

The Clergy, Wardens and Office welcome your enquiries and calls.

Rector:

Rev'd Grahame Yager
6684 3552

Associate Priest/Community:

Rev'd Rosie Wynter
Mobile: 0419 209 201

Administration Centre:

Office Manager: Anne Wareing

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Office hours: 9am – 4pm Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Facebook: Anglican Parish of Byron

Website: www.byronanglicans.org.au

Office Support:

Sue Williams

14 Kingsley Street

Byron Bay

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Phone: 6684 3552

Office Hours: Wednesday 9am-3pm

Friday 9am-12.30pm.

Wardens Patricia Ellis (Rector's Warden),
Ian White, Laura East.

Acknowledgement of Country

*We, acknowledge the Bundjalung people, traditional custodians of this land.
We pay tribute and respect to the elders both past and present.*



**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
29th January 2023**

All are welcome



hiswordinpictures.blogspot.com.au

*A Christian presence in the community, living by faith,
known by love, sharing a voice of hope.*

From Grahame

This week we reflect again on the section of the Gospel according to Matthew commonly referred to as the 'Beatitudes'. A Beatitude is a blessing. Before Jesus gathered the crowd on the mountainside, the usage of a Beatitude was to describe the benefit one might receive from a particular accomplishment or form of behaviour, either in the present or in a future time. The way Jesus uses this form, as we would expect, is something different.

In the Beatitudes Jesus gives us a description of the types of people we might find if we look at an average community, God's people. In Jesus' use of the Beatitudes, every traditional measure of success is turned upside down. The Good News is then particularly good news for those this world would discard. Imagine the stories told following the Sermon on the Mount about what this Good News would mean for the poor, the hungry, for those who mourn... What stories could we tell today about what the Good News has meant for us?

As we reflect in our gathering together, we hear retold how people gathered around Jesus, drawn by the authority of his message, and what a message. We may sometimes become shy or nervous about sharing this message because we may not think people will want to hear what we have to say. But we must remember it is not our message, it is God's message. It is God's message which people want to hear and should not be watered down.

We see all around us a growing culture of the pursuit of happiness. I want to challenge us about happiness. In our modern pursuit of the easy life it would be **easy** to reinterpret the message Jesus brings as 'follow me and I will make you happy'. It would be **easy** to replace 'blessed' with happy, which would give us the imperative to avoid being unhappy. But the opposite of being blessed is actually to be cursed. Don't make the mistake of turning the Good News into a promise of sugar drops with the alternative being to not have sugar drops. The Good News is the blessing of God through Jesus Christ with an alternative too terrible to contemplate.

Weekly Happenings

Clergy & Staff can be contacted via email or phone

TUESDAY	Mullumbimby Office 9am-4pm
WEDNESDAY	Byron Bay Office 9am-4pm
THURSDAY	Mullumbimby 9am-4pm
FRIDAY	Byron Bay Office 9am-12.30pm Mullumbimby Office 9am-4pm

Sunday 29th January 2023
9am St Martins Mullumbimby

Sunday 5th February 2023
9am St Paul's Byron Bay

Op Shop Opening Hours

Bangalow	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10am-2pm Saturday 9.30am-12.30pm
Byron Bay	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday 9am-1pm
Mullumbimby	Monday—Friday 9.30am-3.30pm Saturday 9.00am—12.00pm

Parish Direct Debit details for tithes.

Anglican Parish of Byron **BSB:** 705 077 **Account:** 00041263

Bulletin News Items

For inclusion in the weekly bulletin please forward to Sue Williams by Wednesday morning. Sue Williams Phone 66843552 Email: admin@byronanglicans.org.au

Prayer Focus This Week:

Mission Anglican Consultative Council

Chair: The Most Rev'd Dr Paul Kwong.

Diocese of Grafton Senior

Leadership Team

Bishop The Right Rev'd Dr Murray Harvey

Archdeacon Tiffany Sparks

The Diocese of Willochra

Bishop John Stead & Jan, Clergy & Laity.

The Parish of Wauchope:

The Rev'd Canon Angela Dutton, The Rev'd Chris Elliott & Jennie, The Rev'd Duncan McArthur & Jennifer

LLM Gordon, Robert, Frankie, Wendy.

Local Prayer Focus

Judith, Lil, Lin, Hilary and Paul, Lorretta, Chris, John, David Williams, Matthew, Lucy, Sigrid, George, Faith, Liz, Gladys, Heather, Chris, John, Sophie, Karen, Shirley, Carol, Karen, Fran, Rebecca, Irene, Harper, Harley, Joe & Jade, Karen Christofferson, June, Thea, Elaine.

The family of Avis Smith would like to inform you that Avis passed away Thursday 19th January at the age of 92. Avis will be missed by family and friends.

The Community Centres and their work with the homeless.

The Liberation Larder, The Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre, Ministry of Byron Bay & Mullumbimby Christian Education.

Our Community recovering from the floods.



Mission of the Month

Bush Church Australia

BCA has a heart for people living in remote & regional Australia. Since 1919 staff & supporters around the country have been going the distance to reach Australia for Christ.



In the passage from 1 Corinthians this week, Paul says 'The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing' that is, the people who think they are wise in the ways of the world, those who boast in their own accomplishments. Remember, God blesses the least, those who have nothing. What might God expect from those in positions of advantage? As people of God the benefits we enjoy have come from God. When times are tough there is a tendency to blame God. When times are plentiful there is a tendency to think how good we are. The Good News we proclaim is not about how good we are, but how good God is.

A while ago a young lady asked me why it is that some people have such bad luck and proceeded to tell me about her friend listing every bad thing which had ever happened to them. I immediately asked if anything good had ever happened to her friend and moved from there to seeing the good which had come from some of the things she had listed as bad. It is in our nature to see the bad in everything and everyone, but that is the 'wisdom' of this world. We are called instead to look for the Christ in everyone and proclaim God's message he brings. We find him with the poor and the meek, with the Jews and the Gentiles and we find him nailed to a tree. But that's not the end of the story.

With every blessing,
Grahame

And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6.8

Services

29th January 2023

9am St Martins Mullumbimby

5th February 2023

9am St Paul's Byron Bay

Readings

29th January Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

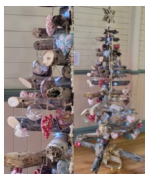
Micah 6:1-8, Psalm 15, 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31, Matthew 5:1-12

5th February Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58: 1-9a, Psalm 112, 1 Corinthians 2:1-13, Matthew 5:13-20

Parish News

Christmas Tree



The remainder of the decorations will be available for \$5 each on Sunday 29th Jan after the service at St Martin's Mullumbimby. Money raised will be donated to flood recovery in Lismore.

Lenten Studies

Wednesday 22nd February @ 2pm St Paul's Byron Bay. Rev'd Grahame will be running the Lenten Study, for those interested please place your name on the list provided in each centre.

Annual Report



Reports for inclusion in the Annual Report are due on 14th February. Please email them to Anne at office@byronanglicans.org.au. Thank you

More than a Meal Cooking Program



MTAM cooking program has recommenced each Thursday morning 10.30am -12pm in St Martin's hall. We are in need of additional volunteers. You will be involved in basic food preparation assisting a Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre staff member. Please contact Anne if you are able to help.

Handbags



We are seeking used handbags in reasonable condition to be used to create dignity bags for women in need. The Rotary Club of Mullumbimby put these together and donate them to the Neighbourhood Centre. If you have any bags you are no longer using they can be given to Merle Siwicki.

JANUARY SERVICE TIMES

January 29th	St Martin's Mullumbimby	9am
February 5th	St Paul's Byron Bay	9am

Epiphany 4

Sunday 29 January 2023

Micah 6.1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1.18-31; Matthew 5.1-12

In his 'sermon on the mount' Jesus tells us about the kinds of people who will be blessed by God: the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, the persecuted, the reviled. We can see that none of these are what would normally be thought of as successful people. God's values do not align with worldly attainment. Those who will be blessed by God have already been dismissed by the world as being irrelevant failures, yet God's heart treasures them. How can we renounce things like status, power, and worldly wealth for those things that God finds value in?

Lord Jesus Christ, may I always value what you value, eschewing those things of no ultimate significance. Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of the Province of Myanmar.

Text: Robert McLean © Anglican Board of Mission, 2022