



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.

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 12 JULY 2020

Pastoral message from the Rector

Today's Gospel is what is sometimes known as the 'Parable of the Sower'. It may be a familiar story for many of us. As you read this passage, I wonder where you are in the story. There are three main ways in which the seed was sown: on rocky ground, among thorns and in good soil. Each of these had their own characteristics and relate to our faith journey. I think it is good to reflect on how this parable applies to each of us.

For me, sometimes I find that the rocky ground analogy applies because I may not pay much attention to something so it is as though it never really got a chance to take root, let alone bear fruit. I can also relate to worry and anxiety sometimes affecting my moods and my faith. I sometimes need to be reminded to take my burdens and cares to God in prayer first, because sometimes my first reaction is to worry or panic or to talk to someone other than God. Again, the thorns of life can get in the way.

Hopefully, however, there are times when I can also have such a deep faith that it is strong enough to deal with challenging issues as they come along, without taking me off the pathway in the wrong direction. I often think of the classic book, *The Pilgrim's Progress* and how easy it is to find oneself going off God's pathway for a myriad of reasons. A deep faith helps us to stay connected to God, especially when the going gets tough.

I encourage us all to read and reflect on this passage this week and to try and put ourselves into the story. If you are like me, you can relate to all three at different times, but the third is the one to aim for. Faith that is deeply rooted in God, in the rich, life giving soil, bears good fruit. May the shallow rocky ground and the thorns of life be overshadowed by God's deep love for us, and in return produce a deep faith that bears much fruit.

Every blessing

Matthew

Return to Church Services in our Buildings

From Sunday 19 July we will offer one service per week at each centre, with a service at St John the Baptist, Lennox Head at 8.00am, and a service at St Mary's, Ballina at 9.30am. The procedure will be as follows:

1. People of any age with cold and flu symptoms will be asked to return home and must not enter the buildings.
2. Social distancing rules must be adhered to.
3. People will need to register on arrival with their name and contact phone number. Distance markers have been placed on the pathways and driveways in the event of a queue.
4. People will be directed to the allocated seats.
5. Only people of the same household may sit together. Seating arrangements have been put in place in both church buildings to comply with social distancing and must not be changed.
6. No hospitality will be offered after the services.
7. People are required to maintain social distancing on arrival, during the services, and on departure.
8. People are encouraged to have the COVIDSafe app on their phone.
9. Congregational singing is not permitted under NSW Health regulations, so any hymns will be for parishioners to listen to and reflect.
10. Parts of Couch Church services will be blended with the church building services.
11. There will be no hymn books or prayer books used at this stage, and the liturgy will be projected on the screen.
12. One person will be rostered for both the bible reading/s and the intercessions.
13. The Greeting of Peace may be either static and non-contact, or omitted from the liturgy.
14. There will be no offertory procession.
15. Holy Communion will be offered in bread only at both services and will be administered single file, standing, maintaining 1.5m distancing while in the line, or in the seat on request. COVIDSafe wardens and/or sidespersons will direct people.
16. Hand sanitisers will be available throughout the buildings.
17. Pew Bulletins will be single use only and may be taken home or disposed of at the conclusion of the services.
18. Votive candle stands will be removed and not used during the COVIDSafe period.
19. Collection bags will not be used. There will be containers in the entry foyers for receiving envelopes and cash offerings.
20. The church buildings will be cleaned before and after the weekly services.

21. 2 in 1 wipes may be distributed for each person to clean the hard surfaces where they have been seated.
22. No Servers or LLM's will be required.
23. The rosters will be varied to meet the requirements.
24. Couch Church will still be offered weekly.

Parish Council
10 July 2020

Birthdays: Kelley Malaba, Carney Goodger, and Marie Jarrett.

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](#)

Ballina Anglican Op Shop is seeking volunteers looking for friendship and an opportunity to serve our community. Morning and afternoon shifts available. If you are interested, please phone Julie Harwood 0408 653 283, Ann Emery 0417 259 290 or the Op Shop 6686 0868 for more information.

The Every Day With Jesus Books have arrived and are available from the Parish Office.

PACT Prayer:

Loving Lord, you have promised to be with us always, even in our darkest times and we give thanks for the hope we have in you, through Christ Jesus our Lord. As we journey through these difficult social and economic times, brought on by the Coronavirus, you call us to live into a life that reflects your great love for all people. Help us to show your love and compassion to those we meet so that they too will know the joy that only you can give. We pray in Jesus' name. **Amen**

ABM Reflection:

Today we read of hungry Esau throwing away his birthright for a mess of potage, a lentil stew, cooked by his brother, Jacob. It was an expensive deal: The son who had the birthright became the family leader on his father's death and inherited twice as much as any other brother (Deuteronomy 21.15-17). What valuable things have we thrown away for short-term gain in our lives?

- Pray that we can see the true value of the people and relationships we have in each facet of our lives, and that we can give thanks to God for everything that is precious.
- Give thanks for the Iglesia Filipina Independiente, the Philippine Independent Church.

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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

SO... ACCORDING TO THESE
STATISTICS, **THREE OUT
OF FOUR** CONDITIONS DO
NOT RESULT IN THE
DESIRED OUTCOME.



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

I GUESS THAT'S
ONE WAY OF
LOOKING AT IT.



PREACHERS
MUST LIKE
LONG ODDS!



MATTHEW 13:1-9 & 18-23



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CONTACT US

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

“COUCH CHURCH”: WORSHIPPING GOD AT HOME

12 JULY 2020

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Call to Worship:

We all love a good story;
we can't wait to hear how it ends.
Come and worship the Lord God, author of our stories –
each one so different,
but if properly rooted in God, they can be amazing.
Come and hear God's story for us today,
and make it part of your story.
Amen.

Hymn: Your Words To Me Are Life And Health

Your words to me are life and health;
pour strength into my soul;
enable, guide, and teach my heart
to reach its perfect goal.

Your words to me are light and truth;
from day to day they show
their wisdom, passing human thought,
as in their truth I grow.

Your words to me are full of joy,
of beauty, peace and grace;
From them I learn your blessed will,
through them I see your face.

Your words are perfected in One,
yourself, the living Word;
within my heart your image print
in clearest lines, O Lord.

George Currie Martin (1865 - 1937)
TIS 430

Gathering Prayer:

Lord, we might not be sitting by a lake today.
However, as the crowds eagerly gathered
to listen to the stories and truths you told them,
we too await your word to us.
With joy in our hearts, and anticipation,
we pray that you will give us listening ears,
and hearts open to receive your love,
your teaching, and your wisdom.
Help our lives to be full to bursting, bearing your fruit.
Amen.

Sentence:

The words you have spoken are spirit and life, O Lord; you have the words of eternal life.

John 6:63, 68

Prayer of the Day:

Bountiful God,
we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word:
by your Holy Spirit, help us to receive it with joy,
and to live according to it,
that we may grow in faith and hope and love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Readings:

Genesis 25: 19-34

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger." When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. When the boys grew up, Esau was a skilful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob. Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Psalm 119: 105-112

Cantor: *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.*

All sing: *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.*

I have vowed and sworn an oath:
to keep your righteous judgements.
I have been afflicted beyond measure:
Lord, give me life according to your word.

All sing: *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.*

Accept, O Lord, the freewill offerings of my mouth:
and teach me your judgements.

I take my life in my hands continually:
yet I do not forget your law.

All sing: *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.*

The wicked have laid a snare for me:
but I have not strayed from your precepts.
Your commands are my inheritance for ever:
they are the joy of my heart.

**All sing: *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.***

I have set my heart to fulfil your statutes:
always, even to the end.

**All sing: *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.***

Amy Grant and Michael W Smith

Hymn: What Shall We Offer Our Good Lord

What shall we offer our good Lord,
poor nothings, for his boundless grace?
Fain would we his great name record
and worthily set forth his praise.

Great object of our growing love,
to whom our more than all we owe,
open the fountain from above,
and let it our full souls o'erflow.

So shall our lives thy power proclaim,
thy grace for every sinner free,
till all the world shall learn thy name,
shall all stretch out their hands to thee.

Open a door which earth and hell
may strive to shut, but strive in vain;
let thy word richly in us dwell,
and let our gracious fruit remain.

O multiply the sower's seed!
and fruit we every hour shall bear,
throughout the world thy gospel spread,
thy everlasting truth declare.

August Gottlieb Spangenberg (1704 - 92)
TIS 439

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen! Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is

the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (NRSV)

Sermon

Hymn: Thy Word

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.

I will not forget Your love for me,
and yet my heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to Your side;
I will love You to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.

Amy Grant and Michael W Smith

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:

Spirit of God, hear our prayers for your world and for your church.

We pray for the peoples of the world: for those oppressed by harsh governments; for the dispossessed peoples of the world. Spirit of peace grow in us and teach us to resolve our differences without violence and cruelty, that wars may cease and all your people learn to live in harmony.

Spirit of God, **hear our prayer.**

We bring before you the leaders of nations: all who make and administer laws; all who hold positions of civic authority and trust, especially the Ballina Shire Council. Spirit of wisdom grow in them; guide them in your way of insight, that they may carry out their responsibilities without favour or self-interest.

Spirit of God, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our parish priests, and our Parish Council; for our sisters and brothers in the parish of Kyogle. Spirit of truth grow in us; give us ears to hear, eyes to see, and hearts to understand, that we may receive your word and bear much fruit to your glory.

Spirit of God, **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.

Spirit of God, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are in need: for those who live in poverty; those who suffer rejection, or discrimination; for those in anxiety or grief; the sick, especially those from our parish, and for those who care for them.

We pray for those in need of healing, 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 and Ros Rowe, Elaine Frederiksen, Karen and Ben Shaw, Pauline Suffolk, Marj Roder, and Rose Fox.

We pray for our communities of Ballina and Lennox Head, for those of our family, and our friends, as we can begin to socialise once more. May we feel your Spirit grow within us, so that we may reach out in welcome, and build relationships of mutual affection, trust, generosity, and respect. Spirit of compassion, grow in us; increase in us concern for one another, that with warm and open hearts we may bring care and comfort to your people.

Spirit of God, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the faithful departed, remembering Sydney James Kirby, bishop pioneer of outback ministry and the Bush Church Aid Society and all who have received and understood your word.

Spirit of life, grow in us; set us free from all that keeps us in death, that, with your servants in every age, we may be raised to everlasting life.

Spirit of God, **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:

For the times we dash haphazardly into your presence,
finding it hard to leave behind our cares and worries:
forgive us, good Lord, and make us new.

For the times when we don't learn from our experiences:
For the times when we don't take care of ourselves,
or the people we share our lives with:
forgive us, good Lord, and make us new.

For the times we don't see what you want us to see
and just take things at face value:
For the times when we want our seed planted in neat rows,
when our own plans become more important than yours,
rather than letting the Holy Spirit prepare the soil of our lives
and blow where the Spirit wants to:
forgive us, good Lord, and make us new.
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:

Lord God, the world outside awaits us
with all its troubles and uncertainties
– but also with its opportunities.
Send us out now, in your name,
to look consciously for ways
of seeing you in the world around,
and to act accordingly.

Amen.

Blessing

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