



Alstonville  
Anglicans

**Trinity Sunday**

**30<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

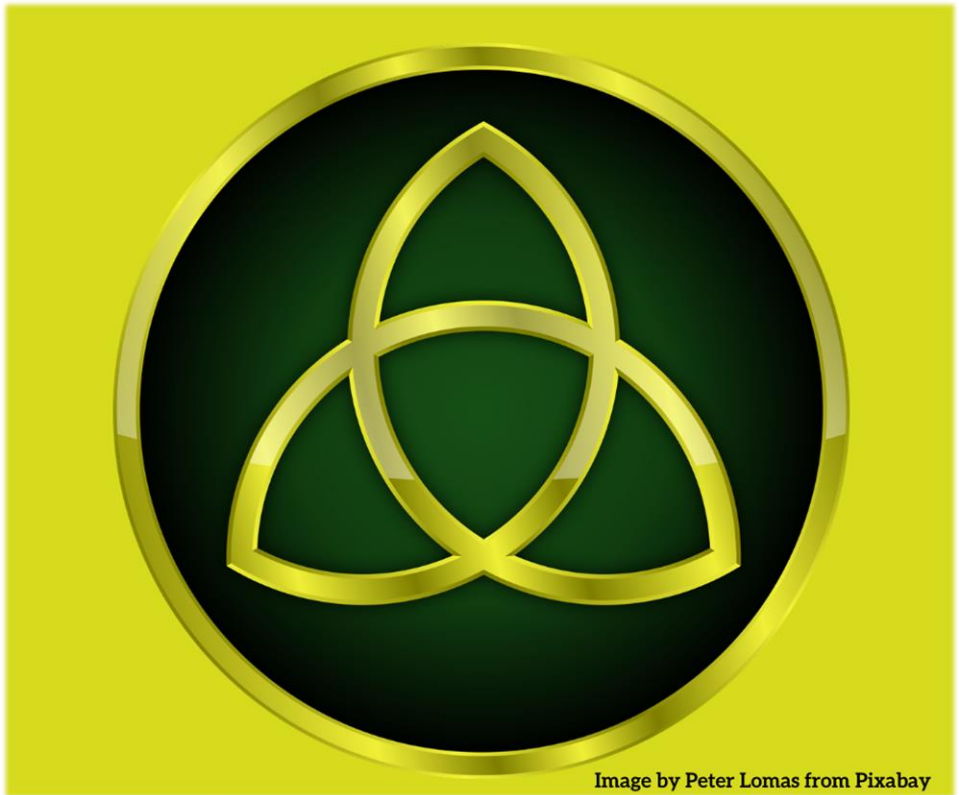


Image by Peter Lomas from Pixabay

## **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

## Liturgy for 30<sup>th</sup> May

### Sentence of the Day

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory. Isaiah 6.3

### Collect

O blessed Trinity,  
in whom we know the Maker of all things,  
seen and unseen,  
the Saviour of all, both near and far:  
by your Spirit enable us so to worship your divine majesty,  
that with all the company of heaven  
we may magnify your glorious name,  
saying, Holy, holy, holy.  
Glory to you, O Lord most high. Amen.

### Readings

#### **John 3:1–17**

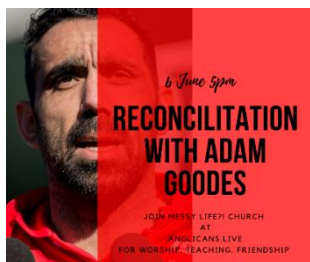
<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses,

and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”<sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”<sup>11</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony.”<sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?<sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.<sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,<sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”<sup>17</sup> “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

## Messages

### Worship and Spirituality portfolio

### Subscribe to AnglicansLive on YouTube



### Next Messy Life ?! Church

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June 5pm**



## Reconciliation Week

The flags are flying at St Bartholomew's in honour of Reconciliation Week.

The theme for Reconciliation week 2021 is 'More than a word. Reconciliation takes action' and urges the reconciliation movement towards braver and more impactful action.

6<sup>th</sup> June @ Messy Life?! Church  
Reconciliation with Adam Goodes.

# Love as energy *in the spirit of Teilhard*

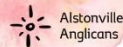
- Saturday 26 June
- 10am-3pm
- 6 The Avenue Alstonville
- Bring a plate to share and journals, pens etc for creative expression (Cost: donation)

Join Alstonville Anglicans  
in a Quiet Day led by  
Kelly Tancred.

"Through her deep stillness, Kelly creates a sacred space where all are welcomed and their desire for communion with the Divine is nurtured. Her facilitation of silence is utterly stunning"  
(Desiree Snyman)

*come as ... you*

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## Pastoral Care

### Family Crosses



On Sunday 30 May, Family Crosse is being given to Margaret & Ken Brown.

**Prayers** for Brown Family, Beattie Family and Earner Family.

### Pastoral visits Remember!



If you or anyone you know is ill or in hospital, please let the office of Lynne Watt our Pastoral Care Coordinator know. Also, if you do visit anyone could you email Lynne? [wattlg@bigpond.com](mailto:wattlg@bigpond.com).

Pastoral Care Meeting Wednesday  
2<sup>nd</sup> June 11am in the Ministry Centre.

## Leadership Empowering

**Synod 2021** is 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> August. If you have any questions or motions forward them to the Synod Representatives: Mark Stuckey, Cathi Angus, Rev Desiree.

## Good Governance

### Note

#### Current Status of COVID Restrictions

Restrictions for Places of Worship were relaxed in NSW from 29<sup>th</sup> March.

1. Limit of 1 person / 2sqm ie. now 72 for St Bartholomew's and 20 at St Peter & St Paul's.
2. Checking in is very important and is mandatory.
3. Ventilation is important ie. opening windows and doors and morning tea outside.
4. Hand sanitization is mandatory.
5. 1.5m rule of separation is advised.
6. Singing is ok with no restrictions.

## Ministry and leadership

### Opportunities

At Alstonville Anglicans, we consider all the baptised as ministers. Thus, everything that builds the community in love is ministry.

#### Put your hand up!



#### ☐ 1. Worship Team members

We are looking for people to assist on the Worship team on a Sunday: welcomers, readers and people to help with morning tea. Please contact Helen Nicholson [helen22nic@gmail.com](mailto:helen22nic@gmail.com) if you are able to assist.

#### ☐ 2. Catering Coordinator

Parish Council have been unable to appoint a Catering Coordinator and the decision has been made to close the catering committee. To cover funerals for parishioners, volunteers will be approached on an 'Ad Hoc' basis.

# Sermon notes on Ezekiel 37:1-14, John 15:26-27, 16:4b- 15

for Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May



We are accustomed to celebrating Pentecost as a “red day” wearing red clothes and sometimes having red balloons and banners and cardboard doves in the church building. This is not a “modern” development. In 13 century, Bishop Durandus wrote of Pentecost celebration with masses of red rose leaves, actual doves, and sparks of fire blown over the congregation. There was no risk assessment requirement back then.

Also, Pentecost has been celebrated as Whitsunday (white Sunday) with white robes acknowledging the Baptisms which took place that day and the connection of Pentecost with Easter

Often, at Pentecost, we have the reading from Acts Ch 2 which tells of the Holy Spirit coming to the Apostles in tongues of fire. There’s rushing wind and speaking in foreign languages. The crowd says these followers of the crucified Jesus are drunk with new wine. They seem to be so affected by this Holy Spirit that they are babbling like drunks about having the resurrected Lord Jesus in their lives.

Today the lectionary gave us another well-known reading from Ezekiel Chapter 37. The prophet Ezekiel tells the story of the valley of dry bones. This gives us a clear example of why we need to keep Bible passages in context. Four chapters earlier in Ezekiel Ch 33v10, God’s disheartened people in exile in Babylon ask God “How then can we live?” The story of the dry bones is an important part

of God's answer to that question. The answer is that the exiles cannot live without God.

Life requires the Spirit of God. The Spirit of the Lord is a central motif in the dry bones story. Spirit or Breath occurs 10 times in the 14 verses. God makes it clear to the prophet that it is the Spirit that gives life. The Spirit of God can give people life even in the wilderness; even in exile. There is hope for people who say "Our bones are dried up and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely". God is perfectly capable of reversing a situation of being dry and completely cut off.

So, with this sense that somehow God's Spirit brings life even if we are disheartened and feel cut off, we celebrate Pentecost. As God's people, we try to understand what the Holy Spirit means to us.

There are some serious misconceptions of Pentecost. Sometimes there is the thought that Pentecost is the "birthday" of the Holy Spirit. However, the Holy Spirit was there at creation "sweeping over the face of the waters" (Genesis 1:2)

Another misconception is the thought that Pentecost is the "birthday" of the Church. Yet God's people have always been God's people. Pentecost is a significant milestone or marker in the life of God's people, but not the beginning of the Church.

All that can be a bit confusing. Yet thankfully we have the Bible to help explain Holy Spirit to us.

The Ezekiel reading helped and so does the passage from the Gospel according to John we have heard today. John reports Jesus' farewell speech to his friends which begins with Jesus saying he will send the Advocate from the Father. This isn't a consolation prize because we have suffered the loss of Jesus. This is simply Jesus promising to give us something really good; to send us the Advocate, the Spirit of Truth, who will testify on Jesus' behalf.

Our understanding is that an advocate is a supporter of people up on charges in a courtroom. An advocate is a mediator, counsellor,





comforter; one who advises, assists, and makes representations on behalf of someone else.

The image of the Spirit as Comforter has been misunderstood throughout history. The comfort provided by an advocate is the comfort of sound advice and direction. Not mere condolence. Therefore, we are to see that this comfort provided by the Holy Spirit is not merely emotional; it's actual, factual and practical support.

Jesus says he will send to us from the Father, the "Spirit of Truth". This Spirit of Truth gives us confidence to share honestly with other people; to speak and hear and understand each other.

And the Spirit of Truth opens us up to the Bible's story about who we are and what we are doing here.

We are God's people. It is through the Holy Spirit that God reveals himself to us. It is through the Holy Spirit that we can hear God speak. And it's also through the Holy Spirit that we are able to speak to God.

The Holy Spirit is that power, that gift of God, that enables us to see that God wants to have a relationship of close connection with us. There is something about our God that loves to talk to us. God yearns for us to speak up and answer.

This is an amazing reality. Our God communicates! Isn't that what we expect when we come to worship? In the readings, the preaching, the silence, the prayers and the singing, aren't we expecting to hear God and to have God listen to us? We have to be careful not to put God aside in our services; to shut God out. Boldness and confidence to respond to God is needed. We are encouraged to be absolutely certain that God is listening to each of us as we struggle to express something to God.



So, Pentecost is the time that we celebrate the relationship with God made possible by the Holy Spirit. Time to give thanks to God for being so communicative, so talkative, so lovingly self-revealing. The Holy Spirit helps us to find the words to praise God as we should, to speak to God in words and music that are more

beautiful than we ourselves could devise so that God might speak to us words more wonderful than we could ever anticipate by ourselves.

How does this work? Paul says (in Rom 8:26), the Holy Spirit enables godly, truthful speech because the Holy Spirit is interceding and pleading with God for us. By ourselves, we are not very capable in our ability to speak to God. “We do not know how to pray as we ought.” Fortunately, the Spirit “intercedes with sighs too deep for words”. The Holy Spirit steps in for us, finding the words for us that we want to speak to God. Isn’t that amazing? Wonderful? The Holy Spirit is not only the way that God speaks to us, reveals God to us, but is also the way that we are enabled to speak to God. The Holy Spirit is that power, that gift of God that enables us to be in loving conversational relationship with God. The great Wesley hymn, “O for a thousand tongues to sing, our loosened tongues employ” is answered. The Holy Spirit will make our tongues work brilliantly.

However, knowing all this doesn’t make it happen easily. There’s no doubt that often we find it really difficult to hear God and even more difficult to speak to God. This is the main reason people give for why they do not pray. They say, “I can’t really hear God and I didn’t know what to say, or which words to use”.

But the Holy Spirit does step in to make it happen! If I ever find the right words to say something that touches your heart in a sermon, it's not because I am a brilliant preacher; it's because God gave me the words. Likewise, if you ever consciously hear anything in a sermon, despite all of the perfectly good reasons why you might not, it's because the Holy Spirit has enabled you to hear. Have you ever had the experience when reading the Bible or listening to a Bible reading, when you come to a familiar passage and think "O really! Here we go again. I know this passage so well" But then, some word or some phrase jumps out at you, really claims your attention and gives you an unexpected new insight. That's the Holy Spirit at work.

Christianity is a "revealed religion" which is a fancy way of saying that you don't "get it," it "gets you." You can't just think to make Jesus present, he has to be given to you. It must come from "on high." The best Bible study, the best listening to sermons, is a form of prayer; that humble listening, that waiting on the gift of God.

We need this gift of the Holy Spirit, this Spirit of Jesus, this Spirit of Truth, to help us bring out the power we have within us; the power we have to make the world a better place. We need the Holy Spirit, and we have the Holy Spirit so that we too, connected to God, can become fearless witnesses of Jesus Christ. Each of us has been called by Christ and sent out in the Spirit to continue the message of Christ.

Let us have the courage of our convictions to go out in faith and be Christ's presence in our hurting world.



Image by Wiki/Imagery from Pixabay

## ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALSTONVILLE

Ministers	all the baptised!	
Rector	The Reverend Dr Desiree Snyman 0402 764 969 <a href="mailto:priest@anglicans.live">priest@anglicans.live</a>	
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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**Bank account:** BSB 705 077 / Acc:00032931

### The Anglican Op Shop

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

### Dates 30<sup>th</sup> May to 6<sup>th</sup> June

30 <sup>th</sup> May	Sunday 9am Holy Communion
31 <sup>st</sup> May	Monday 10am Anam Cara Praying for You Parish Office open 9am-12pm Op Shop 9am-3pm
1 <sup>st</sup> June	Tuesday Parish Office closed
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Wednesday 9am Anam Cara Parish Office open 9am-12pm Pastoral Care Meeting 11am Op Shop 9am-3pm Executive Meeting 2pm
3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Thursday 9.30am Play Place Parish Office open 9am-12pm Op Shop 9am-3pm Thursday 6pm Anam Cara
4 <sup>th</sup> June	Friday 10am Holy Communion Parish Office open 9am-12pm
6 <sup>th</sup> June	Sunday 9am Holy Communion Messy Life?! Church 5pm Reconciliation with Adam Goodes