

From Grahame

What a privilege to be able to gather each week. We do not need to place secret marks to signify where we meet like Cold War spies. We do not need to jump at every noise or car driving past, in fear that this will be the time we are martyred for our faith. We are able to publish our meeting arrangements online and in the newspaper without fear of reprisal. We have much for which to be thankful.

In big picture terms we live in a new age. I don't mean because we may now buy a phone with 3 different lenses which is more powerful than our desktop computer or the fact that we have electric cars and drones. We live in the age of the new covenant, God's new covenant with us, the covenant of the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, the ultimate expression of love, God's gift of love given for each of us.

Yet so much of our lives seems to be about grasping, clinging, hanging on, hanging on to possessions, hanging on to our rights, hanging on to our hurts. In offering the greatest gift of all, a gift we can hardly imagine, God sets the example of letting go. To be in full relationship with us, God let go. God let go of the need to be right, God let go of the need for revenge, and instead offered love.

For the first half of my life I was taught in church, that righteousness was about being proved right. The Scriptures showed that God was right and being right was the most important thing to be.

I saw this blare out of the TV as tele-evangelists strutted up and down stages shouting about God's righteousness. I saw this idea of righteousness lived out in many situations and I saw it lived out in people's relationships with each other, the way they treated each other, and I found it more than a bit frightening. It took a long time and a lot of prayer and study and prayer and life experience and prayer, before I received a revelation of the Holy Spirit that I had been sold a white

Weekly Happenings

Clergy & Staff can be contacted via email or phone

TUESDAY Mullumbimby Office (Anne on leave)
Meditation 10am All Souls' Bangalow

WEDNESDAY Byron Bay Office 9am-4pm

THURSDAY Mullumbimby (Anne on leave)

FRIDAY Byron Bay Office 9am-12.30pm
Mullumbimby Office (Anne on leave)

30th July
11am All Souls Bangalow followed by a
bring and share lunch.

6th August
7.30am St Thomas Brunswick Heads
9am St Martins Mullumbimby
9am All Souls Bangalow

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

Parish Direct Debit details for tithes.

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

Prayer Focus This Week:

Missions Anglican Communion and the Archbishop of Canterbury.
The Most Rev'd Justin Welby & Caroline

Diocese of Grafton Senior Leadership Team

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

The Anglican Church of Australia

Primate Archbishop Geffery Smith & Lynn, **General Secretary** Anne Hywood, General Synod Office Staff, The General Synod and the Standing Committee.

The Parish of Alstonville

The Rev'd Dr Desiree Snyman & Marius Mulder, The Rev'd Doug Bannerman & Anne, The Rev'd John Kidson & Chris, The Rev'd Geoff Vidal & Carol.

LLM Barabra, Susan, Charlie, Mark, Anne

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



middle class male idea of righteousness. I had, as they say, been sold a pup.

The revelation I received was that the picture I had created, of God as the righteously angry school master who would punish me if I didn't have the right answer, was wrong. God's righteousness is in fact about being in right relationship. A relationship with God made possible through the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus. It is about recognising that God has passed the test for me. God has done the hard work, God has let go of anger, God has let go of revenge, to be in relationship with me, to be in right relationship with all of us. Could there be a greater gift?

In Matthew 13 Jesus returns to the place where he grew up and people gathered to hear what he had to say. But the teaching they heard did not sit well with them. Jesus challenged them, literally where they live. Jesus made them think about the way they were living their lives. The relationship they had with each other and with God. What are we willing to let go of to be in right relationship with God? Are we willing to let go of anger? Are we willing to let go of greed? Are we willing to let go of revenge? It is in letting go of these we know the fullness of God's love. Not because God will then love us. But because in so doing we may regain the life we have been giving away in big and tiny little ways for so long; the life God wants for us, because God loves us.

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

30th July Pentecost 9

11am All Souls Bangalow
followed by a bring and share lunch

Readings

30th July

Genesis 29:15-28, Psalm 105:1-11, Romans 8:26-39,
Matthew 13:44-58

Ordinary Sunday 17 A Pentecost 9
Sunday 30 July 2023

Genesis 29.15-28; Psalm 105.1-11 or Psalm 128; Romans
8.26-39; Matthew 13.44-58

Romans 8 is a wonderful chapter, brim-full of hope: because the 'downpayment' of the Spirit means God is with us, making everything work for our good, making us better and growing us in faith and maturity. Paul's words are majestic and powerful as he declares that 'nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord', and that there's nothing that can question or threaten our status as God's very own children. Every time I read this passage as it sweeps along, I feel breath-taken at God's goodness, and such a welling hope and excitement that the Spirit indeed lives in me, the guarantee that God's 'got' me, come hell or high water.

Let your heart and mind sing today of God's goodness to you.

Pray that those around you might come to know the 'height and breadth and depth' of God's love for them.

Give thanks for the work and witness of Anglican Religious Orders throughout the world.

Text: The Very Reverend Keren, Dean St Paul's Cathedral, Sale © Anglican Board of Mission, 2023

Op Shop Profit Donations

Each month a portion of the Op Shop profit is donated to local charities. RedInc is a disability support organization and were able to use part of our donation to take their clients on a kayaking trip on the Brunswick River.



Mission of the Month

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.

Dates for the Diary

Please put this in your diary.



Mullum Flood Recovery Centre

The Mullum Flood Recovery Centre has won the Community Partnership Award at the 2023 Local Government Excellence Awards. It is an award that recognizes the amazing work of everyone involved in the Recovery Centre including Council staff and the Mullumbimby and District Neighbourhood Centre.

The Anglican Parish of Byron were able to assist this flood recovery effort in a variety of ways including offering the use of our halls, donations of food and other goods, chaplaincy support.

Sunday 6th August

From Grahame

In Matthew 14, Jesus receives news that his cousin has been killed and seeks time to be alone with his grief. We are not told much about the relationship between Jesus and John but Jesus had been baptised by John so there was at least that special connection.

The need of God's people is great, they follow and Jesus responds. Even in his own grief Jesus has compassion for the gathering crowd. He teaches and heals them. As the day draws on the disciples want to send the people away to be fed. Instead Jesus draws people to him to be fed through the ministry of his disciples. Compassion and faith in action. Jesus sends his disciples out to feed those in need and draws all people in to be fed.

When it may have been expected that Jesus would use his divine power to retaliate in revenge for the death of John, he responded instead to this deeply emotional announcement of the execution of his cousin, by acting to teach and heal and to feed God's people. When the time came for God's people to eat Jesus instructed the disciples to feed them. And all were fed with food to spare.

Have you ever heard someone say "it would be easier if I just did it myself"? Maybe you have said this yourself? Have you ever thought or said, 'why doesn't God just fix things, or do this or that?'

Jesus could have 'done it' himself, could have fed everyone, but our actions matter, our contribution matters. Jesus says "You give them something to eat". Jesus is there in the middle of everything, Jesus is there to help and to resource, God is doing God's bit, God is faithful. This thing we have with God is all about relationship. It is about family and family can be

complicated. Jesus mentor's his disciples, 'I have shown you now do. I'm here. It's okay. Go out and feed my people and then come back, I'll be here and it's okay to bring your new friends as well'.

Love your sisters and brothers and find your way to being the love of God for God's people.

With Every Blessing Grahame

Services

6th August

7.30am St Thomas Brunswick Heads
9am All Souls Bangalow
9am St Martin Mullumbimby.

13th August

7.30am St Thomas Brunswick Heads
9am All Souls Bangalow
9am St Paul Byron Bay
11am St Columba Ewingsdale

Readings

6th August

Genesis 32:22-31, Psalm 17:1-7,16, Romans 9:1-8,
Matthew 14:13-21

13th August

Genesis 37:1-4,12-28, Psalm 105: 1-6,16-22, Romans 10:4-15,
Matthew 14:22-36

Ordinary Sunday 18 A Pentecost 10

Sunday 6 August 2023

Genesis 32.22-31; Psalm 17.1-7, 16; Romans 9.1-8, [9-16];
Matthew 14.13-21

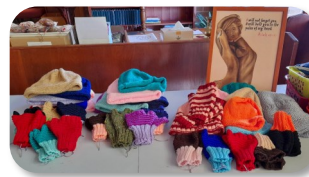
Faith that the Lord will answer prayer is at the heart of today's psalm. The Psalmist wants God to hear his cry, and to be shown the wonders of God's steadfast love. He wants to see God as God is – that will be his satisfaction.

Lord, hear me and help me. May I always discern and seek reality, and not fall into self-deceptive fantasy, for you are I AM, the 'Great Reality'.

Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church of Japan, the Nippon Sei Ko Kai.

Text: Robert McLean © Anglican Board of Mission, 2023

Parish News



Knitting for those in need

Another lot of gloves, beanies have 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.

Parish Pantry

The Parish Pantry is run from the office in Mullumbimby and gives food to those who are in need. Donations of food can be left in each of the centre churches or at the Mullumbimby office. Donations of long life milk, cup of noodles, spreads, tins of tuna, baked beans and spaghetti with ring pull, cereals, muesli bars, etc are always needed

Funeral of Marion Fisher

The funeral of Marion Fisher will be held in St Martin's church Mullumbimby on Tuesday 1st August at 11am. Marion was a long time parishioner at St Martin's and a Mullumbimby local.

Concert All Souls'

Sunday 13th August at 3.30pm. 'Gyan and Si with Strings'. Featuring vocals and strings. Tickets available at trybooking.com