



Alstonville Anglicans

Sunday 14th May 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

Bank account: BSB 705 077 / Acc:00032931

14th May – 21st May

14 th May		Sunday
	9am	Holy Communion
15 th May		Monday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
	10am	Anam Cara
	10am	Deadline for bulletin items
	1pm	Sew Helpful
16 th May		Tuesday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Closed.
17 th May		Wednesday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
	9am	Anam Cara
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
18 th May		Thursday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
	9.30am	Play Place
	6pm	Anam Cara
19 th May		Friday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
	10am	Holy Communion
20 th May		Saturday
21 st May		Sunday
	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](#)

Come along and enjoy the Fete this Sat 13th 8am-1pm.



something to delight everyone

Music Games Cakes
Craft Plants Cards
Face Painting Tasty Food

**MOTHER'S DAY FETE
SATURDAY**

13 May 2023 8am - 1pm
@St Bart's
6 The Avenue Alstonville

 Alstonville
Anglicans

anglicans.live

Join in Messy Church Pentecost fun!



MESSY CHURCH BONFIRE

*Charlie and Jenny's home
Brockley Farm 1385 Bruxner Highway
Phone: 0427 462 540
Bring: chairs, mugs, rugs, sturdy shoes, torches ...



 Alstonville
Anglicans

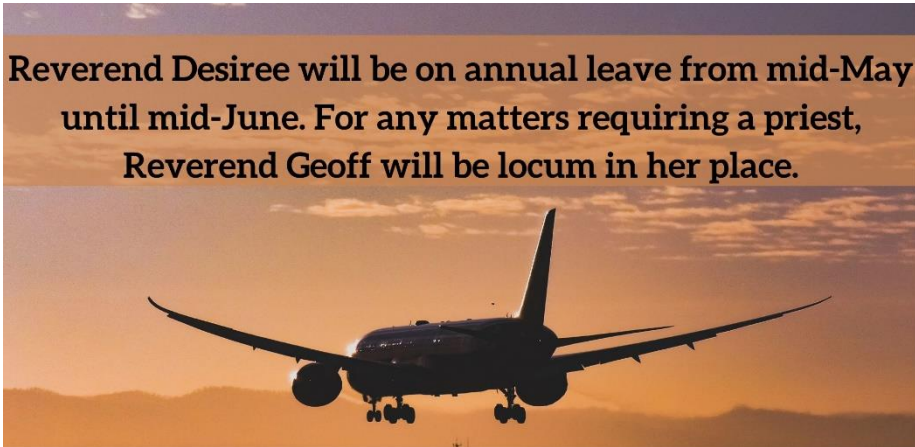
SUNDAY 28TH MAY 2023 4PM

anglicans.live

Pastoral Care:

Barry Campey is in hospital with Leukaemia. Barry and Barb are very grateful for your kindness, well wishes, prayers and concern. At this stage, because of Barry's weakened immune system, only immediate family are visiting.

Reverend Desiree will be on annual leave from mid-May until mid-June. For any matters requiring a priest, Reverend Geoff will be locum in her place.



Rainforest Labyrinth Experience

'Brockley' 1385 Bruxner Highway Lindendale
(Jenny & Charlie Handley)

Sat 9am or Sun 2pm

Arrive and welcome

9.15am and 2.15pm

'About the Labyrinth'

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

All welcome. Bring a friend

Donation appreciated

Refreshments available

Sat 20th May
9-11am
Sun 21st May
2-4pm

RSVP Jenny Handley 0400 361 059

Church Linen

Thank you to everyone who has been caring for the church linen. If you have any items, please return them to the church or speak to Carolyn Cox. Supplies at the church are very, very low.



Landcare4 *Lifestylers*

12-4pm, Saturday 20th May, 2023

**Explore.
Discover.
Energise.**

Boatharbour Landcare and Lismore City Council present Landcare4Lifestylers on

**Saturday May 20th 2023, 12 pm – 4pm
379 Boatharbour Rd, Boat Harbour, 2480**

Boatharbour and surrounds have seen an influx of interested urbanites keen to settle in and enjoy the delights of living in the country.

Landcare4Lifestylers is set in a 12-year-old revegetated forest at Boatharbour, 12 mins from Lismore

Event stalls Include:- Friends of the Koala, SCU Bug stall, Byron Bird Buddies, Ozfish, Rous CC, Native Bees with Steve.



Register for tickets

There will also be activities for the kids, a Coffee Van and a Walk and talk with a professional Bush Regenerator.

SPONSORS.....



Local Land Services



Introductory comments



Perhaps some of you glimpsed aspects of the King's Coronation held on the 6th of May 2023 in Westminster. Amidst the pageantry, liturgical drama, and Anglican music at its best, did anything strike you as unusual or unique about the ceremony? Personally, I was moved by the presence and involvement of other faith leaders in the ceremony. The image of Sikh, Hindu, Muslim, and Jewish leaders

bestowing on Charles the symbols of his ministry may seem in direct contrast to the Gospel reading John 14.1-14, especially in the light of phrases such as "I am the way the truth, and the light," and "No one comes to the Father except through me." What is going on with these Scriptures?

About John 14.1-12

The **narrative context** of John 14 is that Jesus has washed the feet of his disciples. The foot washing is the high point of Jesus' teaching, a gesture of intimate, caressing service and a revolutionary symbol of true leadership and friendship. Remember in the foot washing Jesus totally reconfigures humanity's relationship to the Divine. Jesus states categorically that we are not slaves of God but friends of God. While Jesus is still on his knees, drying his hands and while the disciples' feet still tingle with the sensation of his touch, Jesus speaks to his closest friends about his imminent departure.

The **historical context** of John's Gospel is that a small, persecuted, and ostracised Jewish, "breakaway" sect is

explaining to its wider Jewish community, why and how its belief system differs. What we read here is an intra-Jewish argument about what it means to be God's people. What John 14 confidently and daringly preaches is that in the person of Jesus the Christ we have a world-defining moment that decisively changes the relationship between God and humanity. These words proclaim that because of Jesus we have a fresh understanding of what it means to be human and what it means to be divine. These words affirm that Jesus is the tangible presence of God in the world and that God can be known in a powerful, real, and intimate way through that incarnate presence.

I am utterly heartbroken every time this stunning Scripture is used as a weapon or when these beautiful metaphors are abused and taken literally. Colonialism, crusades both ancient and modern, and the sad history of arrogant Christian superiority in aggressive, manipulative, and bullying evangelism have weaponised this Scripture to demonise other faiths and belief systems.

John 14 is a text written in ancient Biblical Greek to and from a middle eastern Jewish sect living in and around 90AD. The phrases from John 14 become problematic when they are used to answer 21st century questions that had no relevance whatsoever to the early Johannine community. To use these verses in a battle over the relative merits of the world's religions is to distort their theological heart. It is dangerous and destructive to throw John 14 around in this manner. If these verses make us religiously arrogant, then



we have lost the point altogether. The words are not exclusionary. Rather they are particular, particular to a time, audience and place in history. There is beauty in this Scripture and comfort in its message: Do not let your hearts be troubled...believe in me...there is much space in God....make your home in God. What could the metaphors John uses mean? I suggest that the message is that we are manifestations of God looking for God.

We are manifestations of God looking for God.

My observation about the human condition is that we think there is something wrong with us ... I do not know why we think this ... but we do. Inside each of us there is a deep, congenital restlessness. We observe our restlessness and long for peace and centredness. We observe our anxiety, fear, and worry and long for faith. We think that this restlessness, fear, and worry are what is wrong with us. There is nothing wrong with us. We are not peaceful people who are sometimes restless. Our default is not faith with anxiety, worry, fear and emptiness only an illness to overcome. We are not restful beings who sometimes get restless, but restless beings who occasionally experience rest. Because of this we can find it difficult to concentrate during the day and to sleep at night. We go through life feeling like we are missing out on something, that life is more exciting and fulfilling for others than it is for us. Our achievements rarely satisfy us because we are always aware of what we haven't achieved, of missed chances and failed possibilities.

These emotions of wanting more, these experiences of anxiety, restlessness, loneliness, fear, and worry are not what is wrong with us. They are what is right with us. This is the divine fire within us calling us to our true centre.



Here is the reason. Deeper than fear, worry, anxiety, and restlessness is the experience of our divine unity with God, our true home. **We are manifestations of God looking for God.** The only reason we can recognise restlessness, emptiness, loneliness, and anxiety is

because of a previous experience of Infinite Unity with Infinite Love which is, and always has been, the still point of our turning world - home. The restlessness, anxiety and emptiness are our trigger to come home. We are like homing pigeons and the restlessness and emptiness we experience are our navigation home.

There is an infinite longing in us that can only be filled by Infinite Love – God. Augustine’s quote is overused, but relevant in this case: “O God, you have made me for yourself, and my heart is restless until it rests in you.”

The way to find home is to follow our longings and allow it to lead us to God. Perhaps an image will help. Imagine babysitting a very young child. The young child notices the mother’s absence and for a while the babysitter can distract them with toys, entertainment, and other stimulation. There comes a tipping point where only the mother’s voice will soothe the disgruntled child. Likewise, in trying to satisfy our congenital restlessness we can distract ourselves for a while with flashy toys and anesthetise our pain with an array of addictions and avoidance techniques. There comes a moment when these things no longer soothe us. At this point we turn to God the Mother’s voice in the depths of our soul and ground

of our being, the one voice and one presence that can ultimately bring us rest.

Concluding comments

In putting the above into practice Meister Eckhart is helpful: "Whatever state we may find ourselves, whether in strength or in weakness, in joy or in sorrow, to whatever we may feel attached, we must renounce it". (Meister Eckhart, sermon on Luke 1:57).

"Do not let your hearts be troubled" means "do not become attached." Whatever restlessness or emptiness we experience is a trigger to enfold us into God. Day by day, moment by moment, do not become attached. If you experience sorrow, loss or grief, feel it, it's very real. But do not make the mistake of letting sorrow, loss or grief define you, or have the last say, it has no authority over you. Only the infinite generosity of God giving Godself to you in this very moment has the authority to name who you are. Similarly, in a moment of joy be detached from joy. Joy is finite, it passes. Joy also does not have power to name you, only the Infinite Union with Infinite Love defines who and whose you are. Every thought or distraction, every moment of longing or restlessness is an opportunity to let go and surrender to the ground of our being, the home of our infinite unity with infinite love.



Sentence of the Day

'Those who love me will keep my word,' Jesus promises, 'and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.' John 14.23

Collect

O God,
you have prepared for those who love you
joys beyond our understanding:
pour into our hearts such love for you,
that, loving you above all else,
we may obtain your promises
that exceed all we can desire;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

John 14.15-21

¹⁵ 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸ 'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'



EMMANUEL
ANGLICAN
COLLEGE

Learning ~ Living ~ Leading

*Celebrating 25 Years
1998 - 2023*



YEAR 8 WELLBEING
INVITES
OUR COMMUNITY SENIOR CITIZENS
TO

Cards & Cuppas



Come along to
Emmanuel Anglican College's
Ezzy Centre
to enjoy a round of cards and morning tea
from 11.20am to 12.00noon
on each of the following days;

Thursday 4 May 2023
Thursday 18 May 2023
Thursday 1 June 2023
Thursday 15 June 2023
Thursday 29 June 2023

Please RSVP to enquiries@eac.nsw.edu.au
or phone 02 6681 5054

