



Alstonville Anglicans

Seventeenth Sunday of Pentecost

Sunday 19th September 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 19th September

Sentence of the Day

Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.
Mark 9.35.

Collect

God and Father of all,
you have taught us through your Son that the last shall be
first,
and have made a little child the measure of your kingdom:
give us the wisdom from above,
so that we may understand that in your sight
the one who serves is the greatest of all.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Readings

Mark 9:30–37

³⁰ The disciples went on from there and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know it; ³¹ for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³² But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. ³³ Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴ But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵ He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶ Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

Messages

Pastoral Care

Family Crosses

On Sunday 19 September, the Family Cross is being given to Jenny & John Noble.



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.

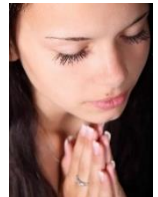
Mothers Union

Meetings are 3rd Monday of each month. Contact joyce@stephanies.com.au.

Prayers

This week we remember in our prayers the

- Noble Family



Good Governance

Lockdown is Over

At last lockdown is over. We are back to church. But remaining restrictions are:

- 4sqm rule applies so 9am services are still in the Ministry Centre

- No singing
- Masks worn indoors
- Ventilation is important – windows and doors open.

The Bishop has sent through the following fact sheet for your information.



Fact sheet

Delta and COVID-19 Vaccination

This factsheet contains information about COVID-19 and vaccination for patients.

About the Delta strain

The current NSW outbreak is due to the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus.

The Delta variant is estimated to spread more than twice as much as the original virus, and can cause more severe illness in those that do get it:

- The risk of being hospitalised for patients infected with the Delta variant is almost double that of those infected with the Alpha variant.
- Compared to other variants, people infected with the Delta strain are much more likely to be admitted to ICU and have a higher risk of death.

The delta variant may have slightly different symptoms from the original strain, and can include headache, sore throat, runny nose, fever and persistent cough.

Why get vaccinated?

Vaccines have been shown to be effective against COVID-19. Two doses of a vaccine:

- Reduces the chance you will be infected with COVID-19 by 50% - 60%.
- Gives you around 90% protection against hospitalisation and death from COVID-19 if you are infected.
- Significantly reduces the spread of COVID-19 to others, by at least half.

Even if you don't have symptoms or get sick, you can still pass the virus on to others. Getting vaccinated also helps to protect those you live with and the community.

Are vaccines effective against the Delta strain?

According to experts and evidence, COVID-19 vaccines are effective against severe disease and death from the Delta variant.

People who have received both doses of a vaccine are about three times less likely to be infected than unvaccinated people, and infections are usually mild.

Can I still get COVID-19 if I am vaccinated?

COVID-19 vaccines are a critical tool to keep people safe and bring the spread of the virus under control. However, no vaccines are 100% effective at preventing illness in vaccinated people.

A small number of people who are fully vaccinated will still be infected with COVID-19. These are called breakthrough cases.

Emerging evidence shows that the Delta variant causes a higher rate of vaccine breakthrough cases (19.7% compared to 5.8% for all other variants).

Vaccinated people who do get infected are equally infectious as non-vaccinated people, so it is important to continue to follow other health measures like wearing a mask once vaccinated.

However, the virus clears more quickly, and the disease is less severe for vaccinated people, so there is still a benefit to getting vaccinated.

Are COVID-19 vaccines safe?

All of the COVID-19 vaccines that are approved for use in Australia have strong safety profiles. To 8 August 2021, approximately 6.3 million doses of Pfizer and 7.4 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccines have been administered.

As with all medications, there are possible side effects associated with COVID-19 vaccines, but the chance of having an adverse reaction is extremely rare. Compared to the risk of acute and long-lasting illness from contracting COVID-19, the benefits of the vaccines are clear.

Blood clots

There is a small risk of blood clots associated with the AstraZeneca vaccine. In Australia, out of 7.4 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccine administered to date there have been 104 reports of blood clots linked to the vaccine, and 7 reported deaths.

Myocarditis and pericarditis

There have been some concerns with the Pfizer vaccine and adverse reactions that cause inflammation of the heart (myocarditis and pericarditis). Out of the 6.3 million doses of Pfizer vaccine administered to date, there have been 149 cases in Australia of suspected myocarditis and/or pericarditis. There have been no reported deaths.

According to the TGA, which monitors vaccine safety in Australia, the protective benefits of vaccination against COVID-19 far outweigh the potential risks. It is recommended that people 18+ or over get any available COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible.

Will I need to get a 'booster' shot?

There is evidence of long-lasting immune responses in people who have received an AstraZeneca vaccine. Questions remain about the longevity of mRNA vaccines such as Pfizer and Moderna.

Studies are underway to better understand how long vaccines provide protection against COVID-19, as well as how well they protect against new variants. This evidence will help to inform whether a booster shot will be needed to maintain protection against COVID-19.

More information

In the first instance, you should discuss any questions or concerns about COVID-19 vaccination with your GP.

Further information on COVID-19 and available vaccines can be found at www.nsw.gov.au.



The Parish Office is Open!
Our Parish office back open for business. We look forward to seeing you.
Our Op Shop is back open for business and services will resume Sunday 19th September.

Community Engagement

Community-On-the-verge

The Anam Cara meditation group is planning to develop a community food garden on the perimeter of St Bartholomew's church. The project will incorporate permaculture and planting in garden beds. Vegetables, fruit, edible plants and herbs will be grown.

The vision is that the garden will offer a connection point for our church community and the wider Alstonville community. We hope to develop a garden that people can work on, contribute to and harvest as a community.

Local community groups will be invited to be part of the project. The first working bee is scheduled for Saturday 30th October 2-4pm. (COVID permitting). Everyone is welcome.

COMMUNITY ON THE VERGE

Coming soon to
Alstonville
COMMUNITY ON-THE-VERGE

A FOOD GARDEN FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

JOIN IN THE FUN
ENJOY THE GARDEN ANYTIME...ALONE OR WITH FRIENDS
HARVEST FOOD AS YOU NEED IT...

WORKING BEE 30 OCTOBER 2021 | 2-4 P.M.
6 THE AVENUE | PARKING DALEY STR
PHONE ALAN 0409 655 123

Alstonville
Anglicans

If you would like to be involved in the planning and management of the project, or have any ideas to contribute please contact Alan Larsen on 0409 655 123 or Barbara Fewtrell 0429 385 713



Play Place

Play Place Thursday 9.30-11.30am
We look forward to being back together again. After this week Play Place will be in recess for the school holidays recommencing Thursday 7th October.

Worship and Spirituality



Anam Cara Earth Vigil

The Anam Cara group are organising an Earth Vigil Wednesday
3rd November 8am-8pm

Anam Cara

Wednesday 9am
Thursday 6pm

Messy Life Church?!

Messy Life Church?! is in recess during the school holidays.
Next Meeting will be Sunday 17th October 2021.

Messy Church

Messy Church will be meeting Sunday 26th September at 4pm.

Our theme is 'Back to Nature'

Messy Church Planning Meeting

Monday 20th September 3.30pm

Sermon discussion

Each week a 'Thought of the Week' is uploaded to our Youtube channel. Follow the link below to catch up with Helen and Desiree as they discuss the Gentile woman in Mark 8.

<https://studio.youtube.com/video/KBAbZdOkHPc/edit> P.S.

P.S. Remember to hit the subscribe button.

Sermon notes on Mark 8 for the 12th Sept

Wisdom 7.26-8.1, Mark 8.27-38

A bunch of serious medical professionals gathered on Q & A to address the concerns of the children of the nation. "Are we going to die?" asked seven year old Amaya. Of this, Virginia Trioli remarked, "You only ever try to bullshit a kid once."¹ After that, "you experience their directness, blunt questioning and reasoning as a tonic," a relief from the evasive spin and jargon of the post modern world.

This interaction highlights a major issue in all our lives to do with listening. As Trioli pointed out, we have seriously underestimated the capacity of youngsters to understand and engage with challenges that discombobulate many adults. Their voices simply *have not been heard*.

But the buck does not stop there. The business of listening is complex. I am convinced that human beings are almost incapable of real communication, because we all view the world through a multifaceted lens of linguistic, social, cultural,

¹ Virginia Trioli, Weekend Reads: A little girl's simple question, 28 August 2021



Image by Tumisu from Pixabay

religious and ethnic conventions,² alongside the ideologies of power structures associated with gender, race, and class.

When I say something, the hearer immediately translates what I have said into her/his own conceptual framework. I do the same. You do

the same. There seems no escape from the cultural myths of our own childhoods.

And how often do disagreements escalate into unmanageable situations, disagreements that usually arise from a misunderstanding of what another has said or done. Peter cannot cope with the notion of a Messiah crucified by elders, lay leaders and tall-steeple preachers.³ So he takes Jesus aside and “rebukes” him. The Greek word is *epitēmao* (ἐπιτιμᾶω), which has a range of meanings, the most extreme of which is “to censure severely.”⁴ Jesus responds equally strongly with an insult, “Get behind me Satan!” Their ideals and presuppositions are trading blows, while the real substance of their conversation is lost, and their relationship is bruised.

Oh for a modicum of restraint — and wisdom! Where is the Wisdom grace of our OT lesson?

There is in her a spirit that is intelligent, holy, unique, manifold, subtle, mobile, clear, unpolluted, distinct, invulnerable, loving the good, keen, irresistible, beneficent, humane, steadfast, sure, free from anxiety, all-powerful,

² See Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza's masterful analysis “G*d - The Many-Named” in John D Caputo & Michael J Scanlon Eds. *Transcendence and Beyond: A Postmodern Enquiry* (Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press 2007) p117

³ See C Clifton Black, Commentary on Mark 8.27-38, Working Preacher 10/09/21

⁴ See Strong's NT 2008

overseeing all, and penetrating through all spirits that are intelligent, pure, and altogether subtle. (Wisdom 7.22-23)

For she is a breath of the power of God, and a pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty; therefore nothing defiled gains entrance into her. For she is a reflection of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the working of God, and an image of her goodness. (Wisdom 7.25-26)

Where is Wisdom to be found? You cannot buy it; and even the tantalising passage from the Wisdom of Solomon gives little clue about the whereabouts of Wisdom, except that it is something to do with God.

She reaches mightily from one end of the earth to the other, and she orders all things well. (Wisdom 8.1)

The Book of Job “presents the most ironic conclusion of all — the Wisdom of God is only seeing the full range of the world’s variety, including its arbitrariness, its senselessness.”⁵ We have grown up to expect order in our world and universe, witness the striving of science to determine that very order and make sense of it. However, even science is at the mercy of human frailty. Furthermore, although we may see orderliness, the “rationality in the material universe,” the more we become aware that that rationality is “lacking in the moral world.”

⁵ Rowan Williams *A Ray of Darkness* (Plymouth UK : Cowley Publications 1995) p 201)

We celebrate today the Second Sunday of our Season of Creation; although I am tempted to rename it the Season of *Destruction*, because that is exactly the course upon which the world is set, guided by human beings who do not listen, and who lack the moral intelligence to understand either themselves or the world around us.



We may devote ourselves to explanation, rational skill, and control, but at the same time we must bear in mind that such skills and control throw into stark relief, the uncontrollable world of human disorder and its suffering. Wisdom is more than explanatory skill on the one hand and intuitive penetration on the other.⁶

The “wisdom” to which the Book of Job directs us, actually avoids *interpreting* Job’s suffering. He refuses the rationalisations his friends offer. His “answer,” if you will, lies in the troubling passage where he accepts that the sight of God is itself the resolution. This is not simply a passive acceptance of “mystery,” which *can* be a cop out; Job perceives in the world, a boundless resource of creative gift behind its chaos.⁷

In this light, Wisdom is the celebration of order *and* the cry of protest at what is without order.

Amaya’s question to the medical experts is but one of the many cries of protest, uttered by people who are silenced by those who do not listen, those who belittle and sideline other human beings. Food for thought — even the environment utters cries

⁶ *ibid* p202

⁷ *ibid*

of protest; witness the extremes of weather and the consequences thereof — firestorms, floods, hurricanes.

Which gives rise to another question posed by Moira Donegan — “What, if it’s too late to save our planet without geoengineering?”⁸ Geoengineering means ways that human beings can change the climate through interventions of one sort or another. The answer is clear; the pace of climate change, and the paucity of the human response, have already made that choice. Unbelievably, the dominant power structures of the planet still do not listen, entrenched as they are in their ivory castles built of cash. Houses of cards, actually.

Their deafness is deafening.

At the National Women’s Safety Summit last week, Thelma Schwartz acknowledged the women who came before her, who laid the foundations for her to be there as an Indigenous woman, as an Indigenous lawyer, and she went on declare that “Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children have not been seen — they have been silenced ... *I refuse to be used as a tick and flick measure*”.⁹

Her shirt-fronting points to a deeper inquiry about intention.¹⁰ Are political leaders and the mega-wealthy capable of change?

Do they want to change? Those kinds of human conversions, from being deficient to being present, from avoidance to

⁸ What if it’s too late to save our planet without geoengineering? Moira Donegan, The Guardian 26 August 2021

⁹ ... not when Aboriginal women were 32 times more likely to be hospitalised due to family violence, 10 times more likely to die due to assault, and 45 times more likely to be victims of violence. Not when she was aware of cases in remote communities where young children, victims of sexual assault, had to “wait, untouched, unshowered, because there was no paediatric specialist to undertake the forensic intimate service”.

¹⁰ Katherine Murphy, “Trying to do our best” is just not good enough from our leaders, The Guardian, Saturday 11 September 2020

leadership, are substantive, soulful, searching. They are not tick and flick. They require deep reflection, humility and listening.¹¹

“To listen without humility is to presume a right to evaluate, to judge, and to control the conversation. Each of these acts is an act of dominance”, and dominance is “ultimately incompatible with one’s ability to listen with humility—to listen for listening’s own sake, without presuming you have a right to control. Listening *is* humility when it relinquishes dominance.”¹²

As Rainer Maria Rilke wrote:

I believe in all that has never yet been spoken.
I want to free what waits within me
so that what no one has dared to wish for
may for once spring clear
without my contriving.
If this is arrogant, God, forgive me,
but this is what I need to say.
May what I do flow from me like a river,
no forcing and no holding back,
the way it is with children.
Then in these swelling and ebbing currents,
these deepening tides moving out, returning,
I will sing you as no one ever has,
streaming through widening channels
into the open sea.¹³

¹¹ op cit Katherine Murphy

¹² Amy Lawton, “Listening as Practice of Humility” in *The Immanent Frame*, 13 February 2018 <https://tif.ssrc.org/2018/02/13/listening-as-a-practice-of-humility/> download 2021/09/11

¹³ from Rainer Maria Rilke's *Book of Hours: Love Poems to God*, by Rainer Maria Rilke / Translated by Joanna Macy

ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALSTONVILLE

OUR VISION

Our vision and purpose is:

Sharing the Good Life.

Sharing the Good Life means:

we partner with God in creating heaven on earth.

OUR MISSION

In sharing the Good Life, we cultivate:

- **Invigorating, diverse** worship and **transforming** spirituality.
- **Outstanding** community engagement
- **Nourishing pastoral care.**
- **Empowering & visionary servant** leadership
- **Good Governance** of property, finances, administration and a Safe Church Culture.

OUR STRUCTURE

Portfolio	Purpose
Pastoral Care	To show Christ's love in action.
Worship & Spirituality	To glorify God, proclaim the good news and pursue peace and reconciliation through personal and social transformation.
Community engagement (outreach and communication)	To respond to human need by loving service. To have communication that is caring, clear, concise, correct and that connects people with each other.
Op Shop	To respond to human need by loving service.
Leadership	To implement the vision, mission, values and to work towards strategic goals.

Good governance: Finance, Admin, Safe Ministry and Property	To have outstanding facilities and sustainable resources for mission & ministry.
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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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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 19th September to 26th September

19 th Sept	Sunday 9am Holy Communion
20 th Sept	Monday 10am Anam Cara Praying for You Parish Office open 9am-12pm Op Shop open 9am-3pm
21 st Sept	Tuesday Parish Office closed (Please avoid going to the office)
22 nd Sept	Wednesday 9am Anam Cara Parish Office open 9am-12pm Op Shop open 9am-3pm
23 rd Sept	Messy Church Planning Meeting 3.30pm Parish Office open 9am-12pm Op Shop open 9am-3pm
24 th Sept	Thursday Anam Cara 6pm Friday 10am Holy Communion Parish Office open 9am-12pm
26 th Sept	Sunday 9am Holy Communion Messy Church 4pm

Values

What follows are the best words that we are able to offer, to describe what we love best about Alstonville Anglicans. When you come to us and when we go to you, this is what we are thinking and feeling.

Beloved:

each person comes into the world as an original blessing from God. Thus, each person is a beloved person: significant, wanted and loved.

Belonging:

anyone who wants to belong already belongs. We want to welcome each other as a gift, saying, "my greatest difference from you is my greatest gift to you". Community matters and is protected. We want to consciously enjoy each other hearing "the Christ in me sees the Christ in you."

Being:

we are human beings not human doings. Our being present is important. The Spirit of God vibrates within us "like a pure diamond, blazing with the invisible light of heaven."

Believing:

we are partners with God in living heaven on earth now. We want to be one call among many, offering a provocative but compassionate voice calling for a whole new way of thinking and believing that is loving, liberating and lifegiving.

Blessing:

as beloved original blessings, we are blessed to be a blessing to others. God is always on God's way through us to creation, of which humans are a part. We believe everyone is called, that everyone has something beautiful to do for God. We want to be the sort of beloved community that creates space for people to express their calling.