



Alstonville
Anglicans

7th Sunday of Easter

16th May 2021



Liturgy for 16th May

Sentence of the Day

Jesus prayed, 'Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.'

John 17.11

Collect

Almighty God,
your blessed Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,
ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things:
mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised,
he abides with us on earth until the end of time;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Sharing the Good Life

We acknowledge the Bundjalung people,
Traditional custodians of the Land.
Our doors are open: LGBTQIA+ welcome here.
Streaming licence: One License A-738115

Readings

John 17:6–19

⁶ “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵ I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Messages

Worship and Spirituality portfolio

Subscribe to AnglicansLive on YouTube

**Next Messy Life ?!
Church**

Sunday 16th May 5pm

MIND YOUR MANNA(S)

How many times do I have to tell you, don't insult your brother with your mouth full?

With Messy Life?! Church at Alstonville Anglicans
16 May 2021
5pm

W orship
T eaching
F riendship
anglicanslive

Messy Church

Sunday 23rd May 4pm

Messy Church

Wind & Fire

Sunday 23rd May 4pm

Alstonville Anglicans
6 The Avenue
Alstonville
anglicans.live

Pentecost Sunday 23rd May

Please remember to wear red to church.



Reconciliation Week

The flags are flying at St Bartholomew's in honour of Reconciliation Week.

The theme for Reconciliation week 2021 is 'More than a word. Reconciliation takes action' and urges the reconciliation movement towards braver and more impactful action. 6th June @ Messy Life?! Church Reconciliation with Adam Goodes.



Community engagement



A special thanks to the Parish for the way people responded to help make all aspects of the fete so enjoyable. The fellowship & Christian spirit, the hard work, the way the stalls were stocked and the connection to the community

were outstanding. The Fete Committee

Raffle Prize Winners:

- * Pamper pack - Marius Mulder
- * Dine Out pack - Kirsten Beck
- * Garden pack - Sue Collins



Pastoral Care

Family Crosses



On Sunday 16 May, Family Crosses are being given to Barbara Fewtrell and Barry and Barbara Campey.

Prayers for Campey Family, Fewtrell Family, Helen Nicholson and Family, Lesley Stone and Family.

Pastoral visits Remember!



If you or anyone you know is ill or in hospital, please let the office of Lynne Watt our Pastoral Care Coordinator know. Also, if you do visit anyone could you email Lynne? wattlg@bigpond.com.

Good Governance

Note

Current Status of COVID Restrictions

Restrictions for Places of Worship were relaxed in NSW from 29th March.

1. Limit of 1 person / 2sqm ie. now 72 for St Bartholomew's and 20 at St Peter & St Paul's.
2. Checking in is very important and is mandatory.
3. Ventilation is important ie. opening windows and doors and morning tea outside.
4. Hand sanitization is mandatory.
5. 1.5m rule of separation is advised.
6. Singing is ok with no restrictions.

Ministry and leadership

Opportunities

At Alstonville Anglicans, we consider all the baptised as ministers. Thus, everything that builds the community in love is ministry.



Put your hand up!

☐ **1. Catering coordinator**

We have a great team of willing helpers who are looking for a coordinator. The catering team is ad hoc and only called together from time to time as needs arise. A job description is available for those interested. **Please speak to one of the Wardens or email the office office@anglicans.live**
Without a coordinator Parish Council will have to close the committee.

☐ **2. Play Place Morning Tea Minister**

Contact Margaret Brown if you are able to help.
margaretandken@bigpond.com

☐ **3. Church Cleaning Roster**

Volunteers are needed for a church cleaning roster.
Please contact Bruce Sharp 0412 783 921

Sermon notes on

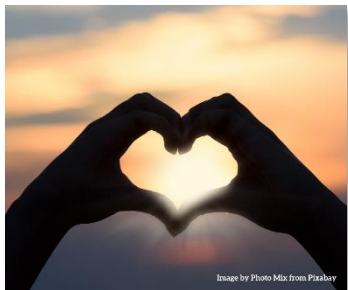
John 15:9-17

for Sunday 9th May

Unending Love

Today I want to focus on the great love that Jesus has provided for us by dying on the cross and rising to new life.

The Gospel reading (John 15: 9-17) has a theme of being connected to one another and centres itself around



relationships. It is a relationship passage with an emphasis on love. The passage speaks of the relationship that exists between Jesus and his Father, the relationship that exists between Jesus and his disciples, and the relationship that exists between Jesus and us, living

right here in Alstonville.

Three points worth considering today are:

1. Abiding in Jesus' love (verses 9-11)
2. The commandment that Jesus gives (verses 12-13)
3. Going out and bearing fruit (verses 16-17)

Abiding in Jesus' Love

The beginning of John's Gospel emphasises unity between the Father and Jesus. In verse 9 Jesus is speaking of the love his Father shows him and then encourages his disciples to abide in the love that he will provide them.

What does it mean then to abide in Jesus' love? It means dwelling in a particular place – abiding there – remaining there. The definition further refers to the kind of peace and stability that we can associate with being at home – or at the home of a hospitable friend. The home of Loretta and I is a place of shelter, comfort, peace, stability, places where nurturing takes place and where love exists, grows, and continues to grow. You want to abide there with the people you love the most.

Jesus wants to abide with us. He loves us. Out of this love; Jesus calls us to abide in his love. When we are in relationship with Jesus we can be immersed in his love, surrounded by his love, comforted by his love, and empowered by his love. Love can be the glue that holds everything together.



Think about abiding in love in these terms. A child's love verses a parent's love verses God's love for us. As children the love we display can be self-seeking, self-centred, selfish. "I love you but give me what I want!" This selfishness can also occur towards God – asking Him to give us

what we want and then blame Him when we do not get what we want or that our plans do not turn out the way we want them to. We make our plans and tell God to bless them instead of relying on God to direct our paths. While this is a negative view of love a child's love for their parent is also genuine. In most cases a child will defend their Mum when their Mum is being criticised by others. Parents in most cases display unconditional love toward their children. Sadly, however this unconditional love is not always shown in all relationships that parents have with their children. God's love for us is unending. God loves us in the happy times. God loves us in the not so happy times, God loves us in times of challenge and great difficulty or when we fall short and make mistakes, he still loves us.

Obedience is needed. Obedience is always part of one's relationship with God. Love is attractive! Everybody likes to talk about love. Everyone wants to claim their interest in love and celebrate it. We speak passionately and lovingly about the things we love. However, when it comes to obedience not as much emphasis is given to obedience, and the very real character development that results from obedience to the Lord. But with Jesus – love and obedience were always connected; there was never - in the teaching of Christ – any distance between the two.

The Commandment given by Jesus

In verse 10: "If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love..." This is too clear to debate or be denied. If we want to abide in the love of Christ, we need to be engaged with His teaching, through obedience. It is about trust. It is about love. But choosing to abide in Jesus' love and being obedient to his commandments is a challenge - it is not easy.

It is easy to hit pause in our busy lives and react to a post that a friend has posted online, share our lives on social media, but do we place the same emphasis and hit pause when it comes to Jesus' role in our lives. What if Jesus placed a post on a social media site? Would we react in the same way we do our friends? The Bible teaches that love for Jesus is not just something you talk about – it is something you do. We need to put our love for Jesus into action. We need to spend time with Jesus, reading His Word and praying to Him. This shows our connection to Him, our relationship with Him and can positively propel us into the day ahead.

In verse 12 Jesus commands his disciples to love one another as he has loved us. The type of love Jesus is speaking about here is agape love. A love that is more about "doing" rather than "feeling". When we do agape love we are putting others before ourselves. This type of love does not require that we approve of the actions of the other person whom we love – or even that we enjoy their company. It does however require that we act on behalf of that person – to demonstrate love in some practical fashion. A person who displays agape love will do whatever is possible to demonstrate their love for another. They will feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty. They will welcome the stranger and clothe the naked. They will visit the sick and those in prison. Their thrust, their motivation is to give rather than receive.

Examples of agape love within the community and here at Alstonville Anglicans including keeping everyone safe during the COVID pandemic and ministries of the OP Shop, the Pink ladies of Play Place, MU, the Pastoral Care Team and the teamwork shown at the Mother's Day Fete. Love is in action because we are in relationship with one another. These ministries make God known and present and show His love!

The love in action that Jesus did was to show us the perfect example of love whereby he laid down his life for us. There is no greater love than this. The image of the cross gives us a powerful illustration of this love... that 'God so loved the world that he gave his only Son'¹ and we are reminded of this in this season of Easter.

Go out and bear fruit.

Jesus calls his disciples friends. They did not choose him, he chose them. Likewise, we did not choose Jesus, he chose us, so we too are his friends. Jesus taught his friends what he had learned from his Father. The disciples were just ordinary men, but Jesus believed that his friends could continue the work, the ministry that he had started. We too are charged with that same task. What does it mean then to go out and bear fruit? The bearing of fruit could take many shapes and forms, but ultimately it is bringing others that we would meet with, who we connect with, who we are in relationship with to know and love God. The way we can do this is to witness God's love in our individual lives and illustrate that love as an action. Make "Love" the glue, the very centre of all things we do when we are in relationship with each other.

John 15:9 - 17 is a passage about relationship and at its very core is love. Love begins with the Father and flows through the

¹ John 3:16

Son to the disciples and ultimately onto us. Be comforted to know that Jesus loves each one of us if we abide with him. I encourage each of us to love one another as Jesus has loved you.



Amazing Grace written by John Newton is a famous church hymn. Newton spent part of this working life working a slave trader and ship captain transporting slaves. During one of his final voyages a large storm occurred at sea and this scared Newton so he cried out to the

Lord for help and he was saved. The slave trade took its toll on Newton and impacted him. Newton became a follower of God, experiencing his love and felt called to serve God as an Anglican priest.² Amazing Grace was originally penned as a poem and used in one of Newton's sermons, later the poem was put music. Christian musician, Chris Tomlin has researched Newton's work and made some adaptations to the famous hymn while keeping the essence Newton's words in tact. Tomlin discovered the original version had a final verse that is not widely known. He chose to include this verse in his reworking of the hymn. Amazing Grace (My Chains are gone) is a modern-day version and speaks of how the chains of life are now gone when we accept Jesus into our hearts we can be set free. God is our Saviour and he has ransomed us. Like a flood, God's mercy reigns – it is unending love amazing grace.³ My prayer for each one of us is that we receive that same mercy and unending love from God as we abide in his love and bear fruit for His glory! Amen.

Mark Stuckey, Licenced Lay Minister

² <https://www.ocp.org/en-us/blog/entry/amazing-grace>

³ Worship Together Interview – Chris Tomlin

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

Parish Office: 8 The Avenue, Alstonville
Telephone: 6628 0231
Postal: PO Box 451, Alstonville NSW 2477
e-mail: office@anglicans.live

website: anglicans.live

Bank account: BSB 705 077 / Acc:00032931

The Anglican Op Shop

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

Dates 16th May to 24th May

16 th May	Sunday 9am Holy Communion, 5pm Messy Life?! Church
17 th May	Monday 10am Anam Cara Praying for You Parish Office open 9am-12pm Op Shop 9am-3pm
18 th May	Tuesday Parish Office closed
19 th May	Wednesday 9am Anam Cara Parish Office open 9am-12pm Op Shop 9am-3pm
20 th May	Thursday 9.30am Play Place Parish Office open 9am-12pm Op Shop 9am-3pm Thursday 6pm Anam Cara
21 st May	Friday 10am Holy Communion Parish Office open 9am-12pm
23 rd May	Sunday 9am Holy Communion, 10am St Peter & St Paul's 4pm Messy Church
24 th May	Clergy Rendezvous 10am – 3pm.