



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.

THE MARTYRS OF NEW GUINEA & ABM SUNDAY 30 AUGUST 2020

Pastoral message from the Rector

Today we honour the New Guinea Martyrs. These were a group of Anglican missionaries, along with many others from different Christian denominations, who were serving in New Guinea during WW2. When the Japanese invaded New Guinea in 1942, the Anglican missionaries made the choice to stay and care for the people they were sharing the Gospel with. This choice cost them their lives and today we remember them as martyrs for their faith.

In today's reading from St Paul's letter to the Romans, we read these words: "Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."

In the accounts detailing the events that led up to the deaths of these faithful missionaries, we can read that their choice to stay was a deliberate choice of faith. The Bishop had encouraged them that if they wanted to leave, they must go before the Japanese got any closer, and to stay meant that their safety could not be guaranteed. After much discussion and prayer, all the Anglican missionaries chose to stay, and not to abandon the charges God had given them. I wonder if this choice may have been influenced by today's reading from St Paul. As it turned out, several of them met their death with a sword, so these words became even more prophetic.

I have a close personal connection with the New Guinea Martyrs as I have served in several parishes where they came from and one of them also attended my theological college. I like to honour them each year on their anniversary, especially as they inspire me to keep going when things get tough. They have taught me that we can face every fear, even the fear of death, by trusting that God ultimately is in charge of our souls. They lived and died for their faith and I pray that I may be able to do the same. I hope you can also be inspired by their story.

Every blessing

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew', written in a cursive style.

Matthew

Birthdays: Alton Rowe and Olivia Carter

Anniversaries: Rodney & Cathie Guest, and Pat & Ron Kerr

News: The Every Day With Jesus books have been received by the office and are available now. Please contact Cathie in the office on 6686 2094, or by email at office@anglicanballina.com.au to let her know if you would like one of these books?

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 Today we are celebrating ABM (Anglican Board of Mission) Sunday and commemorating the Martyrs of New Guinea. Our preacher for both online services and church buildings services is 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> .

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

Dear Father in heaven, open our hearts and minds to your prompting. Direct us and guide us to hear your direction for our lives and help us to totally trust you like Moses did at the burning bush. Help us to live humbly and in harmony with others. As we deny ourselves and lean totally on you, you promise we will be given peace despite all that may be going on around us. Help us to sing only your praises, honour and glory, in all that we do, so that we might attract others and they will know your blessings as well when they turn away from wickedness. Father remind us that we need not worry because vengeance is yours not ours and that we can only overcome evil with good as Romans 12 says and you will then bring us blessings. Amen.

Thought for the Week from Mothers Union Australia

The Church in PNG has continued to grow since that fateful time when the missionaries were killed during WWII. We remember them today as the Martyrs of New Guinea. MU continues to play an important role in the PNG Church.

In Zone C, Linda was unsure of her ability to facilitate a MU workshop. When she returned to her parish in PNG, she supervised her local group to host a dinner. They wore their MU uniforms, were asked what MU was all about and suddenly Linda moved into a new chapter in her life. She learned that she could speak out in the community. Now she has the confidence to run workshops. Alleluia!

EAC Prayer Points

As we move well and truly into the second half of the term, we are mindful of the many changes to the ordinary things we have taken for granted at school, and we give thanks for the hard work and creativity of the staff as they have shaped new ways for our students.

We pray for:

- the Cross Country event, that it might run smoothly;
- teachers of Year 12 as they work on their final reports;
- Year 9 as they undertake the Mental Health First Aid Training; and
- the Primary and Secondary Chapel services.

CONTACT US

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

“COUCH CHURCH”: WORSHIPPING GOD AT HOME
30 AUGUST 2020
THE MARTYRS OF NEW GUINEA & ABM SUNDAY

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

Gathering Prayer:

Praise the Lord, all you Saints!
Praise him, all you heavenly hosts!
So great a cloud of witnesses surround us.
They witness to God's mighty acts.
They witness to God's steadfast love.
Their witness guides us in our faith.
Give thanks to God for the Martyrs of New Guinea:
Sing praise and thanks for all his saints. **Amen.**

Hymn: Rejoice in God's Saints

Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days:
a world without saints forgets how to praise.
Their faith in acquiring the habit of prayer,
their depth of adoring, Lord, help us to share.

Some march with events to turn them God's way;
some need to withdraw, the better to pray;
some carry the gospel through fire and through flood:
our world is their parish, their purpose is God.

Rejoice in those saints, unpraised and unknown,
who bear someone's cross, or shoulder their own;
they shame our complaining, our comforts, our cares:
what patience in caring, what courage, is theirs!

Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days:
a world without saints forgets how to praise.
In loving, in living, they prove it is true:
their way of self-giving, Lord, leads us to you.

Frederick Pratt Green (1903 – 2000)
TIS 470

Sentence:

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who saved us.

Romans 8.35,37

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:

All powerful and everliving God,
turn our weakness into strength:
as you gave the martyrs of Papua New Guinea
the courage to suffer death for Christ,
give us the courage to live in faithful witness to you.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Readings:

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

Psalm 126

Response: The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.

**The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.**

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs.

Response:

The heathens themselves said
'what marvels the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.

Response:

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap.

Response:

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seeds for the sowing;
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves.

Response:

A.P. Watt, London
TiS 80

Romans 8:33-39

Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hymn: Community of Christ

Community of Christ,
who make the Cross your own,
live out your creed and risk your life
for God alone:
the God who wears your face,
to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race
and every song.

Community of Christ,
look past the Church's door
and see the refugee, the hungry,
and the poor.
Take hands with the oppressed,
the jobless in your street,
take towel and water, that you wash
your neighbour's feet.

Community of Christ,
through whom the word must sound -
cry out for justice and for peace
the whole world round:
disarm the powers that war
and all that can destroy,
turn bombs to bread, and tears of
anguish into joy.

When menace melts away,
so shall God's will be done,
the climate of the world be peace
and Christ its Sun;
our currency be love,
and kindness our law,
our food and faith be shared as one
for evermore.

Shirley Erena Murray (1931 –)
TIS 473
TiS 359

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say - 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

John 12: 20-32 (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:

We pray for all who work for peace, justice, and the preservation of the earth; for the conservationists and ecologists; for UN agencies, peace-keeping forces, and relief and aid organisations, for Australian Volunteers International, for the Anglican Board of Missions, and for all who share their time.

For those who serve, **we give thanks.**

We pray for all who are in need of your healing touch. 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 and Ron Roder, Rose Fox, and Mary Stedman.

We thank you for the many people who dedicate their lives to caring for others.

For those who serve, **we give thanks.**

We give thanks for missionaries who serve in difficult or dangerous places around the world. As we remember the twelve Anglican Martyrs of New Guinea, may we be inspired by their devotion. Father, empower us to be a servant community, faithfully proclaiming your gospel of love and forgiveness, in both word and deed.

For those who serve, **we give thanks.**

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: Yours be the Glory

Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory over death you've won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes, where your body lay.

*Refrain: Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory over death you've won.*

See, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb,
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord is living, death has lost its sting.

Refrain:

No more we doubt you, glorious Prince of Life;
life is naught without you: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors through your deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to your home above.

Refrain:

Edmond Louis Budry (1854 – 1932)
TIS 380

Blessing

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