



Alstonville Anglicans

Easter 7

Sunday 29th May 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.

Alstonville Anglicans

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
Parish Office:	8 The Avenue, Alstonville	
Telephone:	6628 0231	
Postal:	PO Box 451, Alstonville NSW 2477	
e-mail:	office@anglicans.live	
website:	anglicans.live	

Bank account: BSB 705 077 / Acc:00032931

The Anglican Op Shop: 1 The Avenue, Alstonville **Tel:** 6628 8777

Dates 29th May to 5th June

29 th May	Sunday 9am Holy Communion
30 th May	Parish Office 9am – 12pm Op Shop 9am – 3pm 10am Anam Cara praying for Community
31 st May	Tuesday Parish Office Closed (Please refrain from accessing the office at this time)
1 st June	Parish Office 9am – 12pm Anam Cara 9am Op Shop 9am – 3pm Pastoral Care Meeting 11am Messy Church Planning Meeting 4pm
2 nd June	Parish Office 9am – 12pm Op Shop 9am – 3pm Anam Cara 6pm
3 rd June	Parish Office 9am – 12pm Friday 10am Holy Communion
5 th June	Sunday 9am Holy Communion Reconciliation Sunday

Messages

Worship & Spirituality

Cursillo 3 Day Weekend for Men's / Women's 62



June 10th-13th at Nuralamee, Corindi Beach NSW. If you are interested please speak to one of the ministers. For more information contact Desley Ryan dryan999@bigpond.net.au

Refresh your soul with a quiet morning

28 May 9.30-12.30, Teveton

We gather at 9.30 for a cuppa at the house, then take some time alone to do whatever refreshes our souls: read, meditate, draw, write, contemplate nature. There are so many pleasant spots to choose from on this beautiful property. BYO chair or blanket. Teveton Centre, 75 North Teven Road, Teven. Call Rev. Cathy on 0427 836 988

Community Engagement

Reconciliation Week

The flags will be flying at St Bartholomew's in honour of Reconciliation week, May 27th – June 3rd and for the remainder of June as a sign of respect for and solidarity with First Nations People. The theme for Reconciliation week 2022 is 'Be Brave, Make Change' This year we are asked to make change beginning with brave actions in our daily lives – where we live, work, play and socialise.

We will be focusing on Reconciliation in our services on Sunday 29th May and Sunday 5th June.



Fete 2022 Saturday 7th May

Thank you to all who assisted in the organization of the 2022 fete. It was a great community event. Net takings exceed \$7100.

Community-On-the-Verge



Parish Council are considering an idea from COVE to plant a herb spiral.

COVE contacts are:

Alan Larsen on 0409 655 123 or

Barbara Fewtrell 0429 385 713

SORRY: No more Plastic Lids Collection

However, **you can still donate any of the plastic bread**



tags – as they are POSTED to South Australia.

The containers are just inside the Ministry Centre and Op Shop entrance doors.

THANK YOU,

John and Jenny Noble

Professional Room for Hire



'Get a Room'. Our Professional Room is now available for hire. This space is ideal for small groups or individuals. It is comfortable, private and has Wi-Fi access. Let's spread the word.

To Make You Laugh



Singing in the shower is fun until you get soap in your mouth...then it is a soap opera.



Good Governance

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.



Empowering Leadership

Parish Leaders for 2022

Rector's Warden: Bruce Sharp

Warden: Jenny Noble

Parish Councillors:

Des Fitzpatrick, Kay Fry, Charlie Handley, Graham Ireland, Amanda Middleton, Mark Stuckey, Robyn Hannah, Margaret Brown.

Other Appointments:

Treasurer: Anne Bryce

Social Committee Coordinator: Amanda Middleton

Worship Leaders:

Mark Stuckey, Barbara Fewtrell, Susan Fitzpatrick, Helen Nicholson, Charlie Handley

Thank you for your willingness to serve our Parish.

Regular Reminders

Worship & Spirituality

Church Open

The Church is open for meditation during office hours.

Mothers Union: third Monday of each month. Contact Pam on 0417 258 991 or Joyce 0407 690 874 joyce@stephanies.com.au

Anam Cara

Anam Cara Praying for you Monday mornings 10am

Anam Cara Wednesdays 9am

& **Thursdays** 6pm

Good Governance

COVID Update

- Masks not required but encouraged especially when singing.
- Social distancing is still advised as is adequate ventilation.
- Hand sanitiser will remain available but is not compulsory.
- Morning tea will continue to be served outside at the present time.
- The Covid Committee appreciates everybody's understanding, tolerance, and compliance.

Passing of the Plate



Parish Council advise that from Sunday 5th June the passing of the collection plate will be reinstated in services.

Sign Up for Planned Giving

To lessen the burden on volunteers and to reduce risk around cash handling and storage on property, you are encouraged to sign up for Planned Giving. Forms for signing up for Planned Giving are now available from the website and in the church foyer and parish office.

If you would prefer to directly deposit into the Parish Account the details are: **Bank account:** BSB 705 077 / Acc:00032931

Community Engagement

Play Place



Play Place 9.30-11.30am Thursdays during school terms.

Sew Helpful



Sew Helpful 1st & 3rd Mondays 1pm.
All welcome.

Anglicare North Coast 2022 Northern NSW Flood Appeal Please continue to support this Appeal.

www.anglicarenorthcoast.org.au

Pastoral Care

If you or anyone you know is ill or in hospital, please let the office or Lynne Watt our Pastoral Care Coordinator know. Also, if you do visit anyone could you email Lynne? wattlg@bigpond.com. **Pastoral Care Meeting 1st June 11am.**

Prayers

Please remember our family and friends impacted by the floods.

Sermon Notes 22nd May 2022

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Home



We have survived another election. The housing crisis, a rise in interest rates for home loans, the bushfires and floods which aggravated the housing shortage, those without homes, people seeking refuge and asylum, are some of the factors that dominated the election wars.

Issues such as cost of living are closely related to being at home in the world. For many, but especially younger voters, our broader home, the environment is a key consideration.

Home. What does the word home or housing mean to you? Safety, belonging, thriving, limitlessness, a space to be oneself, a refuge, a space to be rejuvenated are words that describe home for some. For others home is a place to escape from, a place of threat and the violence of abuse, addiction, and control. Home is either a space of expansion when home is safe and nourishing or contraction when home is violent. Between these two points of safety and violence is displacement; a lack of a home because of homelessness or forced migration or the 'Stolen Generations' being severed from their land, their home.

Home is closely linked to identity. Who I am and who you are is largely shaped by *where* home was and is. Identity is shaped by *what* home was and is. The close link between the place of home and identity is one of the reasons it is so stressful when we move home or when home is threatened. In 21 years of marriage, we have lived in seven homes, in 6 towns, in 3 provinces, 2 states and 2 countries. Moving home is as stressful as experiencing death, psychologists tell us. Maybe it is because home is closely linked to identity. In moving home, a person's identity shifts too. Some parts of who we are die.

The empty caves that line the streets of Woodburn, Broadwater and Lismore were once homes to families whose prized possessions now litter the once flooded streets. What trauma! Our compassion for their loss opens us to vicarious trauma when some of their pain stains our souls, but these are Christ's wounds, and we carry them willingly hoping that it sucks out the poison of their suffering.

Mutual indwelling

The over brief consideration on the word 'home' illustrates some ways that 'home' captures the whole range of human emotions from

trauma to safety to flourishing. The point of the scriptures especially in John is how God's plan is that God makes God's home within us even as we find our home in God. God's plan is a process of mutual indwelling – God making God's home in us and us finding our home in God. To illustrate this process of mutual indwelling the book of Revelation uses the image of God as a city – to live in God is to live in a city where the city itself is God. If God were a city what would God look like? Since the whole city is God, there is no visible temple, because oneness with and in God is the reality of the God city.

The book of Revelation describes us living in God. The Gospel of John describes how God dwells in us: John 14:23 'Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.'" Here, the translation 'word' refers to Jesus' new commandment to Love. When God makes God's home in us, God doesn't come as a guest but as a partner, a Beloved. There is no need to vacuum and tidy the house – there is no need to prepare a lavish meal. God makes God's home within us regardless of the state of our home - whether our lives feel like the homes wrecked by floods, or if our lives are ordered and perfect enough to appear on "Better homes and Gardens." "The word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood" according to Eugene Peterson's translation of John 1:14. What does this tell us about God? It says that the Creator doesn't just let God's creation exist. God commits Godself to creation. God in Christ enters into it himself, so as to live in it; and that means to come to rest in it, and to remain there.

Difficulties

There are at least three difficulties people may experience in accepting an invitation for mutual indwelling. The first difficulty relates to an inability to resonate with metaphor; a lack of imagination and an over literal interpretation of God as a substance, an object, a noun, as a Someone, usually an old man with a beard. If we insist that God is an object, a noun, a Someone, we will never

grasp how God makes God's home in us, and how we make our home in God.

God is love and those who live in Love live in God (1 John). What makes God God then is not the nodes of identity – father son and holy spirit - but the energy of love that unites father to son and son to father. Teilhard believed that this love energy was at the heart of the Big Bang. Love emerges in evolution and there is a rise in consciousness as creation becomes aware of itself. From the big bang we emerge out of a long, cosmic process we call evolution. But evolution is about deep relationality, about the energy of love and it is this force of love that pulls us forward and onward in continued evolution.

The second difficulty then in accepting mutual indwelling is that we have become closed systems, unnatural and detached. Our separation from God, from each other and from creation is overemphasised. God is "up there" and we are "down here" and there is a line of separation. We are separated from each other when we over invest in our descriptors – I am I and you are you and I am not you and you are not me. We are therefore not at home in this cosmos. We are not at home in nature, and we're not at home with one another. We are literally lost in space.

Religion often perpetuates the disconnect between God and creation. Religion does not move people towards connection with God, each other and creation, a new level of consciousness, but rather, divisiveness. Religion should be making us conscious of how we are in God, how God is in us, how we are in creation and how creation is in us, and how we are in each other.

A third difficulty in accepting mutual indwelling relates to not knowing how to receive it. Jesus says, "I will be IN you" (Jn 14:17, 20). The Apostle Paul says, "Christ lives IN me" (Gal 2:20). How can I experience God's presence in my life in a meaningful way? How do I connect with God personally? We are created for union

with God. The mystery of the Divine Indwelling is the life of the Trinity living within us but how is this real for us?

Mutual indwelling, surrendering to God who makes God's home within us, is consenting to God's presence and action within. It is based on the format for prayer that Jesus suggests in Matthew 6:6. *If you want to pray, enter your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. Then your Father who sees in secret, will reward you.* In other words, to live the reality of mutual indwelling is surrendering to silence, surrendering to the inner cave of the heart where God always is. A concluding quote from the mystic Elizabeth of the Trinity serves as an illustration

If I look at things from an earthly standpoint [wrote Elizabeth] I see loneliness and even emptiness, for I cannot say that my heart has not suffered; but if I keep my eyes fixed upon Him, my shining Star, then all the rest vanishes and I lose myself as a drop of water in the ocean. All is calm, all is soothed and all is so good; it is the peace of God of which St Paul speaks, the peace that 'surpasseth all understanding' (Phil. 4:7). Let us live in close union with our Beloved and be wholly given to Him as He is given to us ... Let us commune with Him all the day long, since He is living in our soul ...

Liturgy for 29th May

Sentence of the Day

God has raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named. Ephesians 1.20–21

Collect

God of majesty,
you led the Messiah through suffering into risen life,
and took him up into the glory of heaven:
clothe us with the power promised from on high,
and send us forth to the ends of the earth
as heralds of repentance and witnesses of Jesus Christ,
the firstborn from the dead,
who lives with you now and always
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Readings John 17:20-26

²⁰ 'I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ 'Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.'