



Alstonville Anglicans

Christ the King

Sunday 20th November 2022

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

Dates 20th November to 27th November

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| 20 th Nov | Sunday |
| 9am | Holy Communion |
| 21 st Nov | Monday |
| 9am-12pm | Parish Office Open |
| 9am-3pm | Op Shop |
| 22 nd Nov | Tuesday |
| | Parish Office Closed (No office access) |
| 4pm | Singalong group (in recess) |
| 23 rd Nov | Wednesday |
| 9am-12pm | Parish Office Open |
| 9am | Anam Cara (contact Charlie) |
| 9am-3pm | Op Shop |
| 24 th Nov | Thursday |
| 9am-12pm | Parish Office Open |
| 9am-3pm | Op Shop |
| 6pm | Anam Cara (contact Charlie) |
| 25 th Nov | Friday |
| 9am-12pm | Parish Office Open |
| 10am | Holy Communion |
| 27 th Nov | Sunday |
| 9am | Holy Communion |
| | St Peter & Paul's Day |

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.

https://anglicans.live/s/welcomeBooklet_v2.pdf

Community Engagemnet

Ballina Region for Refugees



Run for Refugees Sunday 20th November

The event is a 5 kilometre walk or run out and back from Ballina North Wall to Black Head car park past Shelley Beach.

Our team of parishioners will have completed the walk by 9am Sunday . You can still sponsor or donate by contacting Robin Delaney or Barry Campey..

Quota Alstonville's Creative Christmas Tree Event



Sat / Sun 26th & 27th November
10am-3pm
Alstonville Community Centre
All proceed go to local charities.

Our Messy Church families have created a wonderful entry.



LET'S MAKE SOME
JOYFUL NOISE!

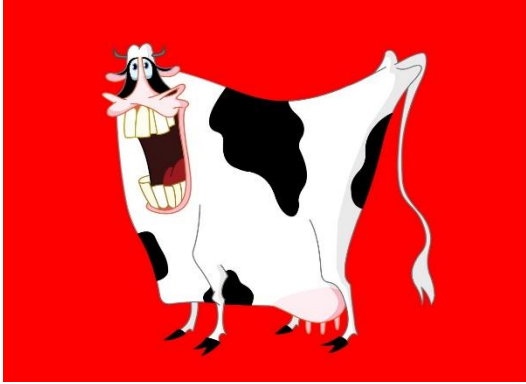
Sing-a-long Group

In recess
Tuesday 22nd &
29th November.



Alstonville
Anglicans
6 The Avenue
Alstonville
anglicans.live

To make you smile!



Some guy just
pulled on my
udder...

How dairy!



ALSTONVILLE ANGLICANS
Christmas High Tea

SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER FROM 2PM

\$15 entry includes gift

WEAR YOUR BEST CHRISTMAS OUTFIT



Contact the parish office
for more information

6 The Avenue Alstonville
anglicans.live 66280231



Sunset
Sounds
in the
Garden

DEC 10, 5 PM

Free Community Concert
BYO picnic
Children's activities

Alstonville Anglicans
6 The Avenue
Alstonville
anglicans.live

Good Governance

Lawn Mowing Roster



The new roster November 2022 – November 2023 is now being created. We are looking for an extra team of 2 people to spread the load so that each team would only have 3 times per year. If you can help please contact Barry Campey 6628 3089

Worship & Spirituality

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a red Santa hat with a white pom-pom and a black blazer over a white shirt, is holding several wrapped Christmas gifts. She has a surprised expression on her face, with her mouth wide open. The background is a solid green color.

Messy Church
(Family focused with craft and games)

Are you Christmas Crazy?
Come and prepare with us!

Sunday 27th November
at 4pm

Family friendly dinner
PS Please bring a salad to share!

Alstonville Anglicans
6 The Avenue
Alstonville
anglicans.live



27 NOVEMBER | 9AM

Alstonville Anglicans
6 The Avenue

Join the Celebration

ST PETER & ST PAUL'S DAY

We dedicate the meeting room as "The St Peter and St Paul's room" and unveil the St Peter and St Paul's stained-glass window installed in the meeting room.

On 26 November 2021 we celebrated the many years of ministry at St Peter and St Paul's and grieved the church's closure. On 27 November Sunday 9am we will have a special celebration service on the first-year anniversary of the closure, to be held at Alstonville Anglicans St Bart's Church Daley Street. This will also be an occasion for us to dedicate the meeting room as "The St Peter and St Paul's room" and unveil the St Peter and St Paul's stained-glass window that will be installed in the room.

We will need extra morning tea this day and volunteers to assist with serving. Please contact Helen Nicholson if you can help.



Services on Sunday 6th & Friday
11th November commemorated
Remembrance Day



Thank you Gladys for the church
installation to mark the occasion

Sermon Notes
Preached on 13th November

Emigration



The experience of emigration is a stressful one. Everything that can go wrong will go wrong, altogether and at the same time. In the last few months leading up to emigration from South Africa, much of my attention was taken up with paperwork and the administration required in leaving one country to enter a new one. I had little time for the inner work of what emigration might mean. One morning, while in the shower, I paused to enjoy the sound of South African birds outside my window. I recognised the sounds of the crested barbet, the piet-my-vrou, and the hadadas. I wondered what birds I would hear in Australia, and at that moment the reality hit me that I was leaving everything I knew and loved. My whole world was coming to an end. I didn't cry, I sobbed – the primal sobbing when a piece of your soul is removed from you, without anaesthetic. I was traumatised at the relationships I was leaving behind, and that I was tearing children away from beloved family. The end of my world dawned on me and the fear of the unknown overwhelmed me.

Ten years later we are grateful for the gentle home Australia has provided. We are delighted at the safe place we have been gifted to raise a family with joy and freedom. We have been afforded the privilege of building a good life that we do not take for granted. I look back at the catastrophe in the shower and while I would never wish such a grief on my worst enemy, that moment has become a precious part of my story. The end of one chapter allowed for the beginning of a new one.

It is part of the mystery of being human that we experience moments where our world is shattered, where everything we once knew and trusted is taken away from us. Many describe the experiences that led to moments of freefall when the stable ground beneath is dissolved. Death, divorce, the loss of a job, debilitating illness, the loss of a home and everything in it, the loss of faith: such chaos is life shattering. Endings are painful, yet they are the necessary beginning of new life; this is precisely the point Jesus makes in Luke 21.

Jesus communicates **the precariousness of the present** in language designed to cause anxiety.

While some admire the solid beauty of the temple, Jesus declares that **what looks so fixed and stable is passing away**. In sum, Jesus says that:

- our religious structures will fall apart in chaos,
- our political structures will fall apart in chaos,
- and our environment will go bananas – there will be earthquakes, floods, and plagues.

Sound familiar? If one chooses a literal or fundamentalist interpretation of Scripture, Jesus' "predictions" may seem rather frightening, and imminent: Plagues?...H1N1...Covid 19... check. Earthquakes? In 2004 an earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia killed more than 200 000 people in several countries. Wars? We thought the days of one country invading another were over until Russia's unprovoked attack on Ukraine. In every century there have been disasters to predict the end of the world. From the time that Chicken Licken thought the sky was falling down, there have also been no shortage of "prophets" predicting the end of the world.



I would advise against a literal interpretation of Scripture, and, having understood the context of Luke 21 I would also suggest we allow the scripture to speak to us as a metaphor, allowing it to speak many truths on many levels.

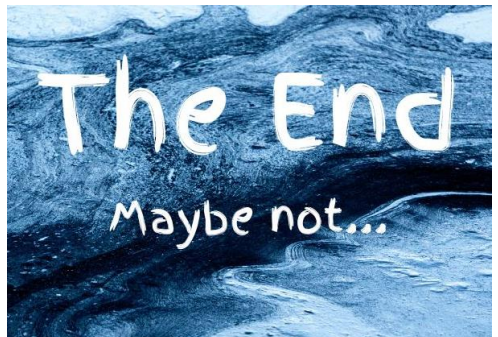
As you know, the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem is a corner stone in the Gospel of Luke. The Gospel begins with Zechariah praying in the temple (Luke 1.5) and ends with the disciples praying in the temple (Luke 24.52-53: "And they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God"). In between Zechariahs' vision (Luke 1.12) and the apostles' worship (Luke 24), the Lukan narrative journeys from Nazareth to the Jerusalem temple where the showdown between Jesus and the powers takes place and Jesus is crucified.

The point Luke makes in chapter 21 is that the temple failed to live up to God's ideal. The disciples who should have known better admired the beauty of the temple. Jesus helped them to see it as it really is, he points out a widow whose poverty financed the extravagance of the temple they admired: "The Pharisees devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers". The temple was built on the exploitation of the most vulnerable who are then literally left without a home. **Things are not what they seem**, the temple takes from the poor to give to the rich. The temple was the thing that Jewish people could be most certain of. Thus the destruction of the temple in 70CE by the Roman emperor Titus was more than devastating, it was as if God had died too.

When what is certain and taken for granted destructs Jesus reassures his followers that everything will work out in the end. Jesus encourages his friends to practice the faith he

modelled and to trust in what he taught. In today's parlance Jesus might say "Keep calm and carry on".

Jesus vividly describes the end of world, in every age ordinary people have experienced their world falling apart, the centre of their world caving in. As Jesus comforted his disciples so he comforts us too. Jesus reminds us that there is a new beginning out of every painful ending, even if it doesn't seem that way at the time. When dreams crumble, when someone you always trusted dies or worse betrays you, when your health or wealth evaporates, when you lose your "Jerusalem", your touchstone, Jesus reminds us that things are not always what they seem, that the end of one chapter is the beginning of a new one, that out of death comes life. Anxiety and depression are on the rise, and why wouldn't they be with how resilience has been tested since 2020. When one is in the clutches of an anxiety attack it may feel like it will last forever. Scientists assure us that 90s is as long as a bad feeling lasts. Anxiety is bad, really bad, but it does not last forever, even if it feels like that at the time. In the film *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* the owner comforts the guests who feel that everything is falling apart. He says: 'Everything will be all right in the end... If it's not all right, then it is not the end.' Herein lies a profound theological truth, though our trusted institutions crumble, though dreams fade, though the church seems to be in decline, though we let go of what was once self-evident, in the end everything, yes, everything will be more than all right. And if is not all right, hold tight, it is not yet the end.



Sentence of the Day

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. Zechariah 9.9

Collect

Eternal God,
you exalted Jesus Christ to rule over all things,
and have made us instruments of his kingdom:
by your Spirit empower us to love the unloved,
and to minister to all in need,
then at the last bring us to your eternal realm
where we may be welcomed into your everlasting joy
and may worship and adore you for ever;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Luke 23.33-43

³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷ and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.' ³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' ⁴² Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' ⁴³ He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'



Thank you to the CoVe worker bees! 