



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.

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 28 JUNE 2020

Pastoral message from the Rector

I was tempted to leave the Genesis reading out of our service today because it is such a disturbing story. However, I changed my mind because there is much in life which is disturbing, but we don't have the luxury of just removing it from our lives. There is much that we have to struggle and grapple with, so I decided to tackle the reading.

The story is about Abraham and his son, Isaac. Abraham was almost 100 years old when Isaac was born so he and Sarah had waited a very long time to become parents. When Isaac was still a young boy, God told Abraham to take Isaac to a mountain and offer him up to God as a burnt offering, that is, as a sacrifice. And Abraham was prepared to do it! In today's culture, this is abhorrent, and Abraham would certainly fail a Working With Children Check. Now, I must confess, if I were reading a novel or watching a movie, and this was about to happen, I would probably close the book or turn the movie off. It is inconceivable to me that God would ask this of Abraham, and it is even more inconceivable to me that Abraham would agree to do it. So, what is this all about?

I think this story is about being prepared to give all to God if we are asked to. I personally don't think God would ever ask this much of us, but it is an interesting point to ponder. I wonder what our cut off point would be in trusting God. Abraham apparently was prepared to commit this awful act because he trusted God so much. I have no idea how he would have explained this to Sarah, and I cannot even begin to imagine how traumatised Isaac was by the experience. However, it seems that Abraham was prepared to give all to God and not hold anything back. Just in the nick of time God sent an angel to tell Abraham not to harm the boy and provided a ram as a replacement offering and acknowledged that Abraham did not withhold anything from God.

I guess for me it raises the question about my own trust limitations. I hope and pray that I would never be put in this position, but I guess there are times that God does ask things of me and I wonder how much I procrastinate. Isaiah was presented with this situation when God needed someone to go as a messenger and asked, "Whom shall I send?". Isaiah replied, "Here am I, send me." You may recognise this from the hymn, I the Lord of sea and sky.

Do you have limitations on your willingness to do as God asks? I think this is the point of today's difficult Genesis reading and I think it is something worth pondering. Do you?

Every blessing



Matthew

Birthdays: Peggy Selby, Betty Missingham, and Cate Bible.

News:

Return to Church Services in our buildings. At this stage we will only be able to offer one service at each centre, with a service at St John the Baptist at Lennox Head at 8.00am, and one service at St Mary's at Ballina at 9.30am, from Sunday 19 July. The format of the service is still being finalised; however, it is planned to offer Holy Communion in bread only at both services. There will be no congregational singing possible at this stage. More details will be provided as they become available. Couch Church will still be offered weekly.

BCEC has contacted us seeking donations from individuals to support their religious education ministry in Ballina Schools. COVID-19 has affected giving. Those of you that support/would like to support BCEC, might like to apply one of the following methods:

Electronically transfer to the following: - **Account:** Generate Ministries **BSB:032 016 Account:354 950 Reference:12019** and [YOUR NAME]. Send a confirmation email to accounts@generate.org.au with your name, contact details, amount of donation, date transferred, to be allocated to "Ballina Christian Education". This information enables a tax deductible receipt to be sent for the donation.

Post a cheque: - make cheque payable to "Generate Ministries" and post to PO Box 627 Penrith NSW 2751. Add a note with name and contact details if you require a receipt for tax deduction purposes and write on the back of the cheque "Ballina Christian Education".

By cash: - bring in to the Parish Administration Office. A receipt will be issued but is not ATO recognised for tax deduction purposes. The Parish will pass the \$ on to BCEC

SPECIAL COVID-19 APPEAL: To help maintain Parish ministry and the jobs of paid church workers through this crisis, the Diocese has opened a special appeal. Contributions to this fund will go first to maintaining paid roles of church workers 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](#)

PACT Prayer: -

Heavenly Father, as we are drawn further into the turmoil caused by the Covid pandemic, help us become aware of the positives that are coming from the negatives of this deadly, stressful, and difficult time. Open our eyes and our hearts to see and do all that we can within the limitations placed on us, to be a light in the darkness and an inspiration and help to those in need that we come in contact with in our 'different' circumstances. We pray that this virus will be slowed and eventually eradicated. We pray for protection for all those who are vulnerable to its touch. We ask, Lord, that you lay your healing hands on those that are infected, restoring them to health and strength. Lord, we ask for eternal life for those that

have died and consolation to their bereaved families. Father our hope is in you. We trust your promises and look forward to the day to come when Jesus will return and bring them all to fruition. **Amen**

EAC Prayer Points:-

Prayer points for Week 10:

- We continue to pray for those in our college community facing serious health issues at this time.
- We pray for our Year 11 and 12 students who are finalising assessment tasks and for those responsible for collating and preparing all the school reports to be sent home.
- We pray for the College Council meeting, chapels and assemblies to be held this week.
- As we come to the end of this very strange term, we pray for a safe, restful and refreshing break for all members of our community.

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.

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

24 June '20

CONTACT US

Rector

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Ballina and Lennox Head Anglicans

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“COUCH CHURCH”: WORSHIPPING GOD AT HOME

28 JUNE 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Ctrl+Click or Click on [Couch Church](#) to watch this service online.

Call to Worship

The steadfast love of the Lord is established for ever.

His faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

The Lord invites us and welcomes us.

Let us worship the Lord.

Amen.

Hymn: All My Hope On God Is Founded

All my hope on God is founded;
all my trust he will renew,
through all change and chance he guides me,
only good and only true.

God unknown,
he alone,
calls my heart to be his own.

Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray our trust;
all we build with care and labour,
tower and temple, fall to dust.

But God's power,
hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness lasts for ever,
deep his wisdom, passing thought;
splendour, light and life attend him,
beauty springing out of naught.

Evermore
from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

Daily the almighty giver
will his bounteous gifts bestow;
in his will our souls find pleasure,
leading us where'er we go.

Love will stand
at his hand,
joy shall wait for his command.

Still from earth to God eternal

sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
hear Christ call
one and all:
those who follow shall not fall.

Robert Bridges (1844 - 1930)
TIS 560

Gathering Prayer:

Loving God, we gather in response to your invitation;
we gather - together, in many different places - welcomed by you.
May the warmth of your welcome
inspire and enhance the worship we offer to you.
In Jesus' name.
Amen

Prayer of the Day:

O God,
your Son has taught us
that those who give a cup of water in his name
will not lose their reward;
open our hearts to the needs of your children,
and in all things make us obedient to your will,
so that in faith we may receive your gracious gift,
eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Readings:

Psalm 13

How long, O Lord, will you so utterly forget me:
how long will you hide your face from me?

*All sing: I need you, Lord, for I have seen
what life, if led by you, may be.*

How long must I suffer anguish in my soul,
and be so grieved in my heart day and night:

how long shall my enemy triumph over me?

*All sing: I need you, Lord, for I have seen
what life, if led by you, may be.*

Look upon me, O Lord my God, and answer me:
lighten my eyes, lest I sleep in death;

*All sing: I need you, Lord, for I have seen
what life, if led by you, may be.*

Lest my enemy say 'I have prevailed':

lest my foes exult at my overthrow.

*All sing: I need you, Lord, for I have seen
what life, if led by you, may be.*

Yet I put my trust in your unfailing love:

O let my heart rejoice in your salvation.

*All sing: I need you, Lord, for I have seen
what life, if led by you, may be.*

And I will make my song to the Lord:
because he deals so bountifully with me.

*All sing: I need you, Lord, for I have seen
what life, if led by you, may be.*

Sung Response: Clifford George Taylor (1915 – 94)
TiS 625

Hymn: Lord, Take My Hand And Lead Me

Lord, take my hand and lead me
along life's way;

protect and guide and feed me
from day to day.

Without your care and favour
I go astray;
so take my hand, O Saviour,
and lead the way.

Lord, take my heart and hide it
within your grace;
through pain and pleasure guide it
to be at peace.

Hold close your child, dear Saviour,
and stay with me,
and help me trust whenever
I cannot see.

For when it seems you're hiding
your saving might,
still you are safely guiding
me through the night.
So take my hand and lead me
along life's way;
protect and guide and feed me
to endless day.

Julie Hausmann (1825 - 1901)
TIS 593

Genesis 22: 1-14

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood

are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together. When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

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

Father, you are ever ready to give good gifts to your children: receive our prayers for the world and for your church.

We pray for the nations of the world, for an end to war and for peaceable solutions to conflict, for wise government and a just sharing of resources of the earth. We pray for those tortured or held in prison due to their political or religious beliefs, for those taken from their families and land; for your little ones who are dying of hunger and thirst. Show us your face in these your children and help us to minister to them as we would minister to you.

God of grace, **in your mercy hear our prayer.**

We pray for your church, for faithful discipleship, for unity between Christians, for the mission of the church throughout the world. We give thanks for the ongoing ministry of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities of faith. We pray for the work of ABM, the Anglican Board of Mission around the country, and within our parish.

\God of grace, **in your mercy hear our prayer.**

We pray for our communities of Ballina and Lennox Head. Hear our prayers for all who are homeless, destitute, or without work; for children who are hurting from rejection and abuse. Teach us to befriend the stranger within our community and to welcome them as we would welcome you.

God of grace, **in your mercy hear our prayer.**

Father we pray for all in need or distress, for comfort for the grieving and for hope for the despairing, for companionship for the lonely and relief for those in pain. Hear our prayers for those who are shut away from society, the disabled and frail; for children who are starved of love and affection. We bring before your healing hand those of this parish who are ill, especially:

Ria Mars, Joy Swinbourne, Lucy van Eck, Neil Maclean, Norma Meehan, Malcolm Streher, Josh Stanley, Bonnie Kerkenezov, Margaret Leadbeatter, Margaret Waller, Maureen Colburt, Lynda Garde, Rachael Hampton, Alton Rowe, Ros Rowe, Elaine Frederiksen, Karen and Ben Shaw, Pauline Suffolk, Marj Roder, and Rose Fox.

Show us how to care for those who are in need, that we may be Christlike to them.

God of grace, **in your mercy hear our prayer.**

We thank you for all who have died in the faith, especially those of this parish whose anniversary falls at this time. May we have the faith to continue in the path which leads to eternal life.

God of grace, **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

We are sorry, dear Lord, for the times we judge others and find them wanting.

We are sorry that we turn away from your children in their need.

We are sorry for the times when we have not trusted you.

We are sorry for the times our faith has been lukewarm.

Forgive us, and help us to turn to a new way of trust in your love.

Amen.

Absolution

Hymn: Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
naught be all else to me, save that thou art
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, thy child let me be;
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Be thou my armour, my sword for the fight,
be thou my dignity, thou my delight;
thou my soul's shelter and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I scorn and the world's empty praise,
thou my inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only the first in my heart;
high King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880 - 1931)
TIS 547

Sending Out Prayer

Go in the name of Jesus,
to follow the way of Jesus,
to love with the love of Jesus,
and to be sustained by the peace of Jesus.

Amen.

Blessing

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