

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

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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.



Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

22nd October 2023

All are welcome

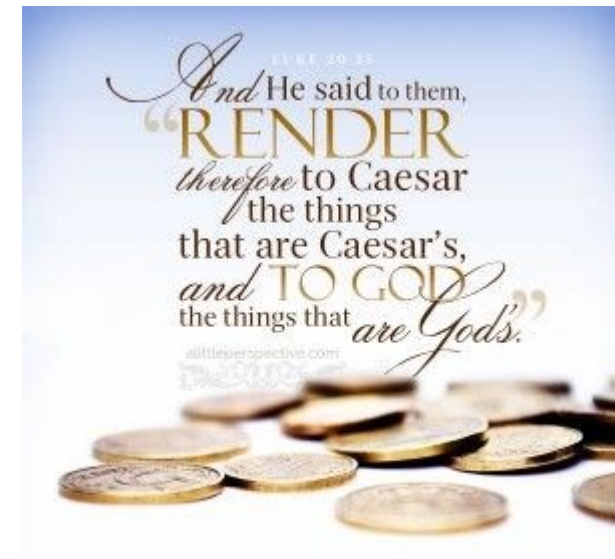


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A Christian presence in the community, living by faith, known by love, sharing a voice of hope.

From Grahame

Anyone who has declared their faith in the presence of non-believers can empathise with what is being done to Jesus in this week's Gospel reading. Faced with the truth, the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Pharisees and the Sadducees seek to find anything that may tear down what Jesus would build. They are unsuccessful and are forced to go away. What's really going on, what's it all about. What's the story?

Jesus is asked for a yes or no answer. If he answers yes, he is siding with the emperor and is shown to be deficient in the eyes of the Jewish authorities by supporting their oppressor; if he says no he is guilty of treason in the eyes of the Roman authorities and will be killed. We like yes or no answers to complicated questions. Imagine someone said to a bloke down the street "now I want a yes or no answer, have you stopped mistreating your family?" Any response condemns the one being asked the question. Jesus turns the tables again "show me the coin". By presenting a coin with the head of the emperor those seeking to trap Jesus trap themselves. They have been using Roman currency to keep themselves out of trouble with the Roman authorities.

'Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's'. At first glance this appears simple, give to Caesar, pay your taxes, and give to God the observance due to God. What part of our lives is God's? It may be helpful to consider this question in the negative. What part of our lives is not God's?

Those posing the question to Jesus had an agenda; they wanted to pigeonhole the politics of Jesus' ministry, they wanted to identify Jesus' faction so that they could disregard what he said. Jesus would not be placed in a faction; Jesus would not be placed in a pigeon hole. Jesus' response is a defence against this and a challenge to the listeners. What part does God play in our lives? Does factional loyalty come above our commitment to God? In our contemporary situation, do the difficulties of our government mean more to us than God? Does the new television show or latest smart phone mean more to us than God?

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

22nd October
9am All Souls Bangalow

29th October
11am St Martins Mullumbimby

Op Shop Opening Hours

Bangalow Monday—Friday
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 The Buttery

Chair Mr Sandy Lockhart

Diocese of Grafton Senior Leadership Team

Bishop The Right Rev'd Dr Murray Harvey

Archdeacon Tiffany Sparks



The Diocese of The Murry

Bishop Keith Dalby, Clergy & Laity

The Parish of Sawtell/Bonville

The Rev'd Kevin Booth & Anne.

LLM Geoff, Trevor

Local Prayer Focus

Marjory, 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, Ann.

For all the Fire Fighters, Pilots, Support Crews as they continue to fight all the fires.

For the Students and Supervisors as the HSC continues.

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

Parish Pantry



This is a valuable part of the parish out reach. It helps supply food to those in our community that are less fortunate. It is supplied out of the office in Mullumbimby.

Years ago, I had a friend in ministry in the 'Outback', who identified as a Christian. When he went with his fellow Christians to visit at hospitals the staff would ask what denomination he was and he would say 'Christian'. The staff found this confronting. My friend would not identify as other than Christian. This was both a defence against being placed in someone else's pigeon hole of who he should be allowed to visit and a challenge to those framing the question, as to how their interpretation of God was influencing their actions. Remember God calls us to follow in the way of Jesus, to live the Christian life, before anything else. When we welcome people through the waters baptism, there is no mention of the Anglican Church. Through the waters of baptism, we are made part of the body of Christ, the church universal. When we seek baptism we are seeking to be made one with Christ in his death so that we may be one with him in the resurrection to come.

The thing that I can testify about my friend from out west, is that he is committed to Christ and passionate about the Gospel. To my knowledge he does not promote the teachings of any particular faction. To me this seems enlightened and refreshing. To some it may seem frightening because they do not understand how to respond to someone outside the structure of their particular version of things. They don't know how to respond to someone who does not fit their preconceptions. I am afraid that we have spent so long second guessing each other that we are in danger of failing to recognise the truth we profess to proclaim. I sometimes wonder if we even know what it looks like any more. To have witnessed this type of openness is very exciting and very challenging.

Having dealt with the Pharisees the Sadducees then have a go. You see, they had a problem with the resurrection. They paint some picture of all these poor lost husbands sitting around in Heaven waiting for their dinner with the long-suffering widow not knowing who to serve first. Is that really what we think the resurrection will be like? Do we have such little faith in God? I don't think so. We know of

some of the great things God can do. We know the things God has already done in our lives or we would not be reading this today. As Jesus reminds us 'God is the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'. This is our God and our God is faithful. The Sadducees have drifted off track and seek to mislead lead others by suggesting the God who separated the oceans from the land will not be able to cope with the relationship counselling of the resurrection.

God is faithful and God calls us into a faithful relationship with God and with each other.

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

22nd October

9am All Souls Bangalow

29th October

11am St Martins Mullumbimby

Readings

22nd October

Exodus 33:12-23, Psalm 99, 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10,
Matthew 22:15-33

29th October

Deuteronomy 34:1-12, Psalm 90:1-6,13-17,
1 Thessalonians 2:1-13, Matthew 22:34-46

Parish News

Back Packs for Kids

We have the opportunity to partner with the Mullumbimby Neighbourhood Centre to supply back packs filled with essential items to those children escaping Domestic Violence. Further details to follow.

Advent Study

Advent starts on Wednesday 6th December at St Paul's at 2pm. There will be a list in each centre for you to put your name down if you are interested in attending.

Ordinary Sunday 29 A Pentecost 21 Sunday 22 October 2023

Exodus 33.12-23; Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 1.1-10;
Matthew 22.15-33

In Psalm 99 the Psalmist talks about the holiness of God. As Christians, our duty is to become more and more like God. How then can we aim to become more holy? Galatians 5:14 tells us that 'the whole law is fulfilled in one word: You shall love your neighbour as yourself'. So, to become holy we need to become like God and think primarily of others. God cares for humanity in a wishing-for-their-good way, and we are called to go and do likewise – just like we are told to do when we read about the Good Samaritan.

Lord, help me to work for the good of others, so that I may become more and more like you, holier day by day.

Give thanks for the work and witness of the Melanesian Brotherhood, the Melanesian Sisterhood, the Society of St Francis and the Sisters of the Church who minister throughout the Pacific Islands.

Text: Robert McLean © Anglican Board of Mission, 2023