



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.

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9 AUGUST 2020

Pastoral message from the Rector

Have you ever tried to walk on water? This may seem like a silly question, but it is something I actually used to try and do when I was a child. We had a swimming pool and my siblings and I loved to run to the edge and see how far we could get across the water without sinking. Of course, we didn't get very far.

In today's Gospel, Jesus was walking across the water to meet the disciples who were in a boat. Peter wanted to do the same as Jesus, so he asked Jesus to command him to come to him on the water. Jesus said "Come", and Peter did actually walk on the water, for a brief moment, until he became frightened and began to sink.

I love this story because it tells me that for God, all things are possible, and if we have faith, we can step out in faith and give things a try. There are other times when Jesus challenges us to think outside our human limitations, including being able to move mountains and transplant fully grown trees. He tells us not to doubt, but to believe.

I guess we can decide for ourselves how literally we want to take these stories, but I think there is an important message underlying them. I believe that God wants us to trust him completely, with every part of our lives. We should not hold anything back in our trust of God and what can be possible through faith.

Peter found that he could do something that previously he thought was impossible. When doubt and fear kicked in, he stopped being able to do it. Jesus' response, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" is an important one for us to hear today. Do we let doubt and fear stop us from giving things a go? If so, then perhaps this a Gospel that we need to reflect on. Are you a person of little faith with doubts, or are you a person who trusts God with everything, even the things that we might think are impossible? Or, are you somewhere in between? Something to ponder perhaps!

Every blessing

Matthew

Birthdays: Pat Maclean, and Dawn Pullen

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](#)

PACT Prayer: -

Gracious Lord, as our world is experiencing difficult times, what a privilege it is to put all our worries and burdens together, and hand them all over to you. We abide by your commandment to love one another, and we pray fervently for those who are fearful and suffering. Enfold them with your loving care. Amen.

ABM Reflection:

Today's OT reading almost sounds like the beginning of the plot for an international crime drama: family jealousies leading to people trafficking. Having been dragged to Canaan by their father Joseph's brothers are sick of him: not only is he a blabbermouth, telling tales against them and their mothers to their father Jacob, but their clueless father dotes on the idiot! What's to be done? First the brothers plot murder but on the advice of big-brother Reuben, blood isn't spilt. They sell him off into the hands of Ishmaelites who traffick him to Egypt.

- Pray for the souls of all those who have murdered by family members, and for whose family members have made the attempt. Pray also for all those who are trafficked and abused at the hands of the evil and depraved.
- Give thanks for the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa.

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Thought for the Week from Mothers Union Australia:

Mothers Union family

What a privilege it is to belong to a World-wide family whose mission is to bring Love and Peace to men, women and children wherever they may be. The Mothers Union family is a microcosm of the unity between all of creation. At the halfway point in time from Christ on earth to now, St Francis spoke of Brother Sun, Sister Moon. The intensity of his spiritual awareness can be overwhelming. Let us summon some measure of that feeling of family for other MU members so we may truly regard them as our brothers and sisters.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.

2 Thessalonians 1: 2-3

A community of other faiths joined the parenting program in Myanmar. Members were prepared to welcome other believers, opening their hearts and minds to welcome all of God's children. Change came about when faith and love increased.

EAC Prayer Points:-

Week Four and we continue to pray for our Year 10 students as they make plans for Year 11 and 12.

- We also pray for our Kindergarten teachers as they welcome some of the Kindergarten class of 2021 in the Kindylinks activities.
- We pray for the connections we make in the wider community - as our concert band spends time learning with and from the BSB.
- We pray for year 7, that they might be able to go on their field trip to Dorroughby, and for the students coming along to the Year 7 2021 experience day



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“COUCH CHURCH”: WORSHIPPING GOD AT HOME
9 AUGUST 2020
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Call to Worship:

Jesus said: 'Take courage, it is I. Don't be afraid.'
Our God is a powerful God,
who does things way beyond our understanding.
But we have no need to fear,
for we know we are safe in God's presence.
Let us come to our God now.
Let us bow down and worship. **Amen.**

Hymn: O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns Be Rising

O Jesus Christ, may grateful hymns be rising
in every city for your love and care;
inspire our worship, grant the glad surprising
that your blest Spirit rouses everywhere.

Grant us new courage, sacrificial, humble,
strong in your strength to venture and to dare,
to lift the fallen, guide the feet that stumble,
seek out the lonely and God's mercy share.

Show us your Spirit, brooding o'er each city,
as once you wept above Jerusalem,
seeking to gather all in love and pity,
and healing those who touch your garment's hem.

Bradford Gray Webster (1898 – 1991)
TIS 620

Gathering Prayer:

Lord, sometimes life following you can be difficult.
We find so many dilemmas and struggle so much,
wishing it could be easier.
We so want to trust you and see your plan for us.
Help us to relax into your presence,
to clearly hear your word and be prepared to act on it.
In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Sentence:

The Lord is near to all who call on him in truth. He fulfils the desire of all that fear him, hears their cry, and saves them.

Psalm 145.18-19

Prayer of the Day:

Mighty God and ruler of all creation,
give new strength to our faith,
that we may recognise your presence
even when all hope seems lost.

Help us to face all trials with serenity
as we walk with Christ through the stormy seas of life
and come at last to your eternal peace.

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

Readings:

Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. This is the story of the family of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

He came to Shechem, and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him"—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22

*Response: Sing to God, sing praises;
sing praises, sing praises to the Lord*

O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name:
tell among the peoples what things he has done.
Sing to him, O sing praises:
and be telling of all his marvellous works.

Response

Exult in his holy name:
and let those that seek the Lord be joyful in heart.
Seek the Lord and his strength:
O seek his face continually.

Response

Call to mind what wonders he has done:
his marvellous acts, and the judgements of his mouth,
O seed of Abraham his servant:
O children of Jacob his chosen one.

Response

Then he called down a famine on the land:
and destroyed the bread that was their stay.
And he sent a man ahead of them:
Joseph who was sold into slavery.
Whose feet they fastened with fetters:
and thrust his neck into a hoop of iron.

Response

Till the time that his words proved true:
he was tested by the Lord's command.
Then the king sent and loosed him:
the ruler of nations set him free;

Response

He made him master of his household:
and ruler over all his possessions,
To rebuke his officers at will:
and to teach his counsellors wisdom.

Response

Response: Hal H. Hopson (1933 -)
TiS 66

Hymn: Christ Be My Leader by Night As By Day

Christ be my leader by night as by day;
safe through the darkness, for he is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future his care,
darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

Christ be my teacher in age as in youth,
drifting or doubting, for he is the truth.
Grant me to trust him, though shifting as sand,
doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.

Christ be my Saviour in calm as in strife;
death cannot hold me, for he is the life.

Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.

Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926 -)
TiS 624

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew

Immediately after feeding the crowd with the five loaves and two fish, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret. After the people of that place recognised him, they sent word throughout the region and brought all who were sick to him, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

Matthew 14:22-36 (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:

Father, we bring to you our prayers for your world and its people, especially for those caught up in the COVID-19 outbreaks around the world, remembering our brothers and sisters in Melbourne and the state of Victoria and all who are working on the frontline in the battle against the virus. As you came long ago to your disciples in the midst of a storm, come today to your people tossed about in the tempests and troubles of life, that we may take heart from your presence.

*Response: O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer;
when I call answer me.*

*O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me.*

We bring to you our prayers for your church: in places where it faces persecution; in places where it is marginalised and ignored; in places where it is discredited by discord and disgrace. We give you thanks for the skills which enable your gospel to reach beyond the church buildings into the lounge rooms of people that are enduring lockdown. We pray for our Cathedral Parish congregation, for the Dean, and for all others who minister there. We pray also for the Diocesan Registry Staff, and give thanks for their diligence and faithful service in this difficult time. As you

came long ago to your disciples in the midst of a storm, come today to your people tossed about in the tempests and troubles of life, that our faith may be rekindled by your presence.

Response:

We bring to you our prayers for our communities of Ballina and Lennox Head: for all who are in violent or abusive relationships; for all who sleep in cars or in doorways of buildings, for all who are unable to care for themselves; for our loved ones and friends, and all with whom we share our daily lives.

Response:

We bring to you our prayers for all who are in need of hope and healing. We pray for the sick of this parish, and we give thanks for the dedication and skill of all the medical practitioners in our communities. We remember especially:

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, Marj Roder, Rose Fox, Mary Stedman, and Ron Roder.

You came long ago to your disciples in the midst of a storm, come today to your people tossed about in the tempests and troubles of life, that our terrors may be calmed by your presence.

Response:

We bring to you our prayers for all who have died in the faith: this week remembering especially the Twentieth Century Martyrs, including Martin Luther King Jr. and Oscar Romero. As you came long ago to your disciples in the midst of a storm, come to us when we are tossed about in the tempests and troubles of life, that, we may come to find in your presence a place of everlasting peace and joy.

Response:

Response: Taizé Community
TiS 741

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.

Confession:

Lord God,
I'm sorry for the times I take my eyes off you,
and seek to do things in my own strength.
I'm sorry for the times I doubt that
you can keep me on the straight and narrow.
I'm sorry for the times I ask you for signs.
Lord, I pray that you will forgive

my doubts and hesitations,
show me your loving presence,
especially when I most need it,
and teach me to trust you at all times.
Amen.

Absolution

Hymn: Have Faith In God, My Heart

Have faith in God, my heart,
trust and be unafraid;
God will fulfil in every part
each promise he has made.

Have faith in God, my mind,
though oft your light burns low;
God's mercy holds a wiser plan
than you can fully know.

Have faith in God, my soul,
his cross for ever stands;
and neither life nor death can pluck
his children from his hands.

Lord Jesus, make me whole;
grant me no resting place
until I rest, heart, mind and soul,
the captive of your grace.

Bryn Austin Rees (1911 – 83)
TIS 619

Sending Out Prayer:

Peter only knew life as a fisherman.
But he got out of the boat and followed you, Lord.
Help us to hear your voice,
get out of our boats and follow you.
In the week ahead,
may the world and its problems decrease
as you increase in our lives.
Keep us focused on your way,
looking ahead and trusting you.
Amen.

Blessing