



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 BAPTISM OF THE LORD

10 JANUARY 2021

Pastoral message from the Rector

In the Anglican tradition, Baptism is considered one of our two primary sacraments, the other being Holy Communion. We have five other (or lesser as they are sometimes referred to) sacraments being in no particular order of priority: Marriage, Confirmation, Anointing, Confession and Ordination. I like to think of Baptism as being the beginning of a special spiritual journey.

Jesus himself was baptised and this marked the beginning of his ministry. Not much is known about him before his baptism, other than his birth and one account when he was about twelve years old when he got separated from his parents for several days. They eventually found him in the Synagogue with many of the learned teachers.

Mark's Gospel tells us that Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist, and after he came out of the water the Holy Spirit descended on him like a dove and a voice affirmed him as being God's Son, with whom God was well pleased. The passage goes on further to say that immediately after his baptism, the Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness for a time of trial and testing. His ministry had begun.

Our baptism marks the beginning of our spiritual journey. Many of us will not actually remember the event because we may have been tiny babies, unlike Jesus who was probably closer to thirty years old. However, regardless of our age, baptism is a significant beginning in a journey that leads us into eternal life with God.

For me, it is important to try and listen to the voice of God to shape the way I live. I fail a lot, but I like to think that God knows that I try. Hopefully, God is well pleased with me, if not for my failings but at least for my ability to try. Do you think God is well pleased with you? I think this is something important for us to ponder on as we live into this new year.

Every blessing

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

Matthew

Birthdays: Yvonne Wright.

QR Code Registration is now available at St Mary's, St John the Baptist and the parish Admin building for those who wish to use it. Manual registration is still available.

Book Sale Ballina Anglican Op Shop carpark Saturday 16 January starting at 9am. All books 50c, bring a bag to fill.

Diocesan Ultreya Saturday 6 February at Christ Church Cathedral, Duke St Grafton, commencing with morning tea at 9.30 and Eucharist at 10.00am. See the flyer on the noticeboard for more information.

Cursillo Notice. I am unable to continue as the Ballina Parish Careperson for our Parish Cursillo Movement. This is the end of my second term in the position and it is time for someone new. As per the Cursillo handbook I will be remaining as assistant to guide the newcomer in the position. Please contact Fran Legge 0423 422 612 if you are interested.

Home Communion I have been able to recommence Home Communion on Friday 8 January with COVID-19 protocols set by the Parish Council. Home Communion is offered on the second Friday of each month. Anyone who wishes to receive communion in their home can contact the church office 66862094. Fran Legge

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.

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; 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

Lift us, Lord, as we enter the New Year, thankful that we are blessed to live in a country which has been able to take action to safeguard us against the pandemic which has led to chaotic situations around the wider world. Inspire us to seek ways in which we can reach out and give comfort to those who feel unsafe still in this uncertain time. We look to you in hope as Governments roll out the vaccines that we are confident will end the fear and restore hope in our hearts. We pray in your name. **Amen.**

ABM Pew Reflection

Water and light and voice; these are inextricably linked. God created light from the face of the deep by vocalising the creative injunction. The voice of the Lord is generative, it makes things. In Genesis, the light of creation is made; in the Gospel, the light of the world, Jesus Christ is revealed. God's voice declares Jesus to be God's Son after his ritual death and resurrection in water.

- Pray for the light of the world to be known among the nations. Help us to become the voice of God, creating and redeeming the world.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church of Melanesia.

The Rev Kate Ross, St John's Cathedral, Brisbane
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Thought for the Week from Mothers Union Australia

Mothers Union worldwide

The Philippians lived amid the bustling of traders and travellers passing through between 'Italy' and 'Turkey'. It was probably like any large shopping centre: noisy, full of cheap and expensive stuff, tempting. It's a big and ever-present task to be blameless and innocent in the midst of consumer envy, promotional ladders – for the Philippians - and us. Mothers Union as an organisation is as subject to perversions as any other, so it behoves each member to hold fast to the Word of Life, to honestly examine their motives and thus to shine like a star

May you be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world. It is by your holding fast to the word of life that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not run in vain or labour in vain.
Philippians 2: 15-16

Vicoba is a Credit and Savings programme in Tanzania. All MU Vicoba groups report that members are primarily using their loans to start small businesses that benefit their families. We give thanks for this initiative and pray that those participating remain blameless and innocent in their deals; shining like stars.

We remember especially those who have asked for healing prayer: 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, Sue Sladden, and Margaret Bennet.



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