



Alstonville Anglicans

Easter 4

Sunday 8th May 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.

Liturgy for 8th May

Sentence of the Day

The Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Revelation 7.17

Collect

Gracious God,
you sent Jesus, the good shepherd,
to gather us together:
may we not wander from his flock,
but follow wherever he leads us,
listening for his voice and staying near him,
until we are safely in your fold,
to live with you for ever;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings John 10:22-30

²² At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴ So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." ²⁵ Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; ²⁶ but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will

snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ The Father and I are one."

Messages

Worship & Spirituality

MESSY LIFE
FAMILY SERVICE
INVITES YOU TO

**Discover the Feminine
Face of God for
Mother's Day**

WORSHIP...TEACHING...FRIENDSHIP

AT ALSTONVILLE ANGLICANS
SUNDAY 8 MAY 5 PM
(GAMES FROM 4PM)

Anam Cara



Thursday 12th May
Sound Sauna Healing Service
6pm and Community Meal 7pm.
All welcome. Cost by donation.
BYO: wine/drinks, meal provided
(vegetarian, gluten & dairy free)

Anam Cara 'Dadirri' Sunday 15th May 2-4pm Victoria Reserve Park



'Dadirri' is an Aboriginal word, concept and spiritual practice of 'Inner Deep Listening and Quiet Still Awareness and Waiting'. All are invited to this experience suitable for ages Primary School ad upwards.

Bring: Camping chair, mosquito repellent, sensible shoes, hat/umbrella, camera (optional).

This event will happen whether or not the weather is sunny or raining!

Community Engagement

Fete 2022 Saturday 7th May

The following is a list of stalls and their coordinators that will be at the Fete. If you feel you may able to assist by helping to man any of these stalls please contact the coordinator.

Co-ordinators

BBQ – Brian Delaney	0412057540
Cakes/Produce – Robin Beck	0408705908
Pancakes – Lyn Watt	02 66286751
Devonshire Tea – Carol Vidal	0427326832
Flowers – Gladys Charter	0408161168
Craft – Lorna Simpson	02 66283865
Mary Ireland	0447499129
Plants – Barb Fewtrell	0429385713
Steptoe – Barry Campey	0457798086
Cards/woodwork – Carol Stone	0438158268

Cakes or produce for the cake/produce stall can be delivered on Friday or early Saturday.

Plants for plant stall please deliver by Friday.

Stall setup will be 1.00pm Friday 6th May and 6.00am Saturday 7th May.

Any able-bodied person who may be able to help setup tables, chairs and gazebos at these times please contact Graham Ireland 0427285073 or Des Fitzpatrick 0408397182.

Please pray for a fine day.



*Celebrate
Mother's Day*

Mother's Day Fete
Saturday 7th May
8am—1pm

**Gifts, food, craft,
flowers, entertainment**
Something for everyone!

Alstonville Anglicans
6 The Avenue Alstonville
66280231
www.anglicans.live

Anglicare North Coast 2022 Northern NSW Flood Appeal Please continue to support this Appeal.

www.anglicarenorthcoast.org.au

Community-On-the-Verge Working Bee



Thank you to all who participated in the Working Bee. Your efforts are appreciated. Everyone is welcome to help themselves to what is ripe and ready for picking. If you are keen to be involved as the garden evolves, please contact

Alan Larsen on 0409 655 123 or
Barbara Fewtrell 0429 385 713.

Good Governance

COVID Update

- Masks not required but encouraged especially when singing.
- Social distancing is still advised as is adequate ventilation.
- Hand sanitiser will remain available but is not compulsory.
- Morning tea will continue to be served outside at the present time.
- The Covid Committee appreciates everybody's understanding, tolerance, and compliance.
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Sign Up for Planned Giving

Forms for signing up for Planned Giving are now available from the website and in the church foyer and parish office.

Good News



We now have our own 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.

Sermon Notes

1st May 2022

Easter Day Sunday

“What is Jesus asking us to do?”

John 21:1-19



I will confess I am not much of a fisherman! I will leave that joy to other members of my family who love to fish. In fact, if I went fishing today the outcome would be the same as the disciples' overnight attempts in our Gospel reading, I would come home empty handed! I do however remember, as a kid going fishing with my dad and one of his mates on several occasions. These occasions were mostly successful. I caught one or two fish. On one occasion I even managed to catch a large boat being repaired at the old Ballina Slipway site while casting out my fishing line! With any great fishing

adventure, I learnt the art of exaggerating a good fishing story to make the occasion all that more worthwhile.

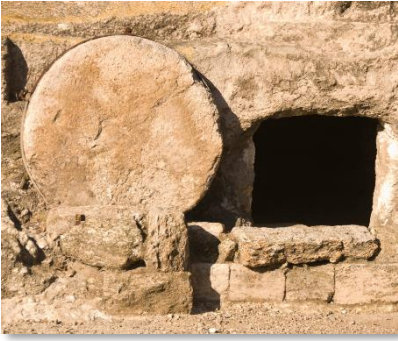
It is said that John chapter 21 as a chapter is a strange one. The gospel account comes to an end at John 20 but begins again with John 21. Unless there is special meaning there is argument that the writer of John 21 may never have needed to include this chapter as part of the gospel. William Barclay speaks of within John's gospel there are often two meanings, a meaning that sits on the surface, and a deeper meaning that lies beneath¹. Friends, our gospel reading today is divided into two parts. First, the fishing scene that incorporates Jesus appearing to his disciples for a third time following His resurrection. And secondly the interaction between Jesus and Simon Peter. Both scenes have important meanings for us. I want to explore these meanings further with you this morning. In the sense I will be focusing on the reality of the resurrection, the universality of the Church and the shepherd of Christ's sheep.

The Reality of the Resurrection

I mentioned just now that John chapter 21 as a chapter is a strange one, especially when it was added to an already completed gospel. It was added to demonstrate and reinforce the meaning behind the reality of the resurrection. Across history many have said that the appearances of the Risen Christ, were nothing more than visions which the disciples had. Some would even argue that the disciples were hallucinating at the events being experienced².

¹ Barclay, W. The Gospel of John – Volume 2 – The Daily Study Bible, 1960 p.325 Saint Andrew Press

² Barclay, W. 1960 p. 327



Friends, we know that the Bible as a text is God's Word, that God breathed life into his Word in the form of a real person, Jesus! It speaks of the truth. We know from the resurrection account that the tomb was found to be empty, and the Risen Christ had a real body which bore the marks of nails and

the sword thrust into his side. No vision, no spirit could direct the disciples where the fish were to be caught. No vision, no spirit could kindle a charcoal fire on the seashore. No vision, no spirit could cook a meal and share it with others. But, in our gospel account today we learn of Jesus commanding his disciples to cast their nets again after an unsuccessful attempt during the previous night. It was Jesus who had kindled the charcoal fire on the seashore, he prepared breakfast and invited the disciples to join Him. The Risen Jesus was present in this scene and those present with him knew who he was. It was Jesus who conquered death and who had come back to make it real for the disciples.

The Universality of the Church

When considering the universality of the Church, I would like us to focus in on the casting of nets. Again, there are many meanings behind what this means in the gospel text. The meaning that encouraged me and I hope it encourages you is that when casting out of the nets Jesus is asking the disciples to build the church.³ When I refer to the word church here it is with a capital C. The disciples, including us, are tasked with growing the Church in number, that the Church is open to all,

³ Barclay, W. 1960 p.329

not just a select few. It is not an exclusive club. The very foundation of the Church is one built on love. God's love! God loves all and welcomes each and every one of us into a special relationship with Him. God is not an exclusive God, choosing who He wants to love but rather he is an inclusive God who loves all!



For Alstonville Anglicans we have beautiful examples of how we cast our nets and make connections with our wider community – PlayPlace, Messy Church, the Op Shop, the Community on the Verge – the garden outside the church here, our varying and different worship services that occur each week and of course next Saturday we will all come together as God's team for our annual Mother's Day Fete. Each of the ministries or events have their own uniqueness and creative style. Underlying each is love and a desire to make that love known and experienced as we encourage and connect with each other and with those who come within our midst. We are actively casting our nets and as we do so the nets are filled, and the church grows.

The Shepherd of Christ's Sheep

Throughout John 21 verses 1 to 19 we see Simon Peter playing a pivotal role in the unfolding scenes. It was Simon Peter who wanted to go fishing. It was Simon Peter who the disciples accompanied that night. It was Simon Peter who leaped from the boat when he was told that his Lord was on the shoreline. It was Simon Peter who went back to the boat

and brought the full net in so there was more fish to share at the breakfast meal. It was Simon Peter who interacted with Jesus. Simon Peter has been described as a great leader and given the responsibility of being the shepherd of Christ's sheep.

Our passage tells us that Jesus asked Simon Peter three questions all centred on love. Each of these questions have meaning. The first question ...do you love me more than these? This question suggests that Jesus is asking Simon Peter is he prepared to walk away from his life as a fisherman, give up what he has been doing and be a person who loves and cares for others - God's people.⁴ The second question ...do you love me? We see Jesus graciously forgiving Simon Peter for his denials and allowing him the opportunity to declare his love for Jesus.⁵ The third question ...do you love me? Simon Peter recognises that while he may have done his own thing deep down, he has always loved Jesus.⁶

Friends, love is the greatest privilege a person can give to another. But with this privilege also comes great



responsibility. To put others needs first before our very own. Jesus calls Simon Peter to feed the lambs, tend the sheep, and feed the sheep. Jesus calls us, you and I to do the same. Out of love and care for others we feed the lambs, we tend the sheep and we feed the sheep of God's pasture. For

⁴ Barclay, W. 1960 p 331

⁵ Barclay, W. 1960 p 331

⁶ Barclay, W. 1960 p. 325

Loretta and I recently we were able to show love and hospitality

to an elderly couple and their son during the first big flood. Yes, Loretta and I were impacted by the floods and still are, but this elderly couple's circumstances are far more significant than ours. They lost far greater than what we did! With the rising flood waters coming into our house and property we had lost power, running water, tank water and our onsite sewerage had failed. This elderly couple came to us with significant health issues and a small number of their possessions for an unknown stay. Despite this, Loretta and I welcomed them into our home and showed them love and hospitality under very trying circumstances. To them and their family, they are very thankful for our Christian charity. We feel blessed that they stayed with us and that we could assist them in their time of need as a love offering.

The reality of the resurrection, the universality of the Church and the shepherding of Christ's sheep can be woven together to give us meaning and a deep sense of purpose. I don't believe John chapter 21 is a strange chapter as some commentators have described it, but rather one that reinforces the message of good news for the world - that God loves each one of us!

As we journey through this season of Easter can I encourage each one of you here this morning and watching online to continue to meditate on Jesus' death and resurrection in our daily lives as we love and care for others.

Mark Stuckey, LLM

Regular Reminders

Worship & Spirituality

Church Open



The Church is open for meditation during office hours.

Mothers Union: third Monday of each month. Contact Pam on 0417 258 991 or Joyce 0407 690 874 joyce@stephanies.com.au

Anam Cara



Anam Cara Praying for you Monday mornings 10am

Anam Cara Wednesdays 9am
& **Thursdays** 6pm

Community Engagement

Play Place



Play Place 9.30-11.30am Thursdays during school terms.

Sew Helpful



Sew Helpful 1st & 3rd Mondays 1pm.
All welcome.

Pastoral Care

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.

Prayers

Please remember our family and friends impacted by the floods.

Alstonville Anglicans

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

Parish Office: 8 The Avenue, Alstonville
Telephone: 6628 0231
Postal: PO Box 451, Alstonville NSW 2477
e-mail: office@anglicans.live
website: anglicans.live

Bank account: BSB 705 077 / Acc:00032931

The Anglican Op Shop: 1 The Avenue, Alstonville **Tel:** 6628 8777

Dates 8th May to 15th May

8 th May	Sunday 9am Holy Communion Messy Life Church 5pm (Games from 4pm)
9 th May	Parish Office 9am – 12pm Op Shop 9am – 3pm 10am Anam Cara praying for Community 10am Clergy Rendezvous
10 th May	Tuesday Parish Office Closed (Please refrain from accessing the office at this time)
11 th May	Parish Office 9am – 12pm Anam Cara 9am Op Shop 9am – 3pm
12 th May	Parish Office 9am – 12pm Op Shop 9am – 3pm Anam Cara 6pm Sound Sauna Healing Service
13 th May	Parish Office 9am – 12pm Friday 10am Holy Communion
15 th May	Sunday 9am Holy Communion Anam Cara Dadirri 2-4pm

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.