



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.

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 2 AUGUST 2020

Pastoral message from the Rector

In today's Gospel we read the story about Jesus feeding more than five thousand people with just a few loaves and a couple of fish. This is perhaps quite a familiar story for many of us. However, there is one part that especially stands out for me which I think is worthy of further reflection.

When the disciples realised that it was getting late, they asked Jesus to send the people away into the villages to buy food for themselves. I think Jesus' response was quite unexpected and it is this that I would like to reflect on. Jesus replied, "You give them something to eat." When the disciples looked at what provisions they had available, they responded that they had "nothing, but five loaves and two fish." I find it interesting that they described their provisions as having nothing, when in fact they did have some provisions, albeit not many.

I wonder how often we do this. We look in the refrigerator or pantry and say, 'there's nothing here', when in fact there is something there. Perhaps we just need to be a bit more creative with our thinking and we may be surprised what the end result could be. I remember watching my mother stretch the food to accommodate all our family, including the surprise guests when we asked if our friends could stay for dinner. Somehow there always seemed to be enough to go round.

In today's story, I think we can learn a few important lessons. Firstly, Jesus believed that the disciples could provide for the crowds, even when they doubted themselves. Jesus accepted what was available as being enough. Jesus thanked God for providing the food, before sharing it around. The disciples actually took the food around and did what they had said they couldn't do; they gave them something to eat. When we share our provisions and offer them to God for a blessing, God does amazing things. From thinking there was not enough, everyone was fed and there was food left over. Miracles can happen.

Next time you allow doubts to speak first, perhaps you might like to reread this passage from Matthew 14:12-21. It is a good reminder to place our trust in God, who can and does provide our daily bread, and who can do things that we may think are impossible.

Every blessing

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew'.

Matthew

Birthdays: Fran Legge, Bruce Golsby and Henry McKenzie

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](#)

PACT Prayer: -

We pray, Lord, for your people to remain vigilant and to have patience as the battle against this virus continues. Help us put the safety of others, particularly the more vulnerable, before our own desires. Open our ears to listen to the advice of experts and put it into effect. Grant us the common sense to reject spurious claims of the ignorant and ill-informed. Speed the efforts of researchers as they work tirelessly to unlock the secret of a vaccine that will see an end to this global turmoil. We pray this in your name. Amen.

ABM Reflection:

Today we read of Jacob's strange wrestling match and subsequent renaming as Israel. Having tricked his father-in-law Laban into giving him the best flocks as he took his polygamous family back to his own home in Canaan, Jacob finds himself left on one side of the river wrestling with a man he later realises is God. The river, Jabbok (Wadi Zerqa), flows into Jordan about 40 km north of the Dead Sea. There is word-play here on the name of the river: '*abaq*' in Hebrew sounds much like *Jacob*. The match is won by God who causes Jacob to limp, as a sign of God's power over humans, but spares his life, as a sign of mercy. God's renaming of Jacob means that he is to give up his life as a shyster and become the father of the Jewish people.

- Pray that God would reward those who wrestle with their faith with a clearer vision of all things that appear to be mystical or incomprehensible.
- Give thanks for the Episcopal Church of Sudan.

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EAC Prayer Points:-

As we look to Week Three, Term Three we give thanks that we are still able to teach face to face, and that although we have to do many things very differently, we are together.

- We pray for Primary and Secondary Chapel, still 'online' but we watch at the same time.
- We pray for the 2021 Kindergarten students and parents as we host the Kindergarten Open Afternoon, and the Kindergarten Experience Day.
- We pray for the current cohort of University teaching students on prac with us. We pray for the Year 10 students as they begin making decisions about subject selections for Year 11 and 12.

CONTACT US

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“COUCH CHURCH”: WORSHIPPING GOD AT HOME
2 AUGUST 2020
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Don't forget to click on the link in your email to watch this service online.

Call to Worship:

Let us sit quietly for a moment,
and think about our journey here today,
and how we are feeling now.

Are we ready to give God our full attention
and worship him?

Then let us come together to share in God's love,
to lift our hearts and voices in praise and worship,
to seek God's blessing with a new and deep experience
of God's power and generosity. Amen.

Hymn: Praise to the Lord

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation.
Come all who hear,
brothers and sisters draw near,
praise him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord who in all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining:
have you not seen
all that is needed has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper our work and defend us;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend us:
ponder anew
what the Almighty can do
as with his love he befriends us.

Praise to the Lord, who when darkness of sin is abounding,
who, when the godless do triumph, our best hopes confounding,
sheds forth his light,
scatters the horrors of night,
saints with his mercy surrounding.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him.
Let the Amen
sound from his people again:
gladly for ever adore him.

Gathering Prayer:

Mighty God of miracles, we come before you.
We imagine what it might have been like
being part of a crowd of 5,000.

We are not a crowd today, but worshipping at home.
We think about all those others from our parish, our diocese, and far beyond,
also worshipping you.
Bound together by your great love,
we gather in spirit to meet with you, Jesus.

Amen.

Sentence:

The Lord is near to all who call on him in truth. He fulfils the desire of all that fear him, hears their cry, and saves them.

Psalm 145.18-19

Prayer of the Day:

O God, with whom we wrestle until the break of day:
make us long to see your face
beyond the limits of our strength,
that in our wounds we may remember you,
and in your blessing we may find ourselves;
through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Readings:

Genesis 32: 22-31

Jacob got up, took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, 'Let me go, for the day is breaking.' But Jacob said, 'I will not let you go, unless you bless me.' So he said to him, 'What is your name?' And he said, 'Jacob.' Then the man said, 'You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.' Then Jacob asked him, 'Please tell me your name.' But he said, 'Why is it that you ask my name?' And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.' The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

Psalm 17:1-7, 16

Response: O Lord, when your glory appears my joy will be full.

Hear my just cause, O Lord, give heed to my cry:
listen to my prayer, that comes from no lying lips.
Let judgement for me come forth from your presence:
and let your eyes discern the right.

Response

Though you search my heart,
and visit me in the night-time:
though you try me by fire,
you will find no wickedness in me.

Response

My mouth does not transgress, like the mouth of others:
for I have kept the word of your lips.
My steps have held firm in the way of your commands:
and my feet have not stumbled from your paths.

Response

I call upon you, O God, for you will surely answer:
incline your ear to me, and hear my words.

Response

Show me the wonders of your steadfast love,
O saviour of those who come to you for refuge:
who by your right hand deliver them
from those that rise up against them.
And I also shall see your face, because my cause is just:
when I awake and see you as you are, I shall be satisfied.

Response

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew

When Jesus heard that Herod had beheaded John the Baptist, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Matthew 14:13-21 (NRSV)

Sermon

Hymn: To him who walks among the crowds

To him who walks among the crowds
let's show our gratitude:
we came to him a hungry mob,
and his response was food.
This is the teacher well renowned
for talk of sin forgiven.
Some prize his smile, some pull his robe,
some say he comes from heaven.

Who are you, lean-faced traveller
whose words surpass all law,
whose past was spent in industry
with hammer, nails and saw?
Who are you, time-served carpenter,
now that you've changed your trade
to hosting casual lakeside feasts
with food you never made?

But why the silent modesty,
and why the shaking head?
You're worth a thousand bakers
for you multiply the bread!
We'll make you king and gladly sing
songs to re-tell your story.
So why not stay? Why move away?
Do you refuse our glory?

There goes the man whose eyes can scan
a crowd and tell their need.
There goes the one whose words we shun
when keen to frown or feed.
He walks form here while people peer
at his all-knowing face
which speaks of how each one who stares
has, in his heart, a place.

John Bell & Graham Maule

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:

Merciful and almighty God, you are steadfast in your love for your people, and you answer us when we call on you. We pray for all people whose lives are threatened by COVID-19. We pray for the leaders of nations, especially in this time of tension between the USA, China and Australia.

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

Loving Father, we pray for all who provide spiritual nourishment, especially those who bring your good news to children, remembering especially the ministry of Emmanuel Anglican College here in Ballina. We thank you for the work of the Grafton Anglican Schools Commission and the Anglican Board of Mission. Long ago you fed a multitude on the small gifts of a few loaves and a couple of fish. Take our small gifts and use them today to feed those who hunger to hear your gospel.

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

Loving Father, your Son Jesus gathered around him a group of disciples and friends. Bring our communities of Ballina and Lennox Head together in your love during this time of uncertainty. Long ago you fed a multitude on the small gifts of a few loaves and a couple of fish. Take our small gifts and use them today to feed those who hunger for acceptance and love within our communities.

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

Loving Father, your Son Jesus healed the sick and fed the hungry: hear us now as we bring our prayers for those in need. We pray for all who have no work, no home, no hope for the future; for the sad and the lonely, for the sick remembering those of this parish, and we give thanks for those who care for them. We remember 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, Karen and Ben Shaw, Pauline Suffolk, Marj Roder, Rose Fox, and Mary Stedman.

Long ago you fed a multitude on the small gifts of a few loaves and a couple of fish. Take our small gifts and use them today to feed those who hunger for healing.

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

Loving and merciful Father, those who see your face shall be satisfied. We remember Stephen, deacon and martyr, and all who have passed through death to eternal life. Help us to follow in the steps of all who have offered their lives to you, that our small gifts may be turned to abundance in your hands, and be used to feed those who hunger for comfort and hope.

Loving 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:

Sometimes, Lord,
I know I don't listen properly to you.
I'm easily distracted.
Or I listen, but still go my own way,
putting myself first.
Forgiven by you, I can start anew.

Sometimes, Lord, I don't trust you
to meet my needs,
to take care of me,
to feed me with food both physical and spiritual.
Forgiven by you, I can start anew.

Sometimes, Lord,
I'm anything but prepared for my journey with you.
Forgiven by you, I can start anew.

Sometimes, Lord,
I look for my own ways out of a situation,
instead of seeking and trusting you.
Forgiven by you, I can start anew.
Amen.

Absolution

Hymn: Lord, your almighty word

Lord, your almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight:
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.

Saviour, who came to give
those who in darkness live
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
now to all humankind
let there be light.

Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving holy dove,
speed forth your flight;
move on the water's face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.

Holy and blessed Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might,
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth far and wide,
let there be light.

Sending Out Prayer:

By the end of the day, the crowds must have been exhausted.

They left with full stomachs and full hearts.

They had met with Jesus.

You have fed us today, Lord,

and we go now to live the lives you call us to.

Bless us, Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

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