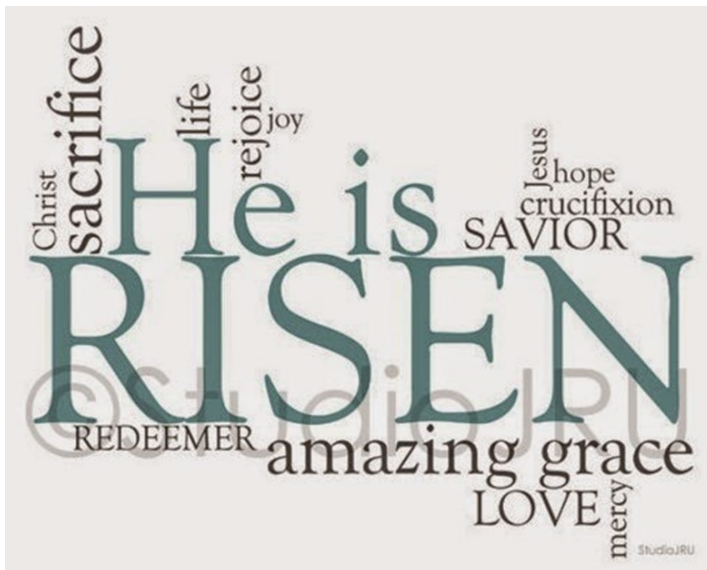


ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALSTONVILLE



16th April 2017



TRANSFORMATION !

CHECK OUT THE DISCIPLES' LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE FOLLOWING JESUS' RESURRECTION.

CHOOSE TO WRESTLE WITH GOD UNTIL THE REALITY OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION LOVE AND POWER ARE YOUR EXPERIENCE AND FAITH TOO.

WELCOME

We trust and pray that your time at worship today will bring hope, love and inspiration for your weeks ahead.



From Archdeacon Greg

What might it mean for you to really lay claim to the resurrection life this Easter? Will you make that decisive transition and intentionally live into practising the presence of God's love and power from here on in, day by day?

Resurrection life is here now, ready or not. But entering the mystery and living the reality, requires you, like Mary and the disciples, to ponder and experience the risen Christ!

Some will say the pretty words and sing the rousing songs and then waddle home again, with nothing really changed. Or you can choose to enter by faith, the mystery of Christ's transforming risen life, just as Mary and the first disciples chose to do.

The community of faith in our Parish is characterised by the affirmation of passion and desire to boldly proclaim and live into this resurrection experience, reciting with conviction and dedication:

We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn; in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands, conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire.

We believe in a with-us God who sits down in our midst to share our humanity.

We affirm a faith that takes us beyond a safe place: into action, into vulnerability and onto the streets.

We commit ourselves to work for change and put ourselves on the line: to bear responsibility, take risks, live powerfully and face humiliation: to stand with those on the edge: to choose life and be used by the Spirit for God's new community of hope. AMEN

(Iona Creed)

Office Bearers for 2017:

Secretary - Phil Crandon, **Treasurer** - Johnny Sernberg.

You are invited to express interest in joining the following committees: **Finance & Stewardship** - Rector, Treasurer, Parish Administrator, 1 Warden, Power to Co-opt 1 member with financial skills **Property Committee** - P Cowie (chair), G Ireland, L Earner, C Arnett, B Sharp, Power to Co-opt anyone else with interest in ensuring our facilities are well maintained.

Parish Office Support Team

Would you like to consider joining the **Parish Office Support Team**. Assistants aid Fiona Barnes in the efficient day to day administration of our parish and are the friendly face of the parish to all who come into the Ministry Centre. No prior office skills are required. We are also seeking someone to volunteer for the role of **Copyright Coordinator**. Please contact Fiona at the Parish Office.

Improving Communication

The Pew Bulletin serves as one method of communication. Parish Council draft minutes are now placed on the Ministry Centre noticeboard approx. 10 days post meetings. Information on events will be posted to our Parish website and Facebook. To aid communication PC approved to trial a "*communication form*" on which you can write a note and leave it at the office and it will be referred or actioned accordingly. This form is not meant to stop personal face to face contact with the office, clergy, wardens, etc., but to aid communication in the clear relating of information in a timely manner. These forms are in the church porch and at the Parish Office window.

Pastoral Care

Please advise the Pastoral Care Team Coordinator – Lorraine Beattie, Ven Greg Ezzy, Revd Geoff Vidal or the Parish Office. If you personally know of someone you think needs pastoral care.

Gifts for Lismore Disaster

A retiring offering is invited following services over the next 2 weeks or can be dropped into the office. Last week \$512 was received. Parish Council has agreed to match the total retiring donations dollar-for-dollar.

Caring for Abuse Survivors

Our Diocese invited all parishes to consider making a financial pledge to support compensation to those who suffered abuse whilst in Anglican institutions in the Diocese. Parish Council has agreed to make a pledge of \$50,000 towards the \$2m to \$3m compensation being paid out.

Messy Community

A working group is being convened to build on the success of **Messy Church** and **Messy Extra** to grow the Messy Community. What this will look like is presently unknown, but in this changing world, we need to constantly look at fresh ways of being church and reaching the wider community and sharing the love of God with one another.

Parish Finances Requires Our Generosity

As you will know a very modest budget for 2017 was set at the Annual Meeting. The Balance sheet at the end of March was:
Total Income - \$75,671 - this is well below budget requirements. Offertory income is down. Total Expenditure - \$65,689 - this is below budget due to clergy expenses down. This will not be forever. A full-time Rector will be appointed. Other assistance will likely follow. Please consider prayerfully your giving to God's work through our Parish. Our envelope system used faithfully is an effective way to ensure regularity of our giving as is using Parish Provider which enables direct transfer every month to our Parish Account.



Next Messy Church
Friday, 28th April
@ 4:30pm

Report Lady Day Northern Zone at St Mary's, Ballina

Ballina Branch gave us a warm welcome for Lady Day commencing with a cuppa and biscuit after some had to travel from Tweed Heads and Casino. To share our Lady Day service with the usual Wednesday worshippers is always special and thank you to Father Matthew for acknowledging Mothers Union in your usual way. The Service commenced with a Banner Parade and the Diocesan MU prayer was included. This year the Service was an opportunity to acknowledge Margaret Hardwick of Goolmangar branch for her 60 years of Mothers Union membership. As Sandra Chambers our Diocesan President was unable to attend due to the bad weather we weren't able to present the 60 year badge and Certificate but will ensure that it is done at a latter date. Father Matthew did give Margaret a posy of flowers and Julia a card congratulating her on a wonderful achievement. Margaret started her MU journey as a member of Lane Cove as a young clergy wife, so of course has seen many changes over the years. Her membership has taken her to Newcastle diocese and a number of branches in the Grafton diocese. The day also gave Margaret an opportunity to renew some old friendships.

Our guest speaker for Lady Day was Karen Scott, the Manager of Hope Haven the women's refuge in Ballina. Karen is an engaging speaker and gave us all a good insight, sadly, into domestic violence and the work that is done at the Refuge. This year instead of donating toiletries we donated non perishable grocery items. Everyone was very generous and Karen went away with many items to fill the cupboards for the women to make an emergency meal without having to go to the shops. Also Ballina Parish very generously cooks meals monthly and donates frozen meals to the Refuge. It is wonderful to see the community embracing such a worthwhile organisation in our area.

Joyce Shepherd thanked everyone for participating in the Wave of Prayer. Beth Scarsdale of Wauchope is the contact as Joyce is now Vice President and Secretary of Executive.

The day contributed \$70.00 to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund.

Julia Adlington
Northern Zone Leader

**NOTE: MU Meeting is still on Easter Monday 17th April
at 9.30am in the Ministry Centre**



ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALSTONVILLE

Locum:	Venerable Greg Ezzy	Tel: 0412 660 742
Associate	The Reverend John Kidson	
Ministers:	Venerable Sally Miller	Tel: 0400 320 682
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THE ANGLICAN OP SHOP

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

THE PARISH IN PRAYER

Praise and Thanksgiving:

- For the gift of a resurrection faith that inspires love and hope.

We pray for our World:

- for our world - in turmoil because of the ravages of war and homelessness.

We pray for our Parish Community:

- for those affected by floods.
- For Messy Church, Play Place and Op Shop catering for the community.

We pray for those we support locally and overseas:

- The Hughes & Kidson families and the Mission in Japan and India.
- Sally Miller & Fresh Expression of Church at Emmanuel College.
- Our AREA High School chaplain, Bruce Fleming.

We pray for those in need:

- Celia Hillier, Noela Slade, Mark Grimm, Theo, Marg Dillon, Ernie, Damien Eagles, Dr Nigel, T. J. & family, Iris Outerbridge, Elizabeth Jackson, Kevin Magill.
- Give thanks for the lives of Blair Eagles, Rodney Ison, Lexie Pratt and Neil Hutley.

Privacy policy of the Diocese of Grafton does not permit the placement of names on prayer lists without expressed permission of persons concerned. Names listed in this bulletin therefore are only published on that basis.

Please turn off your mobile phone during worship.

Please note a hearing loop is installed on the right hand side of the church.

Toilets are located in the front of the Hall - the building next to the Church.

First Aid Kits are located in the Church & the Hall.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty God,
you have conquered death
through your dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ
and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
grant us by your grace to set our mind on things above,
so that by your continual help
our whole life may be transformed;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit
in everlasting glory. **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR CHOOSING A NEW RECTOR

Bountiful God,
as we prepare for a new Rector
who will faithfully speak your word
minister your sacraments;
and encourage and equip your people for ministry
to enable us to fulfil our calling.
Give to us warm and generous hearts,
and readiness to embrace
the future to which God is leading us
for Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen.**

REVEREND RHONDA CALLENDAR

We warmly welcome Reverend Rhonda who will be assisting with the 10am Friday Service while Reverend Geoff is on leave.

Bible Readings:

16th April
23rd April

Acts 10:34-43
Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Matthew 28: 8-15a
John 20. 19-31

Next week's 8.00am Carolyn Cocks and Rose Jones
Morning Tea: 10.00am Des and Susan Fitzpatrick

Bishop's Easter message 2017

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The devastation wrought by the recent floods in the north of our Diocese and by Cyclone Debbie in Queensland is a sobering reminder of the power of the natural world and the fragility of life. They have brought significant emotional trauma and the financial impact on many people will also be considerable. We will only begin to understand the full effect once the clean up has been completed.

In such circumstances grief and despair can overwhelm us. But we are not alone. In the humanity of Jesus we see a God who knows what it is to suffer and who suffers with us: he weeps when he hears the news of Lazarus' death (John 11:35); he agonises in the Garden of Gethsemane and feels abandoned by the disciples who cannot stay awake with him.

He shares our suffering and he experiences great suffering himself. Through Holy Week our Bible readings take us through an extraordinary journey as Jesus is betrayed, denied, mocked, whipped and crucified. Even when it was all over, after the resurrection, the resurrected Christ bore on his body the marks of his crucifixion.

Jesus' suffering with us through all the difficult times of life reveals a profound love. As the hymn 'God is love' says: 'And when human hearts are breaking under sorrow's iron rod, then they find that selfsame aching deep within the heart of God.'

The empty tomb and the encounters with the risen Christ show us that suffering is not the final chapter. New life will blossom in the wake of the flood waters. The despair of Good Friday and the emptiness of Holy Saturday give way to astonishment and joy. Easter brings life from death and reminds us that God's love constantly offers hope, even in the darkest of times. God, who knows what it is to suffer and who walks with us as we suffer, leads us into new life. God invites us to live into that hope.

He is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

+Sarah