

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

Rector:

Rev'd Canon Grahame Yager
6684 3552

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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.



First Sunday in Lent

18th February 2024

All are welcome



The Reflectionary

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

From Grahame

During the week some of us gathered for a pancakes. Then some gathered Wednesday morning to mark the beginning of Lent. Times of celebration and times of reflection. During Lent we are encouraged to gather with others in prayer, fasting and study. What does it mean to fast? We joke about giving up chocolate, about giving up fatty foods, and luxuries. Is that what God wants from us? If we know anything about God revealed through Jesus, we know that Jesus is about being authentic. Jesus is the real thing and God calls us to follow the example of Jesus in being real, being authentic. What will our fasting be this Lent? What is it that we need to give up? I suggest that it may have little to do with what we eat and everything to do with what we believe and the way we act.

Psalms often get some bad press. They were really our first hymns. If you take the time to be fully present as you read some of the psalms you can almost find yourself singing them. In our worship psalms are used as a bridge between one reading of Holy Scripture and another. The portion of Psalm 25 we are reflecting on this week begins in fear, our fear of failure, our fear of shame. We wait on the Lord for guidance, we wait on the Lord to show us the way. This requires that we are listening, we need to be open to being guided. This week's portion concludes with words of reassurance that God is steadfast, God is authentic, Gods is worthy of our praise and our trust.

In our other readings we are reminded of the rainbow and God's covenant with us. Through the baptism of Jesus, God reassures us that we may trust what God has done in Jesus the Christ. This is the foundation of our faith, our trust in what God has done, is doing and will do. There will always be excuses if we want them, to not do what we know we should do. Yet our faith is founded on our trust in God and not excuses.

In this first week of Lent our scripture readings reflect both Jesus' time in the wilderness and the period of rain

Weekly Happenings

Clergy & Staff can be contacted via email or phone

TUESDAY	Mullumbimby 9am-4pm
WEDNESDAY	Byron Bay 9am-3pm Lenten Study Group 11am-12pm Bangalow
THURSDAY	Mullumbimby 9am-4pm Lenten craft 12noon St Pauls Byron Bay
FRIDAY	Byron Bay Office 9am-12.30pm Meditation 11am All Souls Bangalow Mullumbimby 9am-4pm

18th February Lent 1

9am All Souls Bangalow followed by the AGM.

25th February Lent 2

11am St Martins Mullumbimby followed by a bring and share Lunch.

Op Shop Opening Hours

Bangalow Wednesday - Friday
10am - 2pm
Saturday 9.30am - 12.30pm

Byron Bay Monday - 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

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: The Anglican Men's Society
National Chairman: The Right Reverend 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 and Laity

The Parish of Mid Richmond

The Reverend Lenore Moules

Local Prayer Focus

Greg, Janie, Marjory, Geoff, Lin, Hilary and Paul, Lorretta, Chris, John, Matthew, Lucy, Sigrid, George, Liz, Gladys, Heather, Chris, John, Sophie, Karen, Carol, Karen, Fran, Rebecca, Thea, Ros, Ann.

The Community Centres and their work with the homeless.
The Liberation Larder, The Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre, Ministry of Byron Bay & Mullumbimby Christian Education.



experienced by Noah. Wilderness times can be times when we more closely know the presence of God. At the end of Noah's wilderness time God gave a rainbow, at the end of Jesus' wilderness time we were given a saviour. This season of Lent

I want to challenge us to explore what that means for us and reflect. As we reflect don't think about how much you and I love God, reflect on how much God loves each one of us. Jesus did not come so that we could show how much we love God; Jesus came so that we could know how much God loves us.

With Every Blessing, Grahame

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

Services

18th February Lent 1

9am All Souls Bangalow followed by the AGM.

25th February Lent 2

11am St Martins Mullumbimby followed by a bring and share lunch.

Readings

18th February Lent 1

Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:9:15

25th February Lent 2

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Psalm 22:24-32, Romans 4:13-25, Mark 8:31-38

Lent 1 B Sunday 18 February 2024
Genesis 9.8-17; Psalm 25.1-10; 1 Peter 3.18-22;
Mark 1.9-15

The Noah story reminds us that God's covenant is not just with humans but with the whole creation. The old idea of God as a destroyer is moved away from in this narrative, symbolized by the hanging up of the bow that fires arrows upon the earth. God, in covenant with us pledges not to destroy the earth. It's a good reminder that as God's covenant people we are part of the pledge to care for creation.

We pray for sustainable ways to mitigate global heating.

Give thanks for the work and witness of Gawura School within St Andrew's Cathedral School in Sydney

Text: Archdeacon Rod Bower, Director of Mission,
Diocese of Newcastle © Anglican Board of Mission, 2024

Parish News

Upcoming events:

AGM

The 2024 **AGM** will be held on **Sunday 18th February 10.30am** in **All Souls' Hall Bangalow**.

Lenten Study

All Souls Hall Bangalow commencing Wednesday 21 Feb from 11 am to 12 pm. Add your name to the list provided. Please contact Grahame for more information.

World Day of Prayer

We are hosting the World Day of Prayer on Friday 1st March 10am at St Martin's Mullumbimby. There will be a morning tea following the service. If you are able to bring a plate to share please contact office@byronanglicans.org.au.

Diocesan Ultreya

Cursillo is celebrating 40yrs in the Grafton Diocese on Saturday 2nd March 9.30am for a 10am Eucharist at Christ Church Cathedral Grafton.

Mission of the Month

The Mullumbimby and District Neighbourhood Centre Inc

The Op Shop Link to Community

Our Parish Op Shops offer far more than retail trading. They are a church link to the community. How we treat our customers and fellow workers are seen by the hundreds who pass through our doors as a reflection of church attitudes to the many aspects of life.

Goods are given away to those in need -and there are always many of them - conversations take place, customers share their stories, their hardships and their joys. We know when a new baby is born, when ill health or financial stress take over. While sharing confidences over the sorting table workers may know more about their companions than their own families because op shop workers become a family.

Cups of tea and thermos fills may be offered to those sleeping rough. Food vouchers may be offered. This is church working in the reality of today.

We are blessed with also having Brenda as our Op Shop Counsellor, there to provide help and the joy that Brenda's presence brings.

A percentage of all money raised goes to selected charities, the rest into general church funds.

At the Mullumbimby Op Shop, seemingly tireless workers sort, wash and iron garments ready for sale. There is an advantage on being on a main thoroughfare but a disadvantage because unlike our other two Op Shops there is a rent to be made to offset profit .The shop more than exceeds its goal as well as the service it gives to all.

Any doubt of the importance of the Byron Op Shop was dispelled by their co-ordinator, Cathy, had to open the shop after the Christmas break earlier than anticipated due to pressure of public need.

At Bangalow we eagerly await Council's approval for our intended extension that will ease the strain and provide better conditions for staff and customers. Piles of donations wait on the verandah and bins each day, blocking entrances and scattered along the ground. Demand is huge and we have customers coming from as far afield as Yamba, Brisbane and the Gold Coast looking for the bargains we offer.

Items that are considered not suitable for our outlets are packed to send to New Guinea, taking care not to send anything dirty or torn, realising New Guineans do not want these things either. At Bangalow we also send light reading matter, shoes and soft toys.

If you feel you would like to join our Op Shop community please get in touch with your local outlet. They will be delighted to hear from you.