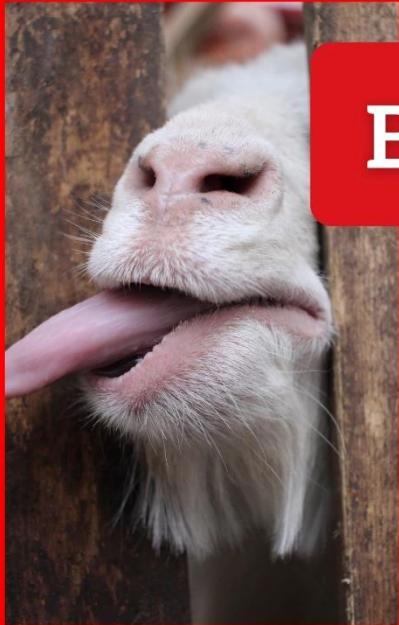




Alstonville  
Anglicans

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Welcome



Alstonville  
Anglicans

## Big Day Out

Get ready for farm-tastic fun at  
Hosanna Farm Stokers Siding



Carpool from Alstonville Anglicans  
6 The Avenue Alstonville



Sunday 27 August  
8.50am - 5pm



Cost per person \$7 to wardens or via  
<https://www.hosannafarmstay.com.au/day-visits/>

To Reserve Your Spot:  
\$7 pp through the church or \$10pp purchased at  
Hosanna Reception when you arrive.  
Contact [office@anglicans.live](mailto:office@anglicans.live)

## 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](http://www.anglicans.live)

Bank account: BSB 705 077 / Acc:00032931

## 27<sup>th</sup> August – 3<sup>rd</sup> September

27 <sup>th</sup> August	9am 8.50am	<b>Sunday</b> Holy Communion Big Day Out
28 <sup>th</sup> August	9am-12pm 9am-3pm 10am 10am	<b>Monday</b> Parish Office Op Shop Anam Cara Deadline for bulletin items
29 <sup>th</sup> August	9am-12pm	<b>Tuesday</b> Parish Office <b>Closed</b>
30 <sup>th</sup> August	9am-12pm 8am-6pm 9am-3pm	<b>Wednesday</b> Parish Office Open Vigil for Our Earth Op Shop
31 <sup>st</sup> August	9am-12pm 9am-3pm 9.30am 6pm	<b>Thursday</b> Parish Office Open Op Shop Play Place Anam Cara
1 <sup>st</sup> September	9am-12pm 10am	<b>Friday</b> Parish Office Open Holy Communion
2 <sup>nd</sup> September		<b>Saturday</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> September	9am	<b>Sunday</b> Holy Communion

**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

I asked my wife when her birthday was and she said March 1st.




So I walked around the room and asked her again!

## 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](mailto: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](http://anglicans.live)

## **Carpet Cleaning Working Bee**

The Ministry Centre carpets will be cleaned on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September from 12pm. Contact Graham Ireland if you are able to assist.

## **AREA News**

Dear AREA Supporters,

We have some exciting positive news to share with you all.

Firstly, you were aware that since May, we have been concerned about our future financially.

Secondly, we have been praying for guidance for what the future of our AREA program with Bruce will look like for 2024 onwards.

AREA would like to thank all our subscribers and supporters for your faithful and generous donations over the last couple of months. This has put AREA in a healthy financial position to support Bruce Fleming in his ministry and to continue into 2024. It has been an answer to our prayers and has enabled Bruce to plan for his future with confidence.

Due to your generous response, we are able to provide Bruce with his Long Service Leave entitlements (so well-deserved and long overdue) having only taken a few weeks in over thirty years. AREA is supportive and encouraging of his decision to take extended leave at this time. Bruce will take leave during Term Four 2023 until the end of January 2024. In collaboration with Bruce and Alstonville High School, AREA looks forward to resuming the SRE program in a revised format in 2024.

Bruce has accepted a position at Emmanuel Anglican College, Ballina, teaching a new initiative in Religious Education - for two days a week in 2024. He will continue at Alstonville High School for three days a week. AREA is pleased that Bruce has financial security for 2024 while AREA now has sufficient funds to continue to deliver a program at Alstonville High School.

As you can understand, these plans present A.R.E.A. with mixed blessings / real challenges as we support Bruce. We need your continued financial and prayerful support as we prepare for the New Year. We pray that Bruce's leave might be a time of physical and spiritual blessing and refreshment.

You are most welcome to join us and Bruce at Alstonville Baptist Church on Sunday 20th August 2023 when he shares God's word for us all.

Thanking you for your understanding and continued support for this wonderful and unique outreach to the teenagers of our Plateau.

AREA Committee

## From St Mary's Ballina NSW

### Organ Duet Concert



SUNDAY - 3 PM | 27 AUG

**ORGAN DUET**  
MARIUS MULDER  
& HAMSA ARNOLD

- ST MARY'S BALLINA -  
THE MUSICESTUARY

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August 3pm, St Mary's 38-42 Norton St Ballina. Tickets \$20 or \$15 concession.

### **The Psalms in Contemplative Practice**

Tuesdays 2-3pm commencing 29<sup>th</sup> August there will be a 4-week exploration of Psalms led by Hamsa Arnold.

# 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](mailto: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 20<sup>th</sup> August by Desiree Snyman

### Find God in the faith others: based on Matthew 15.21-28



She is not polite. Neither is she discreet. Stridently, loudly, she demands help for her daughter. She is desperate and no longer cares what people think or say about her, she just wants help. At first, he ignores her, hoping she'll go away, but the self-conscious disciples urge him: "*Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.*" Shockingly, while few

Jewish persons accept Jesus, the Canaanite woman of all people calls him "Son of David," one of the titles for the Messiah.

After ignoring her, Jesus tries explaining. His explanation goes right to the heart of his mission: "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." This doesn't discourage the woman. She rushes forward and kneels at his feet. The word for 'kneels' is strong: it means to bow down and kiss someone's feet, the hem of their garment, or the ground in front of them. She pleads, very simply, one last time, "Lord, help me!" Jesus is overcome and opens his heart to her: "Woman great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish". When Jesus calls her "woman" he affirms her personhood. No longer is she "the Canaanite woman" or "little female dog" or "heathen" or "other". She is mother, neighbour, daughter of God. Divisions are shattered. Wholeness, healing, and renewal pervades. No longer is her child identified with disease and demons; she is defined by God. The daughter is made whole, as is Jesus' mission. Jesus is transformed through his encounter with the Canaanite woman; no longer does he only break bread with the lost tribes of Israel, but his manna is shared with all people.

Religious strangers shaped the ministry of Jesus. The desperation of the Canaanite woman which Jesus had the audacity to call faith helped him expand his vision. After learning from the Canaanite woman Jesus embraces all people, not just the chosen ones. The Samaritan woman at the well deepens Jesus' experience of gratitude. The Roman centurion taught Jesus a new way to approach faith, and his son was healed. Jesus found God in the faith of others.

The magnificence of Jesus' encounter with the Canaanite woman is appreciated when considering the context of the story. Previously, Jesus sent his disciples on mission with clear instructions that they were to go to the lost sheep of Israel only "Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." (Matthew 10: 5b-6). The problem is that the lost sheep of Israel simply don't want their shepherd. The leaders of Israel reject Jesus (Matthew 12.14), even his own family rebuff him (Matthew 12.46). As if the week is not going badly enough, Jesus receives the message that his friend, mentor and

cousin John the Baptist is martyred (Matthew 14.13). There is now no doubt left in Jesus mind that if he continues with his mission, he like John the Baptist will also lose his head. While the lost sheep of Israel reject Jesus' message, thousands of others are attracted by his Good News. The feeding of the more than 5000 by the lake is a story of the success of faith, contrasted by the doubt of the disciples who have no trust that God is safe when a storm rocks their boat (Matthew 14.26).



Preachers preach the sermons they most need to hear. In the past the story of the Canaanite woman inspired me to walk in solidarity alongside those who are HIV positive, orphans, those who are refugees and those who are the most marginalized in society. What this story teaches me now is how much I need strangers, how much I need to move out of my comfort zone, how much I need to find God in the faith of others. What the Biblical text does to me is that it holds up a mirror, it shows me how much I enjoy "country club Christianity," staying in my own comfortable comfort zone with those who think like me, talk like me, pray like me. Instead, the Gospel invitation is to move out of my comfort zone continually, to embrace diversity, to live out the phrase "your greatest difference from me is your greatest gift to me."

Moving out of my comfort zone, what might "outsiders" teach me about faith? How does God's divinity shine through those who are "other" and what do "strange people" reveal to me about God? One of the Great Themes of Scripture is embracing the stranger, "outsiders" who have different relationships with the divine or different cultures, different experiences, or who are simply people who are refugees, asylum seekers, minorities, or those who identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community. Jesus embraced strangers and he found faith in others. I am invited to do the same.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks says, "The supreme religious challenge is to see God's image in one who is not in our image". Barbara Brown Taylor says that if Sacks is correct "then the stranger – the one who

does not look, think, or act like the rest of us – may offer us the best change at seeing past our own reflections in the mirror to the God we did not make up” (in Holy Envy p200).

### Sentence of the Day

Martha said, ‘Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.’ John 11.27

### Collect

O God, fount of all wisdom,  
in the humble witness of the apostle Peter  
you have shown the foundation of our faith:  
give us the light of your Spirit,  
that, recognising in Jesus of Nazareth the Son of the living God,  
we may be living stones for the building up of your holy Church;  
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.

### Matthew 16:13-20

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ <sup>14</sup> And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ <sup>15</sup> He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’ <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’ <sup>20</sup> Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.