



Alstonville Anglicans

Sunday 7th May 2023

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

7th May – 14th May

7 th May		Sunday
	9am	Holy Communion
8 th May		Monday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
	10am	Anam Cara
	10am	Deadline for bulletin items
	1pm	Sew Helpful
9 th May		Tuesday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Closed.
10 th May		Wednesday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
	9am	Anam Cara
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
11 th May		Thursday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
	9.30am	Play Place
	6pm	Anam Cara
12 th May		Friday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
	10am	Holy Communion
13 th May	8am-1pm	Saturday
		Mothers' Day Fete
14 th May		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.../..../welcomeBooklet v3.pdf](#)

**MOTHER'S DAY FETE – SATURDAY 13 MAY 2023
(8am to 1.00pm)
List of Stalls and Coordinators**

STALL	COORDINATOR
BBQ	Brian Delaney
Beautiful Baskets	Jenny Noble
Cakes & preserves	Robyn Beck
Cards and woodwork	Carol Stone
Craft & knitted knockers	Mary Ireland & Lorna Simpson
Colouring-in competition	Marg Brown
Devonshire tea in Church	Jenny Noble & Carol Vidal
Face painting	Jodie Nunn
Flower arrangements	Gladys Charter
Pancakes and cuppa	Diana Westall & Barb Campey
Plants	Barbara Fewtrell
Produce	Ken Brown
Raffle	Susan Fitzpatrick
Steptoe	Barry Campey
Splat the Rat	Paul Earner

If you are available to assist with any of the stalls, please contact the coordinator asap.

Items needed for Fete Stalls

Cakes – Cakes, Biscuits and Preserves are needed for this stall, the more the better. Ingredients must be listed.

Produce – Fruit and vegetables required, anything you can spare.

Craft – Craft items and gifts for Mothers and Grandmothers, welcome.



something to delight everyone

Music Games Cakes
Craft Plants Cards
Face Painting Tasty Food

**MOTHER'S DAY FETE
SATURDAY**

13 May 2023 8am - 1pm
@St Bart's
6 The Avenue Alstonville

Alstonville Anglicans

anglicans.live

Join in Messy Church Pentecost fun!



MESSY CHURCH BONFIRE

★ Charlie and Jenny's home
★ Brockley Farm 1385 Bruxner Highway
★ Phone: 0427 462 540
★ Bring: chairs, mugs, rugs, sturdy shoes, torches ...

Alstonville Anglicans

SUNDAY 28TH MAY 2023 4PM

anglicans.live

Pastoral Care:

You may or may not already know that Barry is in hospitable with Leukaemia. Barry and Barb. Campey are very grateful for your kindness, well wishes, prayers and concern. At this stage, because of Barry's weakened immune system, only immediate family are visiting.

Spirit Ability:



Thank you to all who helped make a wonderful Monday evening get together with our beautiful NDIS community. Thank you to Cathy for sharing her story with us.

Pictured alongside is Cathy. Below Mark Stuckey facilitates a discussion and John enjoys a pizza.





Reverend Desiree will be on annual leave from mid-May until mid-June. For any matters requiring a priest, Reverend Geoff will be locus in her place.

CoVe:

Our Community Garden continues to be visited and utilised by both church members and members of the community.



I am the gate to the sheep” John 10: 1-10

There is no better loved picture of Jesus than the picture of Him as the Good Shepherd. The picture of the shepherd is deeply woven into the language and the imagery of the Bible.¹ Jesus says, *“I am the gate for the sheep.”*² I am the gate for the sheep is our theme for this morning. To unpack our theme, I will be particularly focusing this sermon on the words of verse 10. *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”*³ In doing so, I want to break down verse 10 into three parts: Firstly, the thief that comes to steal and kill and destroy. Secondly, that Jesus came that they (and we) may have life, and thirdly, that this life that we have been given is lived abundantly. To do this, I will use two illustrations.



The aim of the thief

The first illustration I want draw on is that of the thief.

Now we all have loved ones, family members, friends, people we associate with who we are in relationship with on a daily, on a regular or not so regular basis. The deeper the relationship, the more intimate our knowledge of those people’s life story is. If you have been a follower of Jesus for a long time you connect with other

followers. Within your connections there are probably people you know who have walked away from their faith or have really struggled with their faith. If you are a recent follower of Jesus, likewise you have started connecting with other followers, and the same can be said, there would probably be people in your life that you know who have walked away from their faith or are struggling to continue with their faith. As we

¹ Barclay, W. (1960, p.61) The Gospel of John – Volume 2 – The Daily Study Bible, Saint Andrew Press

² John 10: 7 (NRSV)

³ John 10: 10 (NRSV)

move throughout our lives, the story of our lives is being created. We share the chapters of our lives with the people we meet.

What is the aim of the thief?

Well, you will notice that Jesus tells us that the thief comes to **take** away something that you had. The thief steals the possession that is owned by someone. The thief can do this by force, breaking into a house. By saying words that cause hurt and pain. By deception. Stealing someone's identity. An important, valuable piece of someone's life is taken away from them. The thief comes to take away (to steal) what was yours and leave one with less. This is the aim of the thief.

But Jesus also points out that the thief comes to kill and destroy as a further part to their aim.

What does this mean?

We have probably witnessed times where there has been strong faith, hope and joy evident in people's lives. We may have witnessed this in people closest to us. However, their faith, hope and joy has now diminished. It has gone from a strong flame to a flickering candle or perhaps the flame has gone out altogether. Their hope has been crushed because of the actions of the thief. There may be times when you have felt this way also. A thief has come in and **killed** off and **destroyed** the faith, hope and joy in one's life. It may be poor teaching, role modelling, inappropriate actions towards another or just not showing love. One feels at best disheartened, at worst they walk away from their faith altogether.

As you know, our world is a changing place. We once had churches that were filled, but over time numbers have dwindled. There is more encouragement to focus on worldly things rather than that of the presence of God and what He can do in our lives. The reality is people are moving away from Jesus. So, there is a question that can be asked, and the question is this: Who stole what you had?

Jesus tells us that the thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.⁴ Who took away what you had? Who stole from you? This is a question you may like to ask a loved one, a friend who is presently struggling with their faith or who has walked away from their faith altogether. Friends, there will always be a storyline behind their reasoning. Does our relationship with these loved ones, friends have the trust to be able to ask this question. The result may be a deepening of understanding or even a fruitful conversation that brings someone back to being in relationship with Jesus.

We can all easily get caught up in the worldly things of our everyday life and start listening to the thieves whose only desire is to steal, kill and destroy, rob us of the possessions we once had.

May I suggest that we listen to an alternative voice.

The aim of Jesus

I want to now draw our attention to my second illustration – that of Jesus. Unlike the thief, Jesus does not come to steal and kill and destroy but rather to do what? He came so they may have life!

Yes! Jesus tells us that He came so they (we) may **have life** and have it abundantly. Jesus is giving life to us not taking a possession away from us. An entirely different purpose and opposite to that of the thief.

Jesus describes himself as the **gate** for the sheep. Friends, back in the first century, a gate was the primary access point to a particular home or place of safety for sheep. If you entered someone's property, it was always through the main gate.⁵

Jesus says that He is the true gate for the sheep. This means that He is the only access point for finding **true life**.⁶ Another

⁴ John 10: 10 (NRSV)

⁵ YouVersion App – I am Reflections - 2023

⁶ YouVersion App – I am Reflections - 2023

way of thinking about this is Jesus knocking on the door to your life. An invitation to come into a new life. To enter your heart. Jesus comes among his followers to give them life. It is God that gives us life, but not one of us really holds it in our possession. Life can be taken away from us in many ways - through illness, through accident or through acts of violence. With Jesus however it is different! At the beginning of John's Gospel, we read in Him was life. Life was **in** himself. Jesus holds it as his own possession. John 5:26 points this out when it says, "*For as the Father has life in himself, so he granted the Son to have life in himself.*"⁷ Life is in him, no one can take it from him. Life is in himself. Jesus has the power to lay his life down and to also raise it up as we know from his death and resurrection. Jesus can give this life to anyone he chooses.

So, the question we can ask ourselves is how do we get this life? Well, it's like this: If life is in Jesus,... and Jesus is in us,... then life is in us! Another way of putting this is if we have come in faith to Jesus and we believe Jesus is in us then we will experience life in us also.

But Jesus just doesn't want to give us life, He wants us to have it abundantly. How?

I use the image of the knock on the door to life once more. Picture this scene. A person is sitting in a house and there is a knock at the front door. If the person on the inside of the house considers their life is full, has life and they have everything they need, they do not need their heart to be touched in any conceivable way. Their thought process suggests that they consider that the person standing on the other side of the door is a thief preparing to steal from them, to take their possessions. They will choose not to open the door. However, what Jesus is telling us here is the opposite. The next scene, picture it. You are the one on the inside of the house that does not have life, ... you possess little. The one that has life is on the outside of the door - knocking! Jesus has come, not as a thief, he has come to give you life,

⁷ John 5:26 (NIV)

to give me life and wants to do so abundantly! If we believe that Jesus has come to give us life than we will willingly go to the front door, open it and welcome him in.

Friends, the life Jesus gives us is abundant as we follow and listen to His voice. It is a life more than we can ever imagine. What is this abundance that Jesus has to offer? It includes: We will have more **peace** in our lives. We will have more **love** in our lives. We will have more **joy** in our lives. We will have more **faith** in our lives – our faith will be increased. We will have more **repentance** in our lives. We will have more **strength** in our lives – we will be strengthened to face the many challenges that occur. And lastly, we will have more **hope** in our lives.

Jesus says, *"I am the gate for the sheep."*⁸ As the Good Shepherd it is His voice that we need to listen to when He calls us by name to follow Him.

Mark Stuckey, LLM



Sentence of the Day

'I am the way, and the truth, and the life,' says the Lord. 'No one comes to the Father except through me.' John 14.6

Collect

Everliving God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
give us grace to love one another,
to follow in the way of his commandments,
and to share his risen life;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

John 14.1-14

1 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And you know the way to the place where I am going.' 5 Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' 6 Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.' 8 Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' 9 Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. 12 Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.