



Alstonville Anglicans

Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost

Sunday 29th August 2021

Liturgy for 29th August

Sentence of the Day



Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

James 1.17

Collect

Cleanse our consciences, O Lord,
and enlighten our hearts
through the daily presence of your Son Jesus Christ,

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

that when he comes in glory to be our judge we may be found undefiled and acceptable in his sight; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings

Mark 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23

¹ Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, ² they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³ (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴ and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵ So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶ He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; ⁷ in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’ ⁸ You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴ Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵ there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

²¹ For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²² adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

Messages

Due to COVID restrictions, the church office and building is closed until further notice. Sunday services may be viewed on the website anglicans.live.

Pastoral Care

Lockdown is hard on everyone – if you are struggling it is normal – reach out if you need to.

- Lynne Watt our Pastoral Care Coordinator
wattlg@bigpond.com
- or to Desiree 040 276 4969
- or any of the priests listed on the back page.

“Be attentive to how you are feeling. There is no such thing as a bad emotion or a wrong feeling. Feel what you feel. Where do you feel what you feel? Pay attention to what it is that is happening for you. Can you draw your emotions?”
(Desiree).

- Stay active
- Stay connected
- Listen to music
- Enjoy the silence
- Smile if you can



Good Governance

COVID LOCKDOWN

As we all know we are in lockdown, which means no meetings or church services (except online), and no Op Shop. If the lockdown finishes, then we are straight away back to as before with usual restrictions. It's too early to say whether the lockdown will be extended.

Socially, it's a very difficult time for us all but especially those living alone, so remember to keep in contact by phone.

Covid Committee

Keys



If you have been in a position where you had a key to either the Church or Ministry Centre, and you are no longer in that role, could you please return your key to the Church Office, so that we don't have to purchase more keys as people take up roles or as new hirers book the facility.

Community Engagement

On-the-verge Alstonville Community Garden

The Anam Cara meditation group is planning to develop a community food garden on the perimeter of St Bartholomew's church. The project will incorporate permaculture and planting in garden beds. Vegetables, fruit, edible plants and herbs will be grown.

The vision is that the garden will offer a connection point for our church community and the wider Alstonville community.

We hope to develop a garden that people can work on, contribute to and harvest as a community.

Local community groups will be invited to be part of the project. The first working bee is scheduled for Saturday 30th October 2-4pm. (COVID permitting). Everyone is welcome.

If you would like to be involved in the planning and management of the project, or have any ideas to contribute please contact Alan Larsen on 0409 655 123 or Barbara Fewtrell 0429 385 713



Coming soon to
Alstonville
COMMUNITY ON-THE-VERGE
A FOOD GARDEN FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY
JOIN IN THE FUN
ENJOY THE GARDEN ANYTIME...ALONE OR WITH FRIENDS
HARVEST FOOD AS YOU NEED IT...
WORKING BEE 30 OCTOBER 2021 | 2-4 P.M.
6 THE AVENUE | PARKING DALEY STR
PHONE ALAN 0409 655 123



Worship and Spirituality



Anam Cara Earth Vigil

The Anam Cara group are organising an
Earth Vigil Wednesday
3rd November 8am-8pm

Anam Cara

Wednesday 9am and Thursday 6pm ONLINE

Priest Anglicans is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6224874493?pwd=ZFhidWtHHTHV3
NUk3UE9hcXNzaHEwdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6224874493?pwd=ZFhidWtHHTHV3NUk3UE9hcXNzaHEwdz09)

Meeting ID: 622 487 4493

Passcode: 82462477

Sermon notes on John 6:56–69

Metaphors

I wonder if Australia is the only place in the world where an absolute lemon is cactus and a dark horse a fair cow, and everyone has an uncle called Bob? I wonder what your thoughts are on the following expressions.

- Stunned mullet
- A few roos loose in the top paddock
- A few stubbies short of a six-pack. ...
- Have a sticky or have a captain cook...
- Or nice Budgie smugglers Tony Abbott...





Much Australian parlance is metaphor. What is a metaphor? Simply put metaphor is symbolic language. In metaphor, one experience or reality is understood or explained by comparing it to another. Metaphor is the use of symbol to make meaning. An important thing to understand is that a metaphor taken literally is an absurdity. For

example, to interpret the metaphor "it's raining cats and dogs" literally is an absurdity, as is "to throw the baby out with the bath water" and "beating a dead horse". Metaphor is the only path into today's lectionary. Yet, if we enter the deeper meaning of these metaphors an experience is offered. One could say "it's raining hard". However, "raining cats and dogs" offers an experience, really heavy rain.

Metaphors and the Gospel of John 6:56-69

The point of today's reading in John 6:56-69 is precisely metaphor. John states in that **'the Spirit gives life; the flesh is unprofitable'**. What John means is that we must understand the use of metaphor in experiencing Jesus; to take a metaphor literally is an absurdity, worse, its death. A literal understanding misses the point about Jesus. Informed by the Spirit it is only through metaphor we grasp the meaning of Jesus. The invitation today is **to elevate our minds from the literal to the symbolic, from the finite to the infinite.**

I am not trying to be abstract. Metaphor is how religious and spiritual language works. If one wants to experience inner

aliveness or vitality or meaning or purpose, we have no option but to embrace metaphor.

It is precisely at the point of metaphor that division and conflict occur in the John's Gospel. There is conflict between Jesus and the pharisees who overemphasise literalness. Later in John 6.40-51 the conflict around metaphor is between Jesus and other Jews. Now the conflict is within the group of Jesus' own followers – Jesus' use of metaphor causes offense.

The offense is related to fear, fear that Jesus is asking them to let go of their traditions. Instead, Jesus is asking that their heritage be transformed into metaphor, into symbol. I suggest we do the same.

The Eucharist as a metaphor for life

In the meditation on the bread of life in John 6 and in our Eucharist, we are asked to enter metaphor. We are asked **to transform our life into the life of God and transform our actions into actions of God.** Jesus said: "Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?". The elevation of the bread during the Eucharist and the elevation of Jesus in the ascension is an invitation to elevate our



consciousness from the literal to the symbolic, from the physical to the divine. The finite, the physical, is an expression, a symbol, of the Infinite.

The bread and wine are symbols of finite reality, symbols of the whole

creation, symbols of our lives. The elevation of the bread and wine and the elevation of Christ transforms our finite lives into the body and blood of God, into the manifestation of God's presence.

Our finite lives are transformed to the body and blood of Christ, a manifestation of God. Our finite actions are transformed into lifegiving actions of Christ.

What does this mean practically?



Seeing our lives as a metaphor for the Eucharist is to transform our life into the life God of life, our actions into actions of God. Thus, whatever we give to others will be the body and blood

of Christ. Whatever we receive from others is, similarly, the body and blood of Christ. Every encounter we have with others, within creation is an Eucharistic celebration. Every encounter is then a sacred encounter.

e.g. When I share in an authentic conversation with another, the story I share with them is the body and blood of Christ and they receive it. In offering a listening presence, the listener gives the speaker the body and blood of Christ.

Concluding comments

When the theologian and scientist Jesuit priest Teilhard was unable to celebrate the Eucharist, he made everything his Eucharist in the way indicated above:

Since once again, Lord I have neither bread, nor wine, nor altar, I will raise myself beyond these symbols, up to the pure majesty of the real itself; I, your priest, will make the whole earth my altar and on it will offer you all the labours and sufferings of the world.

Over there, on the horizon, the sun has just touched with light the outermost fringe of the eastern sky. Once again, beneath this moving sheet of fire, the living surface of the earth wakes and trembles, and once again begins its fearful travail. I will place on my paten, O God, the harvest to be won by this renewal of labour. Into my chalice I shall pour all the sap which is to be pressed out this day from the earth's fruits.

My paten and my chalice are the depths of a soul laid widely open to all the forces which in a moment will rise up from every corner of the earth and converge upon the Spirit. Grant me the remembrance and the mystic presence of all those whom the light is now awakening to the new day.



ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALSTONVILLE

OUR VISION

Our vision and purpose is:

Sharing the Good Life.

Sharing the Good Life means:

we partner with God in creating heaven on earth.

OUR MISSION

In sharing the Good Life, we cultivate:

- **Invigorating, diverse** worship and **transforming** spirituality.
- **Outstanding** community engagement
- **Nourishing pastoral care.**
- **Empowering & visionary servant** leadership
- **Good Governance** of property, finances, administration and a Safe Church Culture.

OUR STRUCTURE

Portfolio	Purpose
Pastoral Care	To show Christ's love in action.
Worship & Spirituality	To glorify God, proclaim the good news and pursue peace and reconciliation through personal and social transformation.
Community engagement (outreach and communication)	To respond to human need by loving service. To have communication that is caring, clear, concise, correct and that connects people with each other.
Op Shop	To respond to human need by loving service.
Leadership	To implement the vision, mission, values and to work towards strategic goals.

Good governance: Finance, Admin, Safe Ministry and Property	To have outstanding facilities and sustainable resources for mission & ministry.
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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

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The Anglican Op Shop

1 The Avenue, Alstonville **Tel:** 6628 8777

Dates 29th August to 5th September

29 th August	Sunday 9am Holy Communion ONLINE Sunday 4pm Messy Church CANCELLED
30 th August	Monday 10am Anam Cara Praying for You CANCELLED Parish Office CLOSED Op Shop CLOSED
31 st August	Tuesday Parish Office closed (Please avoid going to the office)
1 st September	Wednesday 9am Anam Cara ONLINE Parish Office and Op Shop CLOSED
2 nd September	Parish Office CLOSED Op Shop CLOSED Play Place 9.30am-11.30am ONLINE
3 rd September	Friday 10am Holy Communion CANCELLED Parish Office CLOSED
5 th September	Sunday 9am Holy Communion