



Alstonville Anglicans

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday 16th January 2022



Image by Brigette is happy ... about coffee time:) from Pixabay

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

Liturgy for 16th January

Sentence of the Day

Jesus revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.
John 2.11

Collect

Bountiful God,
whose Son revealed his glory at Cana of Galilee:
help us to believe and obey,
so that, as our Saviour promised,
we may be filled with the wine of new life
and show forth his joy and love;
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings John 2:1-11

¹ On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴ And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶ Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. ⁹ When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk.

But you have kept the good wine until now.” ¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Messages

Pastoral Care

To make you smile...

I used to be addicted to the Hokey Pokey,

But then I turned myself around!



Community Engagement



Waterslide Afternoon

Bring swimmers
& or old clothes &
sunscreen
BYO nibbles

Sunday 30th January
2pm-4pm

Paul & Lesley Earner's home
20 Lismore Rd, Alstonville

Opposite Mitre 10
Ph: 0416 280 140

Community-On-the-Verge



Help yourself to what is ripe and ready for picking. 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.

Good Governance

COVID Update

“The rules are constantly changing as you know. This is a summary as at present.

- Density limit 2/sq m.
- Masks required indoors.
- Effective 8 January, singing and dancing at hospitality venues is no longer permitted other than for wedding services and receptions.
- QR code check in is compulsory.
- Ventilation is important, so doors and windows open, and morning tea outside but remembering social distancing.

Thank you for your understanding.
Covid Committee.”

Finance: Supporting Alstonville Parish

Parish Provider is now Planned Giving

If you’ve put aside the letter about changing to the new Planned Giving system, please make it a priority in the coming week. For help, please call the parish office.

Luke 6:38 "Give and it will be given to you."

Annual Report & AGM

All reports for the Annual Report are now due **URGENTLY**. Please forward them to the Parish Office as soon as possible. **AGM February 20th 2022.**

Office Reopening

Monday January 17th 9am

Sermon Notes 9th January 2022

Epiphany



We are in the season of epiphany. As you know, Epiphany means the manifestation of God to the world. There are three aspects of epiphany that are real for us.

First, Christ is shown as the visibility of the invisible God. As Marcus Borg puts it, Jesus is the human face of God. Second, God in Christ is revealed as one of us; epiphany is about God's solidarity with us. No longer do we look for God "out there" or "up there". Instead, God is with us and among us. Third, epiphany is about the compassion of God.

We are invited to join Christ in becoming an Epiphany for our generation, so that what was offered to us in Christ back then, can be offered by him, through us, to the world right now.

The question today is how exactly do we become an Epiphany for our generation? How do we embody the spirit of Epiphany, making God manifest in the world around us?

John preached a message of eschatological destruction, that the world was so filled with corruption that the only option was for God on high to descend in judgement and wipe the slate clean. Listen to John's sermon: "His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he

will burn with unquenchable fire.’ In summary, the message is turn or burn or in Afrikaans, “draai of braai”. You may recognise the word braai as the equivalent of BBQ, change your ways or end up on the barbeque.

The question is, is this how we are to be an Epiphany of God’s kindness, God’s presence in the world? Does Jesus endorse the message of John? I suggest not.

The biblical record as I read it, suggests that Jesus turns John’s preaching on its head. The reading from Luke depicts what happens after the baptism. Jesus, it seems, is the Christ of Epiphany in that he stands in solidarity with humanity and the world’s brokenness by agreeing to be baptised. When Jesus is baptised, it would seem that he is an anonymous member of a great crowd of people who were being baptised. However, the prayer experience that happens to Jesus after the baptism turns John’s message inside out: “and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’ What is significant about this statement is that this message – with you I am well pleased – implies that Jesus is guiltless before God. Whatever sin John the Baptist is concerned about, has already been forgiven. Luke tells us Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his work. This seemingly irrelevant detail implies that Jesus’ work is priestly work, because it was only when a man reached the age of thirty that he could begin to function as a priest.

While John’s message is turn or burn the experience of Jesus communicates to us that being the Christ is bound up in the experience of being loved as a beloved, with whom the Divine is well pleased.



Obviously, the presence of the Spirit in bodily form also recalls the presence of the Spirit at the dawn of creation. In Genesis 1, as creation is created, God pronounces at every moment, "Tov" or "it is Good". Likewise, to be an epiphany for our generation is to announce to people at the beginning of their journey, "tov," very good, blessing, you are beloved, you are touched by Divine favour. I suggest to you that the way we are an Epiphany for our generation is to communicate to the world God loves the fundamental blessing that the world is; that at the beginning of anything, every member of the world is a beloved on whom divine favour rests.

So where to from here? How do we graduate from John's message of condemnation to Jesus' message of grace, that at the beginning we are beloved, and the Divine favour rests on us?

Perhaps the journey to being an Epiphany that manifests divine blessing begins in our own souls as we learn first-hand that we are God's beloved. Announcing that the world is caressed by divine favour often requires that we experience God's confidence in us first. We live our own truth as touched by divine favour. The hope is that trusting in our own identity as beloved of God may automatically give confidence to others to trust in their identity as deeply loved.

The human condition is one where our core goodness is challenged by an inner voice of self-criticism, self-doubt, or a tireless, negative feedback loop. Many have found writing and meditating on a beloved charter a helpful spiritual discipline in healing the soul's tendency to resist the grace of being loved. Below is an example.



A Beloved Charter

NAME, you are my beloved in whom I delight. On you my favour rests. There is nothing that you can do to make me love you more and nothing that you can do to make me love you less. NAME you did not choose me, I chose you. You are my friend. I formed your inward parts and knitted you together in your mother's womb. NAME you are fearfully and wonderfully made, made a little lower than angels and crowned with glory and honour. You have been created in Christ Jesus for good works which I have already prepared to be your way of life. When you pass through the waters I will be there; and through the rivers, they will not overwhelm you, when you walk through the fire you will not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. You are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you. I know all your longings; your sighing is not hidden from me. Nothing will ever be able to separate you from my love. Abide in My love.

Parishioner Contributions

Have you enjoyed some "reading time" over the Christmas season?

May we recommend the online Christian bookshop KOORONG which is having a 20% discount sale on most products (books/music/films/giftware) during January.

Speaking of Christian literature, may I recommend one of my readings: Greg SHERIDAN .. "CHRISTIANS – the urgent case for Jesus in our world" He has written an "utterly compelling case for the truth and importance of Christianity in our lives. He explores the extraordinary personality of Paul, celebrates Mary's activism and examines the magnificent richness of John ... Greg introduces us to a range of fascinating Christians today, among them political leaders".

I was particularly interested in his conversations with John Anderson (ex-PM) and Peter Cosgrove (ex-Gov General)". He outlines efforts by young activists (in Tanzania, in China) in their efforts to share a radical interpretation of love to this generation. He examines where Jesus can be found in the Pentecostal, Catholic, Evangelical churches (plus others in our present popular secular culture) Highly recommended.

If anyone uses Facebook, have you logged onto "Great Hymns and Songs of the Faith"? So many wonderful memories of hymns (and often their stories) from our "younger days"!!

John Noble

Parish Regular Items

Mothers Union: third Monday of each month.
Contact Pam on 0417 258 991 or Joyce 0407 690
874 joyce@stephanies.com.au .



Play Place

Play Place is in recess until 10 February 2022.



Sew Helpful

Sew Helpful is in recess over the holiday period but we plan to meet at Options on Monday 17th January at 2pm for afternoon tea. All welcome.



Plastic lids and Bread tags

If you have any plastic lids / bread tags, PLEASE bring them to the church or to the Op Shop and place them in the white garbage collection boxes. The plastic will be recycled and used to assist children with

disabilities. This is a small step we can take together to help look after our beautiful world.

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.



Anam Cara

Anam Cara Praying for you on Monday mornings will be in recess until February

Anam Cara Wenesdays will be in recess in January and recommence 2nd February 2022

Anam Cara Thursdays will continue through January.

Messy Church

Recommencing 27th February 2021



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 December to 23rd January

16th Jan Sunday 9am Holy Communion
17th Jan Parish Office 9am – 12pm
Op Shop 9am – 3pm
18th Jan Tuesday Parish Office Closed
19th Jan Parish Office 9am – 12pm
Op Shop 9am – 3pm
20th Jan Parish Office 9am – 12pm
Op Shop 9am – 3pm
Thursday Anam Cara 6pm
21st Jan Parish Office 9am – 12pm
Friday 10am Holy Communion
23rd Jan Sunday 9am Holy Communion