



Alstonville
Anglicans

4th Sunday of Easter

25th April 2021



'Lest we
forget'

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 25th April

Sentence of the Day

'No one has greater love than this, than to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends,' says the Lord, 'if you do what I command you.' John 14.13-14

Collect

O God, our ruler and guide,
in whose hands are the destinies of this and every nation,
we give you thanks for the freedoms we enjoy in this land
and for those who laid down their lives to defend them:
We pray that we and all the people of Australia,
gratefully remembering their courage and their sacrifice,
may have grace to live in a spirit of justice,
of generosity, and of peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Readings

John 10:11-18

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.

¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

Messages

Worship and Spirituality portfolio

Services are now back in the church!

Messy Church 25 April 4pm



Join the 'Peace Train' this Sunday and explore the meaning of peace in our time. Meet at 4pm in the Ministry Centre for Anzac Creativity and Community. Our celebration time includes a short walk to Elizabeth Brown Park and a Picnic Evening Meal "Peace" style.

Subscribe now!



**to AnglicansLive our
YouTube channel**

PS. Our goal is 1000 subscribers.

Next Messy Life ?! Church



W orship

T eaching

F riendship

Sunday 2nd May 5pm

Community engagement



volunteers required to prepare morning tea at Play Place on Thursday mornings. If available, please contact Margaret Brown.

margaretandken@bigpond.com



Save the date!

Mother's Day Fete

Saturday 8th May 2021

Pastoral Care

Family Crosses



A way to pray for our Spiritual Family.
Begins Sunday 2nd May.

Pastoral visits

Remember!

If you or anyone you know is ill or in hospital, please let the office of Lynne Watt our pastoral coordinator know. Also if you do visit anyone could you email Lynne? wattlg@bigpond.com.

Good Governance



Pool Table and Table Tennis Table

As an icebreaker for the Messy Life Church service, the Parish Council have placed a pool table and a table tennis table in the Library area. The equipment provides a gathering point for the worshippers who are joining the

Messy Life Church community. Thank you to Phil Cowie and Graham Ireland who donated the equipment.

Note

Current Status of COVID Restrictions

Restrictions for Places of Worship were relaxed in NSW from 29th March.

1. Limit of 1 person / 2sqm ie. now 72 for St Bartholomew's and 20 at St Peter & St Paul's.
2. Checking in is very important and is mandatory.
3. Ventilation is important ie. opening windows and doors and morning tea outside.
4. Hand sanitization is mandatory.
5. 1.5m rule of separation is advised.
6. Singing is ok with no restrictions.

Ministry and leadership

Opportunities

At Alstonville Anglicans, we consider all the baptised as ministers. Thus, everything that builds the community in love is ministry. The ministry at the altar and working in the kitchen are one and the same thing, the preparation of holy things for holy people. Below are opportunities for people to put their hand up for the work of God where their abilities match the needs of the church.



Put your hand up!

1. Catering coordinator

We have a great team of willing helpers who are looking for a coordinator. The catering team is ad hoc and only called together from time to time as needs arise.

A job description is available for those

interested. **Please speak to one of the Wardens or email the office office@anglicans.live**

2. Play Place Morning Tea Minister

(Volunteer) See previous note.

3. Technician

Many are appreciating the opportunity to watch services online when they cannot attend in person. For this ministry to continue, the team under Robyn must expand. If you have some computer knowledge and willingness to learn the Livestream process, **please have a chat to Robyn or email the office office@anglicans.live**

4. Sunday Morning Tea

Help to facilitate a simple morning tea to follow our service.

Please speak to Helen or email the office office@anglicans.live



5. Welcomer



Meet and greet people as they arrive and assist them with the signing in process. **Please speak to Helen or email the office office@anglicans.live**

6. Sunday Morning Security

Responsible for opening the buildings and securing them after the service.

Please speak to Helen or email the office office@anglicans.live



Sermon notes on Luke 24:36

for Sunday 18th April

Our fairy tales begin with "Once upon a time" and end with "happily ever after." Have you ever wondered what happens after the "happily ever after"?

- Once upon a time Snow White meets her handsome prince who wakes her from a poisoned sleep, ... and they live happily ever after. Really? What happens after the

honeymoon when a sociopathic mother-in-law continues her attempted murder not only of his wife but also him?

- Once upon a time Rapunzel lets down her golden hair and much later reunites with her prince and they live happily ever after. Surely, but there must have been consistent arguments about the shower being clogged with her hair.
- Once upon a time Cinderella meets her prince charming and they live happily ever after. Until after several years of marriage his irritation at her leaving shoes lying around leads to sniping and bickering.

There may be a temptation to read the Easter stories of Resurrection in the same vein as our cultural fairy tales. It is sad that Jesus died on Good Friday, but he rose from the dead and is with us forever and now we can live happily ever after. The reality of post easter Resurrection is more brutal and honest and no fairy tale ending. For me, the upfront way the Gospels depict the struggle with faith after the Resurrection lends authenticity to the Resurrection experience that distills that this is Good News, deeper than any happily ever after fairy tales offer.

After the Resurrection, there are the experiences of failed hopes and dreams in Luke 24 .13 as Cleopas and his friend leave Jerusalem for Emmaus. There is the nauseating fear of the persecution by authorities and hiding behind locked doors in John 20v19. There is doubt all round but often projected onto Thomas in John 20v24.

Failed Hopes. Broken dreams. Debilitating fear. Depressing doubt. What does the Resurrected Christ do with these human realities that seem the opposite of faith? Like some magic godmother, will the Resurrected Christ wave a magic wand in answer to the right prayer and make all the pain disappear? No.

The Christian Faith cannot take away suffering, oppression and general failure.

However, the presence of the Resurrected Christ in the midst of the confusion, doubt, hopelessness, fear and depression is what is real and authentic.

The Gospels narrate a number of different experiences that the early witnesses went through, but they all adopt a similar pattern. It's as if there is a liturgy that takes us into the waters of doubt and confusion, through transforming sacraments of community learning together and eating together, into enlightenment and empowerment.

1. The Experience of doubt and confusion
2. The Explanation of Scriptures
3. The Eating together in community.
4. The Enlightenment
5. The Exit of Christ as the empowered community becomes the Christ presence in the doubt of the hurting world, yet to be touched by Resurrected presence.

In Luke 24v13-25, a previous experience recorded of the Resurrected Christ, two walkers share their EXPERIENCES of despair. Christ draws alongside them and EXPLAINS the Scriptures. They invite Christ to EAT with them. ENLIGHTENMENT is when they recognise Christ in the breaking of bread. Christ EXITS and the two are EMPOWERED as missionaries of the Resurrection.

Now in Luke 24.36-48 the same "liturgy" is repeated. The disciples have the EXPERIENCE of terror thinking they are seeing a ghost. Jesus EXPLAINS the Scriptures and EATS broiled fish. Their minds are opened or ENLIGHTENED. Jesus EXITS and they are EMPOWERED as witnesses to the Resurrection.

The point of the repeated pattern (experience, explanation, eat, enlightenment, exit, empowerment) is that we too can find ourselves in the story of Resurrected faith. That this is a possibility is utterly true. I end with one example of how the pattern I have described unfolds.



Perhaps you have heard of the story of Father James Benson. Born in Leeds England, he came to Australia in 1910 as a brother in the Brotherhood of the Good Shepherd in the Diocese of Bathurst. Later he was ordained as an Anglican Priest serving in the Dioceses of NSW and Canberra-Goulburn. While Rector of Bordalla, his family of four children drowned tragically with their mother, when their car plunged into the Clyde River as they were returning from their holidays.

Obviously devastated by the magnitude of such a tragedy, James then joined the Community of Ascension and returned to mission work. He was the priest in Gona, Papua New Guinea when the Japanese invaded in 1937. His fellow workers suffered brutal deaths. He was presumed dead. James managed to survive three concentration camps and once returned to health, he worked for the ABM.



The Resurrection shines through this story. There is a mural of the Resurrection that James painted in the Community of the Ascension Church. The light, wholeness and joy of the mural testifies to his experience of the

Resurrected Christ in the midst of Good Friday tragedy.

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

Parish Office: 8 The Avenue, Alstonville
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 25th April to 2nd May

25 th April	Sunday 9am Holy Communion 10am St Peter & St Paul's 4pm Messy Church
26 th April	Monday 10am Anam Cara Praying for You
28 th April	Wednesday 9am Anam Cara
29 th April	Thursday 6pm Anam Cara
30 th April	Friday 10am Holy Communion
2 nd May	Sunday 9am Holy Communion

Messy Church



Sunday 25th April 4pm

Ride the Peace Train

Alstonville Anglicans
6 The Avenue
Alstonville
anglicans.live



Celebrate Mother's Day

Mother's Day Fete
Saturday 8th May
8am—12.30pm

Gifts, food, craft,
entertainment
Something for everyone!
COVID regulations apply

Alstonville Anglicans
6 The Avenue Alstonville
66280231
www.anglicans.live

**Fete Co-ordination Meeting Tuesday 27th April in the
Ministry Centre at 4.30pm. All welcome!**