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Readings for: 9 May

Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-12
John 15:9-17



ANGLICAN PARISH OF BYRON

*A Christian Presence in the Community,
Living by Faith, Known by Love,
Sharing a Voice of Hope*

**Sunday 2nd May 2021
Fifth Sunday of Easter**



Acknowledgement of Country

We, the Anglican Ministry of Byron, acknowledge the Bundjalung people, traditional custodians of this land. We pay tribute and respect to the elders of these nations and people, both past and present. We acknowledge their connection with and care for this country.

All are welcome in Anglican Ministry Area of Byron

Message from Locum Rector - Rev Sandra

Dear People of Faith,

The words to us this morning from Jesus, pose challenging questions to contemporary Christian communities about self-identity. What does it mean for the church to live as the branches of Christ the vine?

The symbol of the vineyard is common in Judaism. In the "Song of the Vineyard" (Isaiah 5:1-7), the "house of Israel" and the "people of Judah" are "the vineyard of the LORD of hosts" (v. 7). They are expected to yield the proper fruit, but they don't and are destroyed.

In Jeremiah 2:21, God is pictured as the planter of a choice vine. (Some other OT images: Ezekiel 19:10-14; Hosea 10:1; Psalm 80:8-19; Isaiah 27:2-6; Ezekiel 15:1-8; 17:7-8.) The idea that the people of God are a vine which God tends and from which God expects good fruit is not new. However, the connection between Jesus as the vine and the people as the branches is new in this context.

Twice in the text Jesus says, "I am the vine." The first time, in v. 1 (where "true" or "real" is also added), he makes a connection with the God the Father who is described as the gardener who prunes the branches so that they might bear more fruit. The use of "true" and "real" suggest that there could be false and unreal "vines" from which one might seek to find nourishment for bearing fruit.

The second time Jesus says, "I am the vine," in v. 5, he makes a connection with "you," the people, as the branches. All three elements are necessary to grow proper fruit: the gardener, vine, and branches -- the Father, Jesus, and disciples.

From verse 2 - "every branch in me" - indicates that these im-

CLERGY ROSTER: MINISTRY AREA OF BYRON – MAY 2021

Date	Time	Location	Celebrant	Notes
2 May Easter 5	9am	Mullumbimby	Sandra K	Eucharist
	9am	Byron	Rosie W	Eucharist
	11am	Ewingsdale	Rosie W	Eucharist
9 May Easter 6	7am	Brunswick Heads	Sandra K	Eucharist
	9am	Mullumbimby	Sandra K	Eucharist
	9am	Bangalow All Souls	Rosie W	Eucharist
16 May Easter 7	9am	Byron	Sandra K	Eucharist
	9am	Mullumbimby	Rose W	Eucharist
23 May Pentecost	9am	Service to be held at: 'Hazeldene' 355 Coopers Shoot Rd, Coopers Shoot – Jack and Hilda Richards.	Sandra K Celebrant Rosie W Preacher Combined Service	Eucharist & BBQ lunch to follow BYO salad and drinks. Meat Provided. RSVP Sue Williams by 16.5.21
30 May Trinity Sunday	9am	Byron	Rosie W	Eucharist
	9am	Bangalow	Sandra K (SK – Last Service)	Eucharist



Anglicare North Coast
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Anglicare North Coast Flood Appeal

Anglicare North Coast is the welfare arm of the Anglican Diocese of Grafton.

The Flood Appeal benefits flood affected households in New South Wales,

especially those located in our Diocese*.

Eligible households will receive vouchers, goods, and reimbursements through Anglicare's Emergency Relief Program, and through local parish relief initiatives supported by **Anglicare North Coast**

To direct deposit your donation:



Bank: **Anglican Funds Grafton Diocese**

Account name: **Anglicare North Coast**

BSB: **705-077**

Account: **00041320**

OR click on the **DONATE** button on our website anglicarenorthcoast.org.au

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

If you require a receipt, please email a screenshot of the transaction record of your donation to admin@anglicarenc.org.au. Please include the name and address you require to appear on the receipt. *Excess funds may be used to support households affected by other disasters and affected regions outside of the Grafton Diocese, via the Anglicare Network of agencies.

ages are addressed to believers - people who are already 'in Christ'. Some believers bear fruit and some do not.

Something that I find amazing in this passage is that the actions of the "gardener" are similar in both cases! The unfruitful branches are "cut off" (GK- *airo*) and the fruitful branches are "pruned" or "cut clean" (GK -*kathairo*).

From what I can gather, neither of these terms (*airo* nor *kathairo*) are primarily horticultural terms. *airo* means "to lift up and carry (away)." It is used of the Lamb of God taking away the sins of the world (John 1:29). Something that is "taken away" may be "destroyed" - which is the meaning of the word in John 11:48.

Typically in John's writing, there are many layers of meaning. So, God, as the gardener, can prune the branches, which can also be understood as a cleansing or purifying of the disciples.

There appears to only be two acts of the "gardener" in this analogy -- and both involve cutting. One cutting is to destroy the branch; the other is to improve the branch's fruit bearing ability. Both of these verbs are in the present tense so they are ongoing activities. The gardener continues to cut out the dead and prune the good in order for the vines to bear good fruit.

So, what is the "fruit" that the gardener expects from the branches? When chapter 15 is read in context of chapter 14 -- loving Jesus (vv. 15, 21, 23) and chapter 13 -- loving each other (vv. 34-35), it would appear that "love" is the expected fruit.

If so, then the unproductive branches of 15:2 are the people who are in Jesus -- in the community of faith -- who are not loving -- who are not seeking the good of the whole body.

I think that our text ask us not only to consider what it means for us individually to "bear fruit," but also what it means for us as a community to "bear fruit."

One of the Anglican Diocese of Grafton's guiding principles is to build healthy, growing, multiplying congregations. And "fruit" contains the power to reproduce. It is able to create another plant that will also bear fruit. Does this mean that the fruit of a disciple is another disciple who also produces fruit, which is

another disciple who bears fruit, etc. That sounds like growth and multiplying to me.

It would appear that there may be a contrast between simply being "in Jesus" (v. 2) which allows for the possibility of not bearing fruit; and "remaining or abiding in Jesus" (vv. 4ff.) and he in them, which results in "bearing much fruit" (v. 5).

In v. 2, it is the gardener who removes the fruitless branches from the vine. In vv. 4-6, the impression is given by the commands, that abiding or not abiding on the vine is a decision of the branch -- and the decision to leave the branch has fiery consequences (v. 6).

The issue is not about being incorporated onto the vine, but now that one is a member of the community, what is expected? The answer: bear much fruit which comes from being pruned/purified/cleansed by God and by the word which Jesus has spoken, and by abiding in Jesus.

These are not verses about one's own wishes and expectations that God would grant one's private requests, rather, they are verses about the community of faith's life together: having the word live in us; coming to agreement about our wishes; the ability to pray together; and expecting things to happen that are for the good of us all as a whole. To be a loving community.

I think it is helpful for us to bear in mind that a living Faith is a Faith that is always changing and growing. Though the "root" of one's faith never changes, from one year to the next, one's faith needs pruning by God. Maybe some old habits or thoughts or attitudes or behaviours need to die, so that, through the power of Jesus, more fruit will be produced in one's life of Faith which not only benefits us personally, it benefits the whole community of faith.

Our life of Faith – as individuals – and as a Community of Faith – will not be quite the same next year as it is now. So, today I would ask with Jesus "How are we being pruned and growing in fruit-bearing in the Parish of Byron?"

Weekly Happenings

Week Commencing 2 May 2021

TUESDAY	Mullumbimby Office 9am-4pm
WEDNESDAY	Byron Bay Office 9am-4pm
THURSDAY	Mullumbimby Office 9am-4pm
FRIDAY	Byron Bay Office 9am-12.30pm
SUNDAY 9 May	St Thomas' 7am St Martin's 9am St All Soul's 9am

Op Shop Opening Hours

Bangalow	Monday, Tuesday & Thursday: 10am-2pm Saturday: 9.30am-12.30pm.
Byron Bay	Tuesday—Friday 9am-1pm Saturday 9.30am -12.30pm
Mullumbimby	Monday-Friday 9.30am-3.30pm Saturday 9am-12pm.
Wardens	Patricia Ellis (Rector's Warden), Ian White.

Bulletin News Items

For inclusion in the weekly bulletin please forward to Sue Williams by Wednesday morning by 12 noon. Sue Williams Phone 66856431 Email: admin@byronanglicans.org.au

Mission of the Month

Anglican Flood Relief through the Diocese of Grafton. This is a worthwhile and much needed charity in our region. Please consider giving generously.



Mission National Home Mission Fund
Chairman Clyde Wood

Diocese of Grafton Senior Leadership Team

Bishop The Right Rev'd Dr Murray Harvey

Archdeacon Tiffany Sparks

Dean The Rev'd. Dr Greg Jenks

Mission Companion Archdeacon Gail Hagon

The Diocese of Adelaide ArchBishop Geoff Smith & Lynn, Bishop Tim Harris & Fiona, Bishop Chris McLeod & Susan, Bishop Denise Ferguson & Mark, Clergy & Laity.

The Parish of Ballina The Venerable Matthew Jones, Rev Cathy Ridd, Rev Richard Brown & Carol, Rev Ivan Shepherd, Rev Margaret Davis & Cliff, rev David Brown.

LLM John, Pat, Fran, Amkela, John, Ros.

Prayer Request Judith, Hilary and Paul, Steve & Jenny, Tony, Fr Gary & Robyn Priest, Lorretta, Chris, Donna, Rev Sandra

For the work of the Community Centres and their work with the homeless.

The Liberation Larder.

The Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre

For the Ministry of Anglicare.

For the Ministry of Byron Bay & Mullumbimby Christian Education.

Readings for Today

Acts 8.26-40. Philip obediently left a successful ministry and went on the road to the place where God directed him and met an Ethiopian official. The Ethiopian was reading scripture and had difficulty in understanding the meaning. So, Philip explained the scripture which assisted the Ethiopian official to growth in faith to the extent that he became baptized and took the faith back to his home country. Spreading the faith – bearing good fruit.

Psalm 22.26-32 – The Psalmist explained that unborn generations are depending on our faithfulness today. As we teach our children the faith – so they will teach their children and their children's children. If we fail to teach our children the faith – we will be breaking the chain of God's influence in leaders to come.

1 John 4.7-21 – John writes about God's love and our love for each other. God's love is the source of all human love – when we meet a loving person – we are meeting the love of God which is clear for all to see through the way they live their lives and treat others.

John 15.1-8 –. Jesus teaches about the Vine and the branches – explaining that Jesus is the Vine and God is the Gardener who care for the branches – to make them fruitful. God will sometimes discipline us to help us to grow spiritually, when we have lost our way, and thereby assists us to grow in the faith and bear much fruit to His glory.

So, how is your Easter journey going? We are well advanced into the Easter Season now with only 2 Sundays left before we move into Pentecost. I pray that you are infilled with the joy and love of Christ during this most holy Season.

Please don't forget to call me at any time on 0404 623 423 if you would like to talk about insights gained or aspects of your spiritual journey over the past few weeks or anything else that is one your mind. Spiritual Journals are readily available at

the back of all of our churches to assist you with your prayers and meditations upon the Word of God.

May the God of Peace continue to bless each and every one of you

Revd. Sandra Kjellgren
Locum Rector

Parish News

OP Shop News: On Tuesday afternoon The Volunteers for the Byron OP Shop farewelled Laurel Mackander. After many faithful years of service to our shop. Laurel will be sadly missed.



Rosters In each of our centres there are forms for you to put your name down for reading, prayers, welcoming/ COVID help & morning tea. These are important roles in the running of the centres each Sunday. **Please take the time to prayerfully consider if you can help and put your name down maybe in a centre you don't normally visit.**

Community Outreach within our Parish

Feeding the Community Donations of non-perishable food items e.g. Baked Beans, tinned fish, tinned spaghetti, pasta, rice, biscuits etc. can now be left at the churches for collection.

Cursillo News There is a fire Day for all Cursillistas. Theme: 'Running the Race'. At: Murwillumbah Anglicans 26-30 Byangum Rd. 15 May 9:30-2:30, Cost for lunch \$10.

Why come alone? Invite your friends.

The day is not just for Cursillistas but anyone who wishes to join us for a spiritually uplifting and thought provoking day of fun and fellowship.

Everyone's welcome. See you there!

On the 16th May the Secertariat are asking all Cursillistas to wear your **colours** to Church in celebration of Cursillo.

Diary Dates

Sunday Services 9 May

7am St Thomas' Brunswick Heads
9am St Martin's Mullumbimby
9am All Soul's Bangalow

You will be able to register using the QR Code or by giving your details on the day.

23 May Pentecost Sunday.

Come celebrate in the rural setting of Hazeldene. Jack & Hilda Richards have kindly invited us to their property at 355 Coopers Shoot Rd, Coopers Shoot, for a combined service for Pentecost plus we will celebrate Jack's 84th Birthday. BYO drinks salad, dessert, nibbles, plates, cups & cutlery. Jack will supply the meat.

RSVP Sue Williams by 16 May on 6685 6431.



5 June – 10am Thanksgiving Service at St Oswald's Church, Broken Head.

Refreshments to follow in the grounds. Celebrant: Archdeacon Matthew Jones and Preacher The Rev'd Richard Brown. Enquiries to Rev'd Sandra or Ian White.

5 June Art Exhibition 'Passing Through'.

Jay Pearse's art work will be on show at Gallery 3 The Collective 3/1 Kendall St Byron Bay from 3-5pm.