



Alstonville  
Anglicans

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**Welcome**

MANNA  
AND  
MERCY

at Alstonville  
Anglicans

**March 2, 9, 16**  
**9am- 1pm**

## **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](http://www.anglicans.live)**

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

## 10<sup>th</sup> March – 17<sup>th</sup> March

10 <sup>th</sup> March		<b>Sunday</b>
	9am	Holy Communion
	3.3pm	Op Shop Meeting
11 <sup>th</sup> March		<b>Monday</b>
	9am-12pm	Parish Office
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
	10am	Anam Cara
	10am	Deadline for bulletin items
12 <sup>th</sup> March		<b>Tuesday</b>
	9am-12pm	Parish Office <b>Closed</b>
13 <sup>th</sup> March		<b>Wednesday</b>
	9am-12pm	Parish Office
	9am	Anam Cara
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
14 <sup>th</sup> March		<b>Thursday</b>
	9am-12pm	Parish Office
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
	9.30am	Play Place
	6pm	Anam Cara
15 <sup>th</sup> March		<b>Friday</b>
	9am-12pm	Parish Office
	10am	Holy Communion
16 <sup>th</sup> March		<b>Saturday</b>
	9am-1pm	Manna & Mercy
17 <sup>th</sup> March		<b>Sunday</b>
	9am	Holy Communion

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](#)

## **Parish Leaders 2024**

### **Wardens**

Bruce Sharp  
Jenny Noble  
Graham Ireland

### **Parish Councillors**

Robyn Delaney  
Helen Quaife  
Robyn Hannah  
Des Fitzpatrick (Secretary)  
Amanda Middleton (Chair)  
Kaye Fry

### **Parish Nominators**

Susan Fitzpatrick  
Kaye Fry

### **Treasurer**

Anne Bryce

## **AREA**

A 'heads up' on what is happening:

1. Bruce Fleming reports a happy start to the Alstonville High School program during February.
2. Bruce will be preaching here at St Barts on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March.
3. Our annual AREA breakfast is listed for Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May. More specific details soon.

Thank you for your on-going support.

John Noble

## **Confirmation**

Bishop Murray will be visiting the Parish on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **Plants for the Fete**

We need plants to be potted up for the fete. Appropriate labelling is helpful. Enquiries Barbara Fewtrell 0429385713

## Mothering Sunday

Please stay and share morning tea in celebration of Mothering Sunday



## Maundy Thursday All Night Vigil

This vigil will commence at 7pm following the Maundy Thursday Meditative Eucharist at 6pm and continue until 8am on Friday 29 March. You are invited to sign up to sit in silence for an hour.  
anglicans.live

## Funeral

A celebration of the life of  
**ANNIE MIDDLETON**



will be held at  
**Alstonville Anglicans**  
**6 The Avenue**  
on Monday the 11th of March 2024  
at 10am

## To Make you Smile



## Sermon Notes Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

### Desiree Snyman John 2:13-22

Where might we find great power today? Is it in money? Is it in political authority? Does controlling nuclear warfare offer the greatest power? Where might we find wisdom? Is it in science? Or is it philosophy?

Where can we find proof for the existence of God's power and prove God's wisdom? In the first letter to the Corinthians Paul addresses the human craving for proof of God's existence and humankind's insatiable need to logically explain the mysteries of life, such as why there is suffering and why loved ones must die. He is addressing the human craving for proof of God's existence and our craving for a rational approach to life. Does God exist? If God does exist, then we want two things: proof of God's existence and a logical explanation to life's great mysteries.

Paul says there is one answer, but it is a foolish answer. Where do we find God's great power? In Christ crucified on the cross. Where do we find God's ultimate wisdom? The cross. Christ crucified on the cross makes no sense. God comes to us in the person of Jesus. Jesus is crucified. Christ Crucified is the image of God's power and God's wisdom. The cross symbolises the tragedy of human history – that there is pain suffering and destruction. The cross symbolises that the only power God has is vulnerable love.

The only proof of God's insistent existence, the only sign of God's power is the Christ on the cross.

This is the great insult to human advancement and human intellectual achievement – that the only sign of God's power, love, and wisdom we receive is the cross.

Yet, if we can embrace the path of the cross as our greatest power and wisdom, we can find wholeness. Through the cross we can find an answer to the deep emptiness or ache or void that is at the heart of the human condition.

There is a group of people who embraced the foolishness of the cross and found through the cross a lifestyle of integral transformation, wholeness, peace and total joy.

In the 4th century A.D., there were Christian hermits living in the deserts of Egypt, Palestine, Arabia, and Persia. These men (and some women) left

the cities of the pagan world to live in solitude. They believed that society, especially pagan society, was like a shipwreck, and each person had to swim for their own life. They thought that accepting the norms and values of society without question was a disaster. This belief was only strengthened by the fact that the emperor was now Christian and that the Cross was becoming a symbol of temporal power.

The men who went to the desert were not rebelling against society or seeking only their own interests. They believed in a different way of living, not ruled by social norms, and they wanted a society where everyone was equal under God. They didn't want to be ruled by others. Nor did they want to rule over others. They were social, but they rejected the social pressure to conform to certain beliefs. They wanted a more authentic connection with God, not one handed down to them.

These pioneers, as Merton calls them, have much to teach us about the inner life: "What can we gain by sailing to the moon if we are not able to cross the abyss that separates us from ourselves? This is the most important of all voyages of discovery, and without it all the rest are not only useless but disastrous." Love animated these faithful souls and prayer was central to their lives.

Desert spirituality is a way of life that seeks abundant simplicity and an intimate connection with God. Desert ascetics, those who follow this path, strive for complete union with God by eliminating anything that gets in the way of that relationship. They actively work to remove obstacles such as unhelpful attitudes, distracting thoughts, and emotional ties that hinder their spiritual growth. They prioritize their relationship with God over concerns about reputation or emotional attachments, recognizing the importance of seeking inner freedom from distractions. Central to desert spirituality is non-possessive relationships, where one cares for others without trying to control or possess them.

This pursuit of inner freedom is called detachment, and it involves healing and reconciling anything that holds power over the individual. As the ascetic achieves greater inner freedom, their true self becomes more apparent, and they experience deeper joy in their connection with God.

What is the wisdom of the desert and therefore the wisdom of the cross:

- Silence is God's first language and solitude is where God lives.

- Embracing silence and solitude allow our lives to resonate with the divine.
- They teach us to be absolutely free. Free from dominating others and free from being dominated by others.
- They teach us non possessing relationships.

## Sentence of the Day

The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. John 3.14–15

## Collect

Everlasting God  
 in whom we live and move and have our being,  
 you have made us for yourself,  
 and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you:  
 give us purity of heart and strength of purpose,  
 that no selfish passion may hinder us  
 from knowing your will,  
 no weakness prevent us from doing it;  
 that in your light we may see light,  
 and in your service find perfect freedom;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## John 3:14-21

**Experience the captivating world of *Manna and Mercy***



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We invite you to immerse yourself in the captivating world of creativity and spirituality with our unique 100-page hand-printed graphic novel that reimagines the Bible like never before.

This innovative narrative beautifully weaves together elements of imaginative storytelling, humour, and clarity to bring to life the powerful themes of food sharing and forgiveness. Through its engaging and thought-provoking approach, this graphic novel offers a fresh perspective on timeless teachings, transforming the traditional religious text into a vibrant source of wisdom and grace.

Embark on this unforgettable journey with us on March 2nd, 9th, and 16th, from 9 am to 1 pm, at Alstonville Anglicans. Secure your spot today and be part of a truly enriching experience that promises inspiration and enlightenment.



anglicans.live  
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**Book Now at [anglicans.live](http://anglicans.live)**