



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 FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 6 SEPTEMBER 2020

Pastoral message from the Rector

In today's Gospel, Jesus says, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." I must have been taught this when I was quite young because it has stayed in my mind for many years and there have been times when I have really valued this promise.

When I was newly ordained, nearly thirty years ago, I organised a service for Maundy Thursday evening. I spent hours planning the service and arranged to have foot washing and a Eucharist and all of this was to be followed by a Vigil Watch through the night into Good Friday morning. I was really looking forward to my first solo service for this special day

The day came and I got to the church early to ensure everything was set up for when the parishioners all came. And they came, but only three of them. To say I was disappointed would not do justice to how I was feeling. My emotions went from disappointed to angry. Didn't everyone know how much work I had put into getting this service ready? Why didn't they come? So, I sat there for a while feeling morose and bitter and wondering if I should cancel the service.

Then a wonderful thing happened. I remembered this passage from Matthew's Gospel. Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." It was like a slap on the face. This service was not about me, or about how much effort I had put into preparing it. This service was about Jesus and the Passover meal with his friends, the last supper he was to have before his death. This service was also about being a servant and being prepared to do the not so pleasant jobs for others, such as washing their dirty feet. This service was all about Jesus showing us what was really important.

I snapped out of my bad mood instantly and we had an incredible service. The few who were there were totally engaged, and as it turned out, went and told a whole lot of other people what they had missed out on. The following year we had a much bigger attendance, but the most important thing was the lesson I learned from this experience. It is not about me; it is about Jesus. It is not about gathering large numbers, but it is about acknowledging the presence of Jesus in any size gathering. It is not about having something to boast about, it is about having something to learn from Jesus. I learned a lot that night and, nearly thirty years later, I can still recall the emotions that raced through me. I am so grateful for this little message from Mathew's Gospel. It has the capacity to turn negatives into positives and sadness into joy. May we all take some time to reflect on these words from Jesus, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Every blessing

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

Matthew

Birthdays: Neil Maclean and Grace Black

News: Marj Roder died peacefully on Tuesday 1 September. Our thoughts are with her family at this time, please keep them in your prayers.

Prison Fellowship Week of Prayer 6-13 September 2020. The week of prayer is an annual event where each day, for eight days, we are invited to pray about a particular theme which is listed on the insert. Prison Fellowship is also hosting an National online prayer event on Sunday 13 September at 2pm which can be joined through the zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83129068231>.

The Every Day With Jesus books have been received by the office and are available now. Please contact Cathie in the office on 6686 2094, or by email at office@anglicanballina.com.au to let her know if you would like one of these books?

Accommodation urgently required for refugee settling in Ballina Ballina Region for Refugees (BR4R) is supporting a refugee to settle in Ballina from the start of October this year. He is a single man in his early 30s from Sri Lanka who is likely to take up a year-long horticultural traineeship with Ballina Shire Council. He will be looking to rent accommodation for himself or to share with other(s). As such accommodation is scarce in our region, BR4R would greatly appreciate members passing the word around to anyone who can assist. Please contact Stanley Yeo for more information: email: s.yeo@br4r.org.au; ph: 0421 955186

REAL (RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF LISMORE) REAL are looking for someone who is passionate about making a positive impact in the lives of young people and supporting them to flourish, in the role of a School Chaplain at The Rivers College Richmond River Campus. This position is a Commonwealth funded position under the National School Chaplaincy Program (NSCP), and is funded to the end of the 2022 calendar year. Applications close 5pm Friday 11th September 2020 and further information is on the noticeboards or contact chairmain@real.org.au.

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. It may not be long before we do have community transmission in our area, so the wearing of face masks will not only be a responsible action to protect the vulnerable, but it will ensure that we are ready if they should become mandatory.

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, we give great thanks and praise that you journey with us every day and that we know the difference that your love and forgiveness makes in our lives. Thank you for your word, in the bible, that encourages us to follow in your ways. Give us courage in these difficult times to share with others the knowledge of your love, and show us how to love and forgive others as you love and forgive us. Show us how to be your hands and feet in our community and give us the will to make a difference. Amen.

ABM Pew Reflection Today (in the middle of a lengthy discourse on the plagues of Egypt) we read of the Passover, seemingly to scholars a combination of two ancient festivals of two ancient peoples – one agrarian, the other nomadic: part seems to be from an agricultural people who when harvesting their cereal crops destroyed the previous year’s yeast and began a new starter; the other seems to be from a peripatetic herder people who propitiated their gods by sacrificing a lamb from the flock as they moved from wet winter pastures to dry summer ones.

- Pray that we give thanks to God as the seasons change, giving thanks for the beauties and joys of each. Remember with thanks the farmers who grow our food, and those who make foodstuffs out of their products.
- Give thanks for the work of the Anglican Alliance for Development, Relief and Advocacy.

Robert McLean

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Thought for the Week from Mothers Union Australia

Peace and safety

Australians have communal memory of Cyclone Tracy in 1974. We ‘remember’ the bushfires of 1983 which coincided with the Church’s liturgical Ash Wednesday. The darkness of night bring fear and danger to many whether they live in well-lit streets or drive on deserted outback roads. Peace and safety can never be guaranteed. Not only are the vagaries of weather and animals to be considered but also the terror created by human wickedness. ‘O God, the maker of peace and lover of concord’, give us peace in our hearts and gratitude when we dwell in safety.

I will both lie down and sleep in peace;

for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety. Psalm 4:8

Communities in Madagascar live with the havoc of cyclones, flooding every year and now more frequent droughts. MU and diocesan leaders are addressing environmental preservation with a special grass which preserves the soil in the rainy season. Trees are then planted which will fertilise the soil, store water and form windbreaks during cyclones. Peace and safety come together with prayer, teaching in resilience.

EAC Prayer Points

As we come into Week 8 - and embrace that 'nearly there' feeling, we pray for:

- our secondary students during this time of assessment;
- Year 11 during their exam block;
- the ongoing preparation for Year 11 and 12 retreat days, in their modified forms.
- all the staff and their ongoing well-being as they continue working with and through the COVID-19 restrictions and the added stresses that they bring with them.

CONTACT US

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“COUCH CHURCH”: WORSHIPPING GOD AT HOME
6 SEPTEMBER 2020
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Call to Worship

Do you have a desire, a deep desire
to worship and to know the Lord God,
and to understand the values of the kingdom?
Come, then, and worship.

Hymn: Jesus Calls Us Here to Meet Him

Jesus calls us here to meet him
as, through word and song and prayer,
we affirm God's promised presence
where his people live and care.
Praise the God who keeps his promise;
praise the Son who calls us friends;
praise the Spirit who, among us,
to our hopes and fears attends.

Jesus calls us to confess him
Word of Life and Lord of All,
sharer of our flesh and frailness
saving all who fail or fall.
Tell his holy human story;
tell his tales that all may hear;
tell the world that Christ in glory
came to earth to meet us here.

Jesus calls us to each other:
found in him are no divides.
Race and class and sex and language
such are barriers he derides.
Join the hand of friend and stranger;
join the hands of age and youth;
join the faithful and the doubter
in their common search for truth.

John L. Bell (1949 –)
and Graham Maule (1958-)
TIS 477

Gathering Prayer:

Together we come to worship,
individuals gathered as one
in the name of the Lord. **Amen.**

Confession:

In the higgledy-piggledy ways of life, Lord,
with challenges and changes pulling us this way and that,
we sometimes find it hard, in the heat of the moment,
to know what is right and what is wrong.
Forgive us for our failings and wrongdoings.
Forgive our insensitivities to the ways of others.
Forgive anything that cuts us off from each other or from you. Amen.

Absolution

Sentence:

‘Where two or three are gathered in my name,’ says the Lord, ‘I am there among them.’

Matthew 18.20

Prayer of the Day:

Go before us, O Lord,
and further us with your continual help,
that in all our works,
begun, continued, and ended in you,
we may glorify your holy name,
and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Readings:

Exodus 12:1-14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Psalm 149:1-5

Response: We praise you, O Lord, for all your works are wonderful.

All sing: We praise you, O Lord, for all your works are wonderful.

Sing a new song to the Lord,
praise God in the assembly of the faithful.
Let Israel rejoice in its maker,
let Zion's people exult in their king.

Response:

Let the people praise God's name with dancing
and make music with timbrel and harp.
For the Lord takes delight in the people
and crowns the poor with salvation.

Response:

Let the faithful rejoice in their glory,
shout for joy and take their rest.

Response:

A.P. Watt, London
TiS 95

Hymn: Christ's Is the World in Which We Move

Christ's is the world in which we move;
Christ's are the folk we're summoned to love;
Christ's is the voice which calls us to care,
and Christ is the one who meets us here.

*Refrain: To the lost Christ shows his face,
to the unloved he gives his embrace,
to those who cry in pain or disgrace,
Christ makes, with his friends, a touching place.*

Feel for the people we most avoid
strange or bereaved or never employed.
Feel for the women and feel for the men
who fear that their living is all in vain.

Refrain:

Feel for the parents who've lost their child,
feel for the women whom men have defiled,
feel for the baby for whom there's no breast,
and feel for the weary who find no rest.

Refrain:

Feel for the lives by life confused,
riddled with doubt, in loving abused;
feel for the lonely heart, conscious of sin,
which longs to be pure but fears to begin.

Refrain:

John L. Bell (1949 -)
and Graham Maule (1958 -)
TiS 677

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: “Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost. “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Matthew 18: 10-20 (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:

We bring before you a world in tension and fear of COVID-19. May your Spirit guide the leaders of nations to use their resources to bring relief to the needy. Open our eyes to recognise you among us in your people who are unemployed and homeless.

Loving God, in your mercy, **accept our prayer.**

Father we give you thanks that you have revealed yourself to us in your Son through your Holy Spirit: We pray for all who are responsible for the church's resources. We pray for our Parish Council as they lead our parish forward in the ministry you have given to us, that we may have eyes to recognise you among us.

Loving God, in your mercy, **accept our prayer.**

We give you thanks that you teach us the ways of forgiveness and reconciliation. We pray for our community, for those who have been made redundant, and for those who cannot find work; for those whose needs are ignored, and for those who cannot care for themselves. Open our eyes to recognise you among us in your people who are forgotten and despairing.

Loving God, in your mercy, **accept our prayer.**

We bring before you all those whose lives are ruled by addiction to alcohol, drugs or gambling, the broken-hearted, and those who have lost all purpose in life. We pray especially for those overcome with despair and for all who feel forgotten or lost. We pray for the sick, especially those whom we love, those of this parish, and those facing death. We give you thanks for those who care

for the ill within our community, for those who work in our hospitals and for those working in aged care facilities. Open our eyes to recognise you among us in those who are ill and suffering.

We pray for all who are in need of your healing touch. 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, Ron Roder, Rose Fox, Mary Stedman, and Maisie Stratton.

Loving God, in your mercy, **accept our prayer.**

We give you thanks that you rejoice to bring home all your lost sons and daughters. We remember all who have died in your love, remembering those of this parish and those whom we have loved, especially those whose anniversary falls at this time. We give thanks for those who have disclosed your love to us. Help us to live so others will recognise you in our midst, that, with the angels and saints and all your people, we may come to see your face in heaven.

Loving God, in your mercy, **accept 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: I Will Sing the Wondrous Story

I will sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me,
how he left the realms of glory
for the Cross on Calvary.

*Refrain: Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me,
sing it with his saints in glory,
gathered by the crystal sea.*

I was lost: but Jesus found me,
found the sheep that went astray,
raised me up and gently led me
back into the narrow way.

Refrain:

Faint was I, and fears possessed me,
bruised was I from many a fall,
hope was gone, and shame distressed me:
but his love has pardoned all.

Refrain:

Days of darkness still may meet me,
sorrow's paths I oft may tread;
but his presence still is with me,
by his guiding hand I'm led.

Refrain:

He will keep me till the river,
rolls its waters at my feet:
then he'll bear me safely over,
where the loved ones I shall meet.

Refrain:

Francis Harold Rowley (1854 – 1952)
TIS 233

Sending Out Prayer:

Being Christian, O God, is not just about 'me and you',
not just about our conversations and our love.
Help us to see those we meet beyond our doors
in the way that you see them.
Help us be a shining light for you,
a guiding light for those in confusion, aloneness and darkness.

Amen.

Blessing

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