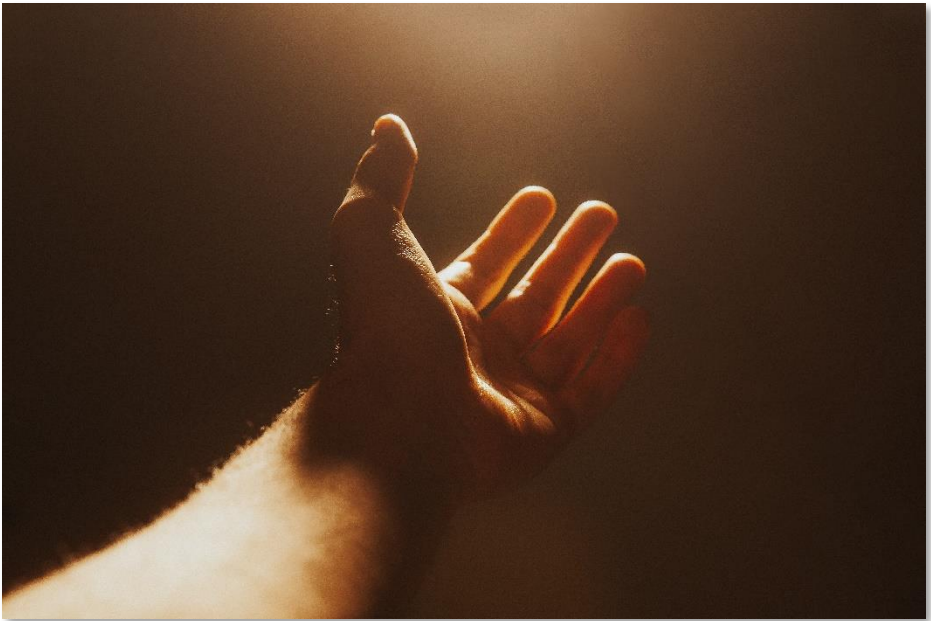




Alstonville
Anglicans

Sunday 20th August 2023

Welcome



Sharing the Good Life

We acknowledge the Bundjalung people, traditional custodians of the Land.

Our doors are open: LGBTQIA+ welcome here.

Streaming licence: CCLI 102220

Alstonville Anglicans are committed to ensuring that all people who participate in our worship, programs and ministries have a safe and rewarding experience.

Tel: 66280231 www.anglicans.live

Bank account: BSB 705 077 / Acc:00032931

20th August – 27th August

20 th August		Sunday Holy Communion
	9am	
21 st August		Monday Parish Office
	9am-12pm	
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
	10am	Anam Cara
	10am	Deadline for bulletin items
22 nd August		Tuesday Parish Office Closed
	9am-12pm	
23 rd August		Wednesday Parish Office Open
	9am-12pm	
	9am	Anam Cara
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
24 th August		Thursday Parish Office Open
	9am-12pm	
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
	9.30am	Play Place
	6pm	Anam Cara
25 th August		Friday Parish Office Open
	9am-12pm	
	10am	Holy Communion
26 th August		Saturday Installation of the new Dean of Grafton
	11am	
27 th August		Sunday Holy Communion
	9am	
	8.50am	Big Day Out

This bulletin contains current announcements and the week's calendar and the sermon notes from the previous Sunday. Use our welcome booklet for info and contact details for regular activities. Keep it as a reference tool. We welcome any feedback on the booklet. [../..../welcomeBooklet_v3.pdf](#)

To Make you Smile




What do you call a
group of men
waiting for a
haircut?

A barber queue!

Celebrate St Bart's Day:

A BIG DAY OUT!

 Date: Sunday 27 August

 Time: 8:50 AM - 5:00 PM

 Cost \$7 pp

 Location: Hosanna Farm Stokers Siding

 **Get ready for farm-tastic fun!**

What's in Store?

 Carpool Ministry Centre: 8.50am





 Arrive and Connect Time: 10am

 Celebration Time: 10.30am

 Lunch: BYO 11am

 Meet the Animals: 12pm



-  Water slide 1pm
-  Treasure Hunt 2pm
-  Nature Walk 3pm
-  Home time 4pm

Do not Miss Out on the Big Day Out

Round up your family, friends, and anyone who loves an enjoyable time. Whether you are young or young-at-heart, this farm outing promises joy, laughter, and wonderful memories.

To Reserve Your Spot or Learn More:

\$7 through the church or \$10pp purchased at Reception when you arrive. Contact office@anglicans.live

Getting There:

Carpool from 8 The Avenue 8.50am or meet us there. Hosanna Farm is in the picturesque Stoker's Siding. Follow the signs from Tweed Valley Way and get ready for a day of adventure!

Join Us for Farm Delights and Smiles

Galore! (PS all activities optional)

Sunday 27 August 9am

Sunday 27 August is St Bart's patronal festival. To celebrate being family, Messy Church, together with Play Place, the Fridays@10 church service and the Sundays@9 community are invited to a Big Day Out. We will carpool at 8.50am from the Ministry Centre and arrive at Hosanna Farm at 10am. Some may choose to meet us at Hosanna Farm. Please bring your own picnic lunch and a chair or blanket to sit on. If paying directly to the church the cost is \$7. You can pay on the day and the cost is \$10. We will be back at the church at 5pm. Please let the wardens know if your are willing to help with transport.

Sunday 27 August 9am Service

There will still be a Eucharist service on 27 August 9am. It will be a simple Eucharist from the prayerbook. As most of the volunteers will be attending the Big Day Out there will unfortunately not be tea and coffee after the service.



Vigil for our Earth

Come for
quiet thoughtfulness
anytime between 8am-6pm
at St Bartholomew's
6 The Avenue Alstonville
Wed 30 August 2023

**Unite in a fierce love
for our sacred earth**

 Alstonville
Anglicans anglicans.live

Name Badges

If you have ordered a name badge recently, please call into the office during office hours to collect and pay for your badge.

Quota Alstonville Craft & Garden Fair

Alstonville Showgrounds August 26 & 27

From St Mary's Ballina NSW

Upcoming Studies St Mary's Ballina: At the end of August there will be a 4-week exploration of Psalms led by Hamsa, Watch this space!

Sleepbus

It looks likely that we will be getting a Sleep bus in Ballina, which is fantastic news. It will be based at St Mary's. Interested in volunteering? The volunteer roles are:

There are four main roles:

1. **Caretaker:** If you take this on, you are the boss of the service for that night; you make sure all guests are allocated a sleep pod and get tucked in. You also get to sleep on sleep bus for the night in the private Caretakers Cabin to ensure all our guests are well taken care of and to help overnight. The Caretakers Cabin is for two, so there is opportunity to share this role with someone else. Shift starts at 8 pm and finishes at 8 am

2. **Service volunteer:** You are there to assist our guests (and their companion animals) to get into their sleep pod for the night or out in the morning.

- Can be done with a group of friends
- Evening shift is 8pm to 10pm at the latest
- Morning shift is 7am to 8am

3. **Housekeeping:** The Housekeeper's role is to reset the sleep bus each morning, stripping and making beds and ensuring everything is clean and fresh for the next night's service, and you can do this with a group of friends, family, or work colleagues. A laundry service cleans the dirty laundry.

- Shift is 9 am to around 11 am

- Can be done with a group of friends
- All cleaning supplies/equipment provided

4. **Driver:** Drivers are needed to pick up the Sleep bus from the depot and drop it to St Mary's in the evening, and then return it to the depot in the morning.

- MUST have a valid HR licence
- Evening | Pick up sleep bus at 7pm and deliver to St Mary's
- Morning | Pick up sleep bus at 8am and deliver to depot location (location to be confirmed)

Contact: Rev Cathy Ridd Email: revridd@gmail.com
Mobile: 0427 836 988

St Francis College Public Lecture: The Idea of the Magdalene

Emeritus Professor Philip C. Almond.

Location: St Francis Theological College 233 Milton Rd Milton, QLD 4064

Mary Magdalene is a key figure in the history of Christianity. After Mary, the mother of Jesus, she remains the most important female saint in her guise both as primary witness to the resurrection and 'apostle of the apostles'.

In his recent book *Mary Magdalene: A Cultural History*, Philip Almond focused on her 'lives' as these have been imagined and reimagined within Christian tradition. Philip Almond disentangles the numerous narratives that have shaped the story of Mary over the past two millennia and through a thoughtful exploration of the 'idea' of the Magdalene – her cult, her relics, her legacy – he has managed to deftly peel back complex layers of history and myth to reveal many different versions of the Magdalene, including but not limited to: the penitent prostitute; demoniac; miracle worker; wife and lover of Jesus; symbol of the erotic; and New Age goddess.

Join us on September 8 at 5:00pm for Evening Prayer in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, followed by refreshments and the Public Lecture with Emeritus Professor Philip Almond from 6:30pm in Lecture Room 1.

Sermon Sunday 13th August by Geoff Vidal

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28, Matthew 14:22-36

The Friday congregation is a little more senior than we are on Sundays. The pews are harder on bottoms on Fridays so there is a shorter service of only the Gospel reading and two hymns. On a Sunday we often have the First Testament reading and there is a little more time for the sermon on Sundays. I try to work out what will be helpful to share in that time taking into consideration that there are differing expectations. Some people are wanting to learn new things and some people are hoping that they will have the things that they know confirmed. There's no way we will all think the same things at the same time: we are all wonderfully different. But, thank goodness that we are not all clones of each other.

Both the First Testament and the New Testament include the instruction that we are to love the Lord our God with all our heart and all our soul and all our mind and all our strength. Loving God by using all our mind is as important as loving God with all our heart and soul and strength. Some people find home groups (or life groups) help them to grow in their love of God. Books help growing minds; last week Desiree spoke of the helpful Julia Baird book "Phosphorescence". At least one person who comes each Friday watches Christian TV early each morning. Another very popular connection with God is the TV program Songs of Praise (although watching Songs of Praise might be using more heart or soul than mind).

I am truly blessed in that I have an opportunity to meet with a few other men most Tuesday mornings and chew over a range of different theological and ethical ideas. We agree on lots of things but at times I am challenged by new ideas. I have to think



differently and to consider why I think the way I think.

Loving God with all your mind mostly comes down to trying to comprehend how we envisage God and what is our understanding of Jesus.

So, perhaps we come here to church very sincerely looking for a clearer understanding of who Jesus really is. Or maybe you would like to have your thoughts of Jesus confirmed. Possibly we are seeking a better knowledge of God. You might have come to church today trying to figure out where God can be found.

There is a funny story of a misbehaving boy being given a "talking to" by a priest. When asked the question "where is God?", he became extremely distressed and ran home telling his mother "they have lost God down at the church and are blaming me for it!"

Well, just where is God? Maybe the Bible readings we have heard today can help

The reading from Genesis is more than just the story of Jacob's older sons being so fed up by the way he favours and spoils their young brother, Joseph, that when they have a chance, they get rid of Joseph. They don't kill Joseph as a few of them wanted to do, but they have him sold as a slave to be taken to Egypt.

There's a reminder in this story of the power of evil in the world. Oppression isn't a problem "out there" with slave traders and Pharaohs. Oppression happens very close to home when there is not peace between brothers or clans.

This story of Joseph being taken to Egypt as a slave is the link between God's promise to Joseph's ancestor Abraham and God's rescue of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. God was present and involved in the lives of Abraham and Jacob and Joseph and in the life of Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt.

It's distressing to hear survivors of the Holocaust (or relatives of victims) question the presence of God arguing that, if God did exist such horrors would not occur. I have read a book by Rabbi Kushner (a prominent Jewish theologian in New York) who tells his readers that it is much more helpful and appropriate to focus on the positive

story of God in the Exodus of the slaves from Egypt than the evil actions of Nazi Germans.

However, there are times when we wonder where God is. Why wasn't God there to stop that disaster; that flood or fire or car crash or the abuse of that child or wife. Although we wonder where can we find God, the strange thing is, that, in fact, it is God who comes to find us.

Our Gospel story from Matthew reminds us of how God (who we think we are looking for) can come to us unexpectedly. The story begins with Jesus, at the end of a busy day, sending his disciples away and going off alone to a secluded place to pray. Jesus often went away to pray when he had been busy. Each of the Gospels record that, when there was a lot going on, Jesus first priority was to get in touch with God in prayer.

In this story today, we have a clear contrast between the situation of Jesus and that of his followers. When evening came Jesus was praying alone, but his disciples were in a boat, battered by the waves. They were a long way out from land, and they had the wind against them.

Late in the night, Jesus comes to them out of the darkness, walking across the waters. Yet, despite their need for Jesus, the disciples are terrified at his presence. They yell out, "It is a ghost!". Jesus reveals himself to them saying "It is I" and he encourages them by saying "Take heart; do not be afraid".

Now, Peter is prepared to take a risk if Jesus asks him to. Peter says, if it is Jesus, he will only have to tell him to come across the water to him, and he will do it. Initially, Peter places his trust in the Lord, but then he becomes really scared as he looks away from Jesus and becomes focussed on the storm going on around him. However, as Peter starts sinking, he calls on the help of the Lord, and Jesus holds him and keeps him safe. In Peter's situation of little faith and doubt, his Lord has stood by him.

Jesus and Peter get into the boat, the wind drops, and the disciples are very aware that Jesus has rescued them one more time. They boldly proclaim: "'Truly, you are the Son of God.'"



It would be a pun, wouldn't it, if I said, "Most Christians are in the same boat as the disciples and Peter." But we are! We are not always confident that Jesus is present with us. We often begin with the great courage which only faith can give us. However, this courage of faith seems to disappear when a storm blows up in our lives. We are not very confident when we

are being knocked around by all the problems that trouble us in our lives.

This Gospel story is a great reminder that God is present even when we don't expect it and, ultimately, we are dependent upon the gracious help of our Lord. It is in knowing the presence of Jesus that we are able to get across whatever stormy patch we find ourselves in. Jesus is the one who is close to God, who gives us the example of looking to God for guidance and strength.

However, even when we have our moments of believing that God is right there (thinking that God is present with us), our faith can be a bit shaky. Our faith can be very tentative if we have to jump out the boat into stormy water.

The encouragement is for us to know that, when difficulties come our way, it is possible to find that God is truly there; it is possible to find assurance that God is present coming out of the darkness into our lives.

Encouragingly, Peter's story, and the story of disciples who thought Jesus was only a ghost, reminds us that even people with only a little faith can still find that Jesus is not far away - just out at the edge of our vision we can find Jesus coming in towards us; Jesus wanting us to see him and draw him in to us.

Yes, Jesus still comes, reaching out his hand and catching us, pulling us up out of the strife we are in, calming the things swirling around us, leading us into the safety and peace which only God can give. Blessing us with peace which is beyond our understanding.

Sentence of the Day

Thus says the Lord, 'Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.' Isaiah 56.1

Collect

God of freedom,
you have broken the tyranny of sin
and sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts:
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,
that all people may know the glorious liberty
of the children of God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Matthew 15:21-28

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' ²⁴ He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' ²⁶ He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' ²⁷ She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.