



Alstonville Anglicans

Pentecost 22

Sunday 6th November 2022

Welcome



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 30th October to 6th November

6 th Nov		Sunday
	9am	Holy Communion
7 th Nov		Monday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
8 th Nov		Tuesday
		Parish Office Closed (No office access)
	4pm	Singalong group (contact Susan)
9 th Nov		Wednesday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
	9am	Anam Cara (contact Charlie)
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
10 th Nov		Thursday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
	6pm	Sound Sauna & Healing Experience followed by Community Meal (contact Charlie)
11 th Nov		Friday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
	10am	Holy Communion
13 th Nov		Sunday
	9am	Holy Communion

This bulletin contains current announcements and the week's 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.

https://anglicans.live/s/welcomeBooklet_v2.pdf

Community Engagemnet

Ballina Region for Refugees Fundraiser

Run for Refugees

Sunday 20th November

The event is a 5 kilometre walk or run out and back from Ballina North Wall to Black Head car park past Shelly Beach.

To join team BR4R go to

<https://kmssofcompassion.gofundraise.com.au/>

This event gives great public attention to issues facing refugees.

To make you smile!



Five ants decided
to share a house
with another five
ants...

Together they
became
ten...ants!! 🤔

Quota Alstonville's Creative Christmas Tree event

Sat / Sun 26th & 27th November

10am – 3pm

Alstonville Community Centre

All proceeds to local charities.

Our Messy Church families have created a wonderful entry.

Thanks to A.R.E.A. BBQ supporters

The three church groups (Uniting, then Baptist then Anglican) worked shifts on the BBQ at Ballina Bunnings last Saturday 22nd October. It was a wonderful financial fund raiser to support the Christian outreach work in Alstonville High School by Bruce Fleming. Particular **thanks** go to our group: Barry and Barb Campey, Paul Earner, Graham Ireland and Des Fitzpatrick as they cooked, served and then had to undertake the cleaning up and packing away of the cooking facilities...a huge task.

John Noble (AREA Treasurer)

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



**Sound Sauna &
Healing Experience
6pm**

Community Meal 7pm

Thursday 10th November

All welcome. Cost by donation. BYO
wine/ drinks, meal provided
(vegetarian, gluten and dairy free)



Alstonville
Anglicans
6 The Avenue
Alstonville
[anglicans.live](#)



Enquire and sign up for one at Alstonville Anglican's parish office (66280231) to discuss either 'The First Christmas' by Borg and Crossan or 'Learning to Walk in the Dark' by Barbara Brown Taylor.

Five weeks commencing the week following Sunday 13th November – book provided.

- 1 Monday 7pm Alstonville - The First Christmas
Jo and Barry Brooks
- 2 Tuesday 1.30pm Ballina – The First Christmas
Carol Stone
- 3 Tuesday 6pm Alstonville – Learning to Walk in the Dark
Doug Bannerman and Robyn Hannah
- 4 Wednesday 7pm Macleans Ridges
Learning to Walk in the Dark – Dave and Cathy Angus
- 5 Wednesday 6pm Alstonville
Learning to Walk in the Dark – Geoff, Carol and Sherry Anne
- 6 Thursday 10am Alstonville
Learning to Walk in the Dark – Chris Lockley
- 7 Thursday 3.30pm Emmanuel Anglican College
The First Christmas – Greg Ezzy and Desiree
- 8 Thursday 7pm Alstonville – The First Christmas
Alan and Helen Larsen

The First Christmas is about what the gospels really teach about Jesus' birth - stars moving across the sky, a virgin birth, angelic choirs how believable, necessary, and relevant are the nativity stories for our faith in the 21st century?

Learning to Walk in the Dark is a personal account of the author's exploration of 'darkness'. She looks at the many aspects of darkness - fear, evil, losses, darkness of the soul many of which she has experienced in her life. Perhaps

the overriding aim, is learning to see darkness as a positive, indeed, to embrace the dark times that come in our life!

Further enquires to Greg Ezzy M 0412660742

Sermon Notes
Preached on 30th October

Luke 6.20-36
"Worshipping with the Saints"



I only returned home last night from being in Orange where I assisted a really helpful and sincere Catholic priest conduct the funeral of a very close long-time Vietnam veteran pilot friend of mine. As with all funerals, this event achieved the aim of making it quite clear that, in this life, I won't see my good mate Ken again. The funeral of Judy Scotcher was held in this building last Monday and it's not long since our Parish celebrated the life of Sylvia

Hannah. Funerals are reminders for us of the reality that life in this world ends. Funerals raise our hope for the life to come.

Today we are pretending that it is 1st November. We are celebrating the feast of All Saints and we remember the song "O, when the Saints go marching in ... I want to be in that number".

At All Saints we give thanks and praise to God for giving the world the lives of the Saints that we remember. All the outstanding saints of history. But that's not all; we praise God for the lives of the Saints around us right now and we praise God for Saints yet to come. We ask God for continued strength

and focus that we too will really be in that number when the Saints go marching in.

There's a part of this festival of All Saints that has us looking back and celebrating the remarkable things we know about God's Saints; the blessings brought about by their lives. Unfortunately, we have let commercialisation cloud our thankfulness for saintly lives. There is smart advertising in our big chain stores and Halloween things being sold in most smaller shops. We have let our indifference to rejoicing in the Saints reduce this great celebration into kids dress ups and extorting big bags of lollies from anyone nice enough to open up their front door.

Well, this festival of All Saints isn't just a smart marketing event by the Church. Saints are a reality! Not just the "big" saints we associate with the Roman Catholics such as St Francis and St Augustine. There hasn't always been an emphasis on these big Saints with huge amounts of energy and time going into the process of declaring that someone such as Mary McKillop is our own special Australian official or canonised Saint.

The first Canonised saint was declared only just a little over a thousand years ago in AD 993. There are about 800 canonised Saints but also about 10,000 others; many who have died for their faith. There are 110 "martyred Saints" of China, 103 of Korea and 117 of Vietnam. Hundreds of Japanese Saints are remembered in Nagasaki who were persecuted and killed well before the atomic bomb. There are Mexican, Spanish, and French Revolutionary Saints and Saints who were missionaries in New Guinea.

For the Protestant Church, Saints are all those in heaven; anyone who is a Christian. Protestants generally think that Saints are everyone who belongs to the church (and other people too if they show an exceptional degree of holiness or

likeness to God). Put simply, Saints are Holy people who are living now or have died but are remembered.

So, All Saints is a special celebration day for all Christians. This day reminds us that, when we come to a service at St Barts, our worship includes more than the people that we can physically see around us here. We are connected with people all over the world who are saying or singing "Holy, Holy, Holy, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory".

It's not just us here in Alstonville praising God. We are joined in spirit with people in millions of communities all around the country. All over the world!

In the same way that some families are very close, even though they live in different towns and different countries, in our worship the Saints help us to feel close to the wider church. We celebrate that there are Saints in Lismore Parish and Murwillumbah Parish and in New Zealand, and in Switzerland. There are Saints right now trying to keep safe in Ukraine and Afghanistan and Lebanon and other dangerous places all around the world.

We celebrate this morning with the saints in the Baptist Church and the Uniting Church and Hillsong Church and the Roman Catholic church; Saints all around the world and even Saints above the earth. While Neil Armstrong took man's first step on the Moon, 'Buzz' Aldrin (who was the pilot of the Lunar Module) took communion before he went down the ladder to be the second man to step foot on the Moon. The Presbyterian church that Buzz Aldrin attends still celebrates his communion service on the Moon every July. They still have the chalice that Buzz used on the moon. More recently, in 2017, a relic of St Serafim of Sarnov (a Russian Orthodox saint) was taken aboard the International Space Station by Russian cosmonaut Sergei Ryzhikov.

Not only are there “present-day” Saints in all Parishes and Denominations, but also in the Church throughout all time; the white robed army we remember. There is a multitude of Saints; “the communion of Saints” They are not just the ones we know and remember, but all the faithful departed. And we celebrate with all the Saints still to come.

Faith in Jesus draws us all together: “with all the company of heaven we praise your name!”

So why does our Lectionary ask us to hear this long reading from Luke (should I say Saint Luke) chapter 6 this morning? This message, that we know as the sermon on the plain, from Luke isn’t an easy lesson to take in.

Jesus says the poor and the hungry and people who weep are blessed (that is happy or joyful). And we are blessed if people hate you and exclude you and revile you because you follow Jesus. Jesus says we should leap for joy about that because our reward is great in heaven. What Jesus is saying is that you don’t have a truly blessed life from getting things or owning things or doing things. We will have a blessed life from *being* a person with a godlike character (a Saint).

This teaching from Jesus wasn’t just for the people he was talking to back then. This is very applicable to our lives today. It’s describing the kind of godly character we should have as believers in this world. To be gentle, to mourn, to be merciful, to thirst for what is right, to be a peacemaker is a sign of the presence of God in our lives.

What Jesus did was to focus on *attitudes*. Our attitude toward circumstances, people, ourselves and God. Jesus wants us to see that we have a choice. We can choose either present gratification or future



blessings. It's our decision! Either short term satisfaction or long term blessing.

In this teaching, Jesus describes four "woes". These woes all share a common truth. You take what you want from life and you pay for it. If you want wealth, fullness, laughter and popularity, you can have it but there is a price to pay: *that is all you will get!* Jesus didn't say that these things were wrong. He said that being satisfied with them is its own judgement.

This lesson isn't for us as individuals. All the "yous" here are plural. In Aussie language it is "youse". Jesus is speaking to the disciples as an assembly, a group. Jesus teaches all his people as a church.

As you enter Winchester cathedral in England, a sign says "you are entering a conversation that began long before you were born and will continue long after you're dead." To be a Christian partly means that we don't have to reinvent the wheel. We don't have to make up this faith as we go along in our lives. The saints will teach us, if we will listen.

This brings us back to the very point of why we are asked to celebrate All Saints today. We see the love of God in all God's Saints and we are given hope because of the lives that they have lived. We see the wonder of God in all God's Saints and we are able to learn because of them. We see the beauty of God in all God's Saints and we are able to be better Christians as we follow their examples.

As we get ready "to join that number as we all go marching in"!

Sentence of the Day

'I am the resurrection and the life,' says the Lord. 'Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.' John 11.25-26

Collect

God of all the living,
in the resurrection of Christ Jesus
you have given us the promise of life
which death itself cannot destroy:
in the strength of this unshakeable promise,
give us a new heart to live, even now, as your new creation.
We ask this 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 20.27-38

²⁷ Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to him ²⁸ and asked him a question, 'Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. ²⁹ Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless; ³⁰ then the second ³¹ and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. ³² Finally the woman also died. ³³ In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.' ³⁴ Jesus said to them, 'Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage; ³⁵ but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. ³⁶ Indeed they cannot die any more, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. ³⁷ And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. ³⁸ Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive.' ³⁹ Then some of the scribes answered, 'Teacher, you have spoken well.' ⁴⁰ For they no longer dared to ask him another question.