



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 TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 25 OCTOBER 2020

Pastoral message from the Rector

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that the two greatest commandments are to love. To love God, and to love our neighbour as ourselves. In my opinion, we humans are not very good at this. You may disagree with me, but I find the daily news reports reinforce this by describing our inability for humans to love each other. So much of the news programmes seem to be taken up with accounts of people hurting and killing each other. This is certainly not an example of loving our neighbour.

As I reflect on the scriptures, both the Old Testament and the New Testament, I find more and more accounts of people being violent towards one another. Ever since Cain and Abel people seem to have struggled to get on. In my lifetime there have been numerous wars and there always seems to be some place dominating the world news with stories of unrest and violence. The motives seem to be many and varied too: racism, political power, oil ownership, control of land and borders, international fishing rights and the list goes on.

As a child I was encouraged not to fight. Sibling rivalry was always present in our family, but my parents discouraged fighting and always tried to model behaviour to work out our differences in a peaceful way. Someone once said that "Violence begets violence" and I wonder if the opposite is also true, that "Peace begets peace." If so, then I know what I prefer.

How are you doing on the love scale? Is it hard for you to love all people, including the people you don't like? This is what Jesus meant when he tells us to love our neighbour. He means everyone. If this Gospel disturbs you, then that is possibly God trying to say something important to you. As my training Rector often said, "The Gospel is there to comfort the disturbed and to disturb the comfortable." Maybe this is a passage to spend some time quietly reflecting on. What do you think?

Every blessing

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

Matthew

Birthdays: Janice Peate and Vic Faulkner.

Anniversaries: Pip & Julie Carter, John Phillips & Anne Marie Troutman.

Rev'd Jacki Lake, who started the God Morning Club and Pancake Night in Lennox Head, and was well known in our Parish in the 1990's has passed away in Brisbane this week. At this stage there are no plans for a funeral service, her family are thinking of a small private farewell. Please keep them in your prayers at this time.

Coffee & Chat will meet again Thursday 29 October 10.30am at The Gallery Café, 46 Cherry St. To ensure a seat is booked for you, please let Kerry Johnston know that you are coming on 0407 257 129 by 2pm Wednesday.

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, or if you bring it in she can scan it and return it to you?

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.

Bishop Murray Visit 1 November Bishop Murray will be visiting for his pastoral visit on Sunday 1 November 2020, celebrating the Feast of All Saints. There will be one service only in the parish on that day at 9.00am at St Mary's, Ballina. There will be no service on that day at St John the Baptist at Lennox Head. We can accommodate 100 people at St Mary's so hopefully we can have a large congregation to celebrate with our Bishop.

Wearing of Face Masks Bishop Murray has advised of an update from NSW Health, who now only recommend masks where social distancing is not possible (e.g. public transport). The Minister and his medical advisor have both agreed that if congregational members are physically spaced at 1.5m, with no singing of course, then the risk of infection is so minimal, that the wearing of masks need no longer apply. Of course, some may wish to continue to wear masks to exercise caution and to show love to others. We should not discourage them, The Archbishop of Sydney continues to liaise on our behalf with Ministers and senior Health Department Advisers.

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 Lord, you bless us richly in our daily lives but there are times when we struggle in life to see the richness of your world around us. Help us to keep our focus on you so that we can enjoy life, with all its ups and downs, and learn your will for us as we continue to follow you. Give us wisdom and direction to see the needs of others and offer the support they need in a loving and compassionate way so that your will be done. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

ABM Pew Reflection

Today's Gospel brings to an end Jesus' controversies with the Jewish leaders.

His answer to the question of which commandments are the most important (of the 613 in the Jewish scriptures) is quite traditional and similar to other rabbis of the time.

However, His answer to the question of who the Messiah is, is revolutionary. Clearly from Jesus' argument The son mentioned must not be the son of David, but the Son of God. And by implication for the readers, Jesus himself.

- Give us grace to live more Christ-like lives and tell others of His glory. Amen.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente, the Philippine Independent Church.

The Very Rev Phillip Saunders, Dean of Canberra and Goulburn
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Thought for the Week from Mothers Union Australia

Celebrating the people of God

The world is bright with the joyous saints / Who love to do Jesus' will/ You can meet them in school, or in lanes or at sea,/ in church or in trains, or in shops, or at tea/ for the saints of God are just folk like me,/ And I mean to be one too. This hymn by Lesbia Scott is available in an absolutely delightful edition illustrated by Judith Gwyn Brown. *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God. Moorehouse Publishing 1991. Includes music.*

[God] chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. Ephesians 1: 4-6

The MU saints in the diocese of Glasgow and Galloway collaborated with Women's Aid and the Field Study Centre in providing a 48-hour country trip for seven single-mum families affected by domestic violence. For these two days they were in peace and safety, practiced outdoor skills and had fun with new friends. We can celebrate the saintly witness which left them all feeling stronger and with a positive outlook for their future.

EAC Prayer Points

As we look to Week Three of this term we pray for:

- The members of our College Council as they meet this week;
- Our students sitting their various HSC exams - Mathematics, Legal studies, Visual Arts, Biology, Japanese, PDHPE Modern History.
- the Diocesan School Network meeting;
- The planning and preparation needed for the end of year functions;
- We give thanks that we can participate in some interschool sports events.

CONTACT US

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“COUCH CHURCH”: WORSHIPPING GOD AT HOME

25 OCTOBER 2020

THE TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Call to Worship

Come. Love the Lord your God,
with all your heart,
with all your soul and with all your mind.

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 Hoare (1935 -)
TiS 261

Gathering Prayer:

Let us thank God for each other
as we share in worship,
as we pray and praise.
Let us thank God for the witness of Jesus
and the gift of the Holy Spirit
to inspire and move us.

Amen.

Confession:

Holy Spirit of God,
may our confessions and grief for what we have done wrong,
or what we have left undone,

be taken from us.
May our burdens be lifted
and our inner souls released to share afresh
the love we have known in you.
Holy Spirit of God,
forgive us and assure us that our sins are forgiven,
that our lives are renewed,
that we are loved, cherished and cared for.
Amen.

Absolution

Sentence:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Matthew 22.37-40

Prayer of the Day:

O God,
whose Son has taught us that love is the fulfilment
of your law:
stir up within us the fire of your Holy Spirit,
and pour into our hearts your greatest gift of love,
so that we may love you with our whole being,
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Readings:

Deut. 34:1-12

Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the Plain - that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees - as far as Zoar. The Lord said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants'; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there." Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord's command. He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigour had not abated. The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended. Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the Lord had commanded Moses. Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

Response: Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

Lord you have been our refuge:
from one generation to another.
Before the mountains were born
or the earth and the world were brought to be:
from eternity to eternity you are God.
You turn us back into dust:
saying 'Return to dust, O children of Adam.'

Response: Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday passing:
or like one watch of the night.
You cut them short like a dream:
like the fresh grass of the morning;
In the morning it is green and flourishes:
at evening it is withered and dried up.

Response: Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

Relent, O Lord how long will you be angry?
take pity on your servants.
O satisfy us early with your mercy:
that all our days we may rejoice and sing.
Give us joy for all the days you have afflicted us:
for the years we have suffered adversity.

Response: Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

Show your servants your work:
and let their children see your glory.
May the gracious favour of the Lord our God be upon us:
prosper the work of our hands,
O prosper the work of our hands!

Response: Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

Response: Taizé Community (1978)
TiS 706

Gospel Acclamation:

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

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them, and we will come to them.

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

TiS 702

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the

greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'? If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Matthew 22: 34-46 (NRSV)

Sermon

Hymn: Put All Your Trust in God

Put all your trust in God,
in duty's path go on;
walk in God's strength with faith and hope,
so shall your work be done.
Commit your ways to him,
your work into his hands,
and rest on his unchanging word,
who heaven and earth commands.

Though years on years roll on,
God's covenant shall endure;
though clouds and darkness hide his path,
the promised grace is sure.
Give to the winds your fears:
hope and be undismayed:
God hears your sighs and counts your tears:
God shall lift up your head.

Through waves and clouds and storms
his power will clear your way:
await his time; so shall this night
soon end in joyous day.
Leave to God's sovereign sway
to choose and to command;
so shall you wondering own, his way
how wise, how strong his hand.

Paul Gerhardt (1607 - 76)
TIS 555

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 God, your love for us is without end, and you teach us to love you in return: hear the prayers we bring for all your people.

We bring before you all whose lives are made miserable by poverty, homelessness, oppression or war. Help us to fight for justice and peace with wise minds and courageous hearts, and with souls that thirst for righteousness.

God of love, **hear our prayer.**

We bring before you the worldwide church, giving thanks for all who come to eat at your table. Help us to wrestle with your gospel with inquiring minds, with burning hearts, and with souls that thirst for truth.

God of love, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all students who are sitting their final exams, after a very difficult year of study. We give thanks for the teachers and support staff who have risen to the challenges of different ways of teaching and supporting the students.

God of love, **hear our prayer.**

We bring to you those who are in trouble or distress, whose lives are filled with grief or despair, loneliness, sickness or pain. We pray especially for those whose names appear in our Parish Bulletin: Ria Mars, Joy Swinbourne, Lucy van Eck, 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, Alex Arrighi, and Gerri White's granddaughter.

Teach us to reach out to those who are in need with gentle and understanding hearts.

God of love, **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: Father, Lord of all Creation

Father, Lord of all creation,
ground of being, life and love;
height and depth beyond description
only life in you can prove:
you are mortal life's dependence:
thought speech, sight are ours by grace;
yours is every hour's existence,
sovereign Lord of time and space.

Jesus Christ, the Man for Others,
we, your people, make our prayer:
let us love as sisters, brothers,
all whose burdens we can share.
Where your name binds us together
you, Lord Christ, will surely be;
where no selfishness can sever
there your love we all may see.

Holy Spirit, rushing, burning,
wind and flame of Pentecost,
fill our hearts afresh with yearning
to regain what we have lost.
May your love unite our action,
nevermore to speak alone:
God in us abolish faction,
and through us your love make known.

David Stewart Cross (1928-89)
TIS 631

Sending Out Prayer:

Eternal God, be with us in this mixed up world. May we be kind and caring to all people, no matter how they treat us. May we be true to ourselves and hold our heads high, sharing your love and your care with all those we encounter.

Amen.

Blessing

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