



Alstonville Anglicans

Sunday 25th June 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

25th June – 2nd July

25 th June		Sunday
	9am	Holy Communion
26 th June		Monday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
	10am	Anam Cara
	10am	Deadline for bulletin items
27 th June		Tuesday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Closed
28 th June		Wednesday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
	9am	Anam Cara
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
29 th June		Thursday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
	9.30am	Play Place
	6pm	Anam Cara
30 th June		Friday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
	10am	Holy Communion
1 st July		Saturday
2 nd July		Sunday
	9am	Holy Communion
		NAIDOC Week commences

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](#)

EAC Premier Pianists Recital

As part of the Emmanuel Anglican College's Festival of Music they are showcasing the talents of their most accomplished pianists. Monday 26th June 9.30am in The Lindsay Walker Centre, 62 Horizon Drive, West Ballina. This is an open invitation to anyone who would like to attend.

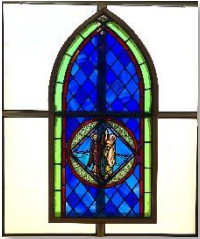
Contact :6681 5054 for more information.

AREA Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser



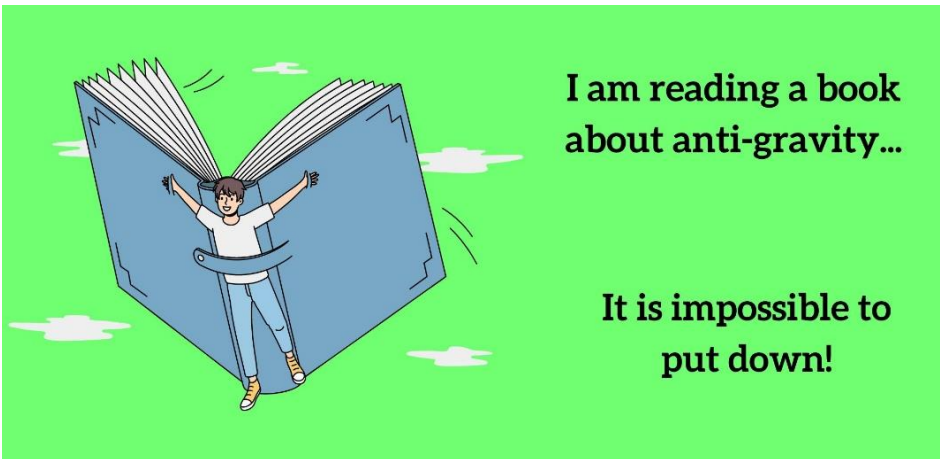
Saturday 24th June at Bunnings Ballina. Three churches are providing a team of 5 volunteers. Our team needs 5 keen helpers from 1.30-4pm. If you can help raise urgently needed funds, please contact John Noble on 0414 285 132.

Celebration of the Ministry of John Kidson and Blessing of the Window.



Sunday 9th July at the 9am service we will be celebrating John Kidson's Ministry and contribution to the Parish as well as Blessing the stained-glass window from St Peter & St Paul's that has been installed into the St Peter & Paul's room in the Ministry Centre.

To Make You Smile



**I am reading a book
about anti-gravity...**

**It is impossible to
put down!**



NAIDOC Week 2023 commences on the 2nd July.



The theme this year is 'For Our Elders'.

Across every generation, our Elders have played, and continue to play, an important role and hold a prominent place in our communities and families. They are cultural knowledge holders, trailblazers, nurturers, advocates, teachers, survivors, leaders, hard workers and our loved ones. This NAIDOC Week we celebrate them.

Sermon Sunday 18th June

By Desiree Snyman

A reflection on Matthew 9.35-10.10: noissim esrever



One of God's great apostles/disciples/saints is Teresa of Avila. One of the doctors of the church, Theresa has taught us much about our oneness with God. You may remember the story of when she was travelling by cart when one of the wheels was stuck and the cart tipped over spilling her into the mud. Covered in dirt, wet and cold Teresa complained to God "Why are you doing this to me?". The Lord replied, "Teresa this is how I treat my friends." Teresa answered, "Is it any wonder you have so few?"

The Gospel reading today is clearly about us, the apostles/disciples/saints of God. Like Teresa and the first 12 apostles, we too are friends of God participating in God's mission. Like Teresa and the early apostles we are sent **by** Jesus **as** Jesus to live out the transformation that love brings about. Much like Teresa, we know that being sent by Jesus as Jesus won't win us any awards. The reward for participating in God's mission is humiliation, as Jesus himself explains in Matthew 10.24: "A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; ²⁵it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!"

Jesus' ministry of healing and preaching is a sign that God's kingdom is now and in the world. The vision of the kingdom of God is a call for the personal and societal transformation that love achieves. God's kingdom challenges Rome's oppression with justice and Rome's greed with freedom. In Matthew 9.35

“Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness.” Jesus’ ministry of teaching and healing is established as a pattern that the apostles imitate.

The ministry moves from the hands of Jesus into the hands of his 12 disciples. As Jesus teaches, preaches, and heals, now the disciples are sent in twos to teach, preach, and heal: “As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment”.

Compassion

The pivot on which the ministry flows from Jesus through to the disciples is compassion (see Mat. 9.36). If the ministry of Jesus is one wheel and the ministry of the apostles is another wheel then the axle connecting the two wheels together is compassion: “When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd” (Matthew 9.36). The Greek for compassion is σπλαγχνίζομαι (splagchnizomai). An onomatopoeical word, splagchnizomai imitates the sound of gut movement. Compassion is the gut-wrenching response to corruption and the pain it causes community. The phrase “sheep without a shepherd” is borrowed from Ezekiel 34.5 and is a criticism and indictment on the political leadership. Instead of caring for people, Israel’s leaders were feeding off people – they were cannibals. Compassion is not an intellectual exercise but a movement of the gut, the intestines twist and knot together in response to suffering. In other words, our response to suffering and injustice is not a mechanical action, but an outworking of bodily emotion, of gut felt care and empathy expressed in concrete engagement. Mission without love is like

trying to drive a car with wheels but no axle. Without that intense compassion and love our work fails to be God's mission.

World Refugee Day

World Refugee Day is June 20. As a church we honour refugees on the closest Sunday, today on June 18. Refugee week has 3 intentions:

1. To honour those people who come to us as refugees, giving thanks for the skills, talents, and diversity they gift to us.
2. To lament the reason for forced displacement.
3. To encourage communities to receive people who are refugees with hospitality.

Who or what are refugees? People who are forced to leave their homes because of violence or persecution are described as refugees. The term refugee is an international, legal term that designates a crime against people. Refugee is not an identity; it is not who people are. Refugee is something that happens to people. Refugee is a status – not an identity.

Australia is a signatory to the UN convention and its 1967 protocol. As Australians it is useful to remember that:

- *'Article 14: Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries, asylum from persecution.'* (1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights).



- While it is usually illegal to enter a country without a valid visa, it is not to be considered as illegal if it is for the purpose of seeking asylum (*'Article 31: The Contracting States shall not impose penalties, on account of their illegal entry or presence, on refugees who, coming directly*

from a territory where their life or freedom was threatened in the sense of Article 1, enter or are present in their territory without authorization, provided they present themselves without delay to the authorities and show good cause for their illegal entry or presence).

- People seeking protection must not be prevented from entering a UN Convention signatory country. They must not be returned to a country where their life or freedom is threatened. (*The 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol, UNHCR*)

- 92% of people arriving by boat since 2008 have been assessed to be genuine refugees, fleeing things like war, persecution, genocide, and torture. (*Department of Immigration and Border Protection, Asylum Trends Australia, 2012-13 – Annual Publication, page 30*)

- There's no such thing as a queue. Anyone who wants to claim asylum must leave their home country first, so they flee to other countries. This is the standard way to seek asylum. "The concept of an orderly queue does not accord with the reality of the asylum process." (*Asylum Seekers and Refugees. What are the facts, Parliament of Australia website*)

- Australia receives a fraction of the world's asylum seekers each year. In 2013 alone, Sweden received 54,300 requests; France received 60,100; USA received 88,400; and Germany received 109,600 requests for asylum. In 2013, 24,300 people requested asylum in Australia. (www.unhcr.org)

(Source: <https://br4r.org.au/facts-figures/>).

Refugees are apostles

I suggest there is a close link between being a disciple and being a refugee. Being a refugee and being a disciple has much in common.

1. The link between being a refugee and being a disciple is established in the early Christian movement. Following the resurrection of Jesus, the early disciples had to flee Jerusalem and seek asylum in other countries because people like Saul who became Paul were killing them.

2. Matthew 10 cements a close link between persecution that leads to people seeking refugee status and persecution as a disciple: ^{10.23}“When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next.”

3. Like refugees, disciples also ^{10.19}“Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, ¹⁰no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff.”

4. Seeking asylum and being sent by Jesus as Jesus to proclaim the Good News are similar in that both seek hospitality in new areas: ^{10.11}“Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy and stay there until you leave.”

My suggestion is that we receive people who are refugees as apostles sent to us by God in Jesus to cure **our** ills, to raise to life the parts of us that are dead, to cast out **our** demons and to proclaim God’s faith to us. **World Refugee Day is not about what we can do for refugees but what they can do for us.** Refugee day is about noissim esreveR, reverse mission. We consider the ministry that refugees offer us as apostles, rather than what our mission to refugees might be.

Just as Jesus sent the apostles to share God’s love with the world so too are we to see those who identify as refugees as sent to us by God to save us from our sins, the sins of indifference, consumerism, fear and a lack of compassion. Jesus sent apostles to “Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse

the lepers,* cast out demons.” May refugees be our apostles who cure our sickness, the sickness of having too much. May refugees be our apostles who raise the dead, the dead parts of our society who have forgotten compassion. May refugees be our apostles who cleanse our leprosy, the leprosy of fear of the other. May refugees be our apostles who cast out our demons, the demons of rampant capitalism. The question is this, if God’s sends us refugees (apostles), will we welcome them and allow their peace to bless our space? Or will they be rejected, forced to turn their backs on us, dusting their feet off as they leave? Sodom and Gomorrah were guilty of a lack of hospitality. Will we be hospitable to the apostles that are sent to us as refugees?

¹²As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. ¹⁵Truly I tell you; it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgement than for that town (Matthew 10.12-14).

Sentence of the Day

Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for Jesus’ sake will find it. Matthew 10.39

Collect

Gracious God,
we who were baptised into Christ Jesus
were baptised into his death:
we pray that, as you raised him from death,
so by the power of the Holy Spirit we may live the new life to your glory,
knowing ourselves to be dead in sin
but alive for you in Jesus Christ;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Matthew 10.24-39

- 24 'A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master;
25 it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!
- 26 'So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known.
- 27 What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops.
- 28 Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.
- 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father.
- 30 And even the hairs of your head are all counted.
- 31 So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.
- 32 'Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven;
33 but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.
- 34 'Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.
- 35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
36 and one's foes will be members of one's own household.
- 37 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me;
38 and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me.
- 39 Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.



EMMANUEL
ANGLICAN
COLLEGE

Learning ~ Living ~ Leading
Celebrating 25 Years
1998 - 2023

YEAR 8 WELLBEING
INVITES
OUR COMMUNITY SENIOR CITIZENS
TO

Cards & Cuppas

Come along to
Emmanuel Anglican College's
Ezzy Centre
to enjoy a round of cards and morning tea
from 11.20am to 12.00noon
on each of the following days;

Thursday 4 May 2023
Thursday 18 May 2023
Thursday 1 June 2023
Thursday 15 June 2023
Thursday 29 June 2023

Please RSVP to enquiries@eac.nsw.edu.au
or phone 02 6681 5054