



Alstonville
Anglicans

Fourth Sunday of Pentecost

Sunday 20th June 2021



Sharing the Good Life

We acknowledge the Bundjalung people,
Traditional custodians of the Land.
Our doors are open: LGBTQIA+ welcome here.
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Liturgy for 20th June

Sentence of the Day

Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?

Mark 4.41

Collect

O God our defender,
storms rage about us and cause us to be afraid:
rescue your people from despair,
deliver your sons and daughters from fear,
and preserve us all from unbelief;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings

Mark 4:35–41

³⁵ On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." ³⁶ And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. ³⁷ A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. ³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" ³⁹ He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. ⁴⁰ He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" ⁴¹ And they were filled with great awe and said to

one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Messages

Worship and Spirituality portfolio

Subscribe to AnglicansLive on YouTube

Next Messy Life ?! Church

Sunday 20th June 5pm

We look forward to seeing you.



Love as energy in the spirit of Teilhard

- Saturday 26 June
- 10am-3pm
- 6 The Avenue Alstonville
- Bring a plate to share and journals, pens etc for creative expression (Cost: donation)

Join Alstonville Anglicans
in a Quiet Day led by
Kelly Tancred.

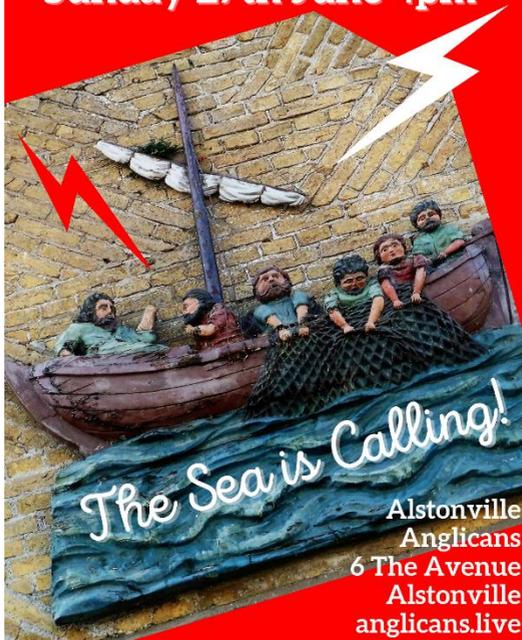
"Through her deep stillness, Kelly creates a sacred space where all are welcomed and their desire for communion with the Divine is nurtured. Her facilitation of silence is utterly stunning"
(Desiree Snyman)

come as ... you

anglicans.live



Messy Church Sunday 27th June 4pm



Baptisms

Sunday 27th June 9am we will be welcoming 2 families who are bringing their children to be baptised among us.

Pastoral Care

Family Crosses



On Sunday 20 June, the Family Cross is being given to Mark & Lyn Stuckey.



Prayers

- Stuckey Family
- Sharp Family

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.

Leadership Empowering

Synod 2021 is 6th – 8th August. If you have any questions or motions forward them to the Synod Representatives: Mark Stuckey, Cathy Angus, Rev Desiree.

Diocesan Redress Scheme Compensation for victims

The diocese has a moral, and also legal obligation to compensate people who were abused as children in church care. Although the church now has protocols to help prevent further abuse, the lives of many of these historic survivors were ruined.

Of course, we need to continue to uphold victims prayerfully but, as well, financial compensation can help.

It will be very expensive. We are all in this together, and all parishes are contributing.

The diocese has developed a **Diocesan Compensation Proposal**. We have received a letter explaining the financial impacts on the Diocese and each Parish.

This letter is at the church office.

After you have read the letter, you can direct any questions you may have to the wardens or any parish councillor.

Bruce Sharp
Warden

Sound Panels for Hall

In a bid to improve the acoustics in the hall we will be installing some sound panels. It is hoped this will lessen the reverb that we currently experience. If you have any questions, please talk to Bruce Sharp.

Good Governance

COVID Restrictions

- sign in
- sanitise.

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. 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.

Community Engagement



Working Bee

There is to be a working bee to clean the kitchen in the Ministry Centre. Saturday 3rd July 8am – 12noon. Contact Phil Cowie 0402 488 545 for further details.



Heartfelt House is moving premises in July 2021. We would like to invite all past participants, volunteers, supporters, donors and friends of Heartfelt House to come back to the beautiful grounds and house to say a farewell.

Date: Wednesday the 23rd of June Time: 10am - 12pm
Location: Heartfelt House - 301 Lismore Road, Wollongbar
Due to COVID regulations registration is required - please do so via the eventbrite link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/heartfelt-house-premises-farewell-tickets-157564261949>

Sermon notes on Ezekiel 17:22-24 for Sunday 13th June

Ezekiel 17:22-24

²²Thus says the Lord God: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. ²⁴All the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the Lord have spoken; I will accomplish it.

Mark 4:26-34

²⁶He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is

ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Introduction

New immigrants to Australia surely provide hours of entertainment to true blue, dinky die, fair dinkum, yocal local Aussies. For example:

- An immigrant’s terror at all the different things that kill you in country Australia.
- Bringing a plate to a bring-and-share function because you were asked to “bring a plate” and feeling silly because your plate is empty.
- Scratching your head and trying to translate the untranslatable such as this: “pass my sunnies would ya. I gotta make tracks cos I’m meeting the rellos for brekkie at the maccas near the servo”. Even writing this down has caused by spell check to melt down in a hissy fit.



Image by Natsyan from Pixabay

When my family and I first arrived in Australia, it was our gardening habits that amused the locals. We had created a garden bed around what we thought were the most beautiful ferns. The Aussies were in hysterics. Turns out our “ferns” were hated bracken that farmers spent hours trying to be rid of. Besides nurturing the bracken, we were delighted with the arum lilies that we tended with much care. In South Africa these arum lilies are sought after expensive plants. In Australia they are such a dangerous, noxious weed, they are illegal to grow. Even having them on your property could cop you an outrageously expensive fine.



In reflecting on these early experiences, the number one lesson to learn is **the importance of understanding context. Context determines meaning.** In one context, a flower is highly treasured, in another context that same flower is so noxiously dangerous it can totally destroy one of the world’s most unique biodiversity hotspots. We can apply this lesson to reading scripture – **context determines meaning.**

Context of Mark 4: 26 -35

Besides the narrative context of a Biblical passage, we also pay attention to the geographical, economic, historical and political contexts.

Narrative and geo-political context

Jesus precedes the parable about the seed growing by itself with the parable of a crop that produces an overabundance (Mark 4.1-9). The crop is out of control. The story is dangerously and politically subversive. With such a bumper crop, any tenant farmer can pay off the entirety of his debt and have wealth left

over. Jesus is threatening the basis of the serf economy of this time. Through this parable Jesus is announcing the good news of the kingdom – the cancellation of debt and the freedom of people – the day of jubilee.

For first century middle eastern Galilean subsistence farmers, mustard is noxious plant (Mark 4.30-32). Mustard seed is so invasive it is banned from gardens by rabbis because it would take over. Why on earth would anyone plant a mustard seed? It would be the equivalent of a Northern Rivers macadamia farmer planting lantana or alligator weed.

The flavour of these stories is anarchy. Jesus is comparing the kingdom of God to wild, untamed, out of control growth of both good and bad seed – all of which are embraced. The grain harvest is as feral as the mustard seed harvest, and neither can be controlled, and both are abundant.

Biblical context

The parable of the seed that grows all by itself and no one knows how, and the mustard seed evoke memory from different aspects of the biblical context including Ezekiel, Moses, Exodus and Abraham and Sarah our spiritual ancestors.

Mark uses the parable from Ezekiel in telling the story of the mustard seed. The small sprig planted by Yahweh will bear fruit and the branches will shelter birds in Ezekiel 17.22 as they do in Mark 4.30-32.

In Ezekiel the tree metaphor is two edged: while it refers to the shelter offered by trees (as in Ezekiel 17.22). The tree image also criticises political empires. In Ezekiel 30 God will cause the



imperial trees to be cut down, “and upon its ruin will dwell the birds of the air” (Ezekiel 31.4). In Ezekiel 30 and 31 the empire of Egypt will fall. In Mark 4 the empire of Rome and temple religion will fall.

Mark also evokes memories of the Exodus people, runaway slaves, feasting on Manna as it rained down from heaven. The lavishness of the crops described in the parables of Mark 4 point to the abundant provision of God for God’s people in the wilderness of the desert after fleeing Pharaoh’s Egypt.

Mark’s Gospel is a manual on political resistance, a “how to” guide for resisting empire. In today’s terms Mark’s manual on effective far-reaching discipleship translates well for those critiquing colonial exploitation, capitalism, racism and oppressive economies that privilege the wealthy by stealing from the poor. In times of fatigue, when hopeful optimism turns to depressing cynicism, Mark’s parables advocate patience, and instil courage and hope. When faced with the powers of oppression Mark’s Gospel inspires faith over anxiety and the keen reminder that the small acts of resistance yield abundant dividends.

Mark’s parables in the context of 21st century Alstonville Anglicans

In our context we may not be faced with the oppressive onslaught of a Roman empire and a corrupt religious institution exploiting the vulnerable. However, Mark’s message of hope against darkness and that the small acts of light are stronger than any darkness, does sustain us. Current struggles that we may be concerned about include the looming climate

catastrophe and the struggle for women's dignity, safety and full personhood in a time when domestic violence against women has never been higher. This week a report was released that indicates that domestic abuse is higher in the Anglican church than the national average. Clearly there is something about the culture, patriarchy and explicit and implicit messages of our Anglican churches that breed a violent environment. It is normal when working for positive transformation to feel despondent. At these low times Mark's message about the effectiveness of the mustard seed inspires our faith, our imagination, our patience and our endurance as we partner with God for a world of mercy and justice.

On a personal level some may be weighed down by illness, mental health issues like depression or anxiety, grief or loneliness. The journey to full flourishing health and healing takes courage and energy. There may be times when we feel that the struggle to be whole is too overwhelming for us. We may be tempted to give up and give in. Again, Mark's parables reach into us, reminding us that it is more common than we realise to feel despondent. In moments when we feel our efforts are too small we remember the power of the mustard seed that yields an abundance and kind shelter to others despite its small beginning. Our small efforts work in the long run. We can choose faith over anxiety, creativity and imagination over negativity and patience over apathy.

I conclude with three sentences written on the wall of a Jewish concentration camp in Cologne during World War 2.

I believe in the sun when there is no sunshine.

I believe in love even when there is no one around.

I believe in God even when God is silent.

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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website: anglicans.live

Bank account: BSB 705 077 / Acc:00032931

The Anglican Op Shop

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

Dates 20th June to 27th June

20 th June	Sunday 9am Holy Communion Messy Life?! Church 5pm Come Walk the Line
21 st June	Monday 10am Anam Cara Praying for You Parish Office open 9am-12pm Op Shop 9am-3pm
22 nd June	Tuesday Parish Office closed
23 rd June	Wednesday 9am Anam Cara Parish Office open 9am-12pm Op Shop 9am-3pm
24 th June	Thursday 9.30am Play Place Parish Office open 9am-12pm Op Shop 9am-3pm Thursday 6pm Anam Cara
25 th June	Friday 10am Holy Communion Parish Office open 9am-12pm
27 th June	Sunday 9am Holy Communion with Baptisms Sunday 10am St Peter & St Paul's Tregeagle

AN AFTERNOON CONCERT
OF CELTIC FUSION

BACH BAGPIPES BEATLES

**SUNDAY
11 JULY 2021
3PM
ST MARTIN'S
38 STUART
STREET
MULLIMBIMBY**

A fundraiser for
"Make a Wish"

Suggested cash donation \$20

Rev Desiree is performing with Marius and other Alstonville musicians to raise money for the 'Make a Wish' Foundation Sunday 11th July 3pm in St Martin's Church Mullumbimby.
Be entertained and benefit a very worthy cause.