



Alstonville Anglicans

Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Pentecost

Sunday 14th November 2021



Sharing the Good Life

We acknowledge the Bundjalung people,
traditional custodians of the Land.
Our doors are open: LGBTQIA+ welcome here.
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Liturgy for 14th November

Sentence of the Day

The Lord will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king and exalt the power of his anointed. 1 Samuel 2.10

Collect

O God,
welcoming refuge for the outcast,
and upholder of justice for the oppressed:
maintain the hope of the poor,
so that the time may soon come
when no one need want for food and shelter,
and all will learn to share freely
following the example of your Son, who gave his very self;
who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Readings

Mark 13:1-8

¹ As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" ² Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down." ³ When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴ "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" ⁵ Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁶ Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. ⁷ When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁸ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom

against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

Messages

Pastoral Care

Pastoral visits Remember!

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.

Mothers Union

The MU meetings are held on the third Monday of each month. Contact Pam on 0417 258 991 or Joyce 0407 690 874 joyce@stephanies.com.au .

Community Engagement

Community-On-the-Verge



Our garden is planted and thriving! 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

Earth Vigil



Our church is open Monday – Friday this week 9am -12pm to allow anyone interested the opportunity to see the beautiful art installation created by our flower committee for the Earth Vigil.



Play Place

Play Place Thursdays 9.30am – 11.30am

Online ministry

Head to Anglicans Live YouTube channel to catch up on any of our discussion or service videos you may have missed.

[Have you subscribed? Get your friends and family to subscribe at: Anlicans Live YouTube channel.](#)



Sew Helpful

Sew Helpful meet every 1st and 3rd Monday in the Ministry Centre.

Church Mowing Roster

New roster commencing 15th November. Men and women are invited to be part of a team for the next 12 months. Typically teams have 3 or 4 turns per year. Contact Barry Campey 6628 3089

Spring Cleaning



A Working Bee to spring clean the church will be held on Saturday 13th November 8.30am – 11.30am. Cleaning cloths will be provided. Please contact Bruce Sharp for more information.

LinC Celebration Service

Friday 26th November 4pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church. RSVP by 19th November lincalstonville@gmail.com or 6628 6960.

St Mary's Ballina Concert

Sunday, 14 November, 3PM, Anglican Church Ballina with TERZETTA chamber trio. A delightful afternoon of music to refresh mind and soul. Entry is by Donation.

Refugees

Please support 'Ballina Region 4 Refugees'

An urgent request from Benjamin Gilmour a local Film Director and Supporter of BR4R: looking for volunteers to fill out Humanitarian Visa forms for Afghan creatives

Dear Community,

I am an Australian filmmaker living in the Ballina region. My last film, JIRGA, was shot entirely in Afghanistan where I worked with Afghan filmmakers and musicians.

With the return of the Taliban regime these artists are now at great risk. The Taliban have a strict interpretation of Islam that considers music to be haram (forbidden). Seems they aren't aware of the great history of music in Islamic cultures or that Muslims invented the Oud, which became the lute and then guitar. In any case, Afghan musicians are no longer able to play. Some have been targeted for ignoring restrictions, and there have been reports of killings. No wonder some of the musicians I know have burned or buried their instruments.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are looking for volunteers to fill out Humanitarian Visa forms. Each volunteer will be assigned one or two individuals and their families and will need to work on the application by communicating with these applicants.

Filling out one of these forms is **time consuming**. Especially given the back-and-forth with the applicants in Afghanistan. It can take a couple of weeks per application and is a challenge on several levels and will involve:

- Communicating with the applicants and navigating the eccentric responses of Google translate in order to gather all the required information and documents

- Working on an extensive PDF document application form, and shaping their story in the section where they need to show a well-founded fear.
- A good knowledge of email, WhatsApp messaging and working with an editable PDF document (this is required by the lawyers)
- Confidentiality

If you feel this is something you can help work on, please be in touch to president@br4r.org.au or through my website below and we will provide you with the FORM and an applicant (or two!).

This is an exciting project to work on. We have already been informed by David Manne's NGO Refugee Legal that they will be happy to represent these 50 Afghan artists and work with us once all the forms are at a final draft stage.

To inspire you, here are some links to the folks on our list, playing their instruments.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jU2YuWdyyc8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvveWWUxFe4>

Warm regards to you all.
Benjamin Gilmour

Worship and Spirituality



Tristan Middleton was admitted to First Holy Communion and Sarah Fivaz and Catherine Ryan were confirmed.

Confirmation

Congratulations to our First Holy Communion and confirmation candidates. Thank you to Bishop Murray for visiting with us



Alan Brown was confirmed.



Messy Church

Sunday 28th November at 4pm. Our theme is 'We will, we will rock you!'



Sermon notes for the 7th November

All Saints Day Dr Murray Harvey, Bishop of Grafton.

Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones ... [Wisdom 3:1-9]

These words from the Wisdom of Solomon are worthy of our reflection today.

Those who trust in him will understand truth.

Grafton is a great place for walking. My favourite route at the moment takes me along the side of the magnificent Clarence River, over the old Grafton bridge with stunning views west to the Great Dividing Range, and then around via the railway station. If I time it right, I'll see a Sydney or Brisbane bound XPT. I know nothing about trains, but I like train spotting! If you time it wrong, you encounter a freight train (full speed ahead). The rail bridge, walkways, tunnels, and the railway viaduct offer a lot of scope for graffiti artists (not just random stuff – actually commissioned street art – trendy). But one such artist fancies himself (herself) as a bit of a philosopher. A street philosopher perhaps.

The full truth cannot be forged through the disturbing lens of thought. For the tip of the iceberg, visible to the human mind, lies to the volumous (sic) truth beyond. (Anon).



I think our street philosopher is right in that the truth we see and that we can comprehend is only the tip of the iceberg of truth, most of which is too great or too mysterious for our limited human comprehension.

But of course, our reading involves the theme of trust as well.

Those who trust in him will understand truth.

To trust in someone there is usually a relationship on which the trust is based.

Those who trust in him will understand truth.

So, the trust we have in the person, Jesus, helps us comprehend a little more of the truth that he reveals.

The last 18 months or so have challenged our trust, perhaps more so than ever before. Our trust in governments, experts, scientists and others, in whose hands have been our public safety and personal health care. In record time, vaccines have been developed, and public health measures of unprecedented scale and magnitude have been imposed the world over.

Whether we like it or not, we've all had to trust, perhaps more than ever before in our lifetimes.

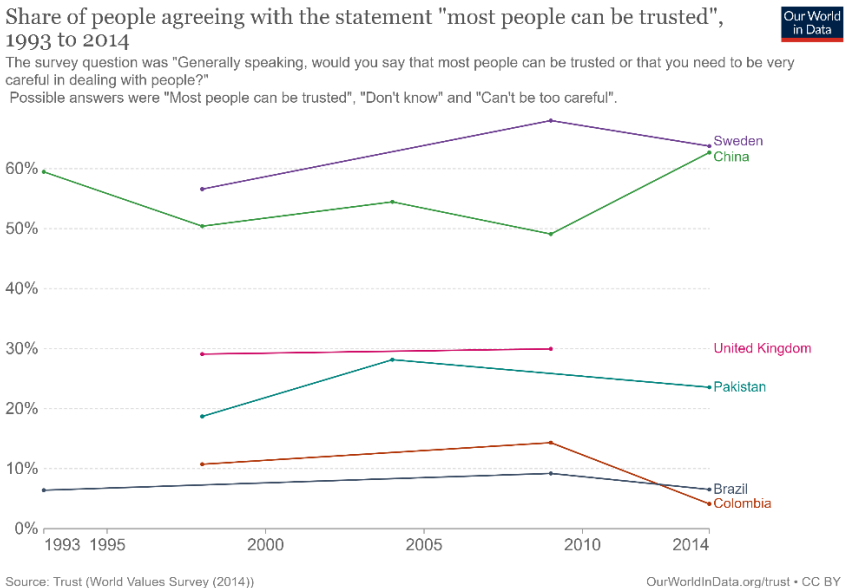
Trust is an important contributor to well-being.

In response to the question, "Generally speaking do you think that most people can be trusted?" when asked in countries such as Norway, Sweden and Finland, more than 60% of respondents (in the World Value Survey) thought that most people can be trusted. But in countries such as Colombia, Brazil, Ecuador, and Peru, less than 10% think that this is the case.¹

Data from the Gallup Poll tells us that trust in national governments went down every year in the period 2009-2013. In the majority of European countries, people trust the police more than they trust each other. In many countries, ironically, the police tend to be trusted more than the governments and the legal systems that employ them.

Longitudinal data from the USA shows that people there trust each other a lot less today, than they did 40 years ago. I expect COVID has further eroded that.

In Australia, about 55% of the respondents said that, "most people can be trusted", placing us amongst highest ranking



countries in the world in terms of trust, although not as high as the Scandinavian countries.

Of course, if we're not trusting of others, it's likely to be because we've been hurt: our trust has been abused. Brother Roger of Taizé once wrote that memories and experiences of past hurts can hold back the gentle breeze of trust. He also reminded us that Christ calls us to trust. We have to choose to love and trust.²

There is much wisdom in today's reading: *those who trust in God will understand truth.*

In the face of the anxiety, stress, depression and other challenges of modern life, in the face of past hurts, we need to be able to trust those around us, and trust in God who sustains us and offers us hope in these circumstances.

Who do you trust? Are you a trusting person? If not, has something, or someone, abused your trust and made you wary. What would it take for you to be more trusting?

Christ calls us to trust. But ours is the freedom to choose to love and trust.

And then there's the rest of that verse:
and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones

Those who have chosen to accept Christ's invitation will enjoy his love and grace. On All Saints Day we should be encouraged by the Saints of the Church who have gone before us, as those who have chosen to trust, and are now examples of how God's love and grace has flourished in their lives.

This is highlighted for us today too in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Here we ask God that those to be Confirmed

might grow in his grace, and that their wisdom, knowledge and understanding might be increased.

There is a message here for all of us who have given our lives to Christ through Baptism and Confirmation, no matter how long ago this might have been. Or maybe you are just thinking about giving your life to him.

Choose to trust him, to receive his offer of grace, and be filled with his truth, wisdom and understanding. If you've been hurt by trust that has been abused or broken, allow yourself to feel the gentle breeze of God's love and grace, so you can begin to trust him. This will set you free from all that is false, fake, untrustworthy and untrue in the world around, all that would bind you up.

Maybe we all need to see ourselves as being like Lazarus: effectively dead and bound up. The bindings will be different for each of us: past hurts, unforgiveness, resentment, unwillingness to trust, greed, self-deception, selfishness.

Through God's grace we are unbound and let go into a trust in this person Jesus.

A Prayer from the Confirmation Service APBA:

Almighty and everliving God, you have given your servants new birth by water and the Spirit and have forgiven them their sins. Strengthen them, we pray, with the Holy Spirit that they may grow in grace. Increase in them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of discernment and inner strength, the spirit of knowledge and true godliness, and fill them with wonder and awe at your presence, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Notes. 1. Statistics and other data from the surveys referred to here can be found at: <https://ourworldindata.org/trust>

2. Choose to Love, Letter from Taize. Special Issue, 1996, p.2.

ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALSTONVILLE

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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The Anglican Op Shop

1 The Avenue, Alstonville **Tel:** 6628 8777

Dates 14th to 21st November

14th Nov Sunday 9am Holy Communion in the Church
Sunday 10am St Peter & St Paul's

15th Nov Monday 10am Anam Cara Praying for You
Parish Office 9am–12pm
Op Shop 9am–3pm

16th Nov Tuesday Parish Office Closed
Please refrain from visiting the Parish office on a Tuesday. This time is set aside for staff to work uninterrupted. Thank you.

17th Nov Parish Office 9am–12pm
Op Shop 9am–3pm
Parish Council meeting 6pm in the Meeting Room

18th Nov Parish Office 9am–12pm
Op Shop 9am–3pm
Thursday Anam Cara 6pm in Church

19th Nov Friday 10am Holy Communion in Church
Parish Office 9am–12pm

21st Nov Sunday 9am Holy Communion in the Church