



Alstonville
Anglicans

Sixth Sunday of Pentecost

Sunday 4th July 2021



Image by Henryk Niestroj from Pixabay

Sharing the Good Life

We acknowledge the Bundjalung people,
Traditional custodians of the Land.
Our doors are open: LGBTQIA+ welcome here.
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Liturgy for 4th July

Sentence of the Day

Of Jesus many said, 'What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands!'
Mark 6.2

Collect

O Lord our God,
you are always more ready to bestow
your good gifts upon us than we are to seek them;
and more willing to give
than we desire or deserve:
in our every need,
grant us the first and best of all your gifts,
the Spirit who makes us your children.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Readings

Mark 6:1–13

¹ He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ² On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³ Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. ⁴ Then

Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." ⁵ And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶ And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷ He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸ He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹ but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰ He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹ If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." ¹² So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³ They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Messages

Worship and Spirituality portfolio

Subscribe to AnglicansLive on YouTube

Next Messy Life ?! Church

Sunday 18th July 5pm

We look forward to seeing you.

Pastoral Care

Family Crosses



On Sunday 4 July, the Family Cross is being given to Jenny & Charlie Handley.



Prayers

- Handley Family
- Delaney Family
-

Pastoral visits Remember!



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.

Leadership Empowering

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

Good Governance

Current COVID Restrictions NSW Government

At least until 9th July

- No singing by congregation.
- Masks to be worn.
- Hand sanitisation, good ventilation and recording of names.
- Limit of 1 per 4 square metre ie. maximum of 36 in St Bartholomew's and 65 in the Ministry Centre.

It depends on what happens with the current outbreak what happens after 9th July. Watch this space! COVID Committee

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 if you are able to assist.

Community Engagement

Naidoc Week



NAIDOC week runs from the 4 – 11 July. NAIDOC Week is a special time to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements and is an opportunity to recognise the contributions Indigenous Australians make to our country and society.

This year's theme is '**Heal Country, heal our nation**'.

Heal Country calls for stronger measures to recognise, protect, and maintain all aspects of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage. This year's theme also seeks substantive institutional, structural, and collaborative reform – something generations of Elders and communities have been advocating, marching and fighting for.

Unfortunately the NAIDOC WEEK Walk and Cultural Day have been cancelled due to the current COVID restrictions.



Fun Car Tour

Sunday 18 July 11am

The Fun Car Tour will start from St Bart's car park at 11am. We are looking for about 4 people per car.

The journey (one and a half to two hours) will be interspersed with tests of your powers of observation and skill as you tour our beautiful countryside. We will finish with a picnic lunch at a local park. BYO picnic lunch and chairs.

Register at the office or after the services and say whether you have a car or need a lift. Fun for all ages. Don't miss out! Enquiries Paul Earner 0416 280 140.

Mothers Union

MU meetings 3rd Monday of each month. Contact Joyce Shepherd for details.



AN AFTERNOON CONCERT
OF CELTIC FUSION

BACH BAGPIPES BEATLES

**SUNDAY
11 JULY 3PM
ST MARTIN'S
38 STUART ST
MULLIMBIMBY**

A fundraiser for
"Make a Wish"

Suggested cash donation \$20

Rev Desiree is performing with Marius and other Alstonville musicians to raise money for the 'Make a Wish' Foundation Sunday 11th July 3pm in St Martin's Church Mullumbimby. Be entertained and benefit a very worthy cause.

If you are planning to attend, please call the office and we will add your name to the attendance list.

Sermon notes on Mark 5

for Sunday 27th June



In Mark 5 Jesus is asked to heal the 12-year-old daughter of a prominent Jewish leader. The journey towards the leader's home is interrupted by an invisible woman who has bled dry in the 12-year search for a cure for her haemorrhaging. When Jesus resumes his journey to the 12-year-old girl we find that she has died.

The story follows the usual a-b-a sandwich technique used by the writers of Mark's Gospel: the story of the girl is intercalated by the story of the woman haemorrhaging blood. What unites the story of the woman being healed of her haemorrhaging with the story of the sick daughter is the number 12. The repeated use of the symbol 12 requires that the woman and the girl are the interpretative lens for each other's story.

The two stories in Mark 5 are experiences of healing. The symbol 12 elevates the meaning of these stories further. 12 symbolises Israel. The 12-year-old daughter of the Jewish leader is in a coma. Her coma symbolises that the faith of the Israelites is dead, it has lost all life and its children are "dead". By following the teachings of the prophets lived out in the sermons and lifestyle of Jesus the faith of Israel can be resurrected just as the girl is resurrected. The woman haemorrhaging symbolises how the people of the land are bled dry by Temple and Roman authority. The most vulnerable in society, the girl child and the elderly sick woman without a male protector, experience the worst effects of a systemic abuse.



The healing is subversive. While the 12-year-old daughter of a Jewish leader is clearly a daughter of Israel, Jesus uses the term daughter to address the older woman. The reason this is so subversive is that the woman bleeding for 12 years is an invisible outsider, a poverty stricken, ill woman excluded from Israel, excluded from

religion, excluded from society, excluded from family and thought to be excluded from God. Moreover, she is told that her faith has healed her; her faith is juxtaposed with the disciples' lack of faith in Mark 4. The scandal of Jesus is naming an outcast woman as an icon of faith and a true daughter of Israel. What is even more subversive is that Jesus brings direct attention to the fact that she was healed through touch. The purity codes meant that the bleeding woman was unclean and everyone she touched would be unclean. The attention Jesus draws to touch highlights the woman's courage in stepping over the pure/impure boundary. Jesus, having been touched by the older woman, is also unclean. Yet in his "unclean" state enters the home of a Jewish leader and successfully heals his daughter.

The writers of Mark's Gospel are provocative in that they have brought to light a story that is taboo and invisible. To state the bleeding obvious (pun intended), the woman "with the issue of blood" is not suffering from a 12-year nosebleed. Her haemorrhaging is not stated, but her bleeding may possibly have been a menstrual period with excessive flow or a type of abnormal uterine bleeding.

Following the example of Mark's Gospel, we too can bring to light stories of suffering that are taboo and invisible. While the suffering from the COVID pandemic is globally significant, researchers are helping us understand that the shadow pandemic of domestic abuse is horrific. In our context and the context of Mark 5 we bring to light the stories of suffering of women and children rendered invisible by societal structures, in this case the effects of domestic abuse. By making visible the invisible the healing journey can begin.



Jesus differs from the disciples and the crowds in his response to the woman with the issue of blood. While in the busyness of helping others the disciples rush past the older woman, Jesus practices what Carol Gilligan calls “an unhurried presence.” Jesus is centred and grounded, noticing shifts in energy and power. Likewise, we too can learn the spiritual practice of being an unhurried presence and offer compassion to those we journey alongside.

The church together confers baptism on babies and children. Church members pledge their support for baptised children and promise to nourish them in the faith of the church. As these children reach the age of 12 like Jairus’ daughter, it may be tempting to revert to judgement and irritation rather than being the compassionate unhurried presence 12-year-olds need. From 12 the teenage brain undergoes tremendous development. The neural pruning in the brain means that teens will forget and lose their possessions, they cannot help it. The growth of the limbic system means that teens have roller coaster emotions. The pre-frontal cortex is responsible for executive function like planning, offering thoughtful mature responses and understanding cause and effect. For teens, the connections between the pre-frontal cortex and the rest of the brain are in development until about 18 for girls and 25 for boys. Now add a volatile cocktail of hormones and you could have a perfect storm. Teens need our compassionate unhurried presence in developing their full potential.

Values

In February 2021 Alstonville Anglicans’ leaders were on retreat. They considered what they loved best about Alstonville Anglicans. As stories were shared, something beautiful happened: it was as if a stunning gift floated down from heaven and nestled amidst us. What follows are the best words that we are able to offer, to describe what we love best about Alstonville Anglicans. When you come to us and when we go to you, this is what we are thinking and feeling about you.

- **Beloved:**
 - each person comes into the world as an original blessing from God. Thus, each person is a beloved person: significant, wanted and loved.
- **Belonging:**
 - anyone who wants to belong already belongs. We want to welcome each other as a gift, saying, "my greatest difference from you is my greatest gift to you". Community matters and is protected. We want to consciously enjoy each other hearing "the Christ in me sees the Christ in you."
- **Being:**
 - we are human beings not human doings. Our being present is important. The Spirit of God vibrates within us "like a pure diamond, blazing with the invisible light of heaven."
- **Believing:**
 - we are partners with God in living heaven on earth now. We want to be one call among many, offering a provocative but compassionate voice calling for a whole new way of thinking and believing that is loving, liberating and lifegiving.
- **Blessing:**
 - As beloved original blessings, we are blessed to be a blessing to others. God is always on God's way through us to creation, of which humans are a part. We believe everyone is called, that everyone has something beautiful to do for God. We want to be the sort of beloved community that creates space for people to express their calling.

The values above are a statement of how we view you and ourselves, and every stranger that God sends us, who is a friend in waiting. The best news is that there is little for each of you to do, except to be who you already are. Each of you are **beloved** original blessings. Each of you **belong** to God and each other. Aware of your inner **being**, you **believe** in loving, life-giving and liberating ways. You are a **blessing to** others, making life even more beautiful for them. This is the energy of Alstonville Anglicans: beloved, belonging, being, believing, blessing.

ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALSTONVILLE

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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 4th July to 11th July

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| 4 th July | Sunday 9am Holy Communion NAIDOC Week |
| 5 th July | Monday 10am Anam Cara Praying for You Parish Office open 9am-12pm Op Shop 9am-3pm |
| 6 th July | Tuesday Parish Office closed |
| 7 th July | Wednesday 9am Anam Cara Parish Office open 9am-12pm Op Shop 9am-3pm |
| 8 th July | Parish Office open 9am-12pm Op Shop 9am-3pm Thursday 6pm Anam Cara |
| 9 th July | Friday 10am Holy Communion Parish Office open 9am-12pm |
| 11 th July | Sunday 9am Holy Communion Sunday 10am St Peter & St Paul's Tregagle Bach, Bagpipes and Beatles Concert Mullumbimby |