

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

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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.*



**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
16th July 2023**



The Sower (1888) by Vincent Van Gogh (1853-1890)

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

From Grahame

Today Jesus shares with us in Matthew 13, a parable which leads to a question. If the seed is the Gospel, what type of ground am I? Jesus speaks in parables with those who have followed him. They are beginning to experience glimpses of the coming kingdom, they are beginning to be transformed. For them the parables are ways of questioning and having a conversation about topics that might otherwise have seen them nailed to a cross. For them, the knowledge of the kingdom has come near and parables are helping them understand and grow in their faith. To those who don't understand or don't want to understand; those who do not know or do not want to know Jesus, the parables are like a fog they cannot see through. Instead they mock and they ridicule and try to destroy.

God plants in us a seed. What type of ground am I? How do I receive God in my life?

Again, this parable reminds us of the importance of remaining connected to a community of faith otherwise as in Matthew 13.20-21, we may hear the Gospel and recognise its truth but without the support of a community of faith we will be as rocky ground, the seed may germinate but without a root system the plant cannot be sustained. Without the support of a community of faith our challenges may be greater than they need to be.

Last week we heard about John, who came as an ascetic, what harm could he do to anyone, running around living on bugs, what threat could he be? They could hardly say he took too much out of the world? So he washed a few people in the river? But John was very dangerous – to some. He knew the truth when he saw it and he was not afraid to talk about it regardless of the persecutions he suffered even to the point of martyrdom. Was John the original Christian, the first to publicly recognise Jesus as the Christ, standing right there in front of him as he received the Holy Spirit? But even John had

Weekly Happenings

Clergy & Staff can be contacted via email or phone

TUESDAY	Mullumbimby Office 9am-4pm Meditation
WEDNESDAY	Byron Bay Office 9am-4pm
THURSDAY	Mullumbimby 9am-4pm
FRIDAY	Byron Bay Office 9am-12.30pm Mullumbimby Office 9am-4pm
16th July 9am	All Souls Bangalow
23rd July 9am	All Souls Bangalow
30th July 11am	All Souls Bangalow followed by a bring and share lunch.

Op Shop Opening Hours

Bangalow	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10am-2pm Saturday 9.30am-12.30pm
Byron Bay	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 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

Prayer Focus This Week:

Missions The Anglican Men's Society
National Executive Chairman The Right Rev'd Jeremy Greaves

Diocese of Grafton Senior Leadership Team

Bishop The Right Rev'd Dr Murray Harvey
Archdeacon Tiffany Sparks

The Diocese of North West Australia

Bishop Darrell Parker & Elizabeth, Clergy & Laity

The Parish of Mid Richmond

The Rev'd Lenore Moules

Local Prayer Focus

Geoff, Judith, Lil, Lin, Hilary and Paul, Lorretta, Chris, John, David Williams, Matthew, Lucy, Sigrid, George, Liz, Gladys, Heather, Chris, John, Sophie, Karen, Shirley, Carol, Karen, Fran, Rebecca, Irene, June, Thea, Elaine, Ros.

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.

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



doubts and that's okay. It is what we do with our doubt which is the important thing.

John was a signpost pointing toward Jesus. We have talked before about the hope that we might live lives of example that also point toward Jesus; that when people see us, they understand a little more about what Jesus is about and in Jesus we understand what God is like.

To do this we must be open to receiving the Gospel; we must be a fertile ground enabling the truth to grow in us. The most effective way to spread the Gospel message is through the lives we live. Jesus spoke about the truth and maintained his disciples in this truth through the witness of his presence, who he was in that moment.

We transform the world by how we respond to it. We transform the world by allowing others to see the truth of Jesus in our lives, not just when we gather for worship but every day. To be created in God's image is a gift. It is a gift of grace, it is a gift of love. Are we living into this gift? Are we sharing the gift with those we meet?

All through this day dear Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for you, and every life I touch please bless by your Holy Spirit, whether through the words I speak, the prayer I breathe or the life I live; so shall your kingdom come on earth as in heaven. Amen.

*Adapted from the daily prayers of
Mary Sumner founder of Mother's Union and Brother John Dent Martyn BGS*

With every blessing,
Grahame

Services

16th July Pentecost 7

9am All Souls Bangalow

23rd July Pentecost 8

9am All Souls Bangalow

30th July Pentecost 9

11am All Souls Bangalow

Readings

16th July

Genesis 25:19-34, Psalm 119:105-112, Romans 8:1-11, Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

23rd July

Genesis 28:10-19a, Psalm 139:1-11, 23-24 Romans 8:12-25 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

30th July

Genesis 37:1-4,12-28, Psalm 105:1-11, Romans 8:26-39, Matthew 13:44-58

Parish News

Knitting for those in need



Another lot of gloves, beanies has been delivered to the Bangalow Op Shop, Liberation Larder and the Mullumbimby Neighbourhood Centre Mullumbimby. Please keep knitting as winter is here.

There are patterns for beanies and fingerless gloves in St Paul's plus spare wool. Please send all finished items to St Paul's for distribution.

Mary Magdalene's Feast Day

Alstonville Anglicans are hosting a day of meditation in sound and movement to celebrate Mary Magdalene's Feast Day.

Saturday 22nd July 9.30am- 3pm at St Bartholomew's Anglican Church Alstonville. Suggested donation is \$30-\$50 or as you are able. For further information please see flyers provided or call 66280231. You can also register via anglicans.live.

Ordinary Sunday 15 A Pentecost 7 Sunday 16 July 2023

Genesis 25.19-34; Psalm 119.105-112; Romans 8.1-11;
Matthew 13.1-9 (10-17) 18-23

The book of Genesis presents the epic narrative of the founding of the people of Israel. It begins with the creation of life, the universe and everything, especially humankind. Then God makes a promise to Abraham that he will be the father of a great nation and possess a land. The question then

throughout the narrative is: how can God keep his promise in the face of this particular calamity which has just happened? Isaac's wife is barren, how will Isaac produce descendants? Isaac prays, then Rebekah conceives. But with twins, who fight. Will Rebekah survive? Will her babies survive? Will the right twin be born first? Then there is parental rivalry: one loves one, the other the other. Will the family survive? Then the most terrible thing: the older son despises his birthright and throws it away to the younger brother who steals it.

How will the family heritage survive? To be continued.

We pray that God will continue to work in the world to establish his kingdom in a secular world in which injustice prevails.

Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of Bangladesh

Text: Michael D St Paul's Cathedral, Sale © Anglican Board of Mission, 2023

Mission of the Month

The Buttery



THE BUTTERY

The Buttery is a not-for-profit charitable addiction and mental health organization established in 1973. We deliver evidence based long and short-term residential rehabilitation and outreach programs to support people living with alcohol and substance misuse and mental health conditions to achieve recovery and rebuild their lives. The organisation also provides a unique counselling support program for families and carers.