



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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

21 MARCH 2021

Pastoral message from the Rector

Last year I discovered that one of my potatoes had started to sprout shoots. I was going to throw it in the bin but then I decided it might be fun to plant it in the garden to see what would happen. In a very short time, it grew up through the soil and became quite a beautiful plant, with deep green leaves and beautiful flowers. I was rather chuffed because I do not consider myself to be much of a gardener. After some more time, the plant withered and died off, so I decided to see if there were any potatoes under the soil. I was staggered to find twelve potatoes where I had planted just one. Jesus tells us in today's Gospel that when a grain of wheat dies, it bears much fruit. I guess it is the same with potatoes. My little potato died in the soil and gave new life to twelve more potatoes.

So, what has this to do with us, unless we are considering a career in horticulture? I think Jesus is telling us that he is like the grain of wheat and that he is about to die. In this way, a whole new life can begin when he is raised and ascends and can open the door to heaven. All who believe can then follow Jesus and enter heaven when they die. Dying to one world opens up the opportunity to be born anew into a new world.

Jesus got rather excited when the Greeks asked to see him. Until then, his teachings had been fairly localised among the Jewish communities. When the Greeks asked to meet him, it meant that members of the non-Jewish world wanted to know Jesus. I think this is why Jesus proclaimed: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified." Here, at last, was the sign he had been looking for, when God could be proclaimed throughout the whole world. Now Jesus could leave this world and prepare the next and leave his disciples to continue the work he had begun. Death leads to life, just like the grain of wheat and the potato.

As we draw closer to commemorating Jesus in his final days in Jerusalem, we should remember that he knew that he was going to die soon. His entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday was like signing his own death warrant. Just like the grain of wheat, Jesus knew that he had to die to be able to give new life, eternal life, for his followers. Death leads to life. Thanks be to God for Jesus and his willingness to be like the grain of wheat for us!

Lenten blessings,

Matthew

Birthdays: Norma Whitfield

Lenten Study Matthew is leading the final Lenten Study, "It's All About Hope" at 6.30pm on Wednesday evening 24 March in the Function Room at St Mary's.

Coffee and Conversation this Thursday 25 March at 10am under the shady trees by Lake Ainsworth. The kiosk at the surf club will be open, bring your camp chair if you have one, everyone is welcome, no need to book!

"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.

Palm Sunday Rally Sunday 28 March Lennox Head foreshore near the Byron St intersection from 11am until 12pm with the theme "Justice and a Fair Go for Refugees" and organised by the Ballina Region for Refugees. Rev Cathy will be speaking at the rally.

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 support this ministry by buying products at Woolworths Lennox Head, Woolworths Ballina Fair, and Woolworths River Street, then placing them in the provided boxes instore. Donations will be distributed locally. 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; 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

Parish Prayer Loving God thank you for your love and grace. As we live with your word hidden in our hearts, living according to your word we can only achieve this through your grace. Thank you for the many ways you bless us.

As we continue on our Lenten journey in this continuing COVID-19 world help us strive to be the person you have created us to be. Forgive us when we stumble and fall. Give us courage when the journey is tough, resilience to embrace and work through our troubles, with peace, harmony, understanding and acceptance. Amen.

ABM Pew Reflection

The Psalmist rejoices in God's words, commandments, statutes, judgements, precepts, and ways. Jesus knew he was to die but he would not ask his Father to save him. He was fully cognisant of what was to happen and still followed God's ways. We who do not know what is to happen need also to follow God as our delight is in God. Only then do we find peace.

- God who sticks to us like glue, teach us obedience to your ways that we might follow Jesus to his death and resurrection, comforted in the knowledge that he will never abandon us.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of South India.

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

International matters.

*Lord Jesus, think on me, that when the trial (flood) is past,
I may your radiant glory (the eternal brightness) see, and share your joy at
last.*

TiS 546; AHB 122; NEH 70

The hymn we have been reading through Lent was written in Greek by Synesius of Cyrene c.370-c.414. His writings "breathe a sincere spirituality" with a knowledge of the human condition. They remind us that matters between nations are dealings with sisters and brothers. They remind us of our connectedness through time, across continents and onto eternal brightness.

*For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown
in it to spring up,
so, the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all
the nations.*

Isaiah 61:11

Let us give thanks for The Anglican Communion, a family of brothers and sisters worshipping and serving Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the tradition of the Church of England. And let us

give thanks for the Mothers Union Worldwide, blossoming and working for families internationally.

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.

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.**

Sunday 28 March Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-18 1 Philippians 2.5-11 Mark 11:1-11

CONTACT US

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“COUCH CHURCH”: WORSHIPPING GOD AT HOME

21 MARCH 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

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

Call to Worship

We come into the presence of Jesus to worship him today.
Let us make wherever we are, a place where
all are welcome and all are included.

Hymn: O My Saviour, Lifted

O my Saviour, lifted
from the earth for me,
draw me, in your mercy,
at your side to be.

Lift my earth-bound longings,
fix them, Lord, above;
draw me with the magnet
of your mighty love.

Lord, your arms are stretching
ever far and wide
to enfold your children
to your loving side.

And I come, Lord Jesus:
dare I turn away?
No, your love has conquered,
and I come today.

William How (1823 – 97)
TiS 600

Gathering Prayer:

Lord of all,
we thank you for giving your all
to include us in your love.
Help us to follow your example,
and to take up our cross and follow you.
Make us ready to receive and welcome all who come to us,
so that they too 'may see Jesus'.

Amen.

Confession

*'Come as you are: that's how I want you.
Come as you are; feel quite at home,
close to my heart, loved and forgiven.
Come as you are: why stand alone?'*

Lord, forgive us for not welcoming others as you do,
for looking askance at the stranger in our midst.
We confess that we are quick to note the differences between ourselves and others,
but you treat all people the same.

***No need to fear, love sets no limits;
no need to fear, love never ends;
don't run away shamed and disheartened,
rest in my love, trust me again***

Forgive us for revelling in the presumed privilege of being your children.
Help us to break down barriers to you; we cannot keep you to ourselves.
Help us to welcome, unconditionally, all who seek you,
and to take your welcome wherever we go – to be church without walls.

***I came to call sinners, not just the righteous;
I came to bring peace, not to condemn.
Each time you fail to live by my promise,
Why do you think I'd love you the less?***

God, thank you for welcoming us back no matter what we have done;
for that initial embrace that welcomed us, though we were sinners;
for the forgiveness that greets us every time we turn back to you.
Help us to embody your forgiveness in our dealings with one another
and with those outside the flock.
May our welcome be the sign of the greater welcome that comes from you.

***Come as you are: that's how I love you;
come as you are, trust me again.
Nothing can change the love that I bear you;
all will be well, just come as you are.***

Deirdre Browne (1936 -)
TiS 693

Absolution

Sentence:

‘This is the covenant I will make with them,’ says the Lord God: ‘I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God and they shall be my people.’

Jeremiah 31.33

Prayer of the Day:

O God, our Redeemer,
in our weakness we have failed
to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope:
renew us by your Holy Spirit,
that we may follow your commands
and proclaim your reign of love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Readings:

Psalm 119:9-16

ALL: Your word, O Lord, is a lantern unto my feet.

9 How shall the young keep their path pure:
unless they hold to your word?

10 I have sought you with my whole heart:
let me not stray from your commandments.

ALL: Your word, O Lord, is a lantern unto my feet.

11 I have treasured your words in my heart:
that I might not sin against you.

12 Blessed are you, Lord God:
O teach me your statutes.

ALL: Your word, O Lord, is a lantern unto my feet.

13 With my lips I have been telling:
all the judgements of your mouth;

14 And I find more joy in the way of your commands:
than in all manner of riches.

ALL: Your word, O Lord, is a lantern unto my feet.

15 I will meditate on your precepts:
and give heed to your ways;

16 For my delight is wholly in your statutes:
and I will not forget your word.

ALL: Your word, O Lord, is a lantern unto my feet.

Response: TiS 75

Hebrews 5:5-14

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek." In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek. About this we have much to say that is hard to explain, since you have become dull in understanding. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic elements of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food; for everyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is unskilled in the word of righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish good from evil.

Hymn: Unless a Grain of Wheat

*Refrain: Unless a grain of wheat shall fall
upon the ground and die
it remains but a single grain
with no life.*

If we have died with him.
then we shall live with him;
if we hold firm we shall
reign with him.

Refrain:

If any one serves me,
then they must follow me;
wherever I am, my
servants will be.

Refrain:

Make your home in me
as I make mine in you;
those who remain in me
bear much fruit.

Refrain:

If you remain in me
and my word lives in you,
then you will be my
disciples.

Refrain:

Those who love me are
loved by my Father;
we shall be with them and
dwell in them.

Refrain:

Peace I leave with you,
my peace I give to you;
peace which the world cannot
give is my gift.

Refrain:

Bernadette Farrell (1957 -)

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord;
and where I am, my servant will also be.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. “Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say — ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

John 12:20-33 (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:

Almighty God, you have made us your own, and you listen when we call to you through your Son, our Lord. Hear the prayers we offer to you on behalf of all people.

We bring before you the troubled world: may your peace and justice abound so that all may share in the bounty of your earth. We give you thanks for conservationists and ecologists; for UN agencies, peace-keeping forces, remembering our own ADF members. We pray for the peoples of Myanmar: may peace replace violence and bring about reconciliation to all.

Jesus, our intercessor, **receive the prayers we offer.**

We bring before you our parish: may we be empowered to spread your good news of redemption and love in word, and deed. We give you thanks for the faithful ministry of our musicians and office staff.

Jesus our intercessor, **receive the prayers we offer.**

We give thanks for those who protect and stand up for the rights of women and girls. May our communities be places where all are respected and valued.

Jesus, our intercessor, **receive the prayers we offer.**

Lord, reach out your healing hand on all who suffer, that they may find consolation in their sorrow, companionship in their loneliness, and relief from their pain. Thank you for those who bring an end to suffering, doctors, nurses and paramedics; social workers, counsellors and chaplains; and for those who sit with the ill and wait with the dying.

Jesus, our intercessor, **receive the prayers we offer.**

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: Jesus Christ is Waiting

Jesus Christ is waiting,
waiting in the streets;
no-one is his neighbour,
all alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am lonely too.
Make me, friend or stranger,
fit to wait on you.

Jesus Christ is raging,
raging in the streets,
where injustice spirals
and real hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am angry too.
In the Kingdom's causes
let me rage with you.

Jesus Christ is healing,
healing in the streets;
curing those who suffer,
touching those he greets.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I have pity too.
Let my care be active,
healing just like you.

Jesus Christ is dancing,
dancing in the streets,
where each sign of hatred
he, with love, defeats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I should triumph too.
Where good conquers evil
let me dance with you.

Jesus Christ is calling,
calling in the streets,
'Who will join my journey?
I will guide their feet.'
Listen, Lord Jesus,
let my fears be few.
Walk one step before me;
I will follow you.

John L. Bell (1949 -)
TiS 665

Sending Out Prayer:

Welcoming God,

thank you for the welcome that Jesus offers out of his great love for all people.

Help us to follow his example.

Teach us to consider the needs of others even when this means we must lay something down.

Bless us as we meet with others, day by day; give us a spirit of welcome and friendship.

As you welcome us, help us to welcome those to whom you send us.

Amen.

Blessing

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