



# 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.

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

28 FEBRUARY 2021

### Pastoral message from the Rector

In today's Gospel, Peter is in trouble for expressing his concerns about Jesus and his impending suffering and death. Peter doesn't want his friend to suffer and he expresses this to him, only to be rebuked by Jesus. Why is Jesus so harsh in his rebuking of Peter?

Jesus is trying to tell his followers that the closer he gets to Jerusalem, the closer he gets to his death. However, the disciples don't fully grasp what Jesus is saying. Peter is the spokesperson for the group, so he takes Jesus aside and quietly rebukes him. The response is that Jesus rebukes him back, but openly in front of all the disciples. He then tells Peter that he is too earthly in his thinking and that he must set his mind on divine things. In other words, let God be in charge!

How often has that happened for you? Something happens and you immediately try to fix it by trying to change the course of action. The problem with this type of knee jerk reaction is that there has not been any time set aside to pray, to listen to God and to explore the possibility that perhaps this is the best course of action after all. It all depends on what God's plan is and how we play our part in allowing this to come to fruition.

If Peter had successfully stopped Jesus from going to Jerusalem, which is what he was trying to do; this is even more explicit in Matthew's account where Peter says "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." [Matt 16:22], then what would have happened to God's plan for salvation for all who choose to follow Jesus? I think this is why Jesus said, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

What part of 'self' do you think God may be calling you to deny this Lent? Is there some part of you that refuses to allow God's will to be done because it impacts on you, personally? If so, perhaps God is challenging you to 'deny yourself' and to take up your cross and follow Jesus. If this is an uncomfortable thought, then perhaps this is God's way of getting your attention, a bit like Jesus did with Peter.

Lenten blessings,

Matthew

**Birthdays:** Nkosi Malaba.

**Anniversaries:** Alton and Roslyn Rowe.

**The EDWJ** have arrived and are available from both churches or the Parish Office at a cost of \$9.50.

**Lenten Study** Matthew is leading a Lenten Study, "It's All About Hope" at 6.30pm on Wednesday evenings in the Function Room at St Mary's. Books are \$8.50 each and are available from the office.

**"Beauty in brokenness" Lenten contemplation:** Fridays from 11 – 12 at St Mary's. 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. 5 March, the contemplation won't be on as Cathy will be recovering from minor surgery, the contemplations will be back on again 12 March.

**MU WAVE OF PRAYER** 2 March at 10.30 at Judy Weir's residence, please phone Judy on 6686 6031 if you are attending for catering purposes, we are planning for a light lunch and fellowship together after our Prayer Service. Membership fees are now coming due.

**2021 World Day of Prayer Service** will be held on Friday 5 March, at 9.30am at St Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Ballina. Host Country is Vanuatu. All are welcome. You may pre-register if you choose by calling the Catholic Parish Office on 6681 1048, or just register on the day.

**Flute & Organ Recital** 3pm Sunday 7 March at St Mary's, featuring internationally recognised flutist Carmelia MacWilliam and Hamsa Arnold on organ. The long-awaited return of the St Mary's concerts will be entry by donation.

**Share the Dignity** (an Australian registered charity of nearly six years) will be having their first Dignity Drive for the year throughout March, with a second drive in August. Share the Dignity is dedicated to ending period poverty for women and girls of Australia. It is appalling to think that in this country many women and girls are unable to afford essential period products. You can help by buying products at Woolworths Lennox Head, Woolworths Ballina Fair, and Woolworths River Street, then placing them in the provided boxes instore. The boxes will be emptied weekly, sorted and bagged for local distribution. Please help. Fran Legge (Registered Volunteer)

**Combined Churches Monthly Prayer Meeting**- About 16 people from about 4 different churches have been attending this monthly prayer meeting at Seacoast Church 52 De-Havilland Cres, Ballina - every 3rd Tuesday of the month from 10.00am - 11.00am. Everyone is welcome and you can just turn up. You are welcome to offer prayers or just be present and share in being together.

**Choral Evensong- Save the Date** We are planning to have a service of Choral Evensong on Trinity Sunday 30 May at 5 pm at St Mary's. Hopefully COVID-19 restrictions will still allow this to take place so please save the date and we will provide more information as it's available.

### **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

**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.

### **Parish Prayer**

When we put our full trust in you, gracious Lord, we are rewarded with the strength and courage to overcome the difficulties that face us at this time on our earth. May those who are suffering and hurting, Lord, find you Lord Jesus Christ, in their hearts, that they may overcome their fear. **Amen.**

**Margaret Bennet** thanks her friends at St John the Baptist for their thoughts and prayers. She really appreciated receiving the card.



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

Women of influence.

*Lord Jesus, think on me, Amid the battle's strife;  
In all my pain and misery Be thou my health and life.*

NEH 70

Mary Wollstonecraft wrote A Vindication of the Rights of Woman 200 years ago and became the Mother of Feminism. Many abused and ill-treated women as well as the talented, but thwarted, would want their right to a fulfilled life vindicated and plead to the Lord Jesus for health and life. All women, great and small, influence those around them for good or ill.

*Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her a share in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates.*

Proverbs 31: 30-31

It is the ministry of Mothers Union members and all Christian women to offer nurture and encouragement wherever possible. As Sheran, world-wide president, points out, 'the work of MU ... is bringing lasting transformation'.

## Mission for Lent: ABM- Mission Grants

This Lent the Anglican Parish of Ballina is supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mission Grants. ABM makes small grants to projects which express the Five Marks of Mission and benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Contributions can be made on the mission side of the weekly envelopes or by using the ABM Lent envelopes at the back of each church. Digital Donation Card is available at the back of each church using a QR code. Thank you.

## ABM Pew Reflection

Abraham had faith in the covenant the Lord made with him. God's promise of innumerable descendants and great nations would be fulfilled. Abraham became the father of us all and Sarah our mother for she is also given God's promises - a son and nations and kings as descendants. Both Abraham and Sarah were given new names, no longer Abram and Sarai. The Lord is setting them apart and giving them new lives as parties to the covenant.

- Righteous One, whose name lives forever, help us to live in faith alone, and walk with you all the days of our lives, regarding not the rule of humanity but the rule of God, that we may be called afresh and be inheritors of your covenant of love for us
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the *Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui*, the Anglican Church of Hong Kong.

The Rev Kate Ross, St John's Cathedral, Brisbane  
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JUST LIKE THAT, JESUS  
**URNS** ON PETER!  
HE'S JUST TRYING TO  
**HELP!**



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

PETER'S REBUKE OFFERS  
THE TEMPTATION TO **SEEK**  
LIFE BY **AVOIDING DEATH.**



THAT SOUNDS  
REASONABLE **TO ME!**  
YOU GOT A **BETTER**  
OPTION!?



MARK 8:27-38



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**Sunday 7 March Third Sunday in Lent**

**Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John. 2:13-22**

**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**

**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**

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Ballina and Lennox Head Anglicans

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# **“COUCH CHURCH”: WORSHIPPING GOD AT HOME**

**28 FEBRUARY 2021**

## **SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

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

### **Call to Worship**

Through the psalmist, God says,  
'Be still, and know that I am God!'  
Let us come into God's presence and still our hearts.  
Let us come together to listen to God.  
Let us be still, and know that God is indeed God.

### **Hymn: Be Still, for the Presence of the Lord**

Be still,  
for the presence of the Lord,  
the Holy One, is here;  
come bow before Him now  
with reverence and fear:  
in Him no sin. is found -  
we stand on holy ground.  
Be still for the presence of the Lord,  
the Holy One is here.

Be still,  
for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;  
He burns with holy fire,  
with splendour He is crowned:  
how awesome is the sight -  
our radiant King of Light!  
Be still,  
for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around.

Be still,  
for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place:  
He comes to cleanse and heal,  
to minister His grace – no work too hard for Him.  
In faith receive from Him.  
Be still,  
for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place.

David Evans  
MP 50

## **Gathering Prayer:**

Holy God, we come from our busy lives.

We often forget that you walk with us.

As we gather now, help us to be more aware of who you are.

Give us the courage to admit when we don't understand,  
so that we might grow more like you in all we do.

**Amen.**

## **Confession**

*'Forgive our sins as we forgive'  
you taught us, Lord, to pray  
but you alone can grant us grace  
to live the words we say*

Words of greeting on the lips; words of love on the lips –  
the example you gave us:

forgive us when we fail to act as you do, Lord.

Words of retaliation, insincerity and malice on our lips:  
forgive us when we act towards others in this way, Lord.

*How can your pardon reach and bless  
the unforgiving heart  
that broods on wrongs and will not let  
old bitterness depart?*

Overwhelmed by complex relationships and rocky paths:  
forgive us for not setting our minds on you and your ways.  
Fear of rejection and wary of being our true selves:  
forgive us and help us to give of ourselves as you give.

*In blazing light your cross reveals  
the truth we dimly knew,  
what trivial debts are owed to us,  
how great our debt to you.*

Forgive us, Lord, for our failure to trust you;  
for not allowing you to be in the driving seat.

Lord of covenant relationship, lead us  
and help us to live your way.

In your name we pray:

*Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls  
and bid resentment cease;  
then, bound to all in bonds of love,  
our lives will spread your peace.*

Rosamond Herklots  
TiS 635

*Absolution*

*Sentence:*

If you want to become a disciple of Jesus, deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow him.

Mark 8.34

### **Prayer of the Day:**

God of all times and places,  
in Jesus Christ, who was lifted up on the cross,  
you opened for us the path to eternal life:  
grant that we, being born again of water and the Spirit,  
may joyfully serve you in newness of life  
and faithfully walk in your holy ways;  
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:**

#### **Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16**

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

#### **Psalm 22:24-32**

***ALL: In the presence of your people***

***I will praise your name;  
for alone you are holy  
enthroned on the praises of Israel.***

24 O praise the Lord, all you that fear him:  
hold him in honour, O seed of Jacob,  
and let the seed of Israel stand in awe of him.

25 For he has not despised nor abhorred the poor man in his misery:  
nor did he hide his face from him,  
but heard him when he cried.

***ALL: In the presence of your people***

***I will praise your name;  
for alone you are holy  
enthroned on the praises of Israel.***

26 From you springs my praise in the great congregation:  
I will pay my vows in the sight of all that fear you;



27 The meek shall eat of the sacrifice and be satisfied:  
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him -  
may their hearts rejoice for ever!

*ALL: Let us celebrate your goodness  
and your steadfast love;  
may your name be exalted  
here on earth and in heaven above.*

28 Let all the ends of the earth remember  
and turn to the Lord:  
and let all the families of the nations worship before him.

29 For the kingdom is the Lord's:  
and he shall be ruler over the nations.

*ALL: Let us celebrate your goodness  
and your steadfast love;  
may your name be exalted  
here on earth and in heaven above.*

30 How can those who sleep in the earth do him homage:  
or those that descend to the dust bow down before him?

31 But he has saved my life for himself:  
and my posterity shall serve him.

32 This shall be told of my Lord to a future generation:  
and his righteousness declared to a people yet unborn,  
that he has done it.

*ALL: In the presence of your people  
I will praise your name;  
for alone you are holy  
enthroned on the praises of Israel.  
Let us celebrate your goodness  
and your steadfast love;  
may your name be exalted  
here on earth and in heaven above.*

*Lai lai lai .....*

Response: Brent Chambers (1948 - )  
TiS 727

## **Hymn: Take Up Your Cross**

'Take up your cross,' the Saviour said,  
'if you would my disciple be;  
take up your cross with willing heart  
and humbly follow after me.'

Take up your cross; let not its weight  
fill your weak spirit with alarm;  
his strength shall bear your spirit up  
and brace your heart and nerve your arm.

Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,  
and let your foolish pride be still:  
your Lord refused not even to die  
upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.

Take up your cross, then, in his strength  
and calmly every danger brave;  
it guides you to a better home  
and leads to victory o'er the grave.

Take up your cross and follow Christ,  
nor think till death to lay it down;  
for only those who bear the cross  
may hope to wear the glorious crown.

Charles Everest (1814 - 77)  
TiS 583

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

Then Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Mark. 8:31-38 (NRSV)

### *Sermon*

#### **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:**

God of promise and hope, we bring to you our prayers believing that with you all things are possible: hear the prayers we offer.

You promised to make Abraham the father of nations and through Sarah your promise came to birth: hear our prayers for the nations of the world. We pray for peace for the nations, especially the people of Myanmar, for an end to violence, cruelty and oppression.

God of hope, **in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

You promised a Messiah to bring salvation to your people, and through the obedience of Mary your promise came to birth. May we be faithful in proclaiming your gospel. For our AGM we ask for your blessings upon those who will be elected to roles of leadership for the year ahead.

God of hope, **in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Father you promised to send a Comforter to your people, and in the coming of the Holy Spirit your promise was fulfilled: hear our prayers for all who are in pain or distress. We give you thanks for the COVID-19 vaccines being rolled out across the world, giving hope to the nations. We pray for relief, comfort and healing for your suffering people; the poor, the hungry and the homeless; the lonely, the forgotten and the unwanted; for all who grieve, for the sick and those who care for them. 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, Sue Sladden, Margaret Bennet, Ash Whiley, Kate Whiley and their family, Patrice McCarthy, and Geof Barnes

God of hope, **in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Father God, you promised that from death would come new life and in the resurrection of your Son your promise was fulfilled: remember your faithful servants of every age, all who have denied themselves, taken up their cross and followed you. Inspire us to do the same, trusting that we too will share in your Son's resurrection.

God of hope, **in your mercy, 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: Community of Christ**

Community of Christ,  
who make the Cross your own,  
live out your creed and risk your life  
for God alone:  
the God who wears your face,  
to whom all worlds belong,  
whose children are of every race  
and every song.

Community of Christ,  
look past the Church's door  
and see the refugee, the hungry,  
and the poor.  
Take hands with the oppressed,  
the jobless in your street,  
take towel and water, that you wash  
your neighbour's feet.

Community of Christ,  
through whom the word must sound –  
cry out for justice and for peace  
the whole world round:  
disarm the powers that war  
and all that can destroy,  
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish  
into joy.

When menace melts away,  
so shall God's will be done,  
the climate of the world be peace  
and Christ its Sun;  
our currency be love  
and kindness our law,  
our food and faith be shared as one  
for evermore.

Shirley Murray (1931 - )  
TiS 473

## **Sending Out Prayer:**

Everything I am Lord, and everything I do.  
Help me to be always more like you.  
Teach me to be yours, Lord, show me when I'm wrong.  
Help me to be always more like you.  
You accepted all, Lord, help everyone to find the way.  
Help me to be always more like you.  
**Amen.**

## *Blessing*

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