



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.

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 23 AUGUST 2020

Pastoral message from the Rector

One of my favourite hymns is “The Church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord”. I especially love the third verse which talks about the Church standing firm even when ‘rent asunder’ by schisms or heresies. I love the language and the imagery it creates. I also love the concept of the solid foundation giving strength against any threats.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus gives Simon a new name. He calls him Peter, which in Greek is Petros, which means ‘rock’ and Jesus calls Peter the rock, the foundation on which His church will be built. “You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.”

The other thing that really inspires me about this is that Peter was not the most solid of people when it came to matters of faith, especially when it came to making promises that he couldn’t keep. On one occasion Peter said that he was ready to die for Jesus, but Jesus accurately prophesied that before the cock crowed, Peter would have denied Jesus three times. When this happened, Peter remembered Jesus’ words and wept bitterly. I think Peter had a very good heart and wanted to get it right, but his humanity got in the way. This is why I am so inspired that Jesus appointed him as the rock, the foundation of his church. Jesus could see the potential in Peter and affirmed this, even if Peter could not see it in himself.

How often does this happen for us? We may have lots of self doubt and we may make lots of mistakes. We may lose faith in ourselves, but Jesus never loses faith in us. Jesus wants us to stand firm on the solid foundation of our faith and reach our full potential. If you are feeling a bit wobbly, perhaps you could reflect on the words of the hymn. They can be very inspiring and, as the third verse tells us, “Soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.” Faith helps us to stand firm when things are wobbly, so be of good courage. Tears don’t last forever, and darkness becomes light with each new day.

Every blessing

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

Matthew

Birthdays: Elaine Moyle and Grace Foster

Anniversaries: Graham and Jan Fryer

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>.

Coffee and Conversation Thursday 27 August 10am at the Lennox Head Surf Club. Please bring a camp chair if you can as this allows the group to social distance while gathering together. All welcome!

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

Loving God, we continue to pray for the situation that is being experienced in your world as COVID-19 makes itself felt. Sometimes, when it is difficult to see you as the very fabric and foundation of our physical and spiritual lives, and as our lives begin to crumble around us, renew our trust. Help us to hold fast to the God rocks that hold us together, and steady us as we wobble on the very foundations of our faith. In so many walks of life, life foundations are cracking amid continual change and uncertainty. Encourage too, those who are still building their foundations, especially all students who are sitting their HSC trials. Fill us with compassion for those around us. Help us to know the silence and strength of your deep love, as quietly we love each other as you love us. Amen

Thought for the Week from Mothers Union Australia

Ethical matters

Our Church has lost the confidence of the wider community. Scandals, infighting, power struggles all provide food for censure. Of course, this is nothing new. Human beings of whatever caste will ethically disintegrate when society does. One of the earliest New Testament texts, Paul's letter to the Corinthians addresses exactly this issue. He says that they, the Christians in Corinth, need to be seen to be truthful and honest and loving because if they are not, they, and what they stand for, will have no credibility.

for we intend to do what is right not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of others. 2 Corinthians 8: 21

St Paul would be proud of the members in the diocese of Northern Argentina, in Zone B. From mainly indigenous communities, despite poverty and some conflict, they are very faithful and resourceful. There is also growth in urban areas, for which we give thanks to God.

EAC Prayer Points

This term has been flying by and already we are past the half way point

- We continue to pray for our Year 12 students as they are in the middle of their Trials - that they might be calm and focused.
- We give thanks that our Principal Rob Tobias has come back to work after his long service leave, and we also give thanks for our Deputy, Darren Parks as he has steered us through the first part of this term.
- We give thanks for the members of our staff helping to keep our school clean and students safe.



CONTACT US

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“COUCH CHURCH”: WORSHIPPING GOD AT HOME
23 AUGUST 2020
TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Call to Worship

When Jesus asked, Simon Peter answered:
'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'
Let us make the same bold answer,
and let us come together to worship
Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of the living God.
Amen.

Hymn: Lord, You Are the Light of Life to Me

Lord, you are the light of life to me;
when darkness hides my path, you help me see.
Shine on me, O Lord, that now and all my days
your light may lead me on, guiding my ways.

Lord, you are the rock on which I stand,
stable and strong in you, held by your hand;
keep me safe, O Lord, in weakness let there be
your loving, firm embrace upholding me.

Lord, you are the truth that sets me free;
only in you is found true liberty.
Teach me then, O Lord, in all things to pursue
your good and perfect will, growing like you.

Lord, you are the Lamb of God who died,
suffering for love of me, scorned, crucified.
Love me still, O Lord, let others daily see
your selfless, serving love flowing through me.

Lord, you are the King who ever reigns;
earth's rulers rise and fall, your throne remains.
Rule my life, O Lord, I yield myself anew
your name to glorify, living for you.

Brian Richard Hoare (1935 –)
TIS 261

Gathering Prayer:

Lord, do we really believe that we are in the
presence of the Son of the Living God?
Still our hearts now,
so that we may truly appreciate who you are.
As we hear these words of power,

we bow down before you and praise you.

Amen.

Confession and Absolution:

Lord, you are the foundation of our faith,
and we thank you that you are always ready to forgive us
when we trust you enough to confess our sins to you.

Response: Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Lord, you are the foundation of our faith, and we ask you to forgive us for the times when we forget
that you are our foundation.,

Response: Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy.

Forgive us for the times
we see you as less than the Son of God,
the solid foundation of our faith.

Response: Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Response: Philip Matthias (1954 –)
TIS 757(a)

Absolution

Sentence:

Simon Peter said, ‘Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’”

Matthew 16:16

Prayer of the Day:

O God, fount of all wisdom,
in the humble witness of the apostle Peter
you have shown us the foundation of our faith:
give us the light of your Spirit,
that, recognising in Jesus of Nazareth
the Son of the living God,
we may be living stones for the building up of your holy Church;
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:

Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the

grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Hymn: The Church's One Foundation

The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord:
she is his new creation
by water and the word;
from heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses
with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder;
the world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping,
their cry goes up, 'How long?'
and soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.

Through toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore,
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blessed,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union;
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won
O happy ones and holy!
Lord give to us the grace
like them, the meek and lowly,
in heaven to seek your face.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Matthew 16: 13 - 20 (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:

Lord Jesus Christ, sent to open the gateway to God’s kingdom, we bring your our prayers for your world and your Church.

You are the Prince of Peace; bring peace to your broken and bleeding world. We pray for the people whose lives have been torn apart by war, disaster, and disease.

Lord Jesus, in your mercy, **hear our cry to you.**

You are the Way, the Truth and the Life; give holy wisdom to the leaders of the church. Lead us in your way and guide us in your truth, that we may live in love for you and for each other.

Lord Jesus, in your mercy, **hear our cry to you.**

You are the close companion of the lonely; may all who are lonely feel your loving presence. You are the comforter of the broken-hearted; may those who are grieving, know your consolation. You are the healer of the suffering; bring release to those in anguish of body, mind or spirit, that in their pain they may know your peace. We bring before you especially those who have asked for our prayers for healing: 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.

Lord Jesus, in your mercy, **hear our cry to you.**

You are the Resurrection and the Life; raise us out of death to new life. May we, like Simon Peter, recognise you as Messiah. May we dwell in your presence now and always.

Lord Jesus, in your mercy, **hear our cry to you.**

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: God is Our Song

God is our song, and every singer blest
who, praising him, finds energy and rest.
All who praise God with unaffected joy
give back to us the wisdom we destroy.

God is our song, for Jesus came to save;
while praising him we offer all we have.
New songs we sing, in ventures new unite,
when Jesus leads us upward into light.

This is the song no conflict ever drowns;
who praises God all human wrath disowns.
Love knows what rich complexities of sound
God builds upon a simple, common ground.

God is our silence when no songs are sung,
when ecstasy or sorrow stills the tongue.
Glorious the faith which silently obeys
until we find again the voice of praise.

Frederick Pratt Green (1903 – 2000)
TiS 646

Sending Out Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, as we watch and wait and pray in this time of uncertainty, remind us each day that you are our foundation.
Amen.

Blessing

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