



# 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.

## CHRISTMAS DAY 25 DECEMBER 2020

### Pastoral message from the Rector

This Christmas is unlike any that I have experienced before. Usually by the time we get to Christmas Day, we would have had numerous services with large crowds and lots of singing of Christmas Carols. Unfortunately, COVID-19 stopped all that this year, and we are probably all feeling a bit flat as a result.

The Christmas story is one that is probably very familiar to many of us, but this year there is a part of the story that speaks to me in a new way, and perhaps it will for you too. I am referring to the acclamation from the angel to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid." I sometimes think these are easy words to say but perhaps less easy to follow. In our Australian culture, an equivalent may be to say to someone, "Don't worry about that." But what happens when someone is genuinely afraid, or worried. Simply telling them not to be afraid, or not to worry, may not be enough. It needs something else to allay that fear or worry.

So, what was it that allayed the fears of the shepherds and empowered them to hasten to Bethlehem? It was the presence of God. We see this in numerous accounts in the scriptures where people were afraid, but the presence of God allayed their fears. In addition to the angel greeting the frightened shepherds, we read of the angel visiting Mary who told her not to be afraid and later, the frightened disciples in the locked upper room were greeted by the risen Jesus who told them not to be afraid.

If this has been a year that has disturbed you, and perhaps others whom you know and love, and if you have a sense of anxiety, worry or fear about what next year might look like, can I remind you that God is with you and wants you to feel God's comforting presence. God has made his presence felt throughout history, sometimes in surprising ways, like talking through a burning bush as he did to Moses or speaking through the prophets as he did often. Whether it is an angel, a prophetic messenger, a voice, or simply a feeling, God will let you know that he is with you. Please spend some quiet time over this Christmas period being still and acknowledging God's presence with you. Even in these strange and sometimes fear filled times, we can still feel God's peace, and this helps to allay our fears.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Christmas blessings

Matthew

**Birthdays (20/12/2020 – 02/01/2021):** Cedric Stedman, Ken Bourne, Judy Fogarty, Joan Swinbourne, Gordon Jarrett, Audrey Fisher, and Lorna Ewing.

**Anniversary (20/12/2020 – 02/01/2021):** Richard & Carol Brown

**There will be no Couch Church** for Sunday 27 December or Sunday 3 January. The Couch church team is taking a short break. We hope that you can understand this and look forward to the New Year with us.

**No church services Sunday 27 December at Lennox Head or Ballina.** Parish Council made the difficult decision to not hold church services on Sunday 27 December because they felt they could not arrange appropriate COVIDsafe cleaning between the Christmas services and Sunday 27 December. Thank you for your understanding.

**New Year's Day Service** 10.00am at St Mary's Ballina, for those who would like to start the New Year with Holy Communion and a Blessing.

**The Parish Office** will be closed from 3.00pm Wednesday 23 December until 9.00am Monday 4 January. If you need to contact us please leave a message on the answering machine, or call 0458 862 098 if your need is urgent.

**The Every Day With Jesus** books have arrived and are available for \$9.50 in each of the centres or from the Parish Office after 4 January.

**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 do any of these jobs in St Mary's?:

- Registration
- Supervising Hand Sanitising
- Pewsheets and Order of Service handout
- Ushering
- Reading/Prayers

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

**Ballina Anglican Op Shop** is seeking volunteers to assist in the transfer of donations from 2.30pm – 4.00pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. The task involves transferring new donations from the front veranda to the shed and moving the donations from the shed to the sorting room to be sorted the next day. You will be working with experienced staff so no experience necessary. Interested persons can contact Ann Emery 0417259290 or Julie Harwood 0408653283 for more information.

**Annual Reports** for inclusion at the AGM are due to be received by the office by 29 January at the latest, sooner if at all possible. If you are responsible for preparation of a report from one of our groups can you please be giving consideration to that report at this time. If you have any questions, or wonder if you are on that list, please email Cathie at [office@anglicanballina.com.au](mailto:office@anglicanballina.com.au).

**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 the 2020 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](mailto:office@anglicanballina.com.au), or if you bring it in she can scan it and return it to you? Submissions for the Annual Report will need to be received by 29 January.

**Wearing of Face Masks** It is recommended as per the Public Health Order Number 7 to wear masks when singing and when vulnerable people are in attendance to minimise the risk of spreading the virus.

## **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](mailto: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**

Loving Father, today as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we are invited again into the stable to kneel before the cradle.

For in the quietness of the night, in the stable,

a baby born to be a King came to the cradle.

So enter then, do not delay, go in, go in the stable.

It's you he calls, it's you he loves, this Christ within the stable.

May this gift of the Christ Child touch the lives of all your people bringing peace, harmony and healing to our troubled world.

**Amen.**

## **Thought for the Week from Mothers Union Australia**

Rejoice and reflect

Now in Christ's flock let love be surely placed:

Now from Christ's flock let concord hate expel:

Now of Christ's flock let love be so embraced,

As we in Christ, and Christ in us may dwell.

Christ is the author of all unity,

From whence proceedeth all felicity.



O sing unto this glittering glorious King:  
O praise his name let every living thing:  
Let heart and voice like bells of silver ring  
The comfort that this Christmas day did bring.  
Let lute and harp, with sound of sweet delight  
The joys of Christ's birth on this day recite.

'A Carol for Christmas Day' by Francis Kindlemarsh (fl. c. 1570) verses 3-4  
*But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.*  
Luke 2:19-20

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12-22-1999

I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT MARY ... THIS IS THE FOURTH ONE OF THESE 'CHRISTMAS CARD' THINGS THAT WE'VE GOT THIS WEEK ALONE, IT MUST BE SOME NEW CRAZE

#### CONTACT US

**Rector**

The Ven Matthew Jones: 0458 862 098

**Associate Priest**

The Rev Cathy Ridd: 0427 836 988 or [revridd@gmail.com](mailto:revridd@gmail.com)

**Office Admin**

9.00am to 3.00pm, Mon -Fri

**Parish Phone** 6686 2094

**Parish Mobile**

0458 862 098

**Parish Email** [office@anglicanballina.com.au](mailto:office@anglicanballina.com.au)

**Parish Facebook**

Ballina and Lennox Head Anglicans

**Website** [www.anglicanballina.com.au](http://www.anglicanballina.com.au)

**“COUCH CHURCH”: WORSHIPPING GOD AT HOME**  
**25 DECEMBER 2020**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY**

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

**Hymn: Behold A Rose Is Growing**

Behold, a rose is growing,  
of loveliest form and grace,  
as prophets sang, foreknowing;  
it springs from Jesse's race,  
and comes a perfect flower,  
in midst of coldest winter,  
at deepest midnight hour.

Isaiah had foretold it  
in words of promise sure,  
and Mary's arms enfold it -  
a gentle maiden pure.  
Through God's eternal will  
this child to her is given  
at midnight calm and still.

This rose, whose fragrance tender  
with sweetness fills the air,  
dispels with glorious splendour  
the darkness everywhere.  
As human, yet true God,  
from sin and death he saves us  
and lightens every load.

Public Domain  
TiS 294

**Call to Worship**

Today is a day of delight and wonder.  
God is here, born this day, child in a manger.  
What God has promised has taken place -  
God is here.  
Let us rejoice and be glad.  
**Amen.**

**Hymn: Angels, From the Realms of Glory**

Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
heralds of creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

*come and worship Christ, the new-born King,  
come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King.*

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
watching over flocks by night,

God with us is now residing;  
yonder shines the infant Light:

*come and worship Christ, the new-born King,  
come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King.*

Though an infant now we view him,  
he shall fill his Father's throne,  
gather all the nations to him:  
every knee shall then bow down:

*come and worship Christ, the new-born King,  
come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King.*

James Montgomery  
TiS 309

### **Gathering Prayer:**

Sing with us, earth,  
delight with us, moon and stars.  
God's promise has been made true:  
the light of God's justice has dawned  
and love has come to live with us.

**Amen.**

### **Confession:**

Jesus of Nazareth,  
the smallness of your birth  
in the confusion of a city  
calls us to smallness.  
And so often, we, too, cause the confusion.  
We get lost in so many things.  
We turn now from those ways of stress.  
We take a moment to recognise  
the quiet voice in us, calling us back – again and again –  
to what matters most.  
Forgive us, take us, quieten us,  
to pay attention  
to love.

**Amen.**

### *Absolution*

*Sentence:*

This child will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. Luke 1.32-33

## **Prayer of the Day:**

All glory to you, gracious God,  
for the gift of your Son, whom you sent to save us.  
With the angels, let us praise your name,  
and tell the earth his story,  
that all may believe, rejoice, and proclaim your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity  
of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## **Readings:**

### **Isaiah 9:2-7**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

### **Psalm 96**

*All: Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
let earth receive its king.*

1 O sing to the Lord a new song:  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

2 Sing to the Lord and bless his holy name:  
proclaim the good news of his salvation  
from day to day.

3 Declare his glory among the nations:  
and his wonders among all peoples.

*All: Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
let earth receive its king.*

4 For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised:  
he is more to be feared than all gods.

5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are mere idols:  
it is the Lord who made the heavens.

6 Majesty and glory are before him:  
beauty and power are in his sanctuary.

*All: Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
let earth receive its king.*

7 Render to the Lord, you families of the nations:  
render to the Lord glory and might.

8 Render to the Lord the honour due to his name:  
bring offerings and come in to his courts.

9 O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness:  
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

10 Say among the nations that the Lord is king:  
he has made the world so firm  
that it can never be moved;  
and he shall judge the peoples with equity.

***All: Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
let earth receive its king.***

11 Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad:  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it:

12 Let the fields rejoice and every thing in them:  
then shall all the trees of the wood  
shout with joy before the Lord.

13 For he comes, he comes to judge the earth:  
he shall judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with his truth.

***All: Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
let earth receive its king.***

Response: Isaac Watts (1674 – 1748)  
TiS 268

## **Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

Glory to God in the highest,  
peace to his people on earth.

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

TiS 210

## **The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according Luke.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So

they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Luke. 2:1-20 (NRSV)

### *Sermon*

### **Hymn: Born in the Night**

Born in the night,  
Mary's child,  
a long way from your home;  
coming in need,  
Mary's child,  
born in a borrowed room.

Clear shining light,  
Mary's child,  
your face lights up our way;  
light of the world,  
Mary's child,  
dawn on our darkened day.

Truth of our life,  
Mary's child,  
you tell us God is good;  
yes, it is true,  
Mary's child,  
shown on your cross of wood.

Hope of the world,  
Mary's child,  
you're coming soon to reign;  
King of the earth,  
Mary's child,  
walk in our streets again.

Geoffrey Ainger (1925 - )  
TiS 323

### **Nicene Creed:**

WE BELIEVE in one God,  
the Father, the almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin  
Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius  
Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge  
the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the  
giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshipped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and  
apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the  
forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **Intercessions:**

As the shepherds hurried to see what the angels had told them, may we also give thanks for our Saviour's birth. May we, like the shepherds, share the good news of Christ's birth to those that we meet on the road of life.

Lord Jesus, Son of Mary, **hear our prayer.**

During this year the dark shadow of COVID-19 has spread itself across the world, inflicting fear. May we, like the angelic host, spread our Father's message of peace and goodwill into this fearful world.

Lord Jesus, Son of Mary, **hear our prayer.**

Some people are able to gather together to celebrate this Christmas, but there are many who cannot. We pray for all people for whom this is a time of loneliness, sadness or distress. Help us to be like Mary, so that we will be bearers of your love, offering compassion and practical help.

Lord Jesus, Son of Mary, **hear our prayer.**

We bring before you those who are broken in body, mind or spirit. We give thanks for doctors and nurses whose compassion and dedication bring healing and wholeness. We pray especially for those who have asked for prayer for healing: Ria Mars, Joy Swinbourne, Malcolm Streher, Josh Stanley, Margaret Waller, Lynda Garde, Rachael Hampton, Alton and Ros Rowe, Karen and Ben Shaw, Ron Roder, Rose Fox, Alex Arrighi, Gerri White's granddaughter, Phil Ross, Milton Colburt, and Sue Sladden..

Lord Jesus, Son of Mary, **hear our prayer.**

As Mary and Joseph welcomed you into their hearts and into their home, Lord Jesus, may we also welcome you into our hearts and homes. Lead us to where you may be found, where we may behold your glory, and worship you with never ending praise.

Lord Jesus, Son of Mary, **hear 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: Hark! the Herald Angels Sing**

Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful, all you nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem'.

*Refrain: Hark the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb:  
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail the incarnate Deity,  
pleased in human flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel.

*Refrain: Hark the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings:  
mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more need die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.

*Refrain: Hark the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.*

Charles Wesley (1707 - 88)  
TiS 303

## **Sending Out Prayer:**

Lord Jesus, as we make our way in your world  
remind us that in small moments, today and every day,  
we can see you  
and honour you.

**Amen.**

## *Blessing*

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