



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.

MARY, MOTHER OF THE LORD 16 AUGUST 2020

Pastoral message from the Rector

Today we celebrate Mary, Mother of the Lord. Our beautiful worship building in Ballina is dedicated in her name. We don't know a lot about Mary but the glimpses we gain from the Bible tell us that she was a very special person, especially in God's eyes. God chose her to be the means for his only begotten Son to come into the world. This alone tells us that she was indeed highly favoured by God.

I think some Anglicans struggle with Mary and are not really sure how to acknowledge her, especially in our liturgical worship. Many Anglicans would cringe at the idea of praying to Mary and to have a statue of her in the church building would be confronting for some, if not many. Yet, she is clearly the mother of Jesus and someone whom God chose above all others for this sacred role.

Today, as we celebrate her Feast Day, perhaps we may have different views about Mary and how to acknowledge her. In spite of our differences, I think it is worth reflecting on the Nicene Creed and the Apostles' Creed, both of which affirm that Jesus was born of the virgin Mary. For this reason alone, as well as perhaps several others, I think we can give thanks to God for all that Mary has been in allowing the Word to become flesh and dwell among us.

May we also be as willing, and as trusting as Mary was, in all that God asks of us.

Every blessing

Matthew

Birthdays: Phillip Goulding and Carol Brown

News: Wearing of Face Masks As expected, the advice from the NSW Chief Health Officer Dr Kerry Chant (dated Sunday 2 August) is now specifically recommending the wearing of face masks in NSW during attendance at Places of Worship. Wearing a mask in this setting is not mandatory but it is highly recommended. Given that it is highly recommended Bishop Murray has suggested that face masks should be worn by all those attending a place of worship for the purpose of worship or other group activities. This applies to ministers,

worshippers, staff, volunteers, contractors or visitors, where there may be other people present; remembering that they are mainly intended to protect other people, not the wearer, from COVID-19 and that they are not a replacement for physical distancing and regular hand washing. It may not be long before we do have community transmission in our area, so the wearing of face masks will not only be a responsible action to protect the vulnerable, but it will ensure that we are ready if they should become mandatory.

Sunday 30 August we will be celebrating ABM (Anglican Board of Mission) Sunday and commemorating the Martyrs of New Guinea. Our preacher for both online services and church buildings services will be the Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia, the Most Reverend Geoff Smith, who is also the Archbishop of Adelaide. Archbishop Geoff is a former Rector of the Parish of Ballina and has worked extensively with ABM, and has ties with Papua New Guinea. In addition to our Couch Church the sermon will also be available on the Diocesan Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/TheAnglicanDioceseOfGrafton>.

Prayer for Lebanon

Almighty God, Lord of all the nations, please have mercy on the nation of Lebanon, especially the people of Beirut. In their grief and anger, bring them together in unity of purpose. Please bring comfort for those who mourn, care for those who are injured and shelter for those made homeless. Lord, we pray for restoration of medical facilities, for the provision of water, electricity and food. Raise up, O Lord, men and women of integrity, strength and wisdom to govern that nation, and protect them as they seek to root out corruption. Please, in your mercy, stay the spread of COVID-19 there, in this disastrous time. Lord may your gracious hand be seen and your name honoured, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

In this time of fear and despair we thank you Lord for the opportunity to reflect on where we stand with you and with our faith. We thank you for the realisation that despite all the recent happenings here and around the world the real thing that matters in life is our relationship with you. Suddenly we see new opportunities, we find different ways to worship you and our faith gives us strength and an inner peace. The virus has given us a new perspective; we can no longer be complacent ignoring our God, worshipping those things that have no real value. You show us that we need more than ever to look out for those that are suffering, those on the front lines of this crisis, the health care workers, our spiritual leaders introducing us to new ways to worship, those that are upholding the ever changing laws and those that are grieving the sick and dying. Help us to continue in lives that honour our Lord Jesus Christ keeping in mind that rule that can be used in any situation, "What would Jesus do?" Amen.

Thought for the Week from Mothers Union Australia

Seasons of life

Despairing about your failing capacity for work? Remember the years when you couldn't grow up fast enough? The young are not satisfied with youth, the aged are not satisfied with aging. The common denominator is wanting to be other than you are. Contemplate the gifts that are in you and with you in whatever season of life you are. An elder may pause with impunity and have time and opportunity to pray, to read, to see the stars, to enjoy children without all the work. That's a great GIFT from God who has wonderfully made us.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. Psalm 139: 14, 16

In the season of her energy and strength, a mother in Myanmar has attended a micro saving group and then managed to build a house for herself. She now runs a catering business at home, thankful to MU for the program. Let us thank God for the attention MU pays to people's needs no matter what season of life they are in.

EAC Prayer Points

Term Three, week 5, this week marks the halfway mark in Term three - already!

Whilst we have had to cut back activities and outings significantly - there is still so much happening it is hard to see how everything fitted.

- This week we pray for our Year 12 Cohort, as their Trial HSC exams start. We give thanks for the community of people in Ballina and Lennox Head Anglicans that have taken on the role of prayer partner to each student, and the support they give.
- We pray also for the younger grades - Year 7 - 10 as they are in an assessment period;
- Year 8 as they make their elective selections for the next two years.
- We pray for our Whole College Chapel, that even though it still has to be recorded we may still feel as one.

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	9.00am to 3.00pm, Mon -Fri	Parish Phone 6686 2094
Parish Mobile	0458 862 098	Parish Email office@anglicanballina.com.au
Parish Facebook	Ballina and Lennox Head Anglicans	Website www.anglicanballina.com.au

“COUCH CHURCH”: WORSHIPPING GOD AT HOME
16 AUGUST 2020
MARY, MOTHER OF THE LORD

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

Gathering Prayer:

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn: No Wind at the Window

No wind at the window,
no knock on the door;
no light from the lampstand,
no foot on the floor;
no dream born of tiredness,
no ghost raised by fear:
just an angel and a woman
and a voice in her ear.

‘O Mary, O Mary,
don't hide from my face.
Be glad that you're favoured
and filled with God's grace.
the time for redeeming
the world has begun;
and you are requested
to mother God's son.

‘This child must be born,
that the kingdom might come:
salvation for many,
destruction for some;
both end and beginning,
both message and sign;
both victor and victim,
both yours and divine.’

No payment was promised,
no promises made;
no wedding was dated,
no blueprint displayed.
Yet Mary, consenting
to what none could guess,
replied with conviction,
'Tell God, I say Yes.'

John L. Bell (1949 –)
TIS 287

Sentence:

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, so that we might receive adoption as God's children.

Galatians 4.4-5

Confession:

Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

Prayer of the Day:

Loving God,
who chose the blessed virgin Mary
to be the mother of your incarnate Son:
grant that we who are redeemed by his blood,
may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings:

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will

give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Magnificat

My soul magnifies the Lord:
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.

My soul magnifies the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God.

Glory be to God, the Father,
and glory be to God, the Son.

Glory be to God, the Spirit;
Glory be to God.

He has been mindful of His servant;
He has been mindful of me.

I will be blessed forever, forever;
I will be blessed by the Lord.

God alone is mighty, mighty;
our God alone has done great things.

God alone is worthy, worthy;
Holy is His name.

Randy Gill
based on Luke 1: 46-50

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Luke 2: 1-7 (NRSV)

Sermon

Hymn: Mary Did You Know

Mary, did you know
that your baby boy
would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know
that your baby boy
would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy
has come to make you new?

This Child that you delivered
will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know
that your baby boy
would give sight to the blind man?
Mary, did you know
that your baby boy
would calm a storm with His hand?
Did you know that your baby boy
has walked where angels trod,
and when you kiss your little baby
you've kissed the face of God?

Oh, Mary did you know?
The blind will see, the deaf will hear,
the dead will live again.
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak
the praises of the Lamb.

Mary, did you know
that your baby boy
is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know
that your baby boy
will one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy
is heaven's perfect Lamb,
and the sleeping child you're holding,
is the great I Am?

Mary, did you know?

Buddy Greene and Mark Lowry

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, as your servant Mary was full of grace, may we too be filled with your grace and follow her example to bring peace and justice to your troubled world. We pray for the people in Beirut, as they come to grips with the aftermath of the catastrophic explosion.

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

As Mary and Joseph took their son, our Lord, away from the tyrant's sword and became refugees, we bring before you all those around the world who have become refugees. May we be filled with compassion and grace to help protect the vulnerable and the weak against the forces of inhumanity.

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

We pray for all who are ill, especially for all who are victims of the COVID-19 virus, for all those who, at risk to their own safety, attend to the needs of COVID-19 victims. May your Holy Spirit bring comfort to all who are fearful, or depressed due to the virus, remembering those of our parish who are ill at this time. 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, Mary Stedman, and Ron Roder.

God of 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.

Hymn: Father in Heaven

Father in heaven,
grant to your children
mercy and blessing,
songs never ceasing,
love to unite us,
grace to redeem us –
Father in heaven,
Father our God.

Jesus, redeemer,
may we remember
your gracious passion,
your resurrection.
Worship we bring you,
praise we shall sing you –
Jesus, Redeemer,
Jesus our Lord.

Spirit descending
whose is the blessing,
strength for the weary,
help for the needy;
make us your temple,
born a new people –
Spirit descending,
Spirit adored.

Sending Out Prayer:

O God,
as we go from this time of worshipping together,
may we be like Mary:
consenting to your call;
trusting that you offer new life and a new way,
even when our souls are pierced.
Send us out with souls that sing of your holiness.
May we always follow the way of Mary's Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Blessing

Copyright 1995. The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation. From the text of A Prayer Book for Australia, published under the imprint of Broughton Books. Reproduced with permission. The Gathering Prayer, Confession, Sending Out Prayer and images are taken from rootsontheweb.com and are copyright © ROOTS for Churches Ltd. Reproduced with permission. CCLI Licence 36743 and Streaming Licence 460113.