



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 SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 27 SEPTEMBER 2020

Pastoral message from the Rector

There used to be a television show called Undercover Boss. I did see a couple of episodes of it and it was based on the CEO, or perhaps even the owner of the business, disguising themselves and going in to their own businesses and pretending to be a new person starting out at the first rung of the ladder. In this way they were able to hear what was really happening in their business and they met some of the staff who were able to give them a very honest appraisal of how things worked. Many of them commented at the end that they would not have gained that information from their line managers and it was only by becoming one of the staff that they were able to get to the truth.

I am reminded of this in today's epistle from St Paul to the Philippians, where he describes how Jesus became humble even though he was equal in every way to God. Paul writes that Jesus "emptied himself, taking the form of a slave" and that he "humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross."

I never cease to be amazed how Jesus humbled himself in such a way and took on our humanity fully. This is demonstrated especially when he refused to use his divine power on the cross and allowed all of that torture and pain to happen.

Jesus was very focused on gathering people together so that they could ultimately inherit the kingdom of heaven. He looked beyond any earthly failings and looked into the heart and encouraged people to let go of anything that separated them from God and from each other. At the end of today's gospel there is a great sense of sadness when Jesus is addressing the chief priests and the elders and he reminds them that John came to them in the way of righteousness and they did not believe him, and even after they saw many others changing their ways and following John's teachings, they did not change their minds and believe. Jesus was appealing to them to humble themselves and embrace the truth but they didn't do it.

For me this is a very sobering reminder not to get too carried away with my own sense of self importance or position of authority. To be a true Christian means to be a servant and to be humble. I need this reminder from time to time, perhaps you do too?

Every blessing

Matthew

Birthdays: Faith McKenzie, John Phillips, and Jan Fryer.

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.**

BCA Boxes that were handed in for March counting are available for collection from the foyer of St Mary's if you are attending Church or from the Parish Office. If you did not hand your box in and would like it counted now please bring it to church on Sunday or hand it in at the office. Boxes will be returned more promptly this time.

Angel Tree- A Prison Fellowship Ministry Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Parish Council has made the decision to support Angel Tree in a different way this year. Angel Tree Ministry provides people with the opportunity to buy Christmas gifts for children whose parent is in prison. In previous years, our parishioners have supported this very generously, often providing more than 70 gifts per year. To ensure we can keep our parishioners as safe as possible, but also in the hope that we can still provide generously for these children, Parish Council is asking parishioners not to shop for presents this year but rather to consider making a donation to Prison Fellowship during the month of October. This will allow that agency to buy the gifts and deliver them to the relevant families in time for Christmas. The recommended value of a gift is \$30. Donations are also most welcome to assist with postage costs.

There are several ways to give:

1. Place your donation in the Sunday offertory, either in the mission side of the envelope or in a separate envelope labelled Angel Tree.
2. Drop it in to the Parish Office.
3. Make a direct transfer to the Parish Account using Angel Tree as a reference. BSB 705077 Account 00040134 Ballina Anglican Parish "Angel Tree".

Little Brothers Honey and Jams have been dropped off and will be available for purchase on Sunday 4 October in the church entrances, or afterwards through the Parish Office during the week. Clearly marked payment may be dropped into the offerings collection, or made at the office.

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; 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.

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 Loving Jesus, thank you for the Holy Spirit which surrounds us, protects us and nurtures us, helping us to live within your deep love and wisdom. As we seek to serve you in the many ways you call us to come and follow you, help us to be kind, understanding and wise. Forgive us when we get sidetracked and forget you are there. Forgive us when we hurt you and others, denying who you are. Give us the desire to follow you more closely, walk in your footsteps so people can see you, Jesus, within us. When our journey gets too hard help us to be guided by the Holy Spirit seeking your patience, presence and strength to honour the call you place on our lives. Amen.

ABM Pew Reflection Having sent ten plagues to the people of Egypt, God tests the Israelites ten times as they travel through the wilderness of the Sinai Peninsula to see if they will remain faithful. This time water has run out. The Israelites are seriously peeved with Moses' leadership – the Hebrew word translated as 'quarrelled' really means 'took legal action against'. Moses shrugs it all off, seeing it as the people complaining against God, rather than against him. So God tells Moses to take his staff and strike it against the rock at Horeb. The people's need is answered by their ever-providing God as water gushes out of the rock.

- Pray that as we wander through times of spiritual desolation we will be alert to God giving us spiritual water from which to drink.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia, the Most Rev Geoff Smith, and for the General Secretary of the General Synod, Anne Hywood, and the staff in the General Synod Office.

Robert McLean
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EAC Prayer Points

As we finish Term Three we give thanks for:

- all that has been able to happen
- the creativity of all our staff and students in ensuring that the best has been made of every opportunity - in spite of all the restrictions surrounding schools.

We pray for:

- our year 12 students and their teachers as they use the next few weeks to do the final preparations for their HSC.

As we look to Term 4, we pray for:

- a successful Staff Development Day on the first day of term;
- a safe, restful and refreshing school break as we all prepare for the blur that is Term 4.



CONTACT US

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“COUCH CHURCH”: WORSHIPPING GOD AT HOME

27 SEPTEMBER 2020

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Call to Worship

The psalmist wrote:

‘Show me your ways, O Lord,

and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me.’

Let us also seek the way and the truth of God.

Amen.

Hymn: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Joyful, joyful, we adore you,

God of glory, God of love;

hearts unfold like flowers before you

opening to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,

drive the dark of doubt away;

giver of immortal gladness,

fill us with the light of day.

All your works with joy surround you,

earth and heav'n reflect your rays,

stars and angels sing around you,

centre of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain,

flowery meadow, flashing sea,

singing bird and flowing fountain

call to praise you joyfully.

You are giving and forgiving,

ever blessing, ever blest,

well-spring of the joy of living,

ocean-depth of happy rest.

You our Father, Christ our brother,

all are yours who live in love;

teach us how to love each other,

lift us to your joy above.

Henry van Dyke (1852 - 1933)

TiS 152

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.**

Confession:

We sometimes think that the more we have, the happier we will be.
'If only', then all will be well.

We sometimes turn the other way, closing our eyes and ears,
ignoring what we see, choosing to neglect those asking for help.
Sometimes we want to do 'our thing' instead.

We do not want to confess these things
but, Lord God, in this moment,
in this space that we've been given,
give us the desire to confess our failings and our sins,
renew us from within and set us free from all that shackles us.
Set us free to be the human beings you would have us be. **Amen.**

Absolution

Sentence:

Come, let us return to the Lord, that we may live before him.

Hosea 6.1a,2b

Prayer of the Day:

Grant, O merciful God,
that your people may have that mind that was in Christ Jesus,
who emptied himself, and took the form of a servant,
and in humility became obedient even to death.
For you have highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name
that is above every name, Jesus Christ, the Lord;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, in everlasting glory. **Amen.**

Readings:

Psalm 78: 1-4, 12-16

***Response: We shall listen, Lord, to your teaching,
and heed the words of your mouth.***

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching:
incline your ears to the words of my mouth!

I will open my mouth in a parable;

I will utter dark sayings from of old,
things that we have heard and known,
that our forebears have told us.

Response:

We will not hide them from their children,
but tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the Lord, the might,
and wonders God has wrought.

Response:

The Lord wrought marvels in the sight of their forebears;
in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan,

the Lord divided the sea and let them pass through it,
and made the waters stand like a heap,
led them with a cloud in the daytime,
and all the night with a fiery light,
cleft rocks in the wilderness,
and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep,
made streams come out of the rock,
and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

Response:

tr. from the USA United Methodist *Liturgical Psalter*(1989)
TiS 41

Philippians 2

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Do all things without murmuring and arguing, so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world. It is by your holding fast to the word of life that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not run in vain or labour in vain. But even if I am being poured out as a libation over the sacrifice and the offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you—and in the same way you also must be glad and rejoice with me.

I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I may be cheered by news of you. I have no one like him who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. All of them are seeking their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But Timothy's worth you know, how like a son with a father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. I hope therefore to send him as soon as I see how things go with me; and I trust in the Lord that I will also come soon.

Still, I think it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus—my brother and co-worker and fellow soldier, your messenger and minister to my need; for he has been longing for all of you, and has been

distressed because you heard that he was ill. He was indeed so ill that he nearly died. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, so that I would not have one sorrow after another. I am the more eager to send him, therefore, in order that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. Welcome him then in the Lord with all joy, and honour such people, because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for those services that you could not give me.

Hymn: Bring Many Names

Bring many names, beautiful and good,
celebrate, in parable and story,
holiness in glory,
living, loving God.
Hail and hosanna,
bring many names!

Strong mother God, working night and day,
planning all the wonders of creation,
setting each equation,
genius at play:
Hail and hosanna,
strong mother God!

Warm father God, hugging every child,
feeling all the strains of human living,
caring and forgiving
till we're reconciled:
Hail and hosanna,
warm father God!

Old, aching God, grey with endless care,
calmly piercing evil's new disguises,
glad of good surprises,
wiser than despair:
Hail and hosanna,
old, aching God!

Young, growing God, eager, on the move,
saying no to falsehood and unkindness,
crying out for justice,
giving all you have:
Hail and hosanna,
young, growing God!

Great, living God, never fully known,
joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
closer yet than breathing,
everlasting home:
Hail and hosanna,
great, living God!

Brian Arthur Wren (1936 –)
TIS 182

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

TiS 51

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Matthew 21: 23-32 (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 feel despair because of COVID-19, suffering from loss of freedom, or loss of employment, or fear stirred up by misinformation. We pray especially for the people of Victoria at this time.

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

Be with our Bishop and all Synod representatives as they gather this weekend at Tweed Heads. Pour out the gifts of your Spirit on them, so that their discussions may be wise and loving.

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

We lift up to you all who seek your healing touch, who need physical, emotional and spiritual healing. We remember especially those who have asked to be listed in our bulletin: Ria Mars, Joy Swinbourne, Lucy van Eck, Neil Maclean, Norma Meehan, Malcolm Streher, Josh Stanley, Bonnie Kerkenezov, Margaret Leadbeater, 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.**

We thank you for all your faithful followers of every age and place, who have emptied themselves and served you. May we, with all your saints, live for ever in your presence.

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: Forth In Your Name

Forth in your name, O Lord, I go,
my daily labour to pursue,
you, Lord, alone resolved to know,
in all I think, or speak, or do.
Each task your wisdom has assigned
still let me cheerfully fulfil,
in all my works your presence find,
and prove your good and perfect will.
You may I set at my right hand,
whose eyes my inmost substance view,
and labour on at your command,
and offer all my works to you.
Give me to bear your easy yoke,
and every moment watch and pray,
and still to things eternal look,
and hasten to your glorious day;
for you delightfully employ,
all that your bounteous grace has given,
and run my course with even joy,
and closely walk with you to heaven.

Charles Wesley (1707 – 88)
TIS 571

Sending Out Prayer:

May we go, Lord God,
to meet the needs of others
and share the love we have from you. **Amen.**

Blessing

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