



Alstonville  
Anglicans

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2023

**Welcome**



**13<sup>th</sup> August – 20<sup>th</sup> August**

### **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**

13 <sup>th</sup> August	9am	<b>Sunday</b> Holy Communion
14 <sup>th</sup> August	9am-12pm 9am-3pm 10am 10am	<b>Monday</b> Parish Office Op Shop Anam Cara Deadline for bulletin items
15 <sup>th</sup> August	9am-12pm 12pm - 2pm	<b>Tuesday</b> Parish Office <b>Closed</b> LinC AGM at McCarthy Hall
16 <sup>th</sup> August	9am-12pm 9am 9am-3pm 6pm	<b>Wednesday</b> Parish Office Open Anam Cara Op Shop Parish Council Meeting
17 <sup>th</sup> August	9am-12pm 9am-3pm 9.30am 6pm	<b>Thursday</b> Parish Office Open Op Shop Play Place Anam Cara
18 <sup>th</sup> August	9am-12pm 10am	<b>Friday</b> Parish Office Open Holy Communion
19 <sup>th</sup> August	11am	<b>Saturday</b> Installation of the new Dean of Grafton
20 <sup>th</sup> August	9am	<b>Sunday</b> 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](#)

## To Make you Smile



### Celebrate St Bart's Day:






## A BIG DAY OUT!





-  Date: Sunday 27 August
-  Time: 8:50 AM - 5:00 PM
-  Cost \$7 pp
-  Location: Hosanna Farm Stokers Siding



 **Get ready for farm-tastic fun!**

### What's in Store?

-  Carpool Ministry Centre: 8.50am
-  Arrive and Connect Time: 10am
-  Celebration Time: 10.30am
-  Lunch: BYO 11am
-  Meet the Animals: 12pm

-  Water slide 1pm
-  Treasure Hunt 2pm
-  Nature Walk 3pm
-  Home time 4pm

## **Do not Miss Out on the Big Day Out**

Round up your family, friends, and anyone who loves an enjoyable time. Whether you are young or young-at-heart, this farm outing promises joy, laughter, and wonderful memories.

### **To Reserve Your Spot or Learn More:**

\$7 through the church or \$10pp purchased at Reception when you arrive. Contact [office@anglicans.live](mailto:office@anglicans.live)

### **Getting There:**

Carpool from 8 The Avenue 8.50am or meet us there. Hosanna Farm is in the picturesque Stoker's Siding. Follow the signs from Tweed Valley Way and get ready for a day of adventure!

### **Join Us for Farm Delights and Smiles**

**Galore!** (PS all activities optional)

## Sunday 27 August 9am

Sunday 27 August is St Bart's patronal festival. To celebrate being family, Messy Church, together with Play Place, the Fridays@10 church service and the Sundays@9 community are invited to a Big Day Out. We will carpool at 8.50am from the Ministry Centre and arrive at Hosanna Farm at 10am. Some may choose to meet us at Hosanna Farm. Please bring your own picnic lunch, chair or blanket to sit on. If paying directly to the church the cost is \$7. You can pay on the day \$10. We will be back at the church at 5pm. Please let the wardens know if your are willing to help transport.



### Sunday 27 August

**9am:** There will still be a Eucharist service on 27 August 9am. It will be a simple said Eucharist from the prayerbook. Due to most of the volunteers attending the Big Day Out there will unfortunately not be tea and coffee ater the service.

**RALLY**  
for **NATIVE**  
**FORESTS**  
**SYDNEY**  
**12 AUG**

**FIGHT** for **FORESTS**

**FRI 11 AUG** Coffs Harbour  
**SAT 12 AUG** Lismore • Ulladulla • Sydney  
Hobart • Melbourne • Perth

BOB BROWN FOUNDATION | defendthegiants.org

## Name Badges

If you have ordered a name badge recently, please call into the office during office hours to collect and pay for your badge.

## From St Mary's Ballina NSW

Upcoming Studies St Mary's Ballina: At the end of August there will be a 4-week exploration of Psalms led by Hamsa, Watch this space!

## Sleepbus

It looks likely that we will be getting a Sleep bus in Ballina, which is fantastic news. It will be based at St Mary's. Interested in volunteering? The volunteer roles are:

There are four main roles:

1. Caretaker: If you take this on, you are the boss of the service for that night; you make sure all guests are allocated a sleep pod and get tucked in. You also get to sleep on sleep bus for the night in the private Caretakers Cabin to ensure all our guests are well taken care of and to help overnight. The Caretakers Cabin is for two, so there is opportunity to share this role with someone else. Shift starts at 8 pm and finishes at 8 am

2. Service volunteer: You are there to assist our guests (and their companion animals) to get into their sleep pod for the night or out in the morning.

- Can be done with a group of friends
- Evening shift is 8pm to 10pm at the latest
- Morning shift is 7am to 8am

3. Housekeeping: The Housekeeper's role is to reset the sleep bus each morning, stripping and making beds and ensuring everything is clean and fresh for the next night's service, and you can do this with a group of friends, family, or work colleagues. A laundry service cleans the dirty laundry.

- Shift is 9 am to around 11 am
- Can be done with a group of friends
- All cleaning supplies/equipment provided

4. Driver: Drivers are needed to pick up the Sleep bus from the depot and drop it to St Mary's in the evening, and then return it to the depot in the morning.

- MUST have a valid HR licence
- Evening | Pick up sleep bus at 7pm and deliver to St Mary's
- Morning | Pick up sleep bus at 8am and deliver to depot location (location to be confirmed)

Contact:

Rev Cathy Ridd

Email [revridd@gmail.com](mailto:revridd@gmail.com)

Mobile 0427 836 988



# Vigil for our Earth

Come for  
quiet thoughtfulness  
anytime between 8am-4pm  
at St Bartholomew's  
6 The Avenue Alstonville  
Wed 30 August 2023

**Unite in a fierce love  
for our sacred earth**

 Alstonville  
Anglicans

[anglicans.live](http://anglicans.live)

## **St Francis College Public Lecture: The Idea of the Magdalene**

**Emeritus Professor Philip C. Almond.**

Location: St Francis Theological College 233 Milton Rd Milton, QLD 4064

Mary Magdalene is a key figure in the history of Christianity. After Mary, the mother of Jesus, she remains the most important female saint in her guise both as primary witness to the resurrection and 'apostle of the apostles'.

In his recent book *Mary Magdalene: A Cultural History*, Philip Almond focused on her 'lives' as these have been imagined and reimagined within Christian tradition. Philip Almond disentangles the numerous narratives that have shaped the story of Mary over the past two millennia and through a thoughtful exploration of the 'idea' of the Magdalene – her cult, her relics, her legacy – he has managed to deftly peel back complex layers of history and myth to reveal many different versions of the Magdalene, including but not limited to: the penitent prostitute; demoniac; miracle worker; wife and lover of Jesus; symbol of the erotic; and New Age goddess.

Join us on September 8 at 5:00pm for Evening Prayer in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, followed by refreshments and the Public Lecture with Emeritus Professor Philip Almond from 6:30pm in Lecture Room 1.

## **Sermon on the Transfiguration by Desiree Snyman**



Abba Lot went to Abba Joseph and said to him, "Abba, as far as I can I say my little office, I fast a little, I pray and meditate, I live in peace as far as I can, I purify my thoughts. What else can I do?" Then the old man



stood up and stretched his hands towards heaven. His fingers became like ten lamps of fire, and he said to him, "If you will, you can become all flame."

The above tale of transfiguration from "The Sayings of the Desert Fathers" is about the total transformation that love brings about in a human person. As I have said before, spiritual evolution is less about saying prayers and more about becoming prayer. Spiritual maturity is less about doing and more about being.

The Transfiguration celebrated on the 6<sup>th</sup> of August is the central feast day for Eastern Orthodox spirituality and epitomises the journey of what it means to be human. The transfiguration embodies the doctrine of Theosis, the journey of being made into God. Deification or apotheosis is the journey of being made into the Divine and it is a cooperation or a surrender to Great Creator Spirit. If theosis sounds a bit like blasphemy it may help to remember that the chief commanders in the fight for orthodoxy and the ones who actively fought heresy said that the point of life is the integration of our divine and human selves. Irenaeus said that the glory of God is the person fully alive, fully human, and fully divine. Athanasius said that God became what we are (human) so that we could become what God is (Divine). A common analogy to explain theosis is metal placed in fire. While remaining metal the metal placed in fire nevertheless obtains all the properties of fire namely heat and light. Another example is a drop of water in the ocean. While a drop of water is not capable of creating a tsunami, once immersed in the ocean, the droplet becomes **one** with the ocean. Similarly, our destiny as human beings is such utter immersion into the ocean of God's love that we become partakers of the divine nature (II Peter 1:4).

I agree with those who say that the Transfiguration was not so much about the transfiguration of Jesus but more about the transfiguration of the disciples. They had accessed deeper levels

of their spirituality and were able to see Jesus, and themselves, from a different point of view. Jesus, like Abba Lot, had become all flame but the only reason the disciples could see it was because they themselves were all flame.

Hold onto the idea that it is the disciples themselves that were transfigured. The inspiration for the text is of course Old Testament stories. Moses goes up a mountain and spends time alone with God face to face. Moses shone so brightly that a cloth was placed over his face because people could not look at him. Also remember the start of Moses' spiritual evolution was his experience of the burning bush. The bush shimmered with light so bright it should have burnt to the ground. Moses experienced God, the "I am" or Yahweh through the transfiguration of nature.

The idea of Jesus shining or Moses or the disciples or Abba Lot becoming all flame may seem too ethereal to be "real life." The transfiguration is at best a cute metaphor or an inspiration for prayer. I too thought that the story of Abba Lot's fingers becoming "ten lamps of fire" was magic realism; until I read Julia Baird's book "Phosphorescence." Julia writes that scientists have long been fascinated by the phosphorescence of creatures - fire fly plankton, glow worms, ghost mushrooms and more. Scientists now describe creatures that absorb light as having phosphorescence and those that produce their own light as having bioluminescence. A 2009 experiment explored whether we humans had bioluminescence. The researchers put five able bodied bare-chested Japanese men in darkened, sealed rooms for up to 20-minute intervals every three hours for three days. Extremely sensitive cameras found that the men glowed, especially around the face. While the intensity of light emitted by the body is one thousand times lower than the sensitivity of our eyes, the fact is, we humans glow.

I realised that the transformation that love brings about, transfiguration, theosis or the story of Jesus or the disciples being transformed into light, is more real than I realised.

All of you listening here today (or reading this text) already have this inner light, you already glow. You yourselves are the proof text that this transfiguration is a reality. It is precisely this inner light that has brought you to this moment carrying you through days of profoundest grief. It is precisely your bioluminescence nurtured by the love of God, nature, family, and friends, and sustained by your ability to pay attention and take notice that has carried you through wounds which are intolerable to bear. Anyone reading these words has danced in the refiner's fire, the fire that does not consume. The presence of any doubt within you, the existence of any questions and the scars of any wounds you carry are portals to the light. As we allow our bioluminescence to shine let us receive a blessing from John O Donohue:

You have travelled too fast over false ground.  
now your soul has come to take you back.  
Take refuge in your senses, open up.  
to all the small miracles you rushed through.  
Become inclined to watch the way of rain.  
when it falls slow and free.  
Imitate the habit of twilight,  
taking time to open the well of  
colour.  
that fostered the brightness of day.  
Draw alongside the silence of stone.  
until its calmness can claim you.  
Be excessively gentle with yourself.



*Excerpt from the blessing, 'For One Who is Exhausted,' from  
John's books: Benedictus (Europe) /  
To Bless the Space Between Us (USA).*

## Sentence of the Day

They cried out in fear, but Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.' Matthew 14.26–27

## Matthew 14:22-36

<sup>22</sup> Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. <sup>23</sup> And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup> but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land,<sup>[a]</sup> for the wind was against them. <sup>25</sup> And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. <sup>26</sup> But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup> But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.' <sup>28</sup> Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' <sup>29</sup> He said, 'Come.' So, Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he noticed the strong wind,<sup>[b]</sup> he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' <sup>31</sup> Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' <sup>32</sup> When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. <sup>33</sup> And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.' <sup>34</sup> When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret. <sup>35</sup> After the people of that place recognized him, they sent word throughout the region and brought all who were sick to him, <sup>36</sup> and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.