



# Alstonville Anglicans

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

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

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

## Dates 12<sup>th</sup> February to 19<sup>th</sup> February

12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>Sunday</b>
9am	Holy Communion
6.30pm	AREA Movie Night nibbles Movie at 7pm
13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>Monday</b>
9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
9am-3pm	Op Shop
14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>Tuesday</b>
	Parish Office Closed (No office access)
15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>Wednesday</b>
9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
9am	Anam Cara
9am-3pm	Op Shop
16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>Thursday</b>
9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
9am-3pm	Op Shop
9.30am	Play Place
6pm	Anam Cara
17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>Friday</b>
9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
10am	Holy Communion
18 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>Saturday</b>
2pm	Wedding
19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>Sunday</b>
9am	Holy Communion
10.30am	AGM

**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](#)

## Commmunity Engagement

To Make you Smile!



## Worship & Spirituality

### Rainforest Labyrinth Experience

'Brockley' 1385 Bruxner Highway  
Lindendale

9am and 3pm Arrive and welcome  
9.15am and 3.15pm

'About the Labyrinth'

Short talk about its history, features,  
practice and  
time to experience the Labyrinth and its  
peaceful surrounds.

All welcome. Bring a friend.

Refreshments available-  
donation appreciated.

Sat 18th Feb  
9-11am  
Sun 19th Feb  
3-5pm

Numbers limited  
RSVP Jenny 0400 361 059



### SWIM PARTY

Messy Church

Sunday 26th February 4pm

Bring swimmers & sunscreen

BYO nibbles

Phone: 66280231  
anglicans.live

## Empowering Leadership



### AGM

Sunday 19 February 2023  
at 10.30am in the church.

## **Lenten Life Groups**



Commencing 1<sup>st</sup> week in March. More details next week. Contact Greg Ezzy for any enquiries: 0412 660 742.

## **Fete Planning Meeting**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 4pm in the Ministry Centre

## **Ash Wednesday Service**

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 6pm

## **Parish Council & Leaders Meeting**

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February 12-4pm

## **World Day of Prayer**

### **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1.30pm**

Uniting Church, crn Main St & Bugden Ave, Alstonville.  
For more information contact Olwen King 6628 0522.

## **Bishop's Visit**

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March

## **Sermon Notes**

### **Matthew 5:13-20 5<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

#### **"Being the Salt and the Light"**

I want to begin this morning by asking you a question... Who are you?... How do you answer when someone asks you that question?... Straight off the bat the most common answer we give is our name. Isn't it?... We say, "I am Mark!" .... "I am Desiree!" .... "I am Dennis!" .... "I am Margaret!" .... "I am Alierah!... We might share a little bit of our family history in these introductions as a way of connecting and identifying us. Our explanations may move onto sharing something about our work.... or the things we do.... or how we spend our time.

How often though do we say in our explanations of ourselves "I am the salt of the earth. I am the light of the world." I know I don't!... Have you ever answered the question with that

response?... Has anyone ever answered the question with that response?... Maybe some people do respond this way. But my guess is probably not!

This morning I want us to consider what it means to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world as Jesus points out to those who follow him and are listening to him at the time when he is giving what has become known as the Sermon on the Mount. Last week Reverend Geoff shared with us the first part of the Sermon on the Mount when spoke about the Beatitudes, starting with the statement, "*Blessed are you who are poor in Spirit*"<sup>1</sup> and how we should live our lives as Christians... "*to do justice and love kindness and to walk humbly with your God*"<sup>2</sup> as the Prophet Micah suggests in his writings. Again, this morning we are reminded how we should live our lives as Christians as Jesus speaks to us, "You are the salt of the earth." "You are the light of the world." "You are the salt of the earth." "You are the light of the world." What do these two statements mean?

## **1. We are the salt of the earth – so we mustn't lose our saltiness.**

Verse 13 says:

*<sup>13</sup> 'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.'<sup>13</sup>*

The important part in this verse is that salt is distinctive! Its power lies in its difference. The same can be said for a disciple of Jesus. We as disciples can be seen as different. Salt works two ways:

a) To provide taste – salt improves the flavour. The Beatitudes that we heard about last week and that are found in the early verses of Matthew chapter 5 are all about blessing that a true disciple experiences as they go about their ministry to others. This includes us as disciples. We are blessed in order to be a blessing around others we associate with. This is even the case if someone takes exception to us, dislikes, or hates us. We still need to be the “taste” and improve the situation we find ourselves in. While sometimes it may not be the easiest of tasks to perform. However, we can still be the salt of the earth knowing that in our hearts we are in connected and relationship with Jesus.

Friends, you are probably like me and add salt to a meal. Why? Because adding salt improves the taste and the overall enjoyment factor of the meal experience. Christians are the salt of the earth. Christ connected people make world a better place.

Our second way,

b) Salt is a preservative. Salt prevents foods from going off, getting worse and decaying. It is an agent that allows food to last longer. So, salt both improves and preserves. It is good stuff! We are called to be like good stuff too! Why are we to be like this? To be useful to Jesus. Sadly, our world has slipped into decay, it is a hurting place. We have violence, greed, disrespect, and indifference. Just as Jesus came into the world to demonstrate love we too as His disciples are to demonstrate that same love. Our world needs to change and be preserved. As disciples of Jesus, followers of Jesus, we



need to intentionally display outward signs of love, care, respect and be good stewards of what God has given us to look after and use. It can be easy to slip into a world where there is chaos, but being soaked up in Jesus and living a life that He calls us to allows us to not lose our saltiness.

This leads me to my next point; we are the light of the world.

## **2. We are the light of the world – so we must let our light shine.**

Verses 14 to 16 say:

*<sup>14</sup> 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. <sup>14</sup>*

Ultimately, Jesus is the light of the world, and we see an illustration of this in the main stain glass window here at St Bartholomew's. Jesus is providing light to a darkened world. But what does Jesus mean when he says to His disciples... His followers... us during the Sermon on the Mount that we are the light of the world – so we must let our light shine before others?

What is the light? The light allows reality to be seen. Jesus is the truth. People in a broken world need to see the reality of Jesus.





People see Jesus today through us, through our actions, our deeds, and our words.

Shortly, in the Baptism we will witness a lit candle being presented to Alierah and her family and Desiree will encourage that Alierah shines as a light to the world to glory of God just as Jesus Christ has brought you out of darkness in God's marvellous light.<sup>5</sup>

Another use for light is that light helps us to find our way when we are lost or uncertain to where we are going. Think for a moment about a lighthouse. What is the purpose of a lighthouse? It provides light and helps guide a ship along the coastline. It directs the ship's captain so that the ship does not crash or come too close to the shore.

In a broken world Jesus calls us to be the light of the world. We are called to help guide people who have lost their way. You may consider yourself a lighthouse providing light that directs someone from one of life circumstances to another of life's circumstances. Being in Christ allows us to be the light of the world.

How do we do this?... We can share our faith.... We can share the good news about Jesus and glorify His name.... This is how we let our light shine, we share about Jesus' life and the good things he has done in our lives.... Secondly, we can strive to do good in all we do.

It was once said: One small lamp can throw light into a much larger space... Do you feel insignificant? It is not so... We must let our light shine. Not hide, not withdraw from this world, but rather friends, we are the light of the world - so let your light shine!



What a privilege!...  
However hard the road...  
Whatever cause the  
celebration, this is... What  
a joy it is to know Jesus  
and have His light in us...  
What a privilege it is to be  
useful to Him... It is sheer  
grace that He should use

us and be purposeful... What a privilege it is to be a blessing  
to others.

Amen.

Mark Stuckey, LLM

<sup>1</sup> Matthew 5:3 <sup>2</sup> Micah 6:8 <sup>3</sup> Matthew 5:13 <sup>4</sup> Matthew 5:14-16 <sup>5</sup> 1 John 4:4

**12<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**Sentence of the Day**

Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of  
the Lord. Psalm 119.1

**Collect**

Almighty God,  
you gave the law to guide our lives:  
grant that we may never shrink from your commandments,  
but, as we are taught by your Spirit,  
may fulfil your law in perfect love;  
through Christ our Lord and Master,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and for ever. Amen.

## Matthew 5.21-37

<sup>21</sup> 'You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, "You shall not murder"; and "whoever murders shall be liable to judgement." <sup>22</sup> But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgement; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, "You fool", you will be liable to the hell of fire. <sup>23</sup> So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. <sup>25</sup> Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. <sup>26</sup> Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. <sup>27</sup> 'You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery." <sup>28</sup> But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup> If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup> And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell. <sup>31</sup> 'It was also said, "Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce." <sup>32</sup> But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. <sup>33</sup> 'Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, "You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord." <sup>34</sup> But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, <sup>35</sup> or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup> And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup> Let your word be "Yes, Yes" or "No, No"; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

## **BEATITUDES FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

BLESSED ARE YOU who take time to listen to difficult speech, for you help us to know that if we persevere we can be understood.

BLESSED ARE YOU who walk with us in public places, and ignore the stares of strangers, for in your friendship we feel good to be ourselves.

BLESSED ARE YOU who never bid us to "hurry up" and, more blessed, you who do not snatch our tasks from our hands to do them for us, for often we need time rather than help.

BLESSED ARE YOU who stand beside us as we enter new and untried ventures, for our un-sureness will be outweighed by the times when we surprise ourselves and you.

BLESSED ARE YOU who ask for our help and realize our giftedness for our greatest need is to be needed.

BLESSED ARE YOU who help us with the graciousness of Christ, for often we need the help we cannot ask for.

BLESSED ARE YOU when, by all things, you assure us that what makes us individuals is not our particular disability or difficulty but our beautiful God-given personhood which no handicapping condition can confine.

REJOICE AND BE EXCEEDINGLY GLAD for your understanding and love have opened doors for us to enjoy life to its full and you have helped us believe in ourselves as valued and gifted people.

The Beatitudes for People with Special Needs, date and publishing information unknown. A possible author may be Andre Masse, C.S.E. (NAMR Quarterly, 1968). The wording is different, but Masse's is the earliest version that we have found.

The version presented here has been used by Catholic Charities, Diocese of Cleveland, Disability Services & Ministries, for over 25 years.