



Alstonville
Anglicans

6th Sunday of Easter

9th May 2021



Sharing the Good Life

We acknowledge the Bundjalung people,
Traditional custodians of the Land.
Our doors are open: LGBTQIA+ welcome here.
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Liturgy for 9th May

Sentence of the Day

Jesus said, 'You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit.' John 15.16

Collect

Loving God,
your Son has chosen us
and called us to be his friends:
give us grace to keep his commandments,
to love one another,
and to bear fruit which will abide;
through him who is the true vine,
the source of all our life,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings

John 15:9–17

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you

everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Messages

Worship and Spirituality portfolio



Messy Church

Wind & Fire

Sunday 23rd May 4pm

Alstonville Anglicans
6 The Avenue
Alstonville
anglicans.live

Have you Subscribed!

**to AnglicansLive our
YouTube channel**



PS. Our goal is 1000 subscribers.

Next Messy Life?! Church

Sunday 16th May 5pm

MIND YOUR MANNA(S)

How many times do I have to tell you, don't insult your brother with your mouth full?

With Messy Life?! Church
at Alstonville Anglicans
16 May 2021
5pm

W orship
T eaching
F riendship
anglicans.live

Community engagement



*Celebrate
Mother's Day*

Mother's Day Fete
Saturday 8th May
8am–12.30pm

Gifts, food, craft,
entertainment
Something for everyone!
COVID regulations apply

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

Pastoral Care

Family Crosses



On Sunday 9 May, Family Crosses are being given to Helen Nicholson & Leslie Stone.

We pray for John & Lynn, Et, Helen and Leslie.

Pastoral visits Remember!



If you or anyone you know is ill or in hospital, please let the office of Lynne Watt our Pastoral Care Coordinator know. Also, if you do visit anyone could you email Lynne? wattlg@bigpond.com.

Good Governance

Note

Current Status of COVID Restrictions

Restrictions for Places of Worship were relaxed in NSW from 29th March.

1. Limit of 1 person / 2sqm ie. now 72 for St Bartholomew's and 20 at St Peter & St Paul's.
2. Checking in is very important and is mandatory.
3. Ventilation is important ie. opening windows and doors and morning tea outside.
4. Hand sanitization is mandatory.
5. 1.5m rule of separation is advised.
6. Singing is ok with no restrictions.

Ministry and leadership

Opportunities

At Alstonville Anglicans, we consider all the baptised as ministers. Thus, everything that builds the community in love is ministry.



Put your hand up!

1. Catering coordinator

We have a great team of willing helpers who are looking for a coordinator. The catering team is ad hoc and only called together from time to time as needs arise.

A job description is available for those

interested. **Please speak to one of the Wardens or email the office office@anglicans.live**

Without a coordinator Parish Council will have to close the committee.

2. Play Place Morning Tea Minister

Contact Margaret Brown if you are able to help margaretandken@bigpond.com

3. Church Cleaning Roster

Volunteers are needed for a church cleaning roster.

Please contact Bruce Sharp 0412 783 921

4. Technician

Good News! We now have a great tech team.

Sermon notes on

John 15:1-8

for Sunday 2nd May

Get in the wheelbarrow

I begin with an illustration; it is a true story.



Jean François Gravelet, “The Great Charles Blondin”, was a famous French tightrope walker and acrobat. Blondin’s greatest fame came in 1859 when he attempted to become the first person to cross the rushing and roaring waters of Niagara Falls on a tightrope.

With a balancing pole, Charles Blondin walked across the 335m long tightrope in only five minutes. He went on to walk across the falls several times, each time with a different theatrical flair. Later crossings were made in a sack; on stilts; on a bicycle, in the dark with sparks flaring from his pole tips; with his hands and feet manacled; and sitting down halfway to cook an omelette!

On one such occasion a large crowd gathered as word went out that Blondin was going to attempt yet another incredible feat. A buzz of excitement ran along both sides of the riverbank. The crowd “Oooohed!” and “Aaaaahed!” as Blondin carefully walked across one dangerous step after another — blindfolded and pushing a wheelbarrow.

Upon reaching the other side, the crowd’s applause was louder than the roar of the falls! Blondin suddenly stopped and

addressed his audience: "Do you believe I can carry a person across in this wheelbarrow?" The crowd enthusiastically shouted, "Yes, yes, yes. You are the greatest tightrope walker in the world. You can do anything!"

"Okay," said Blondin, "Get in the wheelbarrow...."

No one did!

Later, on Sept 15, 1860, the world was amazed as Blondin made a crossing carrying his manager, Harry Colcord on his back.



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Faith as relationship – abiding in Love

I used to think that faith meant adherence to a set of beliefs. That faith is adherence to a set of (correct) beliefs is the unspoken message of our liturgy. Before Baptism, the Creed is affirmed. Confirmation is about delving into the deeper meanings of aspects of the Creed before one makes a statement of belief to a community of faith.

I now see faith more as a relationship of trusting rest in God's Love. The word "abide" repeated through John 15.1-8 communicates this aspect of faith strongly. That is why I use the image of Charles Blondin safely transporting his friend in a wheelbarrow across a tightrope above the mighty Niagara Falls. Faith as belief is not enough to "abide" in the wheelbarrow. Abiding in the wheelbarrow implies faith is a resting in a relationship of trust and love. Faith is like floating, the harder you try the less you succeed. The moment you give up fighting the water and simply agree to rest in the water, the floating begins. Likewise when we give up trying so hard with what we

believe and don't believe and surrender to rest in God, faith has a chance.

Not only is faith resting in relationship with God it is also resting in relationship with one another. The community is an essential interconnected dimension of our resting in God's love. Our very identity is shaped through abiding in God and each other.

Faith can be resting in God's love and the love of others, and this is precisely where the suffering or pruning begins.

My friend and mentor Brother David tells a story of when he was teaching theology in Central Africa. He was at a loss when one of his students asked him why there were so few saints in the Church. David says: "I closed my eyes hoping for inspiration, and this saying of Jesus popped right up to rescue me. I told him, "God wants us all to grow from sinners into saints and gives us the means to do it. Sadly, we pick out the easy and pleasant parts of the program. Anything even a little unpleasant, we push away... and so we shrink from the pruning, the very thing intended to make us into saints... we need to accept and profit from *all* that God allows to come our way." I notice that David's insight explains what happens on the meditation journey. Some people really struggle to meditate and actually this struggle is a valuable grace in itself. Many others however, with some guidance, begin the journey of meditation with a sense of intoxication at the experience. Meditation offers a way to experience God firsthand, as the psalmist says, "to taste and see that the Lord is good." The experience of love, peace, unity or bliss as dimensions of God, draws you into meditation in a regular and disciplined way. Soon however, God weans us off these experiences of God. Our meditation and prayer will seem drier



Image by Free-Photos from Pixabay

than a drought ridden farm in central NSW. The earlier experiences of love are gone. This is where the rubber hits the road for if we continue a disciplined practice of meditation, the Spirit strips the ego of all that may block the full light of God's love, we abide deeper in the vine.

Abiding in love naturally requires pruning so that nothing but the pure fragrance of love may blossom and flower. Francis teaches us to embrace the necessary pruning that allows authentic love, devoid of all ego, to prosper.

Franciscan Joy

"During a winter journey with St. Francis, Brother Leo reflected on the wonderful work the Franciscans were doing and boasted: Is this not perfect joy?

St. Francis responded: "Brother, if you were to please God by giving the world a great example of holiness and teaching. If you were to perform miracles, chase away demons, heal ill, and raise the dead, this would not be perfect joy." And "Brother, if you knew all languages, were versed in all science, could explain all Scripture, had the gift of prophecy and could read hearts, you would not have perfect joy."

Now after some silence, Brother Leo questioned the saint, he said, "O.K. Francesco, what is perfect joy?" Francis answered: "If, when we arrive at our destination, cold and wet, covered with mud and hungry; if, we knock and the porter is rude, asks us who we are even after we have told him, does not believe our story; If he refuses to open the door, leaves us in the cold and hungry, beats us and drives us away repeatedly, and, if we can accept such cruelty, trusting that it is God who causes the porter to speak and behave so, if we can shake the dust from our feet with patience and charity, note, O Brother, that we have found perfect joy.

Above all the graces and all the gifts of the Holy Spirit which Christ grants to his friends is the grace to overcome oneself; to accept willingly out of love, all trial, injury, discomfort and contempt. These and these alone, are gifts to celebrate. In most else, given that such things come from God and not from ourselves, we have no right to boast.”

The Christ Project

As branches resting in the Vine, we are the Christ project – we are the body of Christ. We are committed to God’s success in us. We are the secret weapon that God has placed in the world. Through the success of God in us, God has created us to be the solution to poverty, world hunger and injustice. The fact that we truly desire a world that is designed where it is easier to be good, a world where all children play and all humans are nourished into the full potential is proof of God in us. Our conviction, our faith is that the world is waiting for us. The natural consequence of love is suffering. There is a straight line from love to suffering. But the point of this suffering is that it is the Grace to overcome ourselves, that our love may prosper even more.



Image by Tri Le from Pixabay

ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALSTONVILLE

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

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website: anglicans.live

Bank account: BSB 705 077 / Acc:00032931

The Anglican Op Shop

1 The Avenue, Alstonville **Tel:** 6628 8777

Dates 9th May to 16th May

9th May Sunday 9am Holy Communion, 10am St Peter & St Paul's

10th May Monday 10am Anam Cara Praying for You
Parish Office open 9am-12pm
Op Shop 9am-3pm

11th May Tuesday Parish Office closed

12th May Wednesday 9am Anam Cara
Parish Office open 9am-12pm
Op Shop 9am-3pm

13th May Thursday 9.30am Play Place
Parish Office open 9am-12pm
Op Shop 9am-3pm
Thursday 6pm Anam Cara

14th May Friday 10am Holy Communion
Parish Office open 9am-12pm

16th May Sunday 9am Holy Communion, 5pm Messy Life?! Church