

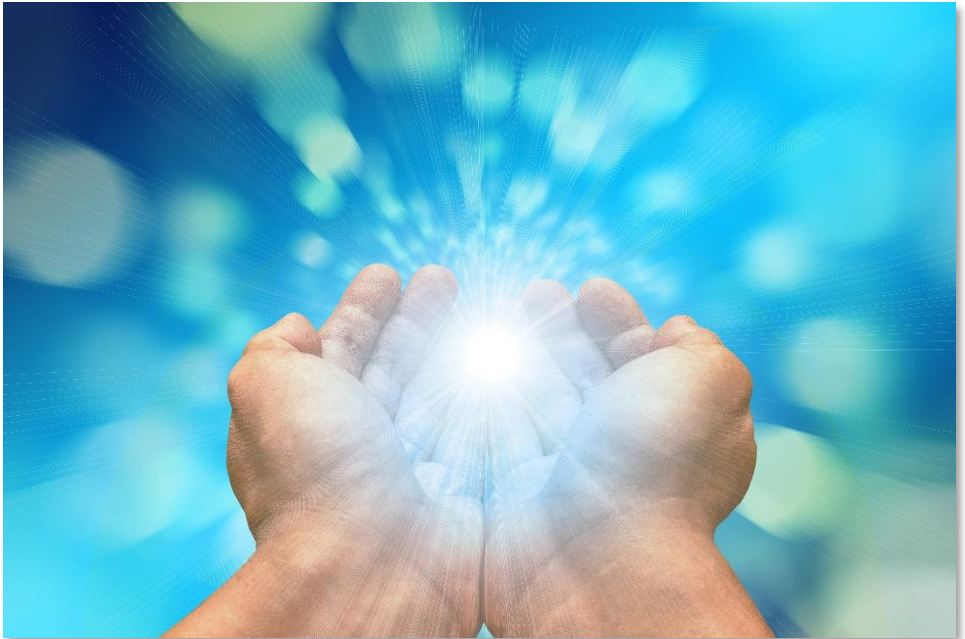


Alstonville
Anglicans

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

7 February 2021

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#690910

Thought for the week.

Mark 1:29-39

"Jesus took her hand and raised her, and she served them".

Notice how themes are linked. In Mark 1:29-39 healing is linked with service: "Jesus took her hand and raised her, and she served them". The private and the public spaces are linked. Jesus is in the synagogue then he is in a private house. He is in a house and then he is in a wilderness space.

The word that describes healing is "raised up" or resurrection. This word is repeated several times throughout the Gospel of Mark: for example, the paralytic in chapter two will also be "raised up" from his stretcher bed. The widow of Nain's son will be raised as will Jairus' daughter in 5.41. The theme of Resurrection is of obvious importance to the community that follows Jesus. Healing and Resurrection are linked. To be healed is to live the Resurrected life. What is the resurrected life? A life lived in Christ, with Christ, for Christ following the pattern of Christ. The pattern of Christ is death and resurrection, the baptismal pattern of dying with Christ and rising with Christ.

Peter's mother-in-law is raised and then serves. The word *diaskow* is used here. Here is what is important: the word *diaskow* is used of her and of Jesus. It is never used of any of the male disciples who are nearly always cast in a negative light in Mark's Gospel as people who misunderstand Jesus and the kingdom of God. The image of her serving is not to be understood in a menial sort of way. Instead, she is one who is empowered, to exercise the ministry of Jesus, to share the ministry of Jesus and to own the ministry of Jesus. She is one of the disciples of Jesus, someone who "gets it".



Liturgy for 7th February

Sentence of the Day

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles. Isaiah 40.31

Collect

Saving God,
whose Son, Jesus Christ, healed the sick
and brought them wholeness of body and mind:
inspire us, his disciples,
so that we may constantly proclaim his gospel
by our words
and by the dedication and integrity of our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings

Mark 1:29–39

²⁹ As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹ He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. ³² That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴ And he cured many who were sick with various diseases and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. ³⁵ In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to

a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷ When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸ He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹ And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Messages

Worship and spirituality portfolio



Slip & Slide

A big thank you to all those who contributed to the success of our Slip & Slide afternoon. Special thanks to Paul & Leslie for hosting the event. It was great to celebrate together as a Messy Church community.



LLM Formation Day

Saturday 13th February 2021
St Andrew's Lismore 9.30am



Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 17th February 6pm
Ministry Centre



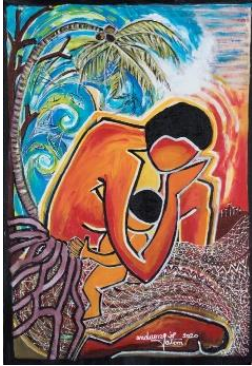
Lenten Study – Way of Love

The Way of Love study guide is available for those wishing to form a Lenten study group.



Messy Church Blessing of the Bags

Sunday 28th February, 4pm
A blessing of school bags and all
school endeavours for 2021.



World Day of Prayer

Friday 5th March 10am in the Ministry
Centre. This year we are hosting the
World Day of Prayer. The country is
Vanuatu and the theme is
“**Build on a Strong Foundation.**”
The guest speaker is Mike Wolfe.

Empowering Leadership



AGM

February 21st, 11am.

Annual Report

Thank you to everyone who has submitted
reports. The Annual Report will be
available Sunday 14th February. (one week
prior to the AGM)

Nominations

**Please submit your nomination forms
as soon as possible.**

Deadline for AGM Reports is today!



Good Governance

COVID 19 & Church Services

With the resurgence of COVID 19 in Sydney and Victoria, NSW Health has some new regulations for church services.

- 1. Masks:** - these are recommended for all members of the congregation but are compulsory for anyone singing. ie: members of the congregation are forbidden to sing unless wearing a mask. In our churches, masks will be made available at the door, so people have an option. (stocks are in the COVID box)
- 2. Food:** - Morning tea is still allowed as long as social distancing is observed. At St Bartholomew's morning tea will be served outside. (reduces the risk by 95%). Milk and sugar will be on the outside tables to help with social distancing at the counter.
- 3. Numbers:** - These cannot be increased so St Bartholomew's is in the hall and Tregeagle is outside.
- 4. Cleaning:** - Chairs need to be wiped over with detergent solution and dried after usage.

Church services have been inspected to ensure compliance. Please remember this is the current law.

Volunteers Needed – Concierge

Members of the congregation are very much needed to provide a hand sanitising and welcoming face to the Op Shop. If you can spare 3 hours a week or fortnight on a Monday or Thursday between 9am and 3pm please call Paul Earner 0416280140.



Keys

If you have keys to any of the church buildings that you are no longer using could you please return them to the office as soon as possible?



Repurposing Plastic

We have an opportunity to recycle plastic milk bottle tops and bread tags. These items are sorted in our area and sent to Adelaide where they are melted down and repurposed to assist people with disabilities. Items can be left at the collection point at the Op Shop. Contact person is John Noble.



Congratulations to Barbara Swain Ballina Shire Citizen of the Year.

Offertory Options

Alstonville Anglicans - Offertory Options

We give thanks to God for all people making offertories to the vision of God's Kingdom here on earth.

Your offertory can be made using the following options:

- Direct transfer to our bank account BSB 705 077 /
Acc:00032931
- Parish Provider - Direct debit through Anglican Funds - Forms available from the office
- Cheque to Alstonville Anglicans (PO Box 451, Alstonville 2477 or Offertory Plate)
- Offertory envelopes
- Cash

Thank you for your support.

Vocation Sunday

What is Vocation?

The word vocation means calling. There is a commonly held conviction that calling applies to pastors only. I would like to break that definition. The truth of the matter is quite different: every human being has a vocation, has a calling. By baptism you have already accepted the invitation to carry out your vocation, to carry out your calling. Every Christ follower is a called person. Listen to the words of God speaking through the prophet Jeremiah, they apply to each of you: "before I formed you in the womb, I knew you and before you were born, I called you." One of the chief tasks of an ordained person is to help people uncover and develop their calling. One of the best theologians I have ever heard describe the nature of calling is Jamie Oliver.

In the latest series on SBS, Jamie Oliver is touring Italy. He begins his journey cooking with a group of monks in a monastery that has one of the oldest herb gardens. While in the kitchen he says something along the lines of "the dinner table is my altar". Wow! That is exactly right. Hospitality is his priestly calling.



In the Scripture today James and John leave Zebedee to follow Jesus. I find myself getting in the boat with Zebedee and explaining to him that it is all very well for John and James to follow Jesus into the sunset, at some point they still must eat. In my imagination, I observe James and John following Jesus through an itinerant ministry, healing and preaching. I imagine

the disciples returning at the end of the day to Galilee, hungry and exhausted from the day's work. I notice the thoughtful Zebedee knocking on the door in the place they are staying and bringing in a feast of barbequed fish, caught on his repaired nets. John and James were called to a ministry of preaching and healing. Zebedee's calling is to be the net holder.

What is a calling?

Calling is a Biblical word to describe how each person has something beautiful to do for God. The Spirit calls us to fulfil a particular task as our unique way of celebrating the Spirit's presence in the world. Our calling is our unique way to give glory to God. Each of us has an assignment to do that has our name written on the tag. Each of us has a song to sing, a message to deliver, a special gift of love to offer that no one else can offer.

Whispers of resistance



The experience of calling is never a smooth path. A calling unfolds slowly and changes shape as it grows and develops. The process involves a bit of searching and testing. Often there are whispers of resistance, of negativity of self-doubt. Thoughts like: "Someone else can do it better" "I do not know enough about God." "What

happens if I fail?" Take heart, the Bible is full of good examples of whispers of resistance: Jeremiah says he is too young, Moses complains that he stutters, Isaiah says that he is a man of unclean lips.

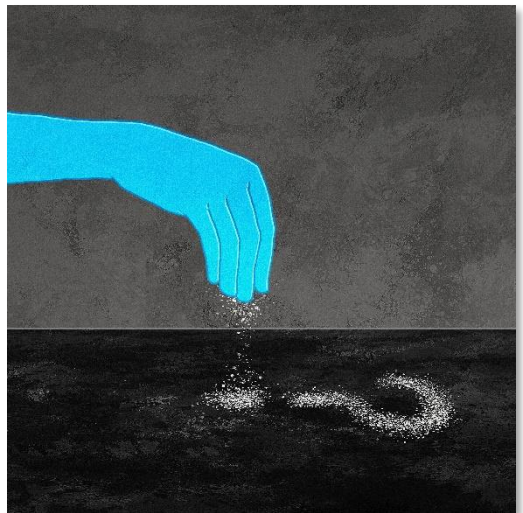
A calling brings nourishment

We answer a call because a calling is something that brings nourishment to our lives and the lives of those around us. Jesus himself said: it is my meat and drink to do my Father's will. What does he mean? To carry out our calling offers us deep satisfaction, a deep sense of joy and fulfilment. Not only does it nourish our souls, but it nourishes the souls of those around us. When we carry out our calling there is a deep and profound sense that our souls are fulfilled.

Some hints at discovering God's calling for your life

I would like to offer some signposts at discovering your call. The first suggestion is this: what human cry in the community disturbs you the most? What are the needs in the community around you that worry you that you notice? A previous senior minister would often say at leaders meeting when somebody had a suggestion as to what we should be doing: "He

who gets the vision gets the mission." What he was suggesting is that the needs and gaps that you notice are often your calling. The very fact that you notice certain needs may arise from your calling. There are plenty examples of this. One that I could offer is a story of Moira Simpson who lives in Benoni South Africa who



was bothered by the number of street children in Benoni, she responded by starting a home for them, this was her calling.

A second suggestion relates to finding out what nourishes our soul. Let me explain, sometimes people come to me burdened with the question: "What is God's will for my life?" I usually respond by asking them: "What is it that you have to do, that you cannot do without? Or what are your deepest desires? What makes you happy? They may respond by saying things like art, music or children make me happy, they are some things that I cannot do without. Bingo! You have found your calling; this is because the deepest desires of our hearts coincide with God's deepest longing for us.

Conclusion

The Spirit calls us to fulfil a particular task as our unique way of celebrating the Spirit's presence in the world. It will be different for each of us. Some of us are called to be mothers and fathers, some of us are called to teaching, or music or art.



We give glory to God and live life at its fullest when we lean into our calling.

I mentioned Jamie Oliver's travels through Italy beginning at an Italian monastery. Jamie offers to say grace at an evening meal but makes a faux pas. He prays: "For what we are about to receive may God be truly thankful". I think that is exactly right. When we recognise that the tools of our trade, be they computers, machinery or cooking utensils are sacred vessels and our place of activity, be it a bus, a classroom or a factory is a sanctuary, and we are all priests, God is truly thankful.

ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALSTONVILLE

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Calendar 2021

8 th February	Anam Cara Praying for You 10am
10 th February	Anam Cara 9am
11 th February	Anam Cara 6pm
12 th February	Holy Communion 10am
13 th February	LLM Formation Day
14 th February	Holy Communion 9am
	Transfiguration Sunday
	AGM papers distributed
	St Peter & St Paul's Service 10am
15 th February	Anam Cara Praying for You 10am
17 th February	Anam Cara 9am
	Ash Wednesday 6pm
18 th February	Anam Cara 6pm
19 th February	Holy Communion 10am
21 st February	Holy Communion 9am
	AGM 11am in Ministry Centre