



# Alstonville Anglicans

**Palm Sunday**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2022**



## **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.

## Liturgy for 3<sup>rd</sup> April

### Sentence of the Day

At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2.10–11

### Collect

Everlasting God,  
in your tender love for the human race  
you sent your Son to take our nature,  
and to suffer death upon the cross:  
in your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will  
and in the glorious victory of his resurrection;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### Readings Luke 19:28-40

<sup>28</sup> After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup> When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, <sup>30</sup> saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" <sup>32</sup> So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. <sup>33</sup> As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" <sup>34</sup> They said, "The Lord needs it." <sup>35</sup> Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup>

As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. <sup>37</sup> As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, <sup>38</sup> saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" <sup>39</sup> Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." <sup>40</sup> He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

## Messages

### Worship & Spirituality



# Join us for Easter

Here is your itinerary for your  
**personal,  
authentic  
and timeless  
Easter Experience**  
with Alstonville Anglicans  
**from 14 April – 17 April**  
6-8 the Avenue Alstonville.  
anglicans.live



The Easter Experience begins with

## **Maundy Thursday 6pm 14 April**

We gather at **6pm** on **14 April** for a meditative Eucharist. There are many symbols to guide our worship through Maundy Thursday

- including the commandment to love,
- love in action through the act of foot-washing,

- and the Institution of the Eucharist, a feast of bread and wine where we remember Jesus is in us and with us.



**Maundy Thursday  
All-night Vigil  
from 7pm Thursday 14 April  
to 8am Friday 15 April**

The all-night vigil is in the **Church Sanctuary** and begins on the evening of Maundy Thursday 7pm and continues through the night until Friday morning 8am. The vigil is an act of **silent prayer** when we are symbolically with Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane, near the mount of Olives. Jesus said to his disciples "Watch and Pray." So, we watch. And pray. In silence. With Jesus.

For some, swimming in silence is easy. Others need some guidance – this is okay. The silence is supported by meditative music, a visual display

and some cue cards to help you step into silent prayer.

All members of the community are invited to sign-up for an hour between 7pm Thursday 14 April and 8am Friday 15 April to be with Jesus in the silence of the night.

As a gift of prayer, participants are invited to receive a stone to hold during silent meditation and before leaving place the stone near the Altar as a symbol of self-offering. At the end of their hour each participant is invited to light a candle before leaving.

### **What to do?**

- Sign up for an hour of silent meditation on Maundy Thursday. (Sign-up sheet is on the church door and our website).
- On arriving at the Church, sign-in and sanitise.
- Choose a pebble to pray with.
- Enjoy the silence with others for an hour (or more).
- When you are ready to leave, place the stone near the altar, light a candle in the baptismal font and depart in peace.

# FAQ

## **Why do we observe the all-night vigil on Maundy Thursday?**

In the Scriptures Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane before he died the next day. He asked for help saying to his disciples "Watch and pray with me." We symbolically spend time with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane through silent prayer.

## **Where is the all-night vigil held?**

In the church sanctuary, enter through the front door.

## **What do I wear?**

Wear something warm if necessary. Come as ...you. Shoes optional. Slippers normal.

## **Can I come if I didn't sign up?**

We need a minimum of two people for each hour. You are welcome so please feel free to come.

## **Am I allowed to talk?**

This is a moment in your life where you are given freedom not to talk. Give yourself and others the

freedom and gift of silence and notice what happens in you.

### **Can I bring my dog?**

We have had a new carpet placed in the church and ideally, we prefer not to have pets shedding hair etc. However, we are aware that late at night people, especially those who live alone, may feel safer with their dog and this may help them come to church to enjoy the silence. If you feel it necessary to bring a dog for your personal safety, please take full responsibility for your pet not disturbing the silence of others. There is a carpet sweeper in the vestry for you to clean up any hair your four-legged child may have left behind.

### **Can I bring a friend or a partner?**

The more the merrier, guide them in what is expected by offering them this information.

The all-night vigil ends with

## **Morning Prayer at 8am on Good Friday 15 April.**





## **The Good Friday Service is at 10am on 15 April**

On Friday the 15 April at 10am we meet for worship. The Good Friday service is a solemn occasion where we gather with Mary, the Mother of God, Mary of Magdala and some of Jesus' friends to be with Jesus at the Cross, the place of his death.



## **Easter Dawn Service on 17 April 6am**

The climax of our easter journey is the dawn service held on the 17 April 6am in the Church.

- At **5.30am gather outside the church door** for the lighting of the Easter Fire.

- At 6am the Fire is blessed, and the Paschal Candle is lit.
- We walk into the church prayerfully, led by the Paschal Candle.

The Paschal Candle symbolises our faith in the Resurrection of Christ. Through chant, we remember how the presence of God, sometimes called Shekinah, has been our faith ancestors and will always be with us. The Paschal Candle is decorated with bees, butterflies and other symbols of the risen life. The candle is signed with the Alpha and Omega, Greek letters that remind us that Christ is the beginning and end of time and that all time belongs to Christ.

The Dawn service includes the renewal of our baptismal promises and we are sprinkled with water to remember the grace of our baptism. The service concludes with



# Easter Service (including families) 9am 17 April

The Easter Service at 9am and includes the first Eucharist with the new Paschal Candle. Children are included in the worship of this service. The Scriptures, sermon and prayers will sustain us in our resurrected faith.

To summarise:

- 14 April Maundy Thursday Service 6pm
- 14 April All-night vigil 7pm – 8am 15 April
- 15 April Good Friday Morning Prayer 8am
- 15 April Good Friday Service 10am
- 17 April Easter Dawn Service 6am (arrive at 5.30am and gather around the Easter fire)
- 17 April Easter Eucharist 9am



## Community Engagement

### Passover Dinner



The Social Committee invite you to a Passover Dinner.

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April 4.45pm for a 5.00pm start. \$15 per person

Please RSVP by 6<sup>th</sup> April to Amanda Middleton, Carol Vidal or Susan Fitzpatrick to register and pay

### Anglicare North Coast 2022 Northern NSW Flood Appeal

We will use our emergency relief processes to provide direct and efficient support to affected households.



**Donate Now- Please reference your deposit 'Lismore 2022'**

**Use the QR code**

or navigate to [www.anglicarenorthcoast.org.au](http://www.anglicarenorthcoast.org.au)

and click on 'donate here'

**Or** use the following details to deposit from your bank account.

Bank account: Anglicare North Coast BSB: 705077

A/C: 00041320

### Fete 2022 Save the Date!

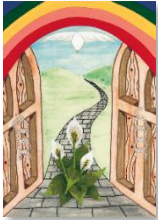
This years Mother's Day Fete will be held on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May**. Donations of potted plants are needed labelled with plant name and flower colour. Contact is Barbara Fewtrell 0429385713. If you are able to assist with making cakes, please contact Robyn Beck.

## Community-On-the-Verge



Help yourself to what is ripe and ready for picking. If you are keen to be involved as the garden evolves, please contact Alan Larsen on 0409 655 123 or Barbara Fewtrell 0429 385 713.

## World Day of Prayer New Date



World Day of Prayer 2022 will be hosted by Alstonville Catholic Church. Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 10.00am.

For more information contact Nikki Wagner [nikki.wagner@lism.catholic.edu.au](mailto:nikki.wagner@lism.catholic.edu.au)

## Good Governance

### COVID Update

- Masks not required but encouraged especially when singing.
- Social distancing is still advised as is adequate ventilation.
- Hand sanitiser will remain available but is not compulsory.
- Morning tea will continue to be served outside at the present time.
- The Covid Committee appreciates everybody's understanding, tolerance, and compliance.

### Sign Up for Planned Giving

Forms for signing up for Planned Giving are now available from the website and in the church foyer and parish office.

### Mission Giving

Our missions for 2022 will be CMS and ABM. \$3000 to each.

# Sermon Notes

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2022

## John 12:1-8 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY in LENT

*The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.*

*John 12.3*

The storm clouds are gathering in the distance. The met office, in this case the red sky in the morning, has forecast a category 5 hurricane assembling itself off the coast of Judea. Jerusalem itself is under threat, not to mention coastal trading towns like Tyre and Sidon to the north. The skies are starting to darken.



Said Ju - das to Ma - ry, "Now what will we do  
oint-ment so rich and so rare?" "I'll pour it all ov-ver the feet of  
wipe it a - way with my hair," she said, "I'll wipe it a - way with m

*Said Judas to Mary, "Now what will you do  
with your ointment so rich and so rare?"*

*"I'll pour it all over the feet of the Lord  
and I'll wipe it away with my hair," she said,*

*"I'll wipe it away with my hair."*

Some friends gather at the home of Lazarus and his two sisters, Mary and Martha. Contrary to popular tradition, this Mary was not a harlot. There was never any such person.

Magdalene was not a prostitute either. Not, I hasten to add, that there is anything wrong with that!

Mary does a strange and beautiful thing.

In those times, standard foot wear was the sandal, and, not being British, they did not wear socks. Much travel was by shank's pony; and so, when a weary traveller arrived, someone would bring water to wash sore and dusty feet. What bliss! ... Inevitably, this being a menial task, the lot fell to women to do the washing bit. I expect the men loved it; or maybe they did not even notice.

Mary, the sister of Lazarus, anoints Jesus' feet with nard, a very costly perfumed ointment, and carefully wipes it away with her hair. This is almost like anointing a King with oil, a kind of coronation. Judas is, at least, perplexed, if not outraged. In his role as keeper of the purse, he complains, "Why was this not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?"

Be it known that the denarius was the equivalent of one day's wages for a common labourer. So we are looking at roughly one year's salary. Or if you are on a government pension, almost 3 year's salary. I fancy the household of Lazarus was not that wealthy, and very unlikely to possess such a large sum of money. This extremely costly gift lends narrative emphasis to the significance and meaning of Mary's action. Yet, Judas may well have spoken justly.

*"Oh Mary, Oh Mary, oh think of the poor – this ointment, it could have been sold, and think of the blankets and think of the bread you could buy with the silver and gold," he said, "buy with the silver and gold."*

Sydney Carter's evocative words offer a subtext of this story. Mary is the carer, the intuitive one, the one who puts people before most other things, who would, if she had been asked, have given her life for her Lord.

*"Tomorrow, tomorrow I'll think of the poor  
Tomorrow," she said, "not today;  
for dearer than all of the poor in the world  
is my love who is going away," she said,  
"my love who is going away."*

You may remember another occasion when Mary sits at Jesus' feet, while her long-suffering sister, Martha, goes about the tasks of home making. Martha quite naturally complains about this. I have always thought Jesus' response to be pretty unfair. "Mary has chosen the better part."

Had I been Martha, I would have been crushed by that remark. Domestic chores were her way of loving. But then, Jesus was a man, if you will pardon the irony. St James had it right when *he* remarked that the balanced life of doing and praying is the better way.

Still, in today's story, kindly as ever to Mary, Jesus takes Judas down a peg or two. "Leave her alone. She bought it so she might keep it for my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

Again, Sydney Carter's poetic license fills in the very busy silence of the unconscious landscape.

*Said Jesus to Mary, "Your love is so deep  
today you may do as you will.  
Tomorrow you say I am going away,  
but my body I leave with you still," he said,  
"my body I leave with you still."*



Jesus' thoughts are turning inwards. He was not clairvoyant, but he could obviously read the signs, and he knew what he was doing. He was committed in his own mind to a mission whose conclusion was becoming clearer by the day. Mary the sister of Lazarus was possibly the only person to discern this mission, and this dreadful end.

Indeed, Jesus is moving to a state of mind when he uses more and more plain-speak. No more parables to tease and cajole his followers into some deeper thinking and spirituality; but plain, downright goodness. No more metaphor; simple, plain, down to earth Aramaic.

*"The poor of the world are my body," he said,  
"to the end of the world they shall be,  
the bread and the blankets you give to the poor  
you'll know you have given to me," he said,  
"you'll know you have given to me."*

It's a plaintive song, is it not? But it does, I think, reflect the pensive mood into which Jesus is descending. As St Mark so compellingly describes, very few if any of his followers have truly grasped what he was on about. His disciples, the very men he chose to be with him on a journey of discovery have not managed to liberate themselves from the coils of mortality to freedom of spirit.

And so, we follow a profoundly misunderstood man as he makes his way to the end of the world. The Hero Journey, as Joseph Campbell was wont to say, is one that we take alone, through a dense part of the thicket, on a path that no one else has trod. This is the ultimate struggle of being human, to enter the thicket knowing that we are, indeed, on our own.

Ah! But the other side! The other side! The pearl of great price!

*"My body will hang on the cross of the world tomorrow," he said, "not today, and Martha and Mary will find me again and wash all the sorrow away," he said, "and wash all the sorrow away."*

Next week, we begin, through the action of our formal liturgies, the journey through the thicket. Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and, finally on to Easter Day, the prize. I invite you to take part in this pilgrimage in any way that you can, even if it is to spare five minutes in your busy days to reflect on this keystone of our Christian life.

In the name of God.

Amen

Doug Bannerman © 2022

## Regular Reminders

### Worship & Spirituality

#### **Church Open**

The Church will be reopening for meditation during office hours, commencing Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February.

**Mothers Union:** third Monday of each month. Contact Pam on 0417 258 991 or Joyce 0407 690 874 [joyce@stephanies.com.au](mailto:joyce@stephanies.com.au)

## Anam Cara



**Anam Cara Praying for you** Monday mornings 10am

**Anam Cara Wednesdays** 9am  
& **Thursdays** 6pm

## Community Engagement

### Play Place



Play Place will be in recess during the school holidays

### Sew Helpful



Sew Helpful will be in recess during the school holidays

## Pastoral Care

If you or anyone you know is ill or in hospital, please let the office or Lynne Watt our Pastoral Care Coordinator know. Also, if you do visit anyone could you email Lynne? [wattlg@bigpond.com](mailto:wattlg@bigpond.com).

### Prayers

Please remember our family and friends impacted by the floods.

## Alstonville Anglicans

Ministers all the baptised!

Rector The Reverend Dr Desiree Snyman 0402 764 969  
priest@anglicans.live

Associates The Reverend John Kidson 0411 394 213

The Reverend Geoff Vidal 0447 645 456  
The Reverend Doug Bannerman 0418 182 450  
The Reverend Greg Ezzy 0412 660 742

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Postal: PO Box 451, Alstonville NSW 2477  
e-mail: office@anglicans.live  
website: anglicans.live

**Bank account:** BSB 705 077 / Acc:00032931

The Anglican Op Shop: 1 The Avenue, Alstonville **Tel:** 6628 8777

## Dates 10<sup>th</sup> April to 17<sup>th</sup> April

10<sup>th</sup> April Sunday 9am Holy Communion Palm Sunday  
Sunday 4.45pm Passover Meal

11<sup>th</sup> April Parish Office 9am – 12pm  
Op Shop 9am – 3pm  
10am Anam Cara praying for Community

12<sup>th</sup> April Tuesday Parish Office Closed (Please refrain from  
accessing the office at this time)

13<sup>th</sup> April Parish Office 9am – 12pm  
Anam Cara 9am  
Op Shop 9am – 3pm

14<sup>th</sup> April Parish Office 9am – 12pm  
Op Shop 9am – 3pm  
Maundy Thursday 6pm

15<sup>th</sup> April Parish Office 9am – 12pm  
Good Friday 10am

17<sup>th</sup> April Sunday 6am Dawn Fire  
Sunday 9am Easter Sunday

<sup>1</sup> Sydney Carter <sup>1</sup> John 12.5

<sup>1</sup> Matthew 20.2 <sup>1</sup> John 12.8