



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.

TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

15 NOVEMBER 2020

Pastoral message from the Rector

Do you ever wonder what talents you have? Do you ever look at other people and think how talented they are and feel quite insignificant by comparison? If you do, I do not think you are alone in this type of thinking. I think most of us are much better at recognising talents in other people than in our-selves.

Today's Gospel is a parable about talents. They are described in such a way that they almost appear to be only talking about monetary wealth, but I think this parable is teaching us about much more than just material investment. I think Jesus is being very subtle here and is also talking about how we invest our God given talents, gifts, and abilities. I want to focus on the third person who was given a talent but, out of fear, buried it in the ground. I wonder if you have ever done something like this.

Many years ago, a friend of mine, who had an amazing singing voice, was not using his talent at all. I talked to him about why someone who was so blessed by God wasn't singing in choirs and on other occasions. He told me that he was quite shy and didn't think people would really want him, so being afraid of rejection, he chose to remain silent and not sing. I was so astounded by this that I responded by saying that I thought God would be very disappointed in him for not using such a beautiful gift to bring joy to others. I probably overstepped the boundaries of friendship, but I really meant it. I added that if I had been blessed with such a beautiful singing voice, I would want to share it.

My words must have had an impact because sometime later he saw an advertisement for a choir looking for tenors and he asked me if I thought he should apply. Of course, I said yes, and he did apply, and was snapped up immediately to join the choir. This then opened a whole lot of doors for him to meet lots of new people and to join with many others in sharing the gift of music. He went on to join an opera company and also took a lead role in his church choir. Hiding our God given talents is not good and I think today's parable reminds us that sometimes we allow fear to override our trust in God.

Do you have a talent that you are not using to its full potential? Perhaps you might like to ponder on this in the coming days and ask God to show you how to make the best of the talent/s that God has given you. You may be surprised how it makes you feel, and you may be surprised about the impact this can have on others. I think this is something worth pondering, do you?

Every blessing.

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

Matthew

Birthdays: Colin Boots, John Bryen, Hester Miller, Erika Reissar, and Ros Rowe.

We pray for the family of Joan Knapp who died peacefully Tuesday 10 November. We will let you know the details of her funeral once they become available to us.

One of the requirements for the COVID-19 Safety Plan for a service in the church is to have a team of volunteers. Could you please let me know if you could do any of these jobs in St Mary's?

Registration

Supervising Hand Sanitising

Pewsheet and Order of Service handout

Ushering

Reading/Prayers

We would love to hear from you - Kerry 0407 257 129 or Cathie 6686 2094.

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! Please see the notice on the noticeboard.

Coffee & Chat will meet again Thursday 19 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 would like 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.

Service of Worship- The colours, candles, music and meaning of the Season of Advent will be explored by Rev'd David Brown at a service in the RSL Lifecare library 10am Friday 4 December. All residents of RSL Lifecare and their families are welcome to attend. Advent is observed in churches throughout the world on the four Sundays before Christmas Day and ends with the setting of the sun on Christmas Eve.

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

PACT Prayer Oh what a privilege it is to come to you each golden morning, Lord, as we seek your strength and compassion for the day ahead. You, oh Lord, always have a listening ear to all our worries, and there is such joy when we can leave all our concerns for ourselves, and as we pray for others, in your hands. May our prayers be for those seeking a change for a more meaningful life, to acknowledge the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, in their own lives. We give you thanks, Lord, for this privilege of prayer. Amen.

ABM Pew Reflection

Today's parable is the last in a series of how to be prepared for the coming of the Messiah. The first, a parable contrasting the attitude and behaviour of two household overseers, waiting for the return of the owner of the house - one faithful and one greedy and power hungry. The second about ten young women waiting for the bridegroom - five prepared and five not.

This parable about the use of money (talents) while waiting for the returning Jesus. Our lives as Christians are supposed to be for the benefit of society around us. Sitting quietly in a holy huddle is not an option.

- Give us grace to view each day in the light of Christ.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines

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

Power of prayer

What is the power in prayer? It surely isn't force given so that we can make others do what we want (even supposing our intentions are honourable, even altruistic). The writer of the letter to the Philippians associates it with the Peace of God. Perhaps it is rather that trust (don't worry) and thanksgiving (counting blessings) bring us into the state of Peace, which is

Prayer. Being in a prayerful peace is power that we need to give, to forgive, and indeed, to love the unlovable.

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4: 6-7

In the diocese of Canterbury UK, the impact of MULOAs has awakened members to trust in God and to engage with church membership so that both are involved in local initiatives. Helping outfit a girl starting secondary school has had an impact on her whole family. Everyone was enriched by the power of prayer. Praise the Lord.

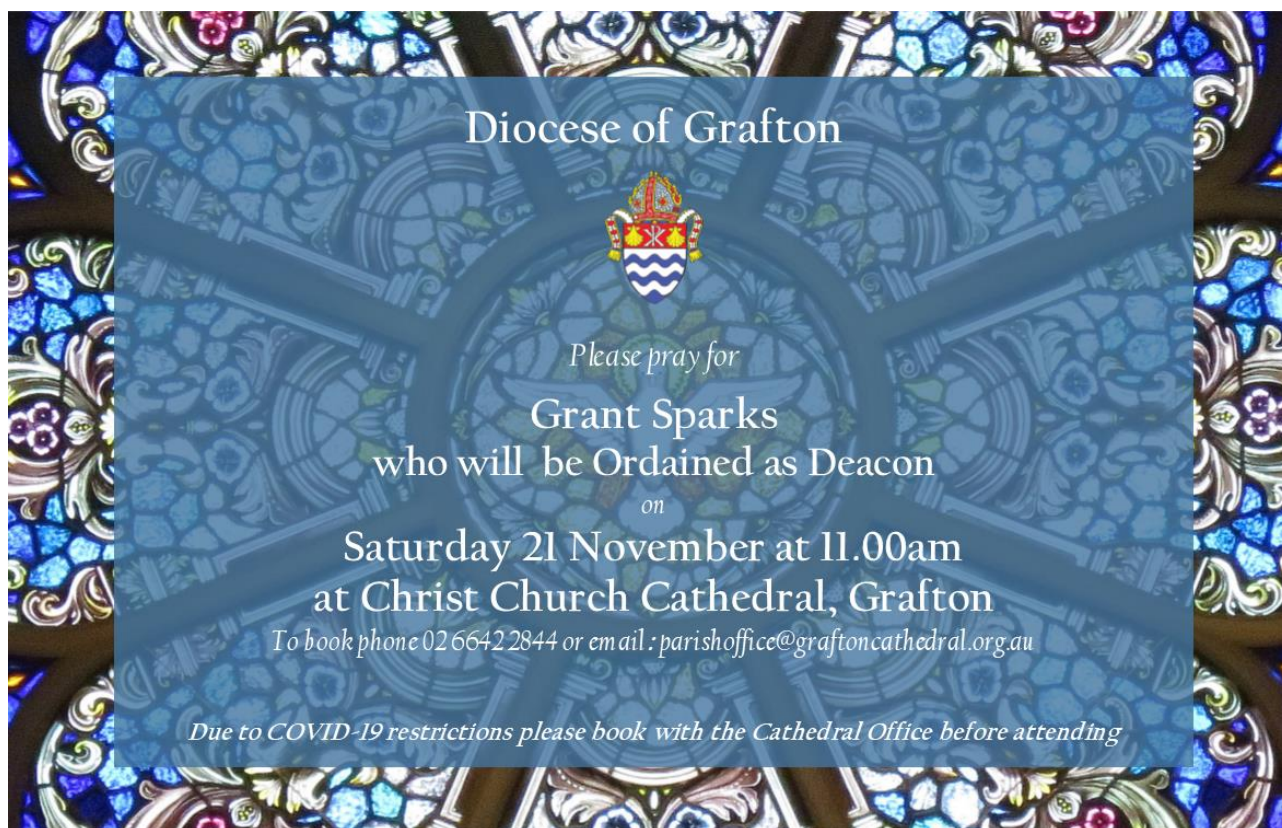
EAC Prayer Points

As we move into Week 6, another week full of an incredibly diverse range of activities, we pray for the many things happening this week:

- all our teaching staff as they compile the end of year student reports;
- the Year 5 and 6 Interrelate sessions;
- the 2021 Year 12 RRISK seminar;
- Kinder, Year 1 and 2 Athletics Carnival; and
- the Kindergarten 2021 Experience Day.

We pray also for our 2020 graduating students, with their Graduation and Valedictory Service and their Formal this week.

We pray for: 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, Phil Ross, and Milton Colburt.



CONTACT US

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