



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.

DEFENCE SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2020

Pastoral message from the Rector

This Sunday we are commemorating Defence Sunday. The following words come from Defence Anglicans:

“Defence Sunday is an opportunity for the whole church to pray for the ministry that occurs within and to the Australian Defence Force. Defence Sunday is important. Whilst Remembrance Day, coming up next Wednesday, recalls the tragedy of World War 1 and the hope for peace which came with the Armistice on 11 November 1918, the experiences of the past 100 years reveal that this hope remains unfulfilled. Tragically, Australian service personnel continue to die in combat in the Middle East and the numbers of physical, psychological and spiritual casualties continue to increase. Our church has a responsibility to provide ongoing pastoral and spiritual care to serving military personnel. The greatest support that the church can provide to its chaplains engaged in this mission is prayer and understanding.”

These are very moving words, and they speak to me of the ongoing need for prayer for peace and prayer for safety for all those who risk their lives in the quest for peace. You may know people who are connected with the defence forces, and this makes it even more personal.

Our Intercessory Prayers this week are compiled by Celeste Hartmann of our parish. Celeste is the mother of two current serving ADF personnel. Again, this makes it even more personal for all of us who know her.

Please continue to pray for all who serve in the quest for peace and for all Chaplains who care for serving ADF personnel.

Every blessing

Matthew

Birthdays: Nancy Finlay, Beryl White, Marie Ferguson, Beverley Grant, and Val Taylor.

Anniversaries: John & Beverley Grant.

Ballina Christian Education Committee (BCEC) and Ritchies IGA If you want to support BCEC here is one very simple way to do it. Ritchies IGA has recently launched its new IGA Card to celebrate 150 years of service to the community. Now is the time to sign up with their online app. and nominate BCEC (formerly BSREA) as the Beneficiary. They give 0.5% of sales to nominated community groups. Every little bit helps - consider making BCEC your choice!

Coffee & Chat will meet again Thursday 12 November 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.

Prayer for the Ordination to the Diaconate of Grant Sparks 21 November.

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 Grant Sparks Saturday 21 November 11am Christ Church Cathedral Grafton

Everyone is invited to attend Grant's ordination service. As this is a Diocesan event, it is essential that people book in to secure a seat for this service. Please register with the Cathedral Office by email to parishoffice@graftoncathedral.org.au or by phoning 6642 2844. Matthew will be attending, so if you wish a lift to Grafton please contact him as he may have a spare seat available. Please keep Grant in your prayers as he prepares for his ordination as a Deacon.

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?

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.

Financial Giving to the Parish

Whilst the Op Shop with successful trading during the COVID pandemic has been able to catch up on its budgeted transfers to the Parish funds there is still a shortfall in offertory giving, a major source of funds required to run the Parish.

You are encouraged to support the Parish through regular giving in one of the following ways:

Direct deposits through AfGD (Anglican funds Grafton Diocese) known as Parish Provider: Application Form is available from the Parish Administration Office. Complete and post it to: PO Box 4, Grafton NSW 2460; alternatively scan or photo the completed form and send it as an attachment to AfGD email address: office@afgd.com.au ; or

Direct deposit to the Parish of Ballina Working Account: this method enables you to use your bank to electronically direct transfer funds into the following account.

Account: Parish of Ballina Working Account: *BSB:* 705-077 *Account Number:* 00040134.

Use Reference: Offering; or

At Sunday Services: there is a box set aside for giving at St Mary's and St John the Baptist if you are attending Sunday worship and wish to give this way; or

At the Admin Office: giving by cash or EFTPOS can also be processed at the Admin Office during the week from 9.00am to 3:00pm.

Thank you.

Hugh McIntosh - Parish Treasurer

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 of hope, we thank you that the sacrifices of so many dedicated people from all walks of life appear to be bearing fruit as the pandemic ever so slowly loses its hold on our nation. We pray that towns, cities and states remain vigilant so that overseas' experiences of fresh outbreaks and rampant case numbers are not repeated here. We pray for the souls lost to the pandemic and we pray for the brave workers who care daily for the sick. Amen.



Thought for the Week from Mothers Union Australia

Memories

'Count your blessings': do you remember to? Are you, perhaps, dealing with memories you would rather forget? Sometimes these memories do need to be faced. Perhaps you can see now that the criticism was kindly meant; perhaps being overlooked for one position opened another way. Reflecting on the past can bring us to understand ourselves and forgive others. Count on it.

I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord; I will remember your wonders of old. I will meditate on all your work, and muse on your mighty deeds. Psalm 77:11-12

In Wales, having studied MULO, members are looking at what they have been doing for a long time in a new way. Despite facing the challenge of lack of transport and the need for leadership training, projects involving in the local community are having a profound impact on people in hospital or prison or the homeless. Blessed memories for the future.

EAC Prayer Points

Week 5 and we have already passed the half way mark of the term!

As the end of the HSC exams draws closer we pray for:

- our students who are sitting for the following exams:
Chemistry, Extension English, Food Technology, IPT, Drama, Design and Technology;
- Year 5 and 6 as they share in the Interrelate course this week;
- all the interschool sports events, especially the Tobias-Marquet cup;
- Year 11 as they transition to year 12 and for the Induction of our new Student Leaders;
- Primary Concert Band performance day; and
- Our Remembrance Day service.

Diocese of Grafton



Please pray for

Grant Sparks
who will be Ordained as Deacon

on

Saturday 21 November at 11.00am
at Christ Church Cathedral, Grafton

To book phone 02 6642 2844 or email: parishoffice@graftoncathedral.org.au

Due to COVID-19 restrictions please book with the Cathedral Office before attending

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Thanks to Mark Houghton

06-01-2005

THE NEW CHAPLAIN EXCEEDED
EXPECTATIONS

CONTACT US

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“COUCH CHURCH”: WORSHIPPING GOD AT HOME

8 NOVEMBER 2020

DEFENCE SUNDAY

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

Call to Worship

Friends in Christ,

we come together to meet with God,
and to take our part in the building up of God's Church.

We will lift up our hearts in thanks and praise,
hear from God's holy word,
and pray for this world, and for ourselves.

Today we mark Defence Sunday. We remember all those who have served in the Australian Defence Force in past years, who have lost their lives or returned home carrying permanent scars. We especially remember the women and men who continue to serve today. Today we pray for all current Australian service personnel, as well as the chaplains, medical staff and many others who care for their injuries of body, mind and spirit.

God is our refuge and strength;
a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46.1

Hymn: O God of Love

O God of love, whose heart is ever yearning
that fixed on you our wayward thoughts may be,
now grant us grace to live as in your presence,
and help us all our erring ways to see.
May love subdue the ill in every nation,
and all to you as subjects bow the knee.

O Father God, moved ever by compassion
for children crushed by sorrow's heavy load,
be swift to aid the downcast and the cheerless,
lift up the fallen on life's thorny road.
Give calm and strength to overcome with patience,
and safely bring them to your blest abode.

O God of peace, whose Son with our sins laden
died to secure from bondage our release,
help us to banish hate between the nations,
to live as neighbours, and make wars to cease.
Bring in the reign of friendship universal,
and in your mercy grant to us your peace.

Randall T Pittman (1882 – 1972)
TiS 614

Gathering Prayer:

We meet in the presence of God, who calls us to share in Christ's ministry of reconciliation.
We pray for all who continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror.

We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow the many who have given their lives in wars and conflicts past and present.

In penitence and faith we commit ourselves to work for the justice and peace of God's kingdom.

Amen.

Confession:

O Christ
in pain and agony on the cross
you bore the brunt of the world's violence.
You wore our insults scorched upon your back
and in your haunting cry of desolation
you utter our grief, our anguish, our loss.
Hear the cry of your people.

We hold before you
all the violence done in your name;
those maimed by war or scarred by hatred;
those traumatised by nightmares which years of peace cannot erase;
those who cannot or will not forgive.

Let your mercy and peace lead us in hope.

We confess our sin, individual and collective, by silence or action:
through the violation of human dignity
 based on race, class, age, sex, nation, or faith;
through the exploitation of people by greed and indifference;
through the misuse of power
 in personal, communal, national, and international life;
through the search for security
 by military and economic forces that threaten human existence:
through the abuse of technology
 which endangers the earth and all life upon it.

Let your mercy and peace lead us in hope.

We wholeheartedly repent of the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf;
and we look for grace to offer forgiveness,
and to know ourselves forgiven.

Let your mercy and peace lead us in hope.

Amen.

Absolution

Sentence:

'No one has greater love than this, than to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends,'
says the Lord, 'if you do what I command you.'

John 14: 13-14

Prayer of the Day:

O God, our ruler and guide,
in whose hands are the destinies of this and every nation,
we give you thanks for the freedoms we enjoy in this land
and for those who laid down their lives to defend them:
We pray that we and all the people of Australia,
gratefully remembering their courage and their sacrifice,
may have grace to live in a spirit of justice,
 of generosity and of peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Readings:

Isaiah 53: 1-6

Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;
and as one from whom others hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him of no account.
Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.
But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

Psalm 29: 1-4, 8-9, 10b, 11b

Response: The Lord will bless his people with peace.

O give the Lord, you children of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court.

Response: The Lord will bless his people with peace.

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour.

Response: The Lord will bless his people with peace.

The God of glory thunders.
In his temple all cry: 'Glory!'
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever.

Response: The Lord will bless his people with peace.

The Grail (1983)

TiS 17

Romans 8: 31-39

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hymn: Make Me a Captive, Lord

Make me a captive, Lord,
and then I shall be free;
force me to render up my sword,
and I shall conqueror be.

I sink in life's alarms
when by myself I stand;
imprison me within thine arms,
and strong shall be my hand.

My heart is weak and poor
until it master find;
it has no spring of action sure,
it varies with the wind.
It cannot freely move,
till thou hast wrought its chain;
enslave it with thy matchless love,
and deathless it shall reign.

My will is not my own
till thou has made it thine;
if it would reach a monarch's throne
it must its crown resign;
it only stands unbent,
amid the clashing strife,
when on thy bosom it has leant
and found in thee its life.

George Matheson (1842 - 1906)
TIS 604

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John

Jesus said to the disciples, “Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise. The Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing; and he will show him greater works than these, so that you will be astonished. Indeed, just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whomever he wishes. The Father judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son, so that all may honour the Son just as they honour the Father. Anyone who does not honour the Son does not honour the Father who sent him. Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life. “Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and will come out — those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. John. 5:19-29 (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:

Eternal God, the only source of peace,
we pray for all who serve in the Defence Force of this land.

Give them courage and comfort in danger,
patience in waiting, and discipline in the just use of force.

Help us to seek for all people
the freedom to serve you and each other in compassion and peace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of love and liberty,

We bring our thanks today for the peace and security we enjoy.

We remember those who in time of war faithfully served their country.

We pray for their families, and for ourselves whose freedom was won at such a cost.

Make us a people zealous for peace,
and hasten that day when nation shall not lift up sword against nation
neither learn war any more.

This we pray in the name of the one who gave his life for the sake of the world:

Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

Lord God of Hosts,

we pray for your clergy whom you have called to the ministry of uniformed chaplaincy,
and for those who proclaim your love and compassion in battle areas and defence establishments
where Australian military personnel serve.

Lord, strengthen their faith as they seek to witness to you in a secular world.

Protect them from all dangers
and comfort them in the long separations from families,
and the familiar things of church, that they must endure.

Lord who blessed the peacemakers,

bless especially those chaplains serving overseas,

helping to bring peace to the nations new and old
which are struggling to find their identity and place in the world.

Loving God,

we pray for the loved ones of our service men and women.

We ask that you give them peace as they adjust to the changed people who return from deployment.

So often they come home strangers,
changed by their experiences and changed by what they have seen.

We ask, dear Lord, that you will help them to find the words of comfort needed.

Give them patience as they navigate changed relationships,
and help them as they support their returned heroes as they return home.

We ask your ongoing blessing on their families.

Lord, we pray for all those service men and women battling ongoing mental health issues,
homelessness, personality changes, emotional outbursts, PTSD,
and all other disorders experienced by those who have served our country.

We pray for healing, and that they may know your sustaining peace.

God of all comfort:

quieten our minds, that we may make room for your healing and forgiveness.

You know all our anxieties and fears:

grant that we may cast all our cares on you, knowing that you care for us.
Give us quietness of mind, and unshaken trust in you, and keep us in perfect peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We pray also for those who have asked for our prayers: Ria Mars, Joy Swinbourne, Malcolm Streher, Josh Stanley, Margaret Waller, Lynda Garde, Rachael Hampton, Alton Rowe, Karen and Ben Shaw, Ron Roder, Rose Fox, Alex Arrighi, Gerri White's granddaughter, Joan Knapp, Phil Ross, and Milton Colburt.

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: Lord Christ, True Peace of All Above

Lord Christ, true peace of all above,
sure hope of all below,
establish in your grace and love
your people as we go.

Your blessing, Lord, who bless us all,
abide with us today;
your mercy, peace, and watchful care
surround us on our way.

Your presence in our life remain
that all the world may know
how Christ may walk the world again,
in us himself to show.

Brian Anthony Moore(1931-97)
TIS 623

Sending Out Prayer:

Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world, and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm. May we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever.

Amen.

Blessing

Liturgy adapted from 'A Remembrance Day Lament', Uniting Church in Australia, incorporating material from 15th World Methodist Council, Nairobi, Kenya, 1986 "Uniting in Worship 1: People's Book". Copyright 1995. The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation. Additional prayers from A Prayer Book for Australia published under the imprint of Broughton Books. Reproduced with permission. Prayers of intercession written by Defence Anglicans and by Celeste Hartmann. CCLI Licence 36743 and Streaming Licence 460113.