

NEWSPAPER OF THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF GRAFTON, NEW SOUTH WALES

NORTH COAST ANGLICAN

Transforming lives through Jesus Christ

June July 2019 | Issue No 3

*Washing of feet a
symbol of humility*

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FROM THE BISHOP



We were all shocked and saddened by the senseless violence in Sri Lanka on Easter Day. Earlier this year at Canterbury I met Bishop Keerthisiri Fernando whose diocese of Kurunegala was directly affected by this tragedy. In response to the attacks he wrote that all Sri Lankans should “act with patience and understanding and pray that they will be able to journey through this dark phase,” and that “these persons, whoever they may be, will be awakened to the awfulness of their crime”.

At times like these, we feel acutely the pain of living in

an imperfect world. God made the world good. But the creation is flawed and broken. So God entered his world in Jesus by whose ministry and death and resurrection was proclaimed the beginning of a new age: the kingdom of God. That age has begun but is not yet complete. We live in the imperfect in-between times. So every day when we pray, “Your kingdom come”, we remember the times in which we live. We lift the suffering of the world to God and we long, with God, for the world to be set right. But what does it mean to pray “Your kingdom Come, your will be done...”? As we say the prayer each day, we join our prayers for this simple vision of a better world with those of the Church across the world. To say these words is also to align our wills, energy and commitment to the kingdom. As we say the Lords Prayer, we commit daily to this vision and to more than a



vision. We are committing to a way of bringing in this kingdom, which is the way of justice and gentleness and love.

From Ascension Day (May 30) to Pentecost (June 9) I hope we can all pray together for the kingdom as part of a worldwide wave of prayer known as *Thy Kingdom Come*. *Thy Kingdom Come* is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know

Jesus. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.

Please use the resources in your parish or school or at www.thykingdomcome.global or @thykingdomcomeAU to deepen your relationship with Christ, to pray for God's spirit to work in the lives of people you know and come to realise that every aspect

of life is the stuff of prayer. As a start, let's all use this Collect for Thy Kingdom Come:

Almighty God, your ascended Son has sent us into the world to preach the good news of your kingdom: inspire us with your Spirit and fill our hearts with the fire of your love, that all who hear your Word may be drawn to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

IN THE PRESS

Bishop brands Australian rugby player Israel Folau's religious comments 'hate speech'

By Melissa Martin and Fiona Poole, ABC Coffs Coast

An Anglican bishop has branded the religious statements of Australian rugby union player Israel Folau as hate speech.

The Bishop of Grafton, the Right Rev'd Dr Murray Harvey, said free speech should not be used to vilify others.

"I think there's a difference between free speech and sometimes that can go over the borderline into hate speech," Bishop Harvey said.

"Certainly, he's got that right to free speech that we all have, but with rights come responsibilities."

Bishop Harvey's comments followed a hearing this week that found Folau committed a "high-level breach" of the professional players' code of conduct over controversial social media posts.

One of the posts proclaimed hell awaited "drunks,

homosexuals, adulterers, liars, fornicators, thieves, atheists and idolaters".

Folau has not apologised or expressed any regrets for the posts, and was awaiting a decision on what his punishment for breaching the code would be.

WHEN DOES FREE SPEECH BECOME HATE SPEECH?

Bishop Harvey did not have an opinion on how Folau should be punished by his sport, but said he wanted the 30-year-old to understand that words had consequences, sometimes dangerous ones, especially among young people who might be questioning their sexuality.

"I'd like [Folau] to just to rethink some of his comments because when free speech starts to threaten other people or make other people feel unsafe or undervalued, then that kind of stuff becomes hate speech in my view," he said.



Bishop Harvey said while Folau was free to hold particular religious views, how he expressed them in public was another matter.

"Threatening people in this way cannot be disguised as protected religious activity — if it was then things like ethnic

cleansing could be justified on religious grounds as having divine approval," Bishop Harvey said.

He believed Folau could achieve more for his faith by rethinking his choice of words, particularly in the public arena.

"I challenge him to think how he could be a really positive role model for the Christian faith and attract people to the Christian faith — if you want to do that I don't think the kinds of messages that he's been sending out is the place to start."

NORTH COAST ANGLICAN

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Articles should be sent, preferably, by email or as an attachment in Word, or if sent by post should be typed. Articles need to be between 300-400 words but may be edited as a result of space constraints.

PHOTOGRAPHS

All photographs must be sent as an attachment in JPEG format with a dpi of 500 or greater. Photographs sent through the mail will not be returned

EDITORIAL

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Deadline: July 19, 2019

Washing of Feet at Special CVAS Easter Service

A special Easter Service was held at Clarence Valley Anglican School where year 12 students washed the feet of our Kindergarten students. The washing of feet was for Jesus, a display for his humility and his servanthood. For the disciples, the washing of their feet was in direct contrast to their heart attitudes at the time. For us, washing feet is symbolic of our role in the body of Christ. Thank you to Dean Jenks for leading the service.

After our Easter Service, Kindergarten to Year 4 students enjoyed an Easter Hat Tea Party with their parents, grandparents and special friends. Students were able to show their beautiful Easter hat creations too.

2019 SPIRIT OF CVAS

The recipients of the Spirit of CVAS for 2019 are Georgia Hodges and Eden Annesley. This award is presented annually to students who most embody the ethos of CVAS. Characteristics that this award recipient will display are:

- Consistent application towards their studies.
- Active involvement in a variety of School Co-curricular activities (Sport, Drama, Public

Speaking, Debating, etc.)

- Displays qualities of personal integrity and leadership amongst their peers.
- Involvement in community activities.

ANZAC DAY SERVICE

Students represented the school at ANZAC services across the Valley, including Grafton, South Grafton, Ulmarra, Glenreagh and Copmanhurst services. It was wonderful to see so many students paying their respect on behalf of the school. The Clarenza Campus also held a special ANZAC service during the first week of term two.

WELCOME CHAPLAIN ROZ

CVAS is pleased to announce we have now appointed a new chaplain. Rosalind (Roz) Rogers has relocated from Brisbane. She is a former Sister of the Community of the Sacred Advent in Brisbane, where she taught at St Margaret's Anglican Girl's School and before moving to Grafton worked as a pastoral care worker with Anglicare SE Queensland. Her qualifications include a Bachelor of Social Work (Hon), an Advance Diploma in Multi-faith

Chaplaincy and a Certificate in Spiritual Direction. Chaplain Roz commenced on May 1 working three days a week.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

In early May as part of their Silver Duke Award eight year 10 students headed off down the Nymboida River on May 2 for a three-day expedition. All equipment for this journey was packed tightly into barrels that fitted into the canoes. Students had to provide their own food and equipment with the aim being to safely navigate their way down from the Nymboida Canoe Centre to Nymboida National Park Camp Site.

This three-day epic adventure involved rapids such as the MUNCHER, the MEAT SLICER, JASPER FALLS and a portage down the three-meter high Nymboida Weir. We were very lucky to be in the capable hands of instructor Gray from the Nymboida Canoe Centre and his helper Lacey. Gray's tales of the history of the area and former disasters on the river ensured that we gave the river our utmost respect.

It was a fabulous trip and we were proud of how the students behaved and embraced the challenges they were faced with each day.



Also in mid-May nine students walked from Angourie to Sandon as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. This

overnight journey was about 30km long!

Casa de ShinyShiny – An Art Exhibition at All Saints

By Anna Mulholland

During the Murwillumbah Arts Trail in May, All Saints Anglican hosted a vibrant and exciting art exhibition by Jo Biles, Jen Demzin and Elsie Biles.

Jo explained, "I want to make art that is vibrant, dynamic and full of life! So much contemporary art is about reflecting the artist's experience of a very troubled world, or lofty thoughts about an unrealistic utopian future.

"A lot of artists appear to be returning to traditional crafts and arts – I hope to be in that vein – with a huge dollop of kitsch and colour!"

The Church and Undercroft were certainly ablaze with vibrant colour, including a huge golden chandelier built around a disco ball.

Visitors thoroughly enjoyed exploring the sculptures and art works on display and relished the humour and jubilation on offer.

Workshops for kids were held in the Undercroft and involved many local children creating joy filled art.

Jo expressed thanks to the Rev'd Lyndon Mulholland and All Saints Anglican for sharing the space.

"The Bible says we were created in God's image, so we are created to be creative and here we are, making kooky art, shown in a place where we acknowledge God as creator and friend," Jo said.



Looking for NCA in your Inbox?

Do you want to be among the first to receive the NCA? Would you prefer to receive it electronically instead of in paper form? Or would you like to have it both ways? For future editions of the North Coast Anglican, we will be sending out a PDF version by email as well as sending out the normal paper copies. So if you would like the NCA in your email Inbox, please send your details to Kaytrina in the Registry on admin@graftondiocese.org.au and remember: It's free!



Major Multicultural Forum May Hold its Next Meeting in Grafton

The next meeting of the Multicultural NSW Religious Communities Forum may be held in Grafton in recognition of enhanced social inclusion achieved in the Clarence Valley. The Forum is an outreach body sponsored by the NSW State Government. It meets several times each year embracing diverse religious communities including Bahia, Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs as well as the Parliament of World Religions. The Forum's last meeting was chaired by the NSW Minister for Multiculturalism, Mr John Sidoti. It heard a detailed report about developments in Grafton following the Christchurch Massacre and the collaborative work by people of different faiths and cultures in working to enhance social inclusion across the Clarence Valley. The report was delivered by

the Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, the Very Rev'd Dr Greg Jenks. "After hearing this report the Forum expressed interest in meeting in Grafton for its next session," Dr Jenks said. "Professor Suzanne Rutland from Better Balanced Futures presented the Forum with her recent research on the value of Special Religious Education for strengthening social cohesion, and especially when supplemented by a quality program of General Religious Education. "The Cathedral is looking forward to hosting Murray Norman, the CEO of Christian SRE, to offer seminars and workshops for churches and schools to improve our practice in local religious education. "The Forum also received an update on the draft *Sydney Statement*, the first interfaith statement of unity developed in NSW.



"Minister John Sidoti announced \$100,000 in funding to support the completion of this project, in partnership with the Columban Centre for Christian-Muslim relations, the University of Western Sydney and the Youth Parliament of World Religions."

SNAPSHOT



Some recent photos taken at the property of the Little Brothers of Francis at Tabulam after the recent fire. Pictured is Richard Crandon, an engineer who is assisting the Brothers to rebuild the bridge out of metal to avoid future fire damage, alongside Br Wayne and Br Geoffrey. Richard is a member of the Diocesan Buildings and Property Committee and a member of the Ballina Parish.



The Rev'd Lyndon Mulholland and the All Saints congregation recently farewelled parishioners Steve and Lorraine Mencinsky who have moved house to be closer to family. We will miss their involvement in our parish life as well as Lorraine's singing. May God bless their new life.



The Cursillo movement in Grafton presented two "Fire Days" recently. The first one was held at St John the Baptist Church at Lennox Head on March 2. 37 people attended and enjoyed a day of worship, fellowship and reflection centred around the theme of "love" and ways in which to show appreciation.



The second Cursillo "Fire Day" was held at All Saints Church, Kempsey on March 23. 43 people came from many different parishes and even from Newcastle.

Three staff at Bishop Druitt College celebrate a major milestone of service

Teachers Sharon Habgood (middle), Linda Morgan (right) and Property Services Manager Stuart McIntyre (left), are celebrating 25 years of service to Bishop Druitt College this year.

BDC's Principal Nick Johnstone said the loyalty and passion shown by these staff members was humbling and was a testament to their dedication towards the students and the education sector as a whole. Many fond memories can be recalled over the 25 years. Stuart was asked to coordinate the laying of the turf in front of the admin block, originally the only building on the site.

When Linda started working at BDC, the school had just taken its 100th student, almost double from the famous 57 students the school started with in 1994.

Sharon said she has been teaching at BDC for over half her life. It is like her second home and has seen her through births, deaths and marriages.

Sharon remembers coming to visit Vic Branson before the school was open in January and experiencing a very strong sense of being drawn to BDC.

All three staff have had their children educated at BDC and are so proud of the community, and feel it is a very special place.

Bishop Druitt College acknowledges and gives thanks to these staff for their commitment, professionalism, experience and dedication to BDC as they celebrate their 25-year work anniversaries.



Stuart McIntyre, Sharon Habgood and Linda Morgan

Farewell and Thank You

Mullumbimby Parish farewelled the Rev'd Margaret Rose on May 5 as she retired as Vocational Deacon.

Margaret regularly participated in community events such as ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day and funerals. She visited parishioners at home, in hospital and at Coolamon Villa.

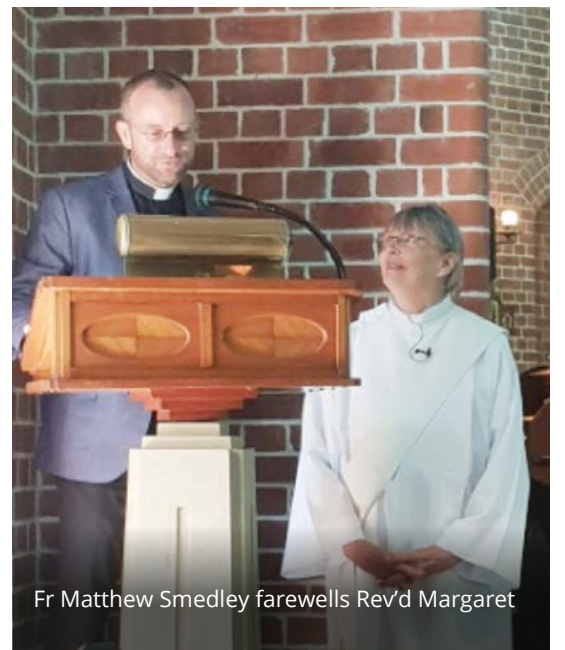
Margaret has been actively involved in Messy Church, Scripture classes and the "More than a Meal" program.

The Parish as a whole is so very grateful for the unconditional giving and love Margaret has extended to all in this parish and the wider community.

Margaret's generosity, kindness and thoughtfulness have benefited us all and we will miss her.



Rev'd Margaret Rose and her family



Fr Matthew Smedley farewells Rev'd Margaret

Bishop Murray Visits Sisters in Brisbane

Recently Bishop Murray visited the Sisters of the Society of the Sacred Advent, an Order of Anglican nuns in Brisbane.

He took the Diocesan Crosier to show them as a point of interest. The Sisters donated the Crosier, or Pastoral Staff, to the Third Bishop of Grafton, Bishop Stevenson. Prior to going to Grafton, Stevenson had been an Archdeacon in Brisbane and had been Warden of the Society of the Sacred Advent. The Sisters at the time wanted to mark this connection by presenting him with a Crosier for his ministry as Bishop. An inscription on the Crosier reads:

Given by the Sisters of the Society of the Sacred Advent Brisbane to WHW Stevenson, Third Bishop of Grafton. And by his wife Catherine Stevenson to Christopher Storrs, Fourth Bishop. And by him to the Diocese of Grafton for successive Bishops of Grafton.

The Crosier is Stirling Silver with a blue enamel inlay on the Chi Rho. It is undated but was given during Bishop Stevenson's episcopate which was from 1938-1945. It is still used today. It comes in a timber case, which in 2003, was restored by the Rev'd Harry Reuss when Rector of Murwillumbah.



Bishop Murray with Sister Sandra, Sister Eunice and Sister Gillian

Connecting People, Places and the Past in The Hastings

By Cheryl Cooper

This year Heritage Month in the Hastings was about connecting people, places and the past. At Port Anglicans, we celebrated our heritage on Church Hill on May 11 by providing tours of the Church, Cellar and Chapel. Devonshire Tea and a BBQ provided sustenance and there was a variety of other activities, stalls and entertainment.

The Archivists gave two talks about the first five ministers between the 1820s and 1870s and their role in providing spiritual guidance and ministration to this very isolated penal colony.

Governor Macquarie opted to build a "church on the hill" in Port rather than build a gaol because he believed there was more chance of saving souls through a church. The St Thomas church was built

between 1824 and 1828 by convicts under military supervision and it is the fifth oldest church in Australia.

There were only four Anglican ministers in the colony to cover 18,000 people of which 7,000 were convicts. So who took care of the spiritual needs of prisoners when there were no chaplains? The responsibility fell on the Commandants of the various penal settlements. However as they were not ordained ministers they used the sermons from the *Book of Homilies* which was first published during the reign of Elizabeth I.

The Rev'd Thomas Hassall, the first appointee in 1824 followed by the Rev'd John Cross (Parson Cross) 1828, provided spiritual guidance to male and female convicts, the military, those in the asylum, families of convicts and military staff, and

eventually free settlers. They were accustomed to minister in church, gaol, asylum and hospital and all people residing on the Manning, Hastings, Wilson and Macleay Rivers. This was also the most isolated of all the settlements in the newly formed colony. It was a mammoth calling.

Church Hill has been in continual occupation and use by the Anglican Church since 1821. It represents the first site of official religious ceremonies in Port Macquarie during the first 15 years. Built before rearrangement of the plan of the township in 1831, it is linked with the town's formation, continued growth and development. It is one of the few remaining buildings dating from the convict period. It is historically rare at a State Level and is listed on the NSW State Heritage Register.



Lorryl Rumble-Fuller, Archivist and Carol Chandler, Archivist

Gathering of The Third Order of St Francis

By Mary Birch

Members of The Third Order of St Francis in the Grafton Diocese, known as Tertiaries (tssf), met at All Souls Bangalow on May 4.

Fr Matthew Smedley, parish priest, was our kind host for the day and presided at the Eucharist.

His message remembered Saint Bernardine of Siena, a Franciscan Friar, whose feast day is usually May 20.

Bernardine was an Italian priest and Franciscan missionary. He joined the Franciscans in 1402 and in 1438 was elected Provincial of the Friars of the Strict Observance. This movement was a protest

against the laxity that had developed in the first order of the Franciscan movement.

Bernardine encouraged devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus. His eloquent and captivating preaching made him famous during his own lifetime because it was frequently directed towards the errors of peoples ways in their everyday lives, and successfully exhorted them to change.

We come together only four times a year and we welcome and invite anyone who would like to know or enquire after tssf in the Grafton Diocese. Interested people can contact the convener Reverend Richard Brown at shortyrdbrown@bigpond.com



Lent and Easter Visual Reflections

By Ruth Pobjoy

The congregation of St Paul's Coramba took the opportunity of Lent to contemplate our personal Christian Journeys. Taking a desert scene as an analogy for those difficult times we have all experienced at one time or another, we thought about what could be added or removed from that desert to engage in a deeper relationship with God.

The small plants were symbols of new growth through prayer and reading the Bible. The recent rain and the many rainbows, was seen as nature reminding us of the love and promises – old and new that God has for all his people. The overturned bottle was as Christ poured out for us.

While the unseen palm cross symbolised that Jesus is to be

part of our day-to-day living and a reminder that through God and his promises it is possible to survive those times of hardship.

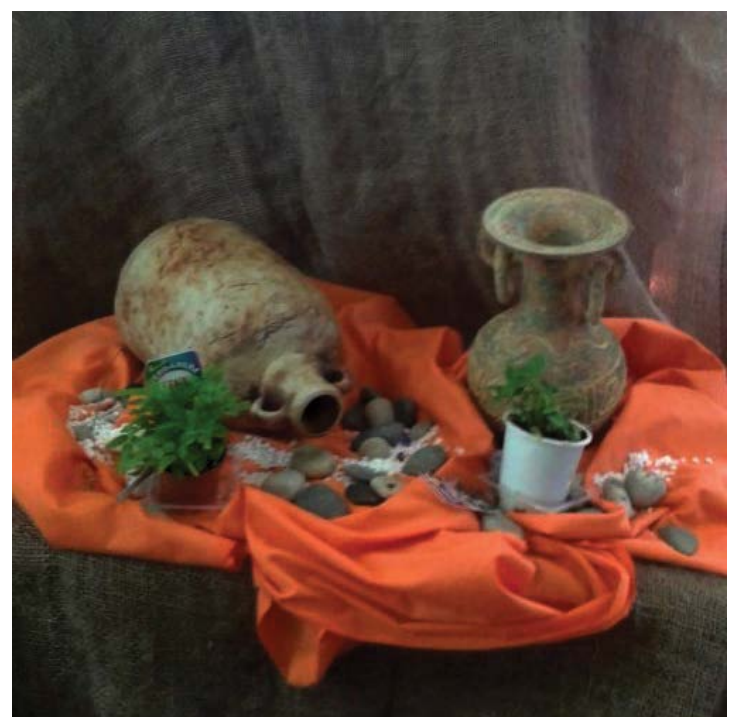
It has become a tradition for the congregations of the Orara Valley to come together for the three main Easter Services. Maundy Thursday's Foot Washing was held at Christ Church Glenreagh. As the Rev'd Richard Temby knelt to wash the parishioner's feet, this writer pondered again, "Did any of the disciples comprehend any of the things Jesus said that night?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing but later you will understand." (John 13:7)

Good Friday Service was held at St Peter's Nana Glen where Rev'd Richard spoke not only of the Tree of Crucifixion but also of the Tree of Life. "And if I go

and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also." (John 14:3)

The Rev'd Anne Goode was with us for Easter Sunday at St Paul's Coramba, where the desert had turned into a life-filled evergreen pasture; where the Resurrection of Christ has filled our hearts with hope, love, forgiveness and new life in and through discipleship.

As Christ poured himself out for us we are asked to carry this good news message of the Cross and Resurrection into the community and the world. "...Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I, send me!" (Isaiah 6:8) Jesus said, "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples." (John 15:8)



Coffs Harbour’s winning student in Science is heading to the USA

A rising star in the world of Science, Emma Serisier (Year 12) at Bishop Druitt College, will be travelling to Phoenix, Arizona in May to represent Australia at the International Science and Engineering Fair. This is the largest pre-university science competition in the world.

Emma will be part of a team of nine students competing against over 1,800 students from more than 80 countries.

Emma entered the Young Scientists Awards in 2018 with her research into the use of domestic chickens as bio-recyclers of household food scraps.

She compared three things:

- 1. Soil without the chickens;
- 2a. Soil with the benefit of the chickens consuming commercial food;
- 2b. Soil with the benefit of the chickens consuming food scraps that have been bio-recycled.

She found that this had major economic and environmental benefits by examining nutrient levels and friability of soils using bio-recycling of food

waste, compared to the use of commercially made food and soil, untouched by chickens.

The Young Scientists Awards committee are able to include a Rural Young Scientist category through the sponsorship provided by the Sapphire Foundation. Their mission is to inspire rural students to discover the beauty and joy of Science and Mathematics and to assist them to achieve their potential.

Emma’s prize covers all expenses to the USA for the competition. Additionally, the Foundation supports rural teachers by providing a teacher scholarship to the competition and Bishop Druitt College teacher, Ms Alison Hollier, won this scholarship.

Emma has the benefit of working in a team who are supported by expert mentors, including Ms Hollier. Last weekend they travelled to Sydney for a practice presentation in front of a peer review panel comprising a team of mentors and industry representatives.

“Emma spoke passionately and confidently, answered some



very tough questions about the validity of her investigation and its value to society. We are so impressed with Emma and know she will do very well and we wish her good luck in this

prestigious international competition.” Alison Hollier, Teacher at Bishop Druitt College.

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Celebrating Special Mums

Alstonville Anglicans held their annual Mother's Day Fête on May 11 at St Bartholomew's. It was a wonderful community event reaching near and far as evidenced by the hundreds of people wandering around and enjoying themselves.

Local entertainment throughout the morning was provided by the Emmanuel Anglican College Junior Band, an

integrated dance group, two soloists, and Awesome Voices. Other activities included face painting, a jumping castle, alpaca patting and a pumpkin rolling competition. The range of traditional stalls included a selection of floral arrangements, delicious cakes and biscuits, hand-made cards and craft, and beautiful gift baskets, all providing an opportunity for purchasing a special gift for mum.



Lismore Easter Celebrations

By Stephen Hall

The Lady Chapel in St Andrew's Church, Lismore, this year received a makeover for Holy Week culminating on Easter Day.

Several parishioners used their creativity to replicate the tomb where Jesus' body was laid.


Those who were involved in the all night vigil service following the Maundy Thursday Seder meal and foot-washing

service remarked on how the setting gave their vigil an extra dimension.

On Easter Day the "stone" was rolled away to reveal an empty tomb and only white linen cloths left as a reminder of our Lord's resurrection.

The opportunity was taken to use the setting as a photo booth. Parishioners were photographed peering into the empty tomb and encouraged to reflect on what the resurrection of Jesus meant to them.





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Easter Resurrection Garden

St Mary's Church in Ballina had a focus on the cross for the season of Lent and Good Friday. This was a feature of the last edition of the *North Coast Anglican*.

For Easter, we left the crosses up and built an Easter Garden on the other side of the sanctuary. The Garden includes a life size tomb with a rolled away stone entrance, a flowing water feature and lots of plants and flowers.

The inside of the tomb is black which reminds us that we are not called to look inside the tomb because that represents death, but rather we are encouraged to look at the beauty of the garden and the flowing water, as all of these symbols represent life.

The contrast of the two life-size symbols is very powerful, and we will leave them in place until we celebrate the Ascension in early June.



The Easter Garden in St Mary's, Ballina. Photo by Brian Pamphilon,

Join Diocesan Friends in the Holy Land for Advent

Grafton Cathedral is planning a 10-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land during Advent this year with a personal touch in the leadership.

Former Dean of St George's College, Jerusalem, the Very Rev'd Dr Gregory Jenks, will direct the pilgrimage. Dr Jenks is now Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, Grafton.

The pilgrimage from December 7-16 will include five nights in Nazareth and five nights in Jerusalem. It will be limited to just 20 pilgrims.

The cost for the pilgrimage is US\$2,500. This excludes air travel and insurance, but includes all other in-country costs: accommodation (twin-share), all meals, land transfers, guide fees and entrance charges. Single room supplement:

US\$590.

Dr Jenks has many years of experience leading groups of pilgrims to the Holy Land. He is one of the international directors for the Bethsaida Excavations Project in the Galilee and an Adjunct Senior Lecturer in Biblical Studies at Charles Sturt University. Dr Jenks is familiar with many of the historical and religious highlights of this remarkable place and he is a highly-regarded teacher.

"A visit to the biblical lands is a transformative experience," says Dr Jenks.

"This is especially so when it is a prayerful visit, in the company of other pilgrims who are seeking to deepen their faith and understand the

present day realities for the Jewish and Palestinian communities that share the same homeland."

To register, complete the registration form available on the Cathedral website or from the Cathedral office and return it at your earliest convenience.

Additional information for participants can also be downloaded from the Cathedral website or requested from the Cathedral office.

Visit the Cathedral Pilgrimage website for more information: www.graftoncathedral.org.au/cathedral-pilgrimage-2019 or please contact Dean Greg Jenks directly at dean@graftoncathedral.org.au or mobile 0426 067 344.

IN BRIEF

NEW APPOINTMENTS:

The Rev'd Tiffany Sparks has accepted the position of Diocesan Archdeacon and Ministry Development Officer in the Diocese of Grafton. Tiffany will commence her appointment on June 21.

Roz Rogers has been appointed Associate Minister (Children, Families & Youth) at the Cathedral. Fifty percent of her time will be seconded to Clarence Valley Anglican School to serve as their Chaplain. Roz's contact details are families@graftoncathedral.org.au and mobile 0476 868 294.

SRE Coordinator

Mr Mark Stuckey has agreed to be the SRE Coordinator for the North of the Diocese.

The Rev'd Mike Ridge will continue to be the SRE Coordinator for the South.

CHANGE:

The Rev'd Cathy Ridd has now concluded her ministry as Priest in the Parish of Mid Richmond. Cathy is now an Associate Priest in the Parish of Ballina.

RESIGNATION:

Ms Amanda Hickey has advised that for personal reasons she will be leaving the role of Director of Professional Standards in June. Advertising for a new Director of Professional Standards has commenced.

RETIREMENT:

The Rev'd Margaret Rose has retired as a Vocational Deacon in the Parish of Mullumbimby. Her last service was May 5, 2019. Please keep Margaret and Bob in your prayers.

DEATHS:

The Rev'd Ken Grant died on Friday April 5. Ken was a Deacon at St John's Anglican Church, Coffs Harbour for many years. Please keep his wife Val in your prayers.

Mrs Elwyn Miller died on Wednesday April 24. She is survived by her husband David, a former Diocesan Treasurer. Please keep David and their family in your prayers.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

8 June – Pre-Synod Meeting at St Bartholomew, Alstonville.

12 June – Pre-Synod Meeting at St Augustine, Woolgoolga.

15 June – Pre-Synod Meeting at All Saints, Kempsey.

21-23 June – Synod at Christ Church Cathedral Grafton and Grafton District Services Club.

28 June – SCAS Columba Day.

3-4 August – LLM Conference.

5-7 August – Ministry School.

22 August – Retired Clergy Morning Tea at Macksville.

22-25 August – Women's Cursillo at Evans Head.

5-8 September – Men's Cursillo Corindi.

Dedication of New Funeral Chapel

Archdeacon Matthew Jones, Rector of the Parish of Ballina, was recently asked to dedicate the newly refurbished Funeral Chapel for Guardian and White Lady Funerals in Ballina.

There were representatives from many walks of life at the gathering. Archdeacon Matthew was especially pleased that the company wanted to ask God's blessing on their new Chapel.

"I felt both humbled and honoured to be a part of this special community event," Archdeacon Matthew said.

Another local pastor was asked to bless the staff for the work that they do. It was a very special morning.



Anglican Diocese of Grafton

Do you have an up-to-date will? Please consider giving to the work of the Church in your will.

Our diocese has been blessed by the generosity of benefactors in times past. As we seek to expand Christ's Mission in the 21st century, please consider how you might contribute. You should get legal advice before making your will. You may wish to consider the activities of the Anglican Diocese of Grafton as the recipient of either a specific gift or the residue of your estate.

The following wording may be useful for you and your legal advisor when making your will: "I bequeath to the Corporate Trustees of the Diocese of Grafton in the State of New South Wales the sum of to be used for the general purposes of the Diocese of Grafton in such manner as the said Trustees may approve."



REFLECTIONS

Is Climate Change making me feel the heat, or am I just getting older?

By Archdeacon Matthew Jones

I recently had a conversation with our local State Government member who is a member of the Greens party. We were talking about the last State Election and she told me that the Greens made a conscious decision not to do letterbox drops to try and reduce their footprint on waste. This got me thinking about all sorts of things in relation to waste and recycling and climate change. I have found it interesting to watch the media reports of school students protesting about climate change but the more cynical side of me wonders if any of these actions, well intended as they may be, actually make any difference at all. And then I remember the Starfish story. For those who don't know it, here it is:

Once upon a time, there was an old man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. He had a habit of walking on the beach every morning before he began his work. Early one morning, he was walking along the shore after a big storm had passed and found the vast beach littered with starfish as far as the eye could see, stretching in both directions. Off in the distance, the old man noticed a small boy approaching. As the boy walked, he paused every so often and as he grew closer, the man could see that he was occasionally bending down to pick up an object and throw it into the sea. The boy came closer still and the man called out, "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?"

The young boy paused, looked up, and replied, "Throwing starfish into the ocean. The tide has washed them up onto the beach and they can't return to the sea by themselves," the youth replied. "When the sun gets high, they will die, unless I throw them back into the water." The old



man replied, "But there must be tens of thousands of starfish on this beach. I'm afraid you won't really be able to make much of a difference." The boy bent down, picked up yet another starfish and threw it as far as he could into the ocean. Then he turned, smiled and said, "It made a difference to that one!"

In the parish of Ballina, we have been looking at ways that we can reduce our footprint. We have recently replaced old halogen lights with LED lighting. We have installed solar panels on the Ballina church and office site and on the Op Shop and we use our recycling bins to try and help the environment. We recently held a workshop with a member of the Ballina Shire Council who came to teach us how to recycle and dispose of our other waste responsibly. It was a very inspiring session.

The cynics may ask, "What difference do these little actions in Ballina make when climate change is a global

problem?" That is a good question, but in relation to the starfish story, it does make a difference. If nobody did anything, then the problem would just increase. However, if someone does something, no matter how small the action might seem, at least something positive has been done. If this positive action multiplies, then we have a chance of changing the world in a very positive way.

I am also inclined to think that this is the job God has given us - to care for the planet. In the creation account in the book of Genesis, "God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good" (*Gen 1:31 NRSV*). If I am interpreting Genesis correctly, God put the human being in the garden to "till it and keep it" (*Gen 2:15 NRSV*), which to me makes us stewards and caretakers. In our role as stewards and caretakers of the planet, can we still look at all that God has made and say, "It is good", or

have we mucked it up along the way? Are our actions helping or hindering the planet?

The ABC news in Australia published an article in February this year which says in part: Last year was the fourth warmest year on record and the outlook is for more sizzling heat approaching levels that most view as dangerous for humankind on the Earth, a United Nations report has shown.

Key points:

- US, British, Japanese and European weather agencies contributed to the data;
- 20 out of the past 22 years have been the hottest on record;
- The long-term climate trends show that warming will continue to break records.

The new report said the world was on track to have average global temperatures rise by three-degrees Celsius by 2100,

as record levels of (hu)man-made greenhouse gas emissions, mainly from burning fossil fuels, is trapping more heat in the Earth's atmosphere.

In 2015, almost 200 governments adopted the Paris climate agreement to phase out the use of fossil fuels and limit the rise in temperatures between 1.5°C to 2°C, to avert "dangerous" (hu)man-made climate change. Weather extremes last year included wildfires in California and Greece, drought in South Africa, floods in India, while the New Year saw Queensland and Tasmania threatened by record-breaking floods and bushfires. Scientists warn there could be more to come as a long-term rise higher than 2°C could have more disastrous consequences.

"The long-term temperature trend is far more important than the ranking of individual years, and that trend is an upward one," the UN's World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) secretary-general Petteri Taalas said in a statement.

I do not have any scientific qualifications, but I do know that last summer was one of the hottest I have ever lived through. Perhaps there is something happening that we need to be aware of. Perhaps it is right to protest about the use of fossil fuels and try and find other means to provide power for our homes, businesses, public buildings, cars and public transport. I wonder what God wants us to do. After all, if the Bible tells us that God appointed us to "till the garden", then perhaps we do have a big responsibility to do all that we can to care for the environment.

Maybe, just maybe, the little actions in Ballina will make a difference. I hope and pray that they do!

THREADS LAID BARE

Stones and Gems

By Rev'd Camellia Flanagan

Many of us while walking along a river bank or looking in rock pools by the beach have been delighted and intrigued by the variety of colour in the pebbles and stones found. This has been the same for generations of people before us, and the beauty of stones has found a significant place in worship and praise to the one who created them. In the design of the robes of Aaron, the first high priest for the Children of

Israel, gems had a significant place. *Exodus 28: 9-12* describes the precious stones on the Ephod. On the shoulders were onyx stones, one on each shoulder with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel engraved on them, six names on each. They were mounted in gold filigree grooved ring settings. We call these settings a bezel, (not the ever-diminishing edge of your mobile phone), but a decorative twist of gold named after Bezalel, the chief artisan

of the Tabernacle who oversaw part of the building the Ark of the Covenant, in the early days of the formation of the Hebrew liturgy and religious ritual. (*Exodus 31:1-6*)

The Breastplate (*Ex 28:10-30*) worn over the Ephod was a square embroidered with gold. It held 12 precious stones set in gold filigree. They were set in four rows.

Because of oral tradition and the differences in translations from ancient Hebrew, Greek

and English it is unclear exactly which stones were used because they were mainly identified by colour and a little internet searching will reveal a wealth of legend about the stones, how they were engraved with the names of the tribes of Israel, their medicinal, healing and spiritual powers or otherwise and whether they were positioned from left to right or right to left. The names in italics are the names used in NRSV translation of the

scriptures, and other names are also indicated.

Some of the stones used were carnelian, sardius, odem, a red jasper, carbuncle, garnet or ruby, chrysolite and emerald, a topaz and beryl. Turquoise, sapphire, moonstone, jacinth, ligure, lapis lazuli or amber, agate, amethyst, beryl, onyx, jasper or chrysolite.

When you see a coloured stone in your path, ponder what its story might be.

Bush Church Aid truly goes the distance

By Rev'd David Rogers-Smith
BCA Regional Officer QLD/
NSW

On a stormy Monday night in May 1919, 26 men and women gathered with a vision: To take the good news and love of Jesus to the outback pioneer settlers and to Indigenous people. That night the Bush Church Aid Society of Australia was formed as an independent Anglican mission. In all the changes of the last 100 years, BCA's vision is unchanged: "Australia for Christ." Through BCA, God has called many hundreds of men and women to promote the gospel of Christ in word and deed; including in the Diocese of Grafton (in Rappville, 1940-59, the Upper Clarence, 1990-94, and today in the Northern Beaches, 2017-).

BCA's mission vans were forerunners to modern motorhomes; and now as then, we seek to care for our First Australians and support Indigenous Christian leadership in remote and regional Australia.

The BCA planes and nurses were part of BCA's flying medical service, that also included radio operators, bush hospitals, an ambulance, and doctors. The wonderfully gutsy, selfless nurses single-handedly ran the hospital, performed many medical procedures, liaised with doctors over the radio, were available night and day for any and every emergency, and saw that the

hospital also functioned as the spiritual hub of the area, running Bible studies, youth ministry and Sunday School – truly commending Jesus in word and deed.

BCA continues to provide practical help in many ways, including drought and flood relief, community projects, and school chaplaincy.

This group of volunteers helped run BCA's Mail Bag Sunday School. By 1939, there were 4500 students enrolled from remote areas where they did not have a church or Sunday School. For 50 years, many children and young people learned about the love of Christ and experienced it in the care of the volunteers and teachers. Today BCA runs BCA for Kids, and supports ministry to children and young people (and their families) across the country, including in the Grafton Diocese through Simon and Alison Reeve.

On May 26, BCA will have celebrated 100 years of truly unique and inspiring ministry. But the celebrations will last all year. Will your parish or school celebrate with us? Choose a Sunday or week, make use of our Centenary resources found on our website (including 5 new Centenary videos and a Centenary prayer), and celebrate this remarkable ministry and milestone, thanking and glorifying God for his great love for the people of "the bush".



PRAYING WITH THE SAINTS

Janani Luwum, Archbishop of Uganda, martyr d. 1977

By Rev'd Camellia Flanagan
**FEAST DAY 3 JUNE WITH THE
MARTYRS OF UGANDA AND
16 FEBRUARY, NATIONAL
COMMEMORATION DAY IN
UGANDA.**

Janani Luwum was born in Mucwini, Uganda in 1924 and educated in Gulu High School and trained as a teacher at Boroboro Teachers College, Lira. He became a Christian in 1948 and the Leadership of the Chosen Evangelical Revival Movement encouraged and supported him to train for ordained ministry of the Native Anglican Church. He enrolled for ordination training at Bishop Usher Wilson Theological College, Buwalasi, in present day North Mbale

Diocese and was ordained priest in 1956. He was sent to St Augustine's College, Canterbury.

He later assumed responsibility for 24 congregations of the then-known Upper Nile Diocese, which extended up to present day South Sudan, and served as Parish Priest and Chaplain in Parishes and church schools in Northern Uganda. He returned to England on a scholarship for further study. After returning home in 1965, in September 1966 he was appointed provincial secretary to Archbishop Erica Sabiti, the first African Archbishop of the Church of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Boga-Zaire. In May 1974 Bishop Janani

Luwum succeeded his mentor Archbishop Erica Sabiti and became the second African Archbishop of the Province and the second Bishop of Kampala Diocese.

His new position brought him into eventual confrontation with the Ugandan dictator, Idi Amin, as he sought to protect his people from this brutal regime. In August 1976, Makerere University was sacked by government troops. With Archbishop Luwum as their chair, the Christian leaders of the country drafted a memorandum of protest, against officially sanctioned rape and murder. Archbishop Luwum answered one of his critics by saying, "I do not know how long I shall occupy this

chair. I live as though there will be no tomorrow.

"While the opportunity is there, I preach the gospel with all my might, and my conscience is clear before God."

On February 16, 1977 after his residence had been searched for arms, he was summoned to President Amin's palace. He went there accompanied by the other Anglican bishops and by leaders of the Roman Catholic and Muslim Communities. After being accused of complicity in a plot to murder the President, most of the clerics were allowed to leave, but Archbishop Luwum was detained. He said, "They are going to kill me. I am not afraid," and was never seen

alive again. The government announced that he had been killed in an accident. Some weeks later his bullet-riddled body was released to his family for burial.

Thanks to articles from "A Great Cloud of Witnesses" Church Publishing 2016. Published by the office of Communication of the Episcopal Church, 815 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017C and "New Vision, Uganda's Leading Daily". Tuesday, May 14, 2019.

In prayer and in our daily lives can we all be inspired by the unshakeable witness and faith of Janani Luwum that we make no peace with violence and oppression of any kind?

ZERO TOLERANCE FOR SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Grafton Diocese has established formal procedures to deal with **sexual misconduct**. Persons aggrieved by the sexual misconduct of a church worker - whether they are an ordained or lay person - should report it. If you wish to speak to someone about sexual abuse by a church worker

please phone **1800 370 757** or email dps@graftondiocese.org.au

to reach our Director of Professional Standards who can receive your report with confidentiality.

ANGLICARE NORTH COAST CONNECTION

Anglicare North Coast Celebrates 20 Years of Service

On May 15, 2019, Anglicare North Coast celebrated 20 years of service to people in need throughout the Anglican Diocese of Grafton.

From humble beginnings in a small office in the Maclean parish, the organisation has grown in size and services offered over the past 20 years,

helping countless people during that time.

CEO, Estelle Graham, commented, "It's unfortunate that organisations like Anglicare North Coast are needed, but from our humble beginnings 20 years ago it was recognised that there were many people across

the region in need – this situation continues today and if anything, the needs seem to have increased in number and complexity".

Several former and current staff and board members attended a special "birthday" service at the Cathedral, at which the inaugural Executive

Officer, Fr George Markotsis preached.

Fr George recalled the early days and how the organisation came into existence, rising to challenges such as how to respond to victims of natural disasters.

Whilst celebrating this special milestone, the service was also

a reminder of the responsibility that we all have to care for others, "When I needed a neighbour were you there...?"

The team at Anglicare North Coast look forward to continuing to assist those in need and to rising to future challenges, whatever they might be.



Former long term Anglicare Board members Ann Helmrich and Rev Thea Archinal did us the honour of cutting the birthday cake.



Father George Markotsis attended the celebrations and preached in the Cathedral service



Kasy Chambers, Executive Director of Anglicare Australia, travelled from Canberra for the celebrations

Robert Simkus memorial building

Robert (Bob) Simkus was a member of the Anglicare team for more than 13 years. During this time he served on a voluntary basis as the accountant and was also a board member for nine of those years. Bob continued his work until the end of his life last year at the age of 93 years.

To commemorate Bob's amazing contribution to Anglicare, the Grafton office building was named after him on the occasion of Anglicare's 20th Birthday. Several Simkus family members were in attendance and many stories of "our Bob" were shared. Bob was a great man, yet incredibly humble. He played an important part in Anglicare's history and we will always value his contributions.



Phone (02) 6643 4844
Anglicare North Coast, PO Box 401 Grafton 2460
anglicarenorthcoast.org.au

AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOUNDATION

AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOUNDATION DONATIONS

Our mission is to provide appropriate, affordable accommodation to disadvantaged persons throughout the North Coast of NSW. To donate or for further information please view our website or contact our office.

ALL DONATIONS TO ANGLICARE NORTH COAST OVER \$2.00 ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE AND ARE USED TO HELP US FULFIL OUR MISSION