



# 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 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 20 SEPTEMBER 2020

### Pastoral message from the Rector

There is an old story of a monastery where the monks lived in complete silence, except for once a year when they were permitted to say two words to the Abbot. At the end of his first year, one monk said to the Abbot, "Food's cold." At the end of the second year, the monk said to the Abbot, "Bed's hard." At the end of the third year, the monk said to the Abbot, "I quit." To this the Abbot replied, "I am not surprised, all you have done since you got here is complain."

Whilst this has some degree of humour to it, today's readings pick up this same theme. The Israelites complained, even though they had been incredibly blessed by God, and the workers in the Gospel parable complained because they perceived they had been treated unfairly. In both of these stories, the fact that they had been the recipients of great generosity was lost. All they could see was the negative side of the story.

I wonder if this pushes a few buttons for any of our readers today. How often do we complain about things without taking time to look at the many blessings that we have received? We can so easily focus on the negatives and this can shape our actions and our words, but it can also cover up the many blessings and positives that we have received.

One of my friends has an expression that I really like. When we are talking, and perhaps having a grumble, he often adds the comment, "First world problems." This is such a gentle reminder to both of us that, even in the midst of struggles, we can still find many blessings to be thankful for, especially if we look at the plight of people in other parts of the world.

Perhaps the chorus from a very old hymn may be a worthwhile prayer:

Count your blessings, name them one by one.  
Count your blessings, see what God hath done.  
Count your blessings, name them one by one.  
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

Every blessing

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

Matthew

**Birthdays:** Elias Rantissi, and Joan Knapp.

**News: Prayer for Synod** which will be held 26-27 September:

Almighty and everliving God,  
give wisdom and understanding,  
to the members of the Synod of this Diocese.  
Teach them in all things  
to seek first your honour and glory.  
May they perceive what is right  
have courage to pursue it  
and grace to accomplish it,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Prayer for the Ordination to the Diaconate** of Aaron Coates and Grant Sparks 16 October,  
Kassimiro Yanga 18 October, and David Brown 20 October.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
though you are rich, for our sake you became poor.  
Taking the form of a servant, you humbled yourself,  
and gave your life a ransom for many.  
Send your blessing on those called to be deacons,  
that they may have grace and power  
to serve as your ambassadors,  
to stand beside the poor and raise up the needy,  
and so proclaim your gospel of salvation in word and deed.  
May they be patient and loving, strong and steadfast,  
running to the end the race set before them,  
to receive your promised crown of glory. **Amen.**

**PARISH PHONE MINISTRY- Response to COVID-19 Suspension of Services** In mid March 2020 when church services were suspended for an indefinite period and the Parish Office was closed a Phone Ministry team was formed to keep in regular contact with our parishioners. Each person agreed to phone a number of people on a regular basis.

We express our appreciation to each team member for accepting the invitation and for the regular contact made with parishioners since March. A small number have needed to withdraw. There have also been some changes to the people being contacted and the regularity of calls as a result of feedback received from parishioners. This has been a very effective ministry for keeping in contact with parishioners.

It was implied this ministry would continue while services were suspended. It was a temporary measure in response to the lockdown. The Executive Committee of Parish Council has reviewed the need for this phone ministry to continue as the means for keeping in contact with parishioners now that church services have re-commenced, and the Parish Office has re-opened. Couch Church is continuing and the weekly Mailout is available online and is posted to those without access to email. In one form or another weekly connection is being made with members of the parish family. As a result, it has been decided to conclude the phone ministry.

We are aware that some very positive pastoral relationships have developed during this time. Members of the team are encouraged to continue this connection if they would like to do so.

Parishioners are now encouraged to phone the Parish Office or contact the clergy for any pastoral needs.

We are very grateful to the positive response to the request and for the regular 'keeping in touch' to ensure connections with parishioners have been maintained during the early months of COVID-19.

With thanks. Blessings, Kerry Johnston, John Phillips and John Bryen, Churchwardens.

**Accommodation urgently required for refugee settling in Ballina.** Ballina Region for Refugees (BR4R) is supporting a refugee to settle in Ballina from the start of October this year. He is a single man in his early 30s from Sri Lanka who is likely to take up a year-long horticultural traineeship with Ballina Shire Council. He will be looking to rent accommodation for himself or to share with other(s). As such accommodation is scarce in our region, BR4R would greatly appreciate members passing the word around to anyone who can assist. Please contact Stanley Yeo for more information:  
email: [s.yeo@br4r.org.au](mailto:s.yeo@br4r.org.au); ph: 0421 955186

**National Council of Churches in Australia** are encouraging us to join a time of National Prayer regarding the COVID-19 pandemic 26 & 27 September. We all know the continuing impact of this pandemic, overseas and here. It is comforting to know that we can offer our prayers together to our Saviour for an end to this pandemic, trusting Jesus' word to us – God wills to "give good things to those who ask". (Matthew 7:11). Here is a prayer that may be helpful in the lead up to September 26-27:

"Gracious God, entrusting in your providence and presence, we bring our prayer for an end to this pandemic.

We pray for your strengthening of those offering costly leadership during this crisis.

We pray for all who are ill.

We pray for those anxious about getting ill.

We pray for those full of grief.

We remember those who have died.

We pray for your grace to sustain us as we do what we can in our context.

We ask these things, as you encourage us so to do. "Ask and it will be given to you."  
(Mtt 7:7)

In resurrection faith, we offer our heartfelt prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Coffee and Conversation** Thursday 24 September 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!

**Intensive Journal® Life Context Workshop** hosted by St James Anglican Parish, 122 Marine Parade, Kingscliff, NSW 17-18 October 2020 and led by Kate Scholl. Bookings essential by 12 October at <https://www.trybooking.com/BHBSH>, more details on the flyer on the noticeboards or at <https://www.eremos.org.au/intensive-journal--workshops> .

**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.

**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** Lord, as the days become weeks and the weeks become months in dealing with this global pandemic, let us give thanks for the countless acts of kindness, comfort, help, healing and bravery that bless our community. We give thanks for the dedication of medical and nursing professionals, for the aides and assistants, the researchers and scientists, the police and others managing border movements. We have faith in the future. We have hope in the future. And may we show charity to those not coping with current isolation and restrictions. We pray in your name. Amen.

**ABM Pew Reflection** Even though God was already providing for the Israelites as they were journeying out of Egypt, the people nonetheless complained, remembering their enslavement as an idyllic time when they sat by fleshpots eating their fill of bread. So, having provided for their needs, God now provides for the ungrateful people's wants, sending them manna in the morning and quails in the evening. God gives freely to sustain life in a foretaste of the Eucharist. 'In Exodus, through food and water, the people are transformed, as they grow from adolescence to adulthood – into being God's people, obedient to him.' – Chris Haslam.

- Pray that we will be committed to sharing God's generosity throughout the world.
- Give thanks for all those who generously care for others, especially remembering Anglicare and all other church caring agencies throughout Australia.

Robert McLean  
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### **Thought for the Week from Mothers Union Australia**

Learning and sharing

At a church barbeque (with yummy food) a child, not accustomed to being there, asked whether they have to pay. 'It is a gift for you' was the reply. At an after-school Kid's Club an eager boy reached out for yet another (ordinary, boring) biscuit. A leader slapped his hand and snapped that he'd had enough (in the days before safe practices). With every look and act we are (good or bad) witnesses to God's generous love. If we get the opportunity to expound that theologically, so much the better. But all of us are witnesses and we all teach what God means to us, whether generous or punishing.

*You then, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; and what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well. 2 Timothy 2: 1-2*

In Uganda grass-thatched houses present multiple problems - destruction by fire, loss of possessions, limited opportunity for trade. Mothers' Union members of a village grouped together and in fellowship pooled money and rotated it to benefit one family at a time. Three iron-roofed houses have been built, gardening shared with fellowship has boosted skills and food yield. Thanks be to God.

## EAC Prayer Points

We come to the last week of a very up and down term - again a very different time for staff and students alike. We give thanks for:

- the tenacity of our teachers as they found new ways to bring experiences and opportunities to our students;

We pray for:

- our Year 12 Students as they have their final week of school, for the strangeness of their finishing, with virtual assemblies, non contact guard of honour and a delayed graduation and formal.
- the smooth running of their retreat day on the last day of term;
- fine weather for the school's cross country run on Monday; and
- the teachers of Year 11 and 12 as they complete the assessment marking and report writing.



### CONTACT US

<b>Rector</b>	The Ven Matthew Jones: 0458 862 098
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# “COUCH CHURCH”: WORSHIPPING GOD AT HOME

20 SEPTEMBER 2020

## SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Words for Couch Church Service. Ctrl+Click or Click on [Couch Church](#) to watch this service online.*

### Call to Worship

The Lord our God is great and to be highly praised.

We come to worship.

The Lord our God is great beyond our understanding.

We come to worship.

The Lord our God is loving and full of mercy.

We come to worship.

**Amen.**

### Hymn: Let Us with a Gladsome Mind

Let us with a gladsome mind  
praise the Lord, for he is kind:  
    for his mercies shall endure,  
    ever faithful, ever sure.

Let us blaze his name abroad,  
for of gods, he is the God:  
    for his mercies shall endure,  
    ever faithful, ever sure.

He, with all-commanding might,  
filled the new-made world with light:  
    for his mercies shall endure,  
    ever faithful, ever sure.

All things living he doth feed  
his full hand supplies their need:  
    for his mercies shall endure,  
    ever faithful, ever sure.

He his chosen race did bless  
in the wasteful wilderness:  
    for his mercies shall endure,  
    ever faithful, ever sure.

Let us then with gladsome mind  
praise the Lord, for he is kind:  
    for his mercies shall endure,  
    ever faithful, ever sure.

John Milton (1608 - 74)  
TiS 83

### Gathering Prayer:

Lord God,  
we all belong to your kingdom  
and we bring our different lives and experiences  
to worship you today, the true and living God. **Amen.**

## **Confession:**

Almighty God,  
we don't always know how we got to where we are,  
and we certainly don't always know where we are going;  
we don't always choose the right path,  
and we certainly don't always follow it;  
we don't always deal well with the struggles of life,  
and we don't always give thanks for the joys of life either;  
we don't always think of the effects that our choices  
cause to others, near and far.  
We are too often selfish,  
wanting what we want no matter what the cost to others.  
Almighty God, forgive us, reassure us  
and cradle us within your forgiveness. **Amen.**

## *Absolution*

### *Sentence:*

By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.  
Ephesians 2.8-9

## **Prayer of the Day:**

Loving and righteous God,  
your boundless generosity exceeds  
all that we can desire or deserve,  
and you give to the last worker all you promised to the first:  
liberate us from all jealousy and greed,  
that we may be free to love and serve others,  
and in your service may find our true reward;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Readings:**

### **Exodus 16:2-15**

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord." Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'" In the evening quails came up and covered

the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat."

### **Psalm 105**

**Response:** *Sing to God, sing praises;  
sing praises, sing praises to the Lord*

O give thanks to God, call the holy name aloud,  
and tell the deeds of the Lord to all the people.

**Response:**  
Sing your songs to God, O sing praises to the Lord,  
and make known to all the world the Lord's great wonders.

**Response:**  
O be glad in the Lord; glory in the holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

**Response:**  
Turn to God, your strength; seek the presence of the Lord,  
and remember: God does wonders and is just.

**Response:**  
Heirs of Abraham, Jacob's offspring, chosen ones,  
God is ruler and authority for ever.

**Response:**  
God's own promise is sure, a covenant that lasts;  
a thousand generations hence it will be true.

**Response :**  
The word to Abraham and the oath God swore to Jacob,  
yes, for Israel a covenant for ever:

**Response:**  
'I will give you a land; Canaan fair shall be your country,  
it will be your home, a land for my own people.

**Response:**

Helen L. Wright (1927 - )  
TiS 66

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

TiS 257

### **The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew**

Jesus said to his disciples: "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.



And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Matthew 20: 1-16 (NRSV)

### *Sermon*

#### **Hymn: Not the Powerful, Not the Privileged**

Not the powerful, not the privileged,  
not the famous in the land,  
but the no-ones and the needy  
were the first to hold God’s hand.

Not a well-established family  
with an heirloom christening shawl,  
but a homeless, wandering couple  
parented the Lord of All.

Not, at first, to little children,  
nor to those whose faith burned bright,  
but to adults, stalled in darkness,  
angels brought God’s love and light.

God, determined to be different,  
from the standards we think best,  
in his choice of friends and family,  
lets forgotten folk be blessed.

Not obsessed by our achievements,  
worldly wealth of family tree,  
may we, in and with God’s chosen,  
find our fondest pedigree.

John L. Bell (1949 – )  
TIS 468

#### **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:**

Loving God, your generosity is beyond our imagining and all we have is given by you: hear the prayers we bring for your people.

We give you thanks and praise for your creation, for its beauty to delight us and its bounty to sustain us. We pray for those who have no daily bread; for those whose livelihood is destroyed by drought, fire or floods. Free us from our greed and indifference, that we may learn to share the resources of the earth and live in harmony with your created world.

Ever-generous Father, **in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks and praise for your abundant mercy towards us, your people. We pray for our Synod representatives as they prepare for the Diocesan Synod next weekend. May we work humbly and gladly in your service and share with all people your gospel of love and forgiveness.

Ever-generous Father, **in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks and praise, for your sustaining care in times of need. We pray for all who are in distress, for those who are lonely or anxious, for the grieving, and for those who are ill. Free them from their anxiety, pain and fear that they may find comfort in their sorrow, hope in their despair.

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, Ron Roder, Rose Fox, and Maisie Stratton.

Ever-generous Father, **in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Father, we thank you for your unconditional love for your people, for your acceptance of all without distinction. We pray for those who, due to COVID-19, have lost their employment or who now have reduced working hours, or whose work is uncertain. We pray for the many in our area who struggle to find affordable accommodation. Free us from our selfishness and envy, that we may establish a true community of care, where no one is neglected, unwanted or unloved.

Ever-generous 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.

### **Hymn: Mine Eyes Have Seen**

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;  
he is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;  
he has loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword:  
his truth is marching on.

*Glory, glory, hallelujah, glory glory, hallelujah,  
glory, glory, hallelujah, his truth is marching on.*

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;  
he is sifting out the hearts of all before his judgement seat:  
O be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant, my feet!  
Our God is marching on.

*Glory, glory, hallelujah, glory glory, hallelujah,  
glory, glory, hallelujah, our God is marching on.*

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,  
with a glory in his bosom which transfigures you and me:  
as he died to make folk holy, let us live to make folk free,  
while God is marching on.

*Glory, glory, hallelujah, glory glory, hallelujah,  
glory, glory, hallelujah, while God is marching on.*

He is coming like the glory of the morning on the wave;  
he is wisdom to the mighty; he is succour to the brave:  
so the world shall be his foot-stool, and the soul of time his slave:  
our God is marching on.

*Glory, glory, hallelujah, glory glory, hallelujah,  
glory, glory, hallelujah, our God is marching on.*

Julia Ward Howe (1819 – 1910)  
TIS 315

### **Sending Out Prayer:**

Lord, give us a way to go,  
a path to follow,  
a purpose to fulfil  
and meaning to our deeds. **Amen.**

### *Blessing*

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