



Alstonville
Anglicans

Eighth Sunday of Pentecost

Sunday 18th July 2021



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 18th July

Sentence of the Day

As he went ashore, Jesus saw a great crowd; and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. Mark 6.34

Collect

Eternal God,
author of our life and end of our pilgrimage:
guide us by your word and Spirit amid all perils and
temptations,
that we may not wander from your way,
but may run our course in safety
until we come to our eternal rest in you;
through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Readings

Mark 6:30–34, 53-56

³⁰ The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹ He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³² And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³ Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴ As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and

he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. ⁵³ When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. ⁵⁴ When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, ⁵⁵ and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶ And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

Messages

Worship & Spirituality

Messy Life?! Church

Remember Messy Life?! Church
Sunday 18th July 5pm



Messy Church

Have you put Messy Church in your diary?
Sunday 25th July 4pm



Anam Cara

Wednesday 9am and Thursday 6pm



LOVE AS ENERGY

*In the spirit of
Teilhard*

1 X 15ML LAVENDER
1 X 15ML BLENDED BODY OIL
LINK TO A RECORDED VERSION OF JUNE 27TH
REFLECTION DAY

The Oils are used as an
intimate part of the
reflections & meditations

\$60.00 PLUS POSTAGE
TO ORDER CONTACT KELLIE TANCRED

email kellietancred@gmail.com
mobile 0411 704 955

We recently held a Quiet Day, 'Love as Energy' In the Spirit of Teilhard facilitated by Kellie Tancred. Kellie is offering these products to assist with your home practice.

Pastoral Care portfolio

Family Crosses

On Sunday 18 July, the Family Cross is being given to Carol & Geoff Vidal.



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.

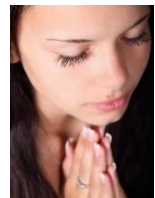
Mothers Union

Mothers Union informal meeting will be held at the 'Gatheri", Rifle Range Road, Wollongbar at 10.00 am on Monday 19th July. If anyone wishes to join us please contact Clair Benstead (0467 178 497) or for transport Joyce Shepherd (0407 690 874).

Prayers

This week we remember in our prayers the

- Vidal Family
- Ireland Family



Good Governance portfolio

Current COVID Restrictions NSW Government

At least until 16th July

- You are encouraged to use QR code check in whenever possible as per Government Regulations.
- No singing by congregation.
- Masks to be worn.
- Hand sanitisation, good ventilation and recording of names.
- Limit of 1 per 4 square metre ie. maximum of 36 in St Bartholomew's and 65 in the Ministry Centre.

It depends on what happens with the current outbreak what happens after 16th July. Watch this space! COVID Committee

Urgent Op Shop Need

From 12th July it is COVID-Mandatory to check in everyone who enters the Op Shop.

The current concierge roster requires more volunteers to make this happen. Without this COVID requirement being met the Op Shop cannot open.

The Op Shop, as we all know, is a vital service to the Church and to the Community.

If you can spare one three hour shift a fortnight, please contact Paul Earner 0 4 1 6 2 8 0 1 4 0.

Safety on the Internet

It has been brought to our attention that a scam using the Rev'd Desiree Snyman's name has been sent to our parishioners asking for gift cards.

1. Desiree will NEVER ask for money in an unofficial manner and NEVER through iTunes cards or gif cards.
2. Please report any such scams to

<https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/report-a-scam>

3. We use the best online protection available and have a contract with a company that helps us protect you and ourselves.
4. We suggest the following websites to help you stay safe online.

<https://esafety.gov.au/>

Free courses on everything from how to access the internet, using your device and keeping in touch with others online:

<https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au/>

Working Bee

Thank you to all who attended the working bee on Saturday 3rd July in which the kitchen was thoroughly cleaned as well as the entrance and exit areas of the Ministry Centre.

Ministry and leadership

Worship Team members



We are looking for people to assist on the Worship team on a Sunday: welcomers, readers and people to help with morning tea. Please contact Helen Nicholson helen22nic@gmail.com if you are able to assist.

Synod 2021 has been postponed due to the current COVID situation.

Community Engagement

A.R.E.A

If you have not yet received your receipt for your donations to AREA (during the financial year), you can collect your letter at our church office. THANK YOU for your continuing financial support for Bruce Fleming at our High School. John Noble AREA Hon Treasurer.



Bach Bagpipes and Beatles concert

Thank to everyone who supported the Bach Bagpipes and Beatles concert last Sunday. The music was beautiful, and it was a joy to celebrate an event together. The last count was \$1700 raised for the 'Make-a-Wish' Foundation.





Sew Helpful Craft Group

Sew Helpful meet the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 1pm in the Ministry Centre. Everybody welcome.

Sermon notes on Mark 6.14-29

for Sunday 11th July

Feast or fiasco



I want you to think about the best feast you ever had. Relive the experience of the best feast ever, what made the experience so great? What was so wonderful?

Now imagine the worst dinner party fiasco ever. What went wrong? Was it a ... Christmas occasion???? Ambrose Bierce in "The Devil's Dictionary" defines Christmas in the following way: "A day set apart and consecrated to gluttony, drunkenness, maudlin sentiment, gift-taking, public dullness and domestic behaviour".

Feast or fiasco – the best feast ever or the worst banquet fiasco. Remembering these two experiences is a key to unlocking Mark 6.14-29.

Herod's Banquet fiasco contrasts Jesus' Feast of Equals (Mark 6.14-29 and Mark 6.30-44). Herod's banquet fiasco is an orgy of gastronomic overindulgence rather than a feast. In Herod's palace are the elite of his day, fat cats who profit at the expense and pain of others.

Later, we will encounter a new feast. At Jesus' feast, the people of God share a meal of elegant simplicity. Bread and fish is given to Jesus. Jesus offers to God gratitude for the gifts of the earth and shares bread with a great

multitude. (5000 men the Bible says, not counting women and children). This second feast of bread and fish is a miracle of sharing the fruits of the earth. The sharing of bread and fish echoes the story of Manna in the desert when God's people taste liberation



from oppression. Jesus' feast is the Good News; but it is not where we are today.

We struggle today with the first "meal" – the banquet fiasco of Herod. According to the historian Josephus, Herod had John the Baptist killed because John was just too good at his job. Josephus writes: "When others joined the crowds about John because they were aroused to the highest degree by his words, Herod became alarmed" (in Meyers 2008:14). Herod was worried that John was such a good public speaker that he might inspire an uprising.



Mark is not interested in writing an historical textbook. Since Mark's version differs from the historical facts of which Mark would have been aware, clearly there is a writing strategy that he wants us to understand.

Mark writes a parody of the death of John the Baptist. The word parody is important for us. Parody is satire – how one can criticise the powers that be through humour and the appeal to the ridiculous. Mark's interest is in explaining the injustice of Herod's kingdom through parody.



Mark creates a scene by appealing to the ridiculous. Herod and his friends are overindulging. On a drunken whim Herod makes a promise to his stepdaughter because she pleases him. There is something unsettling about Herod being pleased by his stepdaughter's dance and we the reader can sense the underlying incestuous nature of the scene. Given that Herod has married his brother's wife, there is a problem here. The marriage of Herod and Herodias, his brother Phillip's wife, is how Herod expands his kingdom and the political alliances he forms through marriage. The incestuous nature of Herod's relationship and how his family dynamics leak into his political relationships explains Mark's view of the inner circle of Jewish power. Through parody Mark implies that the structures of power are incestuous. Military, commerce, and government are in bed together.

Herodias, stepdaughter of Herod, asks for John's head on a platter. Herod obliges to "keep the oath he made". The head symbolises honour. Herod trades the prophet's honour to honour his own stupid drunken oath. What is ridiculous is how Herod honours his oath to Herodias because of the law but honours little else in the law. The ridiculous banquet scene is filled with the bitter pain of what it means to lose a truth teller. The parody is there to empower us with insight.



Herod's banquet is a parody that empowers us. It equips us to do two things. First, it helps us to see oppression as it really is. It puts "success" under a microscope. Power, money, and influence in Herod's life does not seem as

successful as the illusion would make us believe.

Secondly, the parody of the banquet offers an image of the cost of discipleship. The scene is set during the ministry of the disciples who go out in twos to heal and announce the good news (Mark 6.1-14). For truth tellers who announce an alternative world view, the consequences are that the world and its powers will not like it. In short to follow Jesus, to announce grace and mercy and a new way of life, you will lose your head. Oscar Romero knew that. Steve Biko knew that. Dorothy Day knew that. Andrew Wilkie knows that.

The parody of Herod's banquet prepares us also for the death of Jesus who dies similarly. Herod was grieved at the death of John. The word for grieve is used again of Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane. John died; Jesus will die too. Caiaphas hosting a banquet of his own will call for the death of Jesus.

In concluding I want to leave you with a gift, a present. The gift is a word. **Gasvryheid** generally translates as

hospitality. But it means more than that. **Gasvryheid** describes the kindness in welcoming a guest. Gas means guest. Vryheid means freedom. Thus, **gasvryheid** is the freedom of the guest.

This Good News can surely be the foundation of that beautiful word: **Gasvryheid** – freedom of the guest. Surely the feast that Jesus creates is precisely freedom; freedom from oppression, freedom from some having too much and others having too little, freedom to share so that there is fair balance where we all have enough.



Picture now in your hands two invitations to different parties, two different meals. One invitation is to Herod's banquet. A second invitation is the feast of bread and fish with Jesus. What type of meal do we want? Do we want a

meal in Herod's palace? A meal that is toxic because its indulgence is based on the slavery and exploitation of others? Or do we want to share in the meal that Jesus offers? The meal that Jesus offers is **gasvryheid** – freedom of the guest.

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 18th July to 25th July

18 th July	Sunday 9am Holy Communion Fun Car Tour 11am Ministry Centre carpark Sunday 5pm Messy Life?! Church
19 th July	Monday 10am Anam Cara Praying for You Parish Office open 9am-12pm Op Shop 9am-3pm
20 th July	Tuesday Parish Office closed
21 st July	Wednesday 9am Anam Cara Parish Office open 9am-12pm Op Shop 9am-3pm
22 nd July	Parish Office open 9am-12pm Op Shop 9am-3pm Play Place 9.30am-11.30am Thursday 6pm Anam Cara
23 rd July	Friday 10am Holy Communion Parish Office open 9am-12pm
25 th July	Sunday 9am Holy Communion Sunday 10am St Peter & St Paul's Tregeagle Sunday 4pm Messy Church