



Alstonville Anglicans

Pentecost 12

Sunday 28th August 2022

Welcome, so good to see you.



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 28th August to 4th September

28 th Aug		Sunday
	9am	Holy Communion
	4pm	Messy Church
29 th Aug		Monday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
	10am	Anam Cara
30 th Aug		Tuesday
		Parish Office Closed (No office access)
	4pm	Singalong group (contact Susan)
31 st Aug		Wednesday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
	8am-8pm	Earth Vigil
	9am	Anam Cara (contact Charlie)
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
1 st Sept		Thursday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
	6pm	Anam Cara (contact Charlie)
2 nd Sept		Friday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
	10am	Holy Communion
4 th Sept		Sunday
	9am	Holy Communion

This bulletin contains current announcements and the weeks 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.

Good Governance



COVID and Mask Wearing Update



Proper mask wearing more than halves the risk of getting or transmitting COVID

The Parish COVID Committee recommends that we all wear masks in Church Services and volunteering at the Op Shop. Mask wearing is, of course, not mandatory, but is strongly recommended.



Have you downloaded our App? 'Alstonville Anglicans'

1. Download the app from the app store or google play.
2. Sign-up to create an account.
3. Update your profile.
4. Access the member directory.

Planned Giving
made easy

Application forms
available today



Community engagement



How many tickles does it take to make an octopus laugh?

Ten tickles.



LET'S MAKE SOME JOYFUL NOISE!

Sing-a-long Group

Tuesdays 4pm
St Bartholomew's Church

All Welcome!

Alstonville
Anglicans
6 The Avenue
Alstonville
anglicans.live



Professional Room

The professional room is now rented by Katie from Alstonville Psychology Tuesday - Friday 9am - 5pm.

The space is available for rental on Saturday, Sunday and Monday and after 5pm the rest of the week.

Clean Newspapers

The Op Shop is in need of clean newspaper to wrap china and glassware. Please save up your newspaper and drop it in to the Op Shop.

Parish Get Together



All parishioners are invited to lunch at the home of Ken and Margaret Brown at 12noon on 28th August. Bring your own food and drink and a folding chair if you have one. BBQ available. You may also wish to bring something sweet or savoury to share. If it's fine we'll be outside. If it's wet we'll be inside We're 3.4 kilometres out along the Wardell Road. First house on the left after the Uralba turn (not the house on the corner). Margaret and Ken

Worship & Spirituality



'Best Dad ever!'

Messy Church

**Sunday 28th August
4pm**



Alstonville
Anglicans
6 The Avenue
Alstonville
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Wednesday 31st August
8am-8pm



Earth Vigil

This Vigil invites the Community to come and sit in silent solidarity for the healing of the earth and her people.

Our focus this year is
'WATER'

The Vigil will include short musical interludes and the ringing of the church bell.

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Sound Sauna & Healing Experience 6pm

Community Meal 7pm
Thursday 8th September

All welcome. Cost by donation. BYO wine/drinks, meal provided (vegetarian, gluten and dairy free)



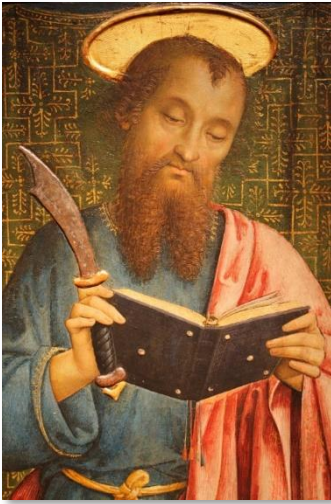
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Sermon Notes Preached on 21st August

"Call Upon Our Lives" John 1:45-51

On Wednesday (24 August) our liturgical calendar that we follow is set to recognise St Bartholomew, Apostle and Martyr. I want to begin by briefly profiling who St Bartholomew was, given that this beautiful sandstone church that we gather in for worship was named after him.

Bartholomew



So, who was Bartholomew? And why is he relevant? Bartholomew was one of the twelve apostles of Jesus and early sources say he was also referred to as Nathaniel. Bartholomew hailed from Cana in Galilee and was martyred in Armenia for converting Polymius, King of Armenia, to Christianity. The name Bartholomew means Bar Talmai or the son of Talmai. We find Bartholomew mentioned in the three Synoptic Gospels – Matthew, Mark and Luke. In the Gospel of John, Bartholomew is identified as Nathaniel, a friend of Philip as we just heard of in the gospel account for today. A further mention of Bartholomew is made in the Acts of the Apostles.¹

Biblical commentators have described Bartholomew as having a low profile. While not the only one of the twelve to live in relative obscurity, Bartholomew represents a quiet alternative to the more visible and vocal public witnesses frequently associated with the apostles. With such a low profile the commentators have implied that Bartholomew's contributions may have been lost in archival care or scattered in upheavals that existed at the time. Were there deliberate acts to destroy his contributions because of jealousy or rival factions. Was Bartholomew someone who in fact did very little? Or was Bartholomew, the thoughtful one, prone to process his faith internally and intellectually, without a big fuss?² As I read and reflected about Bartholomew's life over the last few weeks, I sense that he lived his life simply, meditatively and his call was to serve others.

Our Gospel Reading – John 1: 45-51

The essence of our Gospel reading is that of being called. Essentially, our Gospel reading focuses on the call of Nathaniel, shown in the interactions Nathaniel has with his friend, Philip and of course Jesus. I would like us this morning to consider our calling...

¹ www.catholicreadings.org

² Portaro, S. (1998, p. 145) *"Brightest and Best – A companion to the Lesser Feasts and Fasts"* Cowley Publications

What is the call upon your life?

What is our calling to ministry, here at Alstonville Anglicans?

Or, more broadly speaking, as a Christian how do we exercise our call, use our gifts in the wider community?

My hope is as we explore this passage together, we will see that the individual circumstances we experience as part of our human nature, our humanity, that is, how we are made in the image of God can contribute to our calling when going about our lives.

Our opening verses show the interaction between Philip and Nathaniel. This interaction comes after Philip has been himself called by Jesus in Verses 43 and 44. Jesus' invitation to Philip is to follow me! I get the sense that Philip is excited about his invitation, his call to follow Jesus. He wants to share this news. Philip has been described like Andrew as someone who cannot keep good news to himself, he needs to share it with others!³ So, we see Philip went and found his friend Nathaniel. Noting what Moses wrote in the law we see Phillip sharing with Nathaniel that we have found the One about whom the prophets spoke - Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

What is Nathaniel's response to all this?

"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Not the most positive statement that can be made! Can anything good come out of Nazareth?

Why would he ask this?

Now for us, we know what the good is coming out of Nazareth because we live on this side of the resurrection. However, back in the time of this interaction between Philip and Nathaniel things were different. Nathaniel was contemptuous, he was well educated - there was nothing in the Old Testament which foretold that God's Chosen One should come from Nazareth. Nazareth was a quite undistinguished place back then. Nathaniel himself came from Cana, a Galilaean town, and in the country places, jealousy between town and town and rivalry between village and village, was notorious. Nathaniel's reaction was to declare that Nazareth was not the kind of place that anything good was likely to come out of. It was Nathaniel's experience. It was Nathaniel's knowledge of Nazareth. However, Philip was wise. He did not argue with his friend. He just simply said: *"Come and see!"*⁴

³ Barclay, W. (1956, p.76) "The Gospel of John – Volume 1" The Daily Study Bible St Andrew's Press, Edinburgh

⁴ Barclay, W. (1956, p.76)

Come and see! Words used by Jesus in the previous chapter. Come and see! Another invitation... Philip wanted to show Nathaniel that things were different and would be different. Philip had come to know Jesus.

Nathaniel Meets Jesus



And so, Nathaniel came, and upon meeting Jesus, Jesus could see into Nathaniel's heart. Jesus says, *"Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!"*⁵ Nathaniel seems surprised by this, that upon meeting Jesus he would make such a statement. How do you know me? Jesus' response was that he had already seen him under the fig tree.

Why a fig tree? In Jewish thought the fig tree always stood for peace. The Jewish idea of peace was a man could sit undisturbed under his own vine and fig tree. It was a place that was leafy and shady, and it was custom to sit and meditate. This is what Nathaniel had been doing! Nathaniel would sit and meditate, think through, and pray for the day when God's Chosen One should come. Nathaniel would meditate on the promises of God. Upon meeting Jesus, Nathaniel now felt very strongly that Jesus had seen into the very depths of his heart. Nathaniel thought - Jesus knows me and acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God and King of Israel.⁶

It is Nathaniel's human nature, the practises that he applied in his everyday life that attracted Jesus' attention. Yes, Nathaniel may have been initially critical about the good coming out of Nazareth, but Jesus still liked what he saw and called him. God wants Nathaniel to keep his humanness because he is made in the image of God. Nathaniel's heart was transformed.

People from the Bible

In the Bible we see other people who God has said keep your humanness. In all you do keep your humanity.

Think about Adam and Eve. God created them to till the garden. They chose to turn their back on God. God banished them from

⁵ John 1: 47 (NRSV)

⁶ Barclay, W. (1956, p.77)

Eden – God did not stop them from tilling the garden, Instead God said it would be harder, God asked them to care for His creation. Keep your humanity.

Think about Abraham - Abram as he was. God went to him with a specific reason. God wanted to make Abram a great nation. He was a great man – a wealthy man. God wanted him to lead many people and do so by keeping his humanity!

Think about Sarah, who was eaves dropping near the tent when Abraham is told by three angels that Sarah would bear a child. Sarah laughs! God said you laughed! Sarah said I didn't laugh. There is back and forth argument. God says call the child Isaac – which means laughter in Hebrew. Don't lose your humanity!

Moses. Moses is out in the fields and is a stuttering shepherd. God says to him I will give you the words, but I need you to shepherd my people. Don't lose your humanity!

Mary. Mary is a young teenager. God says to her I need you to be the mother of my Son. Mary is a faithful young woman who is curious and who says how can this be? God wants that curiosity in her so that she can raise Jesus to become the Son of God.

Jesus calls his disciples and tells the fisherman to become fishers of people, but don't lose who you are as humans, become something more... Be disciples!

We are all humans! Therefore, we are all created in the image of God.

But God wants us to do something more... God wants us to become disciples. To become a disciple, we need to use Philip's words, Jesus's words, "*Come and see!*"

"Come and see!" How do we do that?

Application for us

For me, my knowledge of God grows as I am fed by his Word. Each day I am in the practice of reflecting on the verse of the day and going through a daily devotional. I experience God as I come forward to receive Communion at the Lord's table. I also experience God as I interact with the people around me each day – family, friends, colleagues, students, strangers. Through these interactions love and care can be exercised, and the image of God is shown.

For us as Alstonville Anglicans, we say... Come as you! We welcome and invite humanity in all its forms and collectively minister love and care as we serve sharing the good life as disciples and followers of Jesus through corporate worship, the Op Shop, Play Place, Messy Church, the Community on the Verge (garden), Pastorally caring for others. Our humanity, our humanness, the ministry we do can then be extended into a community context as we connect with others in our midst.



Can I encourage each one of us not to lose our humanity, our humanness when carrying out the ministry we are called to do. They are important qualities that make us who we are and are part of our calling. God looks into the depths of our heart and uses these qualities just like He did with Nathaniel. God does not discriminate, but rather loves us. God knows our heart and guides us. God invites us to come and see! Out of this love we are made in the image of God to be His disciples to exercise ministry boldly, to exercise ministry quietly and without a big fuss in the world in which we live. Amen.

Mark Stuckey LLM

Sentence of the Day

All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted. Luke 14.11

Collect

O God,
you invite the humble and the sinful
to take their place in the festive assembly of the new covenant:
teach your Church always

to honour the presence of the Lord in the poor and the outcast,
so that we may learn to recognise each other
as brothers and sisters gathered together around your table.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Luke 14.1, 7-14

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. ⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. ⁸ 'When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, "Give this person your place", and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, "Friend, move up higher"; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.' ¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, 'When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'