



# 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.

## SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI 4 OCTOBER 2020

### Pastoral message from the Rector

Today we are celebrating the life of St Francis of Assisi. I think he is probably one of the most popular saints in the Christian church and is often referred to as the Patron Saint of animals. His story is inspiring as he reportedly gave up all material wealth and privilege to live among the poorest in his community. He literally trusted God to give him his daily bread.

Francis was known for his love of animals and all creation. He called the sun his brother and the moon his sister. He treated all creatures with respect and the words of the hymn, "All creatures of our God and King", written by William Henry Draper, are based on the 'Canticle of the Sun' of Francis of Assisi.

I think we can learn a lot from this humble saint, and I think we can especially learn much about how to care for God's creation. As I have reflected on my role in caring for this fragile but beautiful planet, I have begun to realise that even the smallest and simplest actions can have a profound effect. Earlier this year I planted eighteen grevillea trees in the rectory garden. They have now begun flowering and I am constantly delighted by the variety of colourful birds who now come into the garden to drink the nectar. The bees have found them too and my garden has been transformed from a plain, grassy open space to a growing 'small' forest of flowering trees providing life to some of God's creatures, especially the small ones.

The Fifth Mark of Mission of the Anglican Communion is: "To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth." I hope we can all be inspired by the life and example of St Francis of Assisi and I hope we may also be inspired to do our bit in caring for this beautiful planet that God has entrusted into our care.

Every blessing

Matthew

**Birthdays:** Eva Frampton, Chris Abbott, and Graham Shaw.

**Do you have photos** of some of the things that have been different about this year? We are hoping to have a vision of the strange year that was for this year's Annual Report, so if you have anything that reflects Parish life since January can you please send it to Cathie at [office@anglicanballina.com.au](mailto:office@anglicanballina.com.au), or if you bring it in she can scan it and return it to you?

**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.**

**Ordination Service for David Brown Tuesday 20 October 6pm St Mary's Ballina**

Everyone is invited to attend David's ordination service. We are limited to 100 in the building and as this is a Diocesan event, we will have people attending from other parts of the Diocese. It is essential that people book in to secure a seat for this service so please register with Cathie in the Parish Office asap by phoning 6686 2094 or by email to [office@anglicanballina.com.au](mailto:office@anglicanballina.com.au). Please keep David in your prayers as he prepares for his ordination as a Deacon.

**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.

**Little Brothers 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.

**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. Our recent Synod recommended that we continue to encourage the use of face masks at worship.

**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, you have shown us how you care and heal people from physical, mental, and spiritual afflictions. At this time as the COVID-19 virus continues to sweep throughout the world, not only do we once again come to you with pleas for those who have been touched in any way by this dreaded virus, but we also pray for your loving touch for those who are suffering from it with fear, anxiety, isolation, and loneliness. We ask, Lord, for your intervention, knowing that you are the only answer in these times of pandemic. You are our refuge and our strength and ever present help in times like these. We can but take refuge in the shadow of your wings. Amen.



**Thought for the Week from Mothers Union Australia**

Bear each other's burdens

He ain't heavy, he's my brother'. St Paul urges us to respond with sibling love to another's tribulation. We are all brothers and sisters of the one heavenly Father. There is no room in Christian life for abandoning those less fortunate than ourselves; in fact, Christ exhorts us to pick up the load that may cause us pain. But we will be changed, liberated by the experience.

*Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2*

In Zone A, the education of children is top priority. A lack of finances causes many students to drop out of school. MU's support 'eases the burden in their family and also gives the children moral support and better access to jobs' - and fulfils the law of Christ.



**CONTACT US**

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# **“COUCH CHURCH”: WORSHIPPING GOD AT HOME**

**4 OCTOBER 2020**

## **CELEBRATING SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI AND THE SEASON OF CREATION**

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

### **Call to Worship**

We who have lost our sense and our senses – our touch, our smell, our vision of who we are; we who frantically force and press all things, without rest for body or spirit, hurting our earth and injuring ourselves: we call a halt.

We need to reflect and to rediscover the mystery that lives in us, that is the ground of every unique expression of life, the source of the fascination that calls all things to communion.

We declare a Sabbath, a space of quiet: for simple being and letting be; for recovering the great, forgotten truths; for learning how to live again.

**Amen.**

### **Hymn: Sing of the Lord's Goodness**

Sing of the Lord's goodness, Father of all wisdom,  
come to him and bless his name.

Mercy he has shown us, his love is for ever,  
faithful to the end of days.

*Refrain: Come then, all you nations, sing of your Lord's goodness,  
melodies of praise and thanks to God.*

*Ring out the Lord's glory, praise him with your music,  
worship him and bless his name.*

Power he has wielded, honour is his garment,  
risen from the snares of death.

His word he has spoken, one bread he has broken,  
new life he now gives to all.

*Refrain:*

Courage in our darkness, comfort in our sorrow,  
Spirit of our God most high;  
solace for the weary, pardon for the sinner,  
splendour of the living God.

*Refrain:*

Praise him with your singing, praise him with the trumpet,  
praise God with the lute and harp,  
praise him with the cymbals, praise him with your dancing,  
praise God till the end of days.

*Refrain:*

Ernest Sands (1949 - )  
TiS 183

## **Gathering Prayer:**

Today we know of the energy that moves all things: the oneness of existence, the diversity and uniqueness of every moment of creation, every shape and form, the attraction, the allurements, the fascination that all things have for one another.

Humbled by our knowledge, chastened by surprising revelations, with awe and reverence we come before the mystery of life. **Amen.**

## **Confession:**

We have forgotten who we are.

We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding of the cosmos.

We have become estranged from the movements of the earth.

We have turned our backs on the cycles of life.

## **Lord, have mercy.**

We have sought only our own security.

We have exploited simply for our own ends.

We have abused our power.

Now the land is barren  
and the waters are poisoned  
and the air is polluted.

## **Christ, have mercy.**

Now the forests are dying  
and the creatures are disappearing  
and the humans are despairing.

We ask forgiveness.

We ask for the gift of remembering.

We ask for the strength to change.

## **Lord, have mercy.**

**Amen.**

## *Absolution*

*Sentence:*

Francis, a man of God, left his home and gave away his wealth to become poor and in need. But the Lord cared for him.

## **Prayer of the Day:**

Father,

you helped Saint Francis to  
reflect the image of Christ  
through a life of poverty and humility.

May we follow your Son  
by walking in the footsteps of

Francis of Assisi,  
and by imitating his joyful love.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## Readings:

### Genesis 1:20-25

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

### Psalm 148

Come, O God of all the earth:  
come to us, O Righteous One;  
come, and bring our love to birth:  
in the glory of your Son.

*Refrain: Sing out, earth and skies!  
sing of the God who loves you;  
raise your joyful cries;  
dance to the life around you.*

Come, O God of wind and flame:  
fill the earth with righteousness;  
teach us all to sing your name:  
may our lives your love confess.

*Refrain:*

Come, O God of flashing light:  
twinkling star and burning sun;  
God of day and God of night:  
in your light we all are one.

*Refrain:*

Come, O God of snow and rain:  
shower down upon the earth;  
come, O God of joy and pain:  
God of sorrow, God of mirth.

*Refrain:*

Come, O Justice, come, O Peace:  
come and shape our hearts anew;  
come and make oppression cease:  
bring us all to life in you.

*Refrain:*

Marty Haugen(1950 - )  
TiS 181

## **Gospel Acclamation:**

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

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,  
because by your cross you have redeemed the world.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

TiS 257

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

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

Matthew 11: 25-30 (NRSV)

### *Sermon*

## **Hymn: Touch the Earth Lightly**

Touch the earth lightly,  
use the earth gently,  
nourish the life of the world in our care:  
gift of great wonder,  
ours to surrender,  
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

We who endanger,  
who create hunger,  
agents of death for all creatures that live,  
we who would foster  
clouds of disaster,  
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Let there be greening,  
birth from the burning,  
water that blesses and air that is sweet,  
health in God's garden,  
hope in God's children,  
regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living,  
God of all loving,  
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,  
teach us, deflect us,  
Christ re-connect us,  
using us gently and making us one.

Shirley Erena Murray (1931 – )  
TiS 668

### **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:**

As Francis heard your call to honour all of your creation, may we too honour your beautiful yet fragile planet, and pray for all creatures whose existence is threatened by human cruelty or greed. We pray for the rainforest, the Great Barrier Reef, our rivers, and the oceans which are being threatened by plunder and pollution. Father, teach us to become good stewards of your creation.

God of creation, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As Francis heard your call to leave the ways of war and to seek peace, we bring before you all victims of conflict and oppression, the displaced and the dispossessed, especially the indigenous peoples of this ancient land we call home. Inspire the leaders of the nations to pursue peace and justice for all their people. Father, make us instruments of your peace.

God of peace, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As Francis heard your call to set aside earthly riches and to become poor for the sake of your Gospel, we pray for the members of the three Orders of Franciscans especially our friends, the Little Brothers of Francis: Brothers Wayne, Howard, and Geoffrey. May we become like Francis, setting aside the earthly ties that bind us so that we can be faithful witnesses of your Gospel.

God of the poor, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As Francis heard your call to open his heart to the outcast and care for the sick, we pray for all who need your comfort and compassion. We bring before you those of this parish, and those whom we know and love, who are ill, or in mourning, and those who are facing death. May we become bearers of your healing love and hope. 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 Leadbeatter, Margaret Waller, Maureen Colburt, Lynda Garde, Rachael Hampton, Alton and Ros Rowe, Karen and Ben Shaw, Pauline Suffolk, Ron Roder, Rose Fox, Maisie Stratton, and Alex Arrighi.

God of healing, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all those who, like Francis of Assisi, have faithfully followed your call of service. May we too follow in the way of the Cross and come into the rest and the joy of your eternal presence.

God of welcome, 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: Glory to God Above**

Glory to God on high!  
Let heaven and earth reply,  
'Praise, praise his name!'  
Angels his love adore  
who all our sorrows bore,  
and saints cry evermore,  
'Worthy the Lamb!'

All those around the throne  
cheerfully join in one,  
praising his name;  
we, who have felt his blood  
sealing our peace with God,  
sound his dear fame abroad,  
'Worthy the Lamb!'

Join, all the ransomed race,  
our Lord and God to bless;  
praise, praise his name;  
in him we will rejoice,  
making a cheerful noise,  
shouting with heart and voice,  
'Worthy the Lamb!'

Though we must change our place,  
yet we shall never cease  
praising his name;  
to him we'll tribute bring,  
hail him our gracious King,  
and without ceasing sing,  
'Worthy the Lamb!'

James Allen (1734 – 1804)  
TIS 221

## **Sending Out Prayer:**

We rejoice in all life.

We live by the sun,  
we move with the stars.

**We rejoice in all life, God's good creation.**

We eat from the earth,  
we drink from the rain,  
we breathe from the air.

**We rejoice in all life, God's good creation.**

We have the privilege of seeing and understanding.  
We have the responsibility of caring.  
We have the joy of celebrating.

**We rejoice in all life, God's good creation.**

We are full of the grace of creation.  
We are graceful,  
we are grateful.

**We rejoice in all life, God's good creation.**

**Amen.**

## *Blessing*

Deep peace of the running wave to you.

Deep peace of the flowing air to you.

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.

Deep peace of the shining stars to you.

Deep peace of the gentle night to you.

Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.

Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you.

Deep peace of Christ to you.

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