



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.

DAY OF PENTECOST 31 MAY 2020

Pastoral message from the Rector

Has anyone ever asked you questions like these: Do you speak in tongues? Do you prophesy? Do you have the gift of healing? Can you interpret tongues? These can be very confronting questions and are often asked by people who place great importance on the outward signs of the presence of the Holy Spirit. You can read more about these in today's reading in 1 Corinthians 12:1-13.

On some occasions people have been quite critical of me because I couldn't do some of these things, and it was like there was an expectation that, as a priest, I should have these abilities. However, if we look more closely at what St Paul actually wrote, he makes it quite clear that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are allocated to different people "as the Spirit chooses." So, we don't pick and choose our spiritual gifts. They are given to us as the Holy Spirit chooses to give them to us.

Today as we celebrate Pentecost, we read in the Acts of the Apostles how the Holy Spirit came upon the people when they were gathered together in one place, and suddenly there was mass amazement and astonishment because they were all hearing God's message in their own native languages. This caused such a disturbance that many people thought they must be drunk. The Holy Spirit has the capacity to disrupt lives, such as it did on that day, and it also has the capacity to fill us with deep peace. This was certainly the case for the frightened disciples in the locked room when the resurrected Jesus visited them.

At this frightening time of COVID-19, may you feel the peace of the Holy Spirit deep within you. May you also be aware of any gifts that the Holy Spirit has given you and may you use them generously, in humble service for others, so that through you, they may be drawn closer to God. Come Holy Spirit!

Every blessing

Peace be with you,

Matthew

Birthdays: Margaret O'Brien

News: 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](#)

COVID Safe App: Matthew and Cathy encourage all parishioners with a Smart Phone to download the government's COVID Safe App. If you have any questions, please contact Cathy who is happy to help.

Ballina Christian Education Committee for supporting religious education in the Ballina Coast High School.

BCEC want to bless and support Local Businesses to get back on their feet. The BCEC is hoping to create a local Ballina Shire flavoured puzzle book as an ongoing fundraiser. We are looking to promote our local area and businesses. We have some template examples to show if requested. We wish to offer businesses in the Shire the opportunity free of charge to be part of this book.

If you are interested please contact:

Philip Wilson - 0488579824 or wilsophilip@gmail.com

Jan Fryer - 0409472851 or graham.jan.fryer@gmail

PACT Prayer: -

Loving Lord, as we gaze on the beauty and diversity of the world around us, we see your marvellous hand at work and give you great thanks that, in this difficult time when the world is besieged by the Coronavirus, we can trust you to make a way forward through this time. Fill us with your Spirit so that we can share with others the joy of knowing you and the peace we have through trusting you to provide for all our needs. May we be as one with you on this journey. In Jesus' name, Amen.

EAC Prayer Points: -

- We pray for our whole College Community as we move into our first week with all our staff and students returning.
- We pray for the staff and students who have to remain at home, in isolation, that we might be mindful to stay connected and communicating with them.
- We give thanks for our first 'virtual' Whole College Chapel, and for the Primary and Secondary chapels happening this week.
- We continue to pray for wisdom and courage for those making decisions about the future shaping of our school.
- Mostly we simply give thanks for the sounds of children echoing in our schools again.

Amen.

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

Ria Mars, Joy Swinbourne, Lucy van Eck, Neil Maclean, Norma Meehan, Malcolm Streher, Josh Stanley, Fran Shepherd, Bonnie Kerkenezov, Anne Marie Troutman, Margaret Leadbeatter, Margaret Waller, Maureen Colburt, Lynda Garde, Sue Hurford, Rachael

Hampton, Alton Rowe, Ros Rowe, Elaine Frederiksen, Karen and Ben Shaw, and Bishop Arthur Malcolm.

Bishop Arthur Malcolm is scheduled for heart surgery and we pray for his healing at this particular time. Bishop Arthur is known to many of us.

Financial Giving to the Parish

During this difficult time we continue to minister to our people and our community, although in different ways. Expenses still need to be met. To cover these expenses we will shortly be drawing cash from long term deposits. Our major sources of income to cover expenses are normally provided by the giving of Parishioners and the Op Shop. The Op Shop has ceased operating and giving by Parishioners has been by the various electronic transfer methods only. A small amount of cash has been received but this method is now not to be used.

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

Direct deposits through AfGD (Anglican funds Grafton Diocese) known as Parish

Provider: Application Form is attached. Print, complete and scan it for return as an attachment to AfGD email address: office@afgd.com.au. Alternatively, you can complete the Application Form attached, photo it with your smartphone and send the photo to AfGD email address: office@afgd.com.au .

To minimise exposure to COVID-19 please do not use the postal system to deliver the form.

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.

This system enables users to make regular weekly, fortnightly or monthly payments.

Other ways for you to support the work of the Parish are being investigated.

Many of you may be unable to use either of these methods in which case we encourage you to make a catchup donation at some time in the future when current restrictions are lifted and you can afford the outlay.

Hugh McIntosh
Parish Treasurer
3 April'20

CONTACT US

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