



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.

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY, LAST AFTER EPIPHANY

14 FEBRUARY 2021

Pastoral message from the Rector

Today's readings are full of imagery about fire and light and God shining on us and around us. The writer of the Book of Kings describes the moment Elijah is carried up to heaven by the chariots of fire and the horses of fire. The psalmist writes that "God has shone out in glory" and St Paul writes that "God has shone in our hearts." St Mark tells us that "Jesus was transfigured, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them." All these images about light can be inspiring to us, especially when there is so much darkness in our world at the moment, such as doubt and fear surrounding the Coronavirus.

Many of us may remember the old song, 'This little light of mine.' The chorus goes like this:

This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.

At our baptism, the priest says to us when we are given a lit candle, "Shine as a light in the world, to the glory of God, the Father." Are you shining at the moment?

Life can knock us around a bit and the light of Christ within us can get quite dim. However, Jesus' promise to always be with us should be something that shines from us, even when we are feeling low. How do we reclaim this light when all around us seems so dark? I think we need to take time out, just like Jesus did, and pray. Maybe just sit quietly with no words and let our thoughts flow. It is sometimes surprising what God puts into our minds when we slow down and quietly listen. This can allow the light to shine more brightly in our darkness, and we will feel better too!

The light of Christ is always inside us so 'let it shine'.

Every blessing,

Matthew

Birthdays: Denise Symington, Amkela Malaba, and Ray Black.

Anniversaries: Thelma and Max Riches

Ash Wednesday Services will be held this year on 17 February, 8.00am at St John the Baptist Lennox Head, and 5.30pm at St Mary's Ballina.

Lenten Study Matthew will be leading a Lenten Study, "It's All About Hope" at 6.30pm on Wednesday evenings, commencing Ash Wednesday 17 February, in the Function Room at St Mary's and running for six weeks. There are sheets on the tables in the foyers to indicate your attendance. Books are \$8.50 each and are available from the office, or if you are unable to come into the office during the week, they may be paid for on the first night of the Study.

"Beauty in brokenness" Lenten contemplation: Fridays from 11 - 12, St Mary's, starting Friday 26 February. Join Rev. Cathy for this time of contemplation. There will be gentle music, a time of silent prayer, and an opportunity to share (if we wish) as we seek the beauty God offers in brokenness.

2021 World Day of Prayer Service will be held on Friday March 5, at 9.30am at St Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Ballina. Host Country is Vanuatu. All are welcome.

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.

Craft Group members are invited to catch up each third Tuesday of each month at the Cherry St Bowling Club at 12pm for lunch. Everyone is welcome. The next gathering is 16 February.

Have you been receiving posted copies of the mailouts since the lockdown, but are now attending services in the church? Please let the office know if you no longer wish to receive these posted letters.

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

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, Margaret Bennet, Ash Whiley, Kate Whiley and their family, and Patrice McCarthy.

PACT Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for your continuing love and presence in our lives. There are times when we forget that you are walking beside us and get caught up in the everyday busyness. Forgive us when we do this and help us to walk more closely with you. As we think about the transforming power of God, bring us to the mountain top, inspire us to do your work in the valley below. As we witness your bright power and glory in our lives, lead us into Lent, walk beside us so we may be ready to be transformed and renewed, to be the person you made us to be. **Amen.**



Thought for the Week from Mothers Union Australia

Lenten reflection.

*Lord Jesus think on me, And purge away my sin;
From earth bound passions set me free, And make me pure within.*

TIS 546; AHB 122; NEH 70

Ashes are a powerful symbol of destructive power. Where bush fires have raged the remains of the living are as dust. Ash is a bitter symbol of what is lost, destroyed. Ash Wednesday begins our Lenten reflection on what is lost, betrayed, corrupted, misplaced, broken in our lives. Only with honest self-reflection are we able to see our petty selfishness, greed or cheating and acknowledge the destruction it has caused. Sin is loss, a gradual erosion to dust and ashes. Only by waiting, trusting and hoping will we have the strength to face our truth.

*Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and shield.
Our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.*

Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you. Psalm 33: 20-22

Sheran, world-wide president of Mothers Union, suggests 'keeping aids to prayer within reach or next to your comfy chair'. This may be the MU Prayer Diary or a birthday book. You may even use an address book (sure to get one on sale at the newsagent). You can write in friends and family and sundry others so you remember them day by day, letter by letter. These are ways to 'strengthen our connection with God and each other', especially in Lent.

ABM Pew Reflection

Today's readings are full of signs and wonders. There is parting of waters, fire, whirlwind, tempest, and clouds. Such signs as these are markers of God's presence among us. God controls God's creation. God's mastery is for our benefit, however. This is made clear in the transfiguration. Jesus speaks with Elijah and Moses and Peter, James and John are terrified. Then a cloud comes, a voice speaks and Jesus is revealed, definitively, as God incarnate whose words are an imperative.

- Lord, you who creates and cares for us, we ask that we may be able to see your signs and wonders in our lives, follow you and receive eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of the Province of Myanmar.

The Rev Kate Ross, St John's Cathedral, Brisbane
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Sunday 21 February First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: NOMINATION FORMS

The Annual General Meeting of Parishioners will be held on Sunday 28 February 2021 in St Mary's Church at 11am.

Nominations for the position of Churchwarden- 2 positions and Parish Council- multiples of 3, maximum of 9 are to be received by the Parish Council Secretary (Parish Office) by **Thursday 18 February 2021 (COB)**. Forms are available at the back of each church and from the Parish Office.

Role statements for Churchwardens and Parish Council are on the church noticeboards.

Parishioners are asked to prayerfully consider suitable candidates for both positions; approach the person and complete the nomination form.

Remember: nominations cannot be received at the Annual General Meeting.

John Bryen- Parish Council Secretary.

A Prayer for Myanmar (provided by ABM Executive Director Dr John Deane)

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Send your Spirit, O Lord,
to the people of Myanmar,
that no matter what their ethnic background,
their religion, their job or their status,
calm heads may prevail
during this time of tension
and peace win the day.

Grant wisdom and insight to the leaders
that they may see the common bond
that makes us all your children
and sisters and brothers to one another.

In order that all that is done be for the common good,
we pray, Lord,
that you set the feet of all to walk the way of respectful and nonviolent dialogue,
and make the hands of all to labour towards constructive cooperation.

We pray especially for Archbishop Stephen
and the bishops and priests of the church of the Province of Myanmar,
as they guide at this time the people you have given them.
may your church be a blessing to the people of Myanmar.

All this we ask in the name of your Son,
Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace,
who bids us not to be afraid,
and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. **Amen.**

CONTACT US

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