
that we fail to love;
that we walk by on the other side.

O God, forgive us.

O God, renew us.

Spirit of truth, we are sorry and repent
that we disregard your presence;
that our thoughts and feelings are unrighteous;
that we follow the world's way.

O God, forgive us.

O God, renew us.

May your presence abiding in us lead us in the right way,
in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Absolution

Hymn: Father, Lord of All Creation.

Father, Lord of all creation,
ground of being, life and love;
height and depth beyond description
only life in you can prove:
you are mortal life's dependence:
thought, speech, sight are ours by grace;
yours is every hour's existence,
sovereign Lord of time and space.

Jesus Christ, the Man for Others,
we, your people, make our prayer:
let us love as sisters, brothers,
all whose burdens we can share.
Where your name binds us together
you, Lord Christ, will surely be;
where no selfishness can sever
there your love we all may see.

Holy Spirit, rushing, burning,
wind and flame of Pentecost,
fill our hearts afresh with yearning
to regain what we have lost.
May your love unite our action,
nevermore to speak alone:
God, in us abolish faction,
and through us your love make known.

David Stewart Cross (1928 - 89)
TIS 631

Sending Out Prayer:

Go in peace to live in love,
to show God's love,
to receive God's love
everywhere, and at all times.

Amen.

Blessing

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