



Alstonville Anglicans

Pentecost 13

Sunday 4th September 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 4th September to 11th September

4 th Sep		Sunday
	9am	Holy Communion
5 th Sep		Monday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
	10am	Anam Cara
6 th Sep		Tuesday
		Parish Office Closed (No office access)
	4pm	Singalong group (contact Susan)
7 th Sep		Wednesday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
	9am	Anam Cara (contact Charlie)
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
8 th Sep		Thursday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
	6pm	Anam Cara (contact Charlie)
9 th Sep		Friday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
	10am	Holy Communion
11 th Sep		Sunday
	9am	Holy Communion
	5pm	Messy Life Church

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.

Community engagemnet



Did you hear about the guy who invented the 'knock knock' joke?

He won the 'no bell' prize





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.

You are invited to a free Community Band Concert



The Lismore City and Ballina Shire Concert Bands are holding a free community concert at McCarthy Hall, 11 Perry Street Alstonville starting Saturday 10th Sept at 2,30pm for approximately 1 hour. A variety of music will be performed and we would like to invite the Alstonville/Wollongbar community to

come along and enjoy our music – we are all so happy to be back doing what we love - playing together and performing.

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.

SCAMS

Be aware that there are some email scams circulating at the moment. information is available at:

<https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/>.

Protect yourself

1. Don't be pressured into making a decision.
2. Scammers often try to create a sense of urgency through short deadlines, fake emergencies or threats of legal action.
3. Be suspicious of requests for money – even if they sound or look official.
4. Government departments will never contact you asking for money upfront in order to claim a rebate.
5. Scammers will often ask you to use an unusual payment method, including preloaded debit cards, gift cards, iTunes cards or virtual currency such as Bitcoin.
6. Verify the identity of the contact by calling the relevant organisation directly – find them through an independent source such as a phone book or online search. Do **not** use the contact details provided in the message sent to you.
7. Don't respond to phone calls or emails offering financial advice or opportunities – just hang up or delete the email.
8. Always do your own research before you invest money and check the company or scheme is licensed on ASIC's [MoneySmart website](#).
9. Be wary of people you meet social media or online dating sites who after just a few contacts profess strong feelings for you and try to move you away from the site and communicate via chat or email.

10. Be suspicious of unexpected emails or letters advising you how to claim an inheritance or competition prize. Never give out your personal details and seek advice from an independent professional.

11. Be aware of and understand your [consumer rights](#).

Worship & Spirituality



Earth Vigil

Thank you to everyone who attended our Earth Vigil and thank you to all who helped organise and run the event.



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)



Alstonville
Anglicans
6 The Avenue
Alstonville
anglicans.live

Messy life church Sunday 11 September 5pm (Games from 4pm)



Messy Life Church

W orship 

T eaching 

F riendship 

2nd Sundays@5pm
Come as you

Shoes optional
(no previous experience required)

Alstonville Anglicans
6 The Avenue Alstonville
anglicans.live

Sermon Notes Preached on 28th August

“Honour” Luke 14.1, 7-14



Luke tells us that this is more than just helpful social commentary that Jesus is giving the guests at the dinner party; a few helpful tips on better party etiquette. In the competitive “you scratch my back I’ll scratch yours”, world of honour and status in ancient cultures, start low, advises Jesus. You might then get the surprise of your life when the host invites you higher up the honour chain. At your first Hollywood dinner party, don’t brag about how many *Home and*

Away episodes you starred in, seeking to mix it with the other hot-shot celebrities, only to see Tom Hanks walk in! Jesus isn't just saying that a little bit of humility and generosity go a long way to prevent total loss of face in a shame and honour culture. Luke tells us this is a *parable*. There is always something *familiar* and something that is *jarring* in a parable.

The familiar. In our contemporary world of professional expectations and media scrutiny, we too know the delicate cocktail that is ego and self-preservation, as we balance the reality of moral scrutiny and approval from one's peers. The same existed for the public officials of Jesus' day - the Pharisees with their followers, the various Rabbinic schools, the Governing class of Sadducees; all had prestige, reputations, intellectual credibility, righteousness and moral honour to maintain. They knew how to maintain "purity" ritualistically, culturally, and personally. And, as Luke says, they were "watching" Jesus. He too was under scrutiny. He was *invited* to the party, which was a vote of minimal respect. The Pharisees saw him as a genuine intellectual and teacher, but was he "one of them?" Could he be admitted to the golf club? (It had a 2-year waiting list). Did he quote the right texts, the right thinkers, the acknowledged authoritative interpretations? Did he understand the Torah, the Messianic hopes, the resurrection, the

requirements of purity and salvation, correctly? They were the official gatekeepers of God's system, of the truth about God. So, they were *watching* him.

The jarring. Jesus places a grenade on the table! He does this at the end of the





parable, after the social etiquette part (don't be too cocky about where you sit, for the host might "demote" you - "OMG I could have died of embarrassment!"), He proceeds to blow the whole thing sky high.

For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

When this grammatical structure is used, known as the passive voice, the subject of the sentence is acted upon by another agent. But who is this other agent who does the ultimate demoting or advancing? Who ultimately decides who or what is truly honourable? It's not the ones handing out ribbons to each other based on their own code of honour. The ultimate host, when the passive voice is used, means God. God finally arbitrates where truth and value, worth and honour, is truly evident in the history of our behaviours and choices. This is clarified when Jesus mentions his alternative value system. Why not invite to a dinner party those who cannot repay you, or who are outside your value system? The righteous are the ones who do that, and according to Jesus' system, will be acknowledged on the day of resurrection (Judgement day) by none other than God. You see, it actually doesn't depend on you Pharisees at all. This system you prize and preserve at all costs means absolutely nothing to God! I simply don't recognise your system, says Jesus. That's the grenade!

What if the person who is at the top in your system, is relegated to least worthy of honour in God's system? And what if an absolute non-contender in your system, is welcomed home in God's system? What if God's view of righteousness and what deserves respect and praise and exalting clashes with your system? This is not a polite thing to say to your host who kindly invited you along to the dinner party, albeit to check you out, but also, potentially, to secure you a spot in the gold club. Jesus isn't simply breaking a few rules of social etiquette. He rejects the game outright. (Later

in Luke, Jesus tells us to take up his cross and follow him. We are to place no value in these games either).

The entire dinner party show is based on misplaced Pharisaic confidence that they know who the righteous and pure are, and what is required to be part of the elect or chosen ones of God. (And don't all our systems, Presbyterian, Evangelical, Progressive, Liberal, tend to make similar claims with confidence). Jesus asserts that God is not a slave to our systems but is competent to judge who is truly pure of heart, and possesses a spirit worthy of honour, and is thus of his Kingdom. Anything else is a vain usurping of God's domain despite using a lot of "God" language to defend it. God's love and grace always empowers and transforms lives. What if our systems are actually thwarting God's system? Otherwise, you wouldn't even be hosting these self-interested dinner parties. You are all in an echo-chamber of mutual applause where you all know the rules, who is in or out, and you keep it that way. But what if God has a different set of rules? What if love is abundant and the invitations are endless, and the potentially included are millions of impure, immoral, lost, and ignorant Jews and Gentiles? How dare you decide for God. Whatever system we subscribe to, our job is simply to love the unloved, notice the un-noticed and invite the uninvited.

We best serve God by making our dinner parties generous. So go, Share your mercy. Share your forgiveness. Share your material resources. Share these things with those you see in need of them. Do it deliberately, sacrificially, generously...until that day...when the host will take care of the minor details about seating.



Bruce Fleming

Sentence of the Day

Whoever does not carry the cross and follow Jesus cannot be his disciple. Luke 14.27

Collect

God of the ages,
you call the Church to keep watch in the world
and to discern the signs of the times:
grant us the wisdom that your Spirit bestows,
so that with courage we may proclaim your prophetic word,
and complete the work you have set before us;
through your Son, 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 14.25-33

²⁵ Now large crowds were travelling with him; and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ 'Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, "This fellow began to build and was not able to finish." ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

Values

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.

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.