



Alstonville
Anglicans

Sunday 19th May 2024

Welcome



Sharing the Good Life

We acknowledge the Bundjalung people, traditional custodians of the Land.

Our doors are open: LGBTQIA+ welcome here.

Streaming licence: CCLI 102220

Alstonville Anglicans are committed to ensuring that all people who participate in our worship, programs and ministries have a safe and rewarding experience.

Tel: 66280231 www.anglicans.live

Bank account: BSB 705 077 / Acc:00032931

19th May – 26th May

19 th May		Sunday Holy Communion
	9am	
20 th May		Monday Parish Office
	9am-12pm	
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
	10am	Anam Cara
	10am	Deadline for bulletin items
	1pm	Sew Helpful
21 st May		Tuesday Parish Office Closed
	9am-12pm	
22 nd May		Wednesday Parish Office
	9am-12pm	
	9am	Anam Cara
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
23 rd May		Thursday Parish Office
	9am-12pm	
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
	9.30am	Play Place
24 th May		Friday Holy Communion
	10am	
25 th May		Saturday
26 th May		Sunday Holy Communion
	9am	
	4pm	Bonfire Night

This bulletin contains current announcements and the week's calendar and the sermon notes from the previous Sunday. Use our welcome booklet for info and contact details for regular activities. Keep it as a reference tool. We welcome any feedback on the booklet. [.../.../welcomeBooklet v3.pdf](#)

Mother's Day Fete

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make the Fete such a success. There is a final Fete meeting on Monday 27th May at 4pm.

Organ Recital

Robert Eather is celebrating 25 years as the Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral Grafton with a recital in the Cathedral on Saturday 18th May 4.00pm. The recital will be followed by refreshments. On Sunday 19th May 9am there will be a presentation to Robert of an Honorary Fellowship of the Guild of Church Musicians.

Message from Anne Walker

To the very kind lady who finished knitting the black jumper that I had given up on long ago and gave it to my husband at the fete – MANY thanks! You are a gem.

AREA Breakfast

Saturday 1st June 7.30-9.30am at Alstonville Baptist Church. Hear Bruce Fleming talk about his work at Alstonville High School. \$25 per person. All funds raised go to support AREA.

Confirmation

Bishop Murray will be visiting the Parish on Sunday 6th October. If you are interested in being confirmed please complete the application form and speak to Rev Desiree. Forms are available in the Parish Office and via the website.

National Reconciliation Week

NRW is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.



To Make you Smile



BONFIRE NIGHT

Charlie and Jenny's home
Brockley Farm 1385 Bruxner Highway
Phone: 0427 462 540
★ Bring: chairs, mugs, rugs, sturdy shoes, torches ...

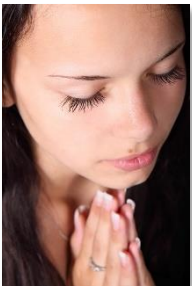
SUNDAY 26TH MAY 2024 4PM

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A poster for Bonfire Night. The background is a dark blue night sky with stars and a shooting star. In the foreground, a group of six people are sitting around a campfire. The text "BONFIRE NIGHT" is in large red letters. Below it, the location and contact information are listed. A red banner at the bottom contains the date and time. Logos for Alstonville Anglicans and anglicans.live are in the bottom corners.

Sermon Notes Sunday 12th May Mark Stuckey - John 15:9-17

"Jesus Prays for His Disciples – for us!" John 17:6-19



Mother Teresa once said, *"Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts."*

Today our Gospel reading focuses on a prayer, a prayer that Jesus prayed. It is a prayer for His disciples, and we too can take great comfort and encouragement from it as followers of Him. Our Gospel today is part of Jesus' lengthy prayer found

in John 17 and Jesus is praying this prayer just before His arrest, trial, and crucifixion. The prayer is known as the high priestly prayer. Jesus is in the upper room with his disciples, his friends when he prays this prayer. He has moved away from the disciples to directly pray to God. One might say that Jesus has put himself at the hands of God, while doing so he still wants the disciples to hear what His prayer is about. It is about them and for them! It is about us and for us!

Jesus' prayer displays the intimacy that exists because of the relationship Jesus has with his Father and this intimacy can exist for the disciples as well. The prayer picks up on three central themes – belonging, protection, and sanctification. We will look at these more closely this morning. What do they mean for the disciples and what do they mean for us?

Belonging

In our opening verses we see Jesus acknowledging that the disciples originally belonged to God and were given to Jesus. This belonging is not just a matter of possession but of profound relationship. Through gathering around Jesus, the disciples learn more about God and discover that all things come from God. Jesus teaches and models a new way to live. It is through this teaching and modelling the disciples learn that they are loved. No matter what their circumstances were, are or will be – they are loved by God and belong to Him. In Christ, we too can share this gift. We can experience God's love. We can experience the sense of belonging because God has called us individually by name. We enter into relationship with Him and be guided by His Word in our daily lives. This belonging gives us identity! This belonging gives us purpose!

Protection

When we consider the intimacy with God, Jesus' close relationship with the Father allows Him to lay all His worries and requests before God in confidence. He prays on behalf of his disciples, entrusting their future to God. Jesus asks God to protect the disciples as he knows that the world that they will remain in will not be easy. They would face trials, temptations, adversities – all of which would make them vulnerable.

It is much the same for us. We will face trials, temptations, and adversities. We only need to listen or watch the news cycles to witness wars, conflicts, addiction and violence, cost of living pressures, health issues, natural disasters, lies and corruption. When these things occur, people miss out on the life-giving love and relationship offered by God.

Jesus wants us to have eternal life and 'the full measure of joy' which he describes as knowing 'the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent'. This knowing only comes from a deep relationship. We only really know someone if we have a close relationship with them, spend time with them, and share our lives with them.

Sarah Bachelard says that Jesus' prayers shows that he wants us to have our identity as one with God: that our hearts and minds are filled with the knowledge of his love for us and ours him and each other. When we know that we belong to God, and we are under his protection we can let go of the anxiety and fear that can cripple us. The power of the Holy Spirit will fill us with confidence and show us the things we can do to be a part of God safeguarding our world and environment.

Sanctification

When we think about sanctification it can be multi-layered. It can renew the mind: Sanctification involves the transformation of one's mind and thoughts to align with God's truth. Just as Jesus prays in John 17:17, "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth," as believers we are sanctified as we immerse ourselves in God's Word, allowing it to shape our understanding and worldview. For example, consider a person struggling with negative self-image and worthlessness. Through sanctification, they gradually renew their mind with the truth of God's unconditional love and acceptance, transforming their perspective and self-perception.

Sanctification can be character developing: Here we see sanctification encompassing the development of godly character traits and virtues. This process often involves the cultivation of qualities such as love, patience, kindness, and forgiveness, mirroring the character of Christ. As believers we yield to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we progressively exhibit these virtues in our actions and interactions. For instance, someone prone to anger and resentment may experience sanctification as they learn to respond with grace and forgiveness, reflecting the character of Christ in their relationships.

A further illustration of sanctification is being empowered for mission: Sanctification empowers us to do mission in the world. Jesus prays in John 17:18, "As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world." This mission involves sharing the gospel, making disciples, and living out the Kingdom values in a broken world. Through sanctification, we are equipped with spiritual gifts, boldness, and a deep sense of purpose to fulfill our calling. For



example, a shy individual may experience sanctification as they step out in faith, empowered by the Holy Spirit to share their faith with others and make a difference in their community. In each of these examples, sanctification is a dynamic and ongoing process by which we can progressively conform to the image of Christ, becoming more like Him in our thoughts, character, and mission.

To finish off I encourage us to reflect on our own prayer life. What is our attitude to prayer?

Do we enter a time of prayer and just say words, falling into the trap that the words of our prayers lack any real meaning, substance, or heart? Or do we enter prayer time placing ourselves in the hands of God, knowing that He is present with us and in those moments, we are surrounded by His unconditional love, that our words illustrate love and the circumstance and person prayed for is loved.

When we enter each brand-new day with its many trials, temptations, and adversities, do we function in our own strength? Or do we seek God's protection allowing Him to journey with us and provide us with the confidence to rise above any situation. Are our lives measured on worldly standards or Godly standards?

Our calling as followers of Jesus calls us to be set apart. We are sent out in the world to continue the work, the ministry Jesus started. To share God's name and His Word, the truth. Are our words and actions that we use in our daily lives in community those that display that we are indeed a child of God imitating Christ's love for the world.

Jesus' high priestly prayer was important to the disciples who were gathered with Him in the upper room hours before his death on the cross. The words Jesus prayed are equally important for His disciples today – Us as we go about and continue ministry in our contexts knowing that we belong, are protected and sanctified.

As we reflect on Jesus' prayer, let us embrace our identity as God's beloved, live in the truth that sanctifies us, and strive for the unity that bears witness to the divine love that binds us together. May we live out the reality of Jesus' prayer in our daily lives, united in His love.

Amen.

Mark Stuckey (LLM)

References and further readings

Bachelard,

S.

<https://stmarysambleside.org.uk/content/uploads/2021/05/reflection-on-John-17v6-19> (2021) Mother Teresa NT Wright – NT Wright Online – A Sermon at the Ordination of Priest in Durham Cathedral (2010)

www.cofewrecclesham.org.uk www.workingpreacher.org www.sermonwriter.com
www.sermoncentral.com

Sentence of the Day

'A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you,' says the Lord God; 'I will put my spirit within you and you shall live.' Ezekiel 36.26; 37.14

Collect

Almighty God,
you sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love, joy, and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

²⁶ 'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. ²⁷ You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. ⁴ But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them. 'I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵ But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, "Where are you going?" ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. ⁷ Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: ⁹ about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. ¹² 'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.