



Alstonville
Anglicans

Sunday 28th April 2024

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

28th April – 5th May

28 th April		Sunday Holy Communion
	9am	
29 th April		Monday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
	10am	Anam Cara
	10.30am	Clergy Rendezvous
	10am	Deadline for bulletin items
	1pm	Sew Helpful
	5pm	Spirit Ability planning meeting
30 th April		Tuesday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Closed
1 st May		Wednesday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office
	9am	Anam Cara
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
2 nd May		Thursday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
	9.30am	Play Place
3 rd May		Friday
	10am	Holy Communion
4 th May		Saturday
5 th May		Sunday
	9am	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](#)

Annual Fete Saturday 11th May 8am-1pm

Plants

We need plants to be potted up for the fete. Appropriate labelling is helpful.
Enquiries Barbara Fewtrell 0429385713.

Cakes

Request for brightly coloured cupcakes to be made. Coordinator: Robyn Beck.

Floral arrangements

Chrysanthemums and gerberas required. Coordinator: Gladys Charters.

Produce

Home grown produce required. Coordinator: Ken Brown.

Sew Helpful Craft

Sew Helpful would like some help in replenishing their supplies for the fete. Any items you would like to make would be most welcome but some items we need are baby jackets, bunny rugs, scarves, microwave bowl holders, coat hangers – adult size, teapot cosies. Thank you for your help.

2024 Fete Raffle

3 Great Prizes valued at \$40 – Dining Voucher, Pamper Voucher, Outdoor Voucher. If you would like to make a monetary donation towards these vouchers you can leave them at the Parish Office or contact Susan Fitzpatrick.



Confirmation

Bishop Murray will be visiting the Parish on Sunday 6th October. If you are interested in being confirmed please complete the application form and speak to Rev Desiree. Forms are available in the Parish Office and via the website.

You/ your group are invited to join us at

Quota Alstonville's

Womens Friendship

High Tea Luncheon

Saturday, May 18th
11:30 for luncheon served at 12
at Summerland Farm Restaurant
Wardell Road
Alstonville 2477

'Guest Speaker ...Raffles

\$42 pp (g/f \$3 extra)

Please note we require pre payment to
Quota Alstonville BSB 082- 842 A/c Num 75 970 2470
Your name as reference
RSVP 4th May
Reply early as numbers are limited
Confirm with email and dietary requirements to
quotaalstonville@gmail.com
or Judy 0429 330 517

Organ Concert St Mary's Ballina

Robert Eather, Organist and Music Director at Christ Church Cathedral is performing in St Mary's April 28th 3pm.

World Labyrinth Day 2024

Walk as One at 1 for world peace.

Saturday 4th May 1-3pm

*Celebrate the Labyrinth experience and walk
as part of a global moving meditation.*

Rainforest Labyrinth

"Brockley", 1385 Bruxner Highway, Lindendale

RSVP & Enquiries: 0400361059

Hosted by Jenny & Charlie Handley

Refreshments following the walk



Spirit Ability

Providing spiritual and emotional support to
people living with a disability, their carers,
families and supporters.

Monday 6th May 6-8pm

The evening will include a meal and
sharing time

Alstonville Anglican Hall
6-8 The Avenue, Alstonville
0428 404 783



Sermon Notes Sunday 21st April

Desiree Snyman - John 15:1-8

My deepest me is God

My deepest me is God, said St. Catherine of Genoa (1447–1510). What does it mean? Could it mean that we already know the Good Shepherd's voice as the truest part of who we are?

It has been said that the Gospel of John is shallow enough for a child to wade in and deep enough for an elephant to swim in. John's Gospel

can nourish us through our spiritual journey from childhood, through adolescence into adulthood, when we come of age, eating solid food instead of milk [see Hebrews 5.14: But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish good from evil (NRSV)].

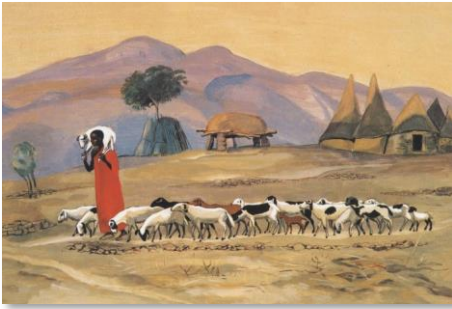
For a young child and the young child within each adult, the Good Shepherd is an image of compassion and comfort, commitment, and community. There is protection and nourishment. There is an active guide through the desert and desolate places of despair. There is comfort in being among woolly friends, each a comfort and a pillow for the other.

For the adolescent and the adolescent within each adult, the Good Shepherd holds back the wolves within and without. The wolves are those forces who question our God given nature as beloved in God's sight. A poem from Iona describes the availability of the Good Shepherd in the tensions of youth: In the tensions of youth, I met you. Whether shy or uncouth always searching for the truth. Yes, in the tensions of youth I met you; saying, here am I.

What about when we come of age? The term "of age" is used deliberately. In John 9 the man born blind is healed. He is described by his parents as being "of age" and therefore able to answer questions himself. (John 9:22)

As you know, the gospel of John is divided into two. The first half is structured around seven signs. As the gospel writer is describing the new genesis we have in Christ, the seven signs parallel the seven days of creation. Each sign is expressed, explained, and expanded through a discourse and a dialogue. In John 9 Jesus performs his sixth sign, healing a man born blind. This corresponds to the sixth day of creation when God created humankind. John 10 elucidates the miracle of healing the man born blind further through the Good Shepherd discourse.

In John 9 Jesus is on the way to Jerusalem. A man born blind recognises the voice of the Good Shepherd and invites healing into his life. As Creator-God created the first mud creature, the *adaam*, out of dust or *adaamah*, in Genesis two, so too does Jesus remake the man born blind by anointing him with a mixture of spit and dust. The man is then washed, baptised into the new exodus, much like his ancestors were washed or baptised through the Red Sea into the wilderness and much



like Jesus was washed in the river Jordan into pilgrimage in the wilderness. Like the Hebrews escaping Pharaoh's Egypt and like Jesus facing the wilderness temptations, the man is rewilled into his authentic identity.

The Pharisees are enraged at the healing, more so because it occurs

on a Sabbath (John 9.14). The religious leaders interrogate the healed man and his parents (John 9.15-21). His parents are terrified and refuse to answer the Pharisees questions saying: "he is of age ask him yourself" (John 9.22-23).

When questioned by the Pharisees and other witnesses the man born blind states "I am the man" (John 9.9). His "I am" and the "I am" of the Good Shepherd coincide. "I am the man" corresponds to the sixth day of creation when God created humankind in God's image. "I am the man" also recalls the crucifixion of Jesus in John 19. After Jesus' trial Pontius Pilate has Jesus whipped and then presents him to the crowd with the words "Behold the man!" (John 19.5).

The Pharisees expel the healed man out of the synagogue. Jesus goes searching for the outcast man to embrace him in new community of woolly exiles, as a member of the tribe who hear his voice (John 9.35). The metaphor of the Good Shepherd is now understood within the context of the sixth sign, the healing of the man born blind who is then thrown out of the synagogue. The Good Shepherd goes in search of the healed man and offers a deeper healing, union within the new community of formerly lost sheep. For those "of age", appreciating the symbol of the Good Shepherd is more poignant if we notice links with the healed man who becomes an outcast.

The man born blind hears the voice of the Good Shepherd and is healed. Lazarus hears the voice of the Good Shepherd and is resuscitated (John 11.43). Mary the Magdalene recognises the voice of the Good Shepherd in the Resurrection Garden and is ordained an apostle to the apostles (John 20.16-18). We too recognise the voice of the Good Shepherd whose echo fills the God shaped void within. Our deepest identity is God, and it is this seed of divinity within that responds to the voice of the Good Shepherd. As Julian of Norwich put it, we are made of God.

May the Good Shepherd continue to lead us through desolate valleys towards green pastures where our anointed souls are nourished with overflowing wine and our enemies become our friend (Psalm 23).

Sentence of the Day

In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4.10-11

Collect

O God,
form the minds of your faithful people,
that we may love what you command
and desire what you promise,
so that, amid the many changes of this world,
our hearts may there be fixed where true joys are to be found;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

John 15:1-8

¹ I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.