

MAGAZINE OF THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF GRAFTON, NEW SOUTH WALES

NORTH COAST ANGLICAN

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Digging deep in UNCERTAIN TIMES

STORY PAGE 4

FROM THE BISHOP

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Three years ago someone asked Nobel Laureates what they feared the most. Their biggest fear was climate change, followed closely by nuclear war. Other high rating fears amongst this learned group included terrorism, ignorant leaders and human selfishness. Interestingly, infectious disease rated a mention, but only in the minds of 8% of respondents.

In the last 12 months we've had plenty to fear. In mid to late 2019, widespread bushfires posed an immediate danger for many in our region. This was followed in some places by flooding. Since March, the focus of our fears has been the Global COVID-19 Pandemic. For over six months now we have been living with the uncertainty, fear and disruption of this crisis. As the crisis continues, the longer-term nature of the threat is sinking in and anxiety and fear are taking their toll even on those who were previously coping reasonably well.

Benedictine Monk Br David Steindl-Rast says we should make a list of our fears, and then go back and identify which are reasonable and legitimate, and which are unreasonable or irrational. I suspect that most things we fear in the current crisis would come under the category of legitimate fears. These can damage and potentially break our spirits and hearts, our bodies and minds. Unchecked fears can enslave us in many ways. They can make us vulnerable to those who want to take advantage of our fears by turning them to suspicion and even hate. It has been sad to see this happening in the USA where fear-fuelled conspiracy theories about COVID-19 are damaging public health campaigns and threatening the common good. Unchecked fears can also lead to panic buying and a victim mentality. As an old Latin saying goes, *fears make us believe the worst*.

For the Prophet Zephaniah, the Lord was in the midst of the people as a sure defence for their fears (*Zeph 3:15-17*). In the Letter to the Romans, Paul describes their fears as a kind of slavery. But a reliance on God could help them overcome this enslavement (*Romans 8:15*). In both cases, the fears were real, but it was how they were perceived and understood that could make a difference. For Christians then, the way out of fear is the path of faith. No matter how real our fears are, our faith can counteract those fears so that we are not overwhelmed by them.

Our current crisis will no doubt continue for some time. There will inevitably be surprises, challenges and legitimate fears along the way. Yet the greater the fear, the greater the courage of faith required to overcome it. Whatever unfolds, I pray that we will have courage to believe that God is with us every step of the way and that as people of faith, we won't give fear the power or let it dictate our part.

The Sacred Song (Geistliches Lied) by Paul Fleming (1609-40), often sung as an Anthem (Brahms), is also a prayer, asking that we might follow God's path and not stray into fear, sadness or sorrow.

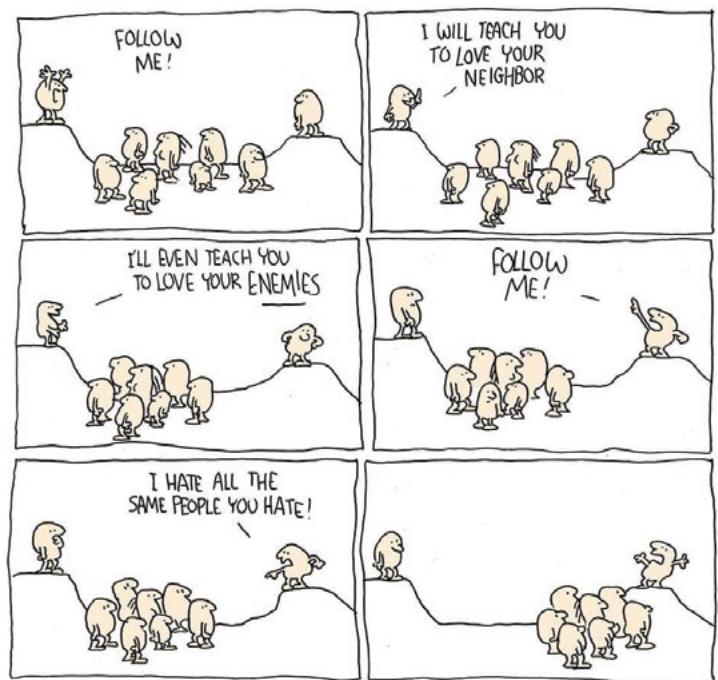
*Let sadness not o'erwhelm you, nor sorrow.
Fear nothing; trust God's own will, be still, my soul,
my spirit.*

*Fear not the dawn tomorrow, with sorrow; with
sorrow.*

*Our Father who sees there too, shall give you all
your portion.*

*From God's best way then, stray not, nor wander;
Stand firm then, for God is good; trust Him for all,
for ever. Amen.*

+Murray



What are we missing?

BY THE VENERABLE TIFFANY SPARKS

I am not a great “lamer”, I would much rather focus on the positive and constructive, but to push lamentation to the side doesn’t honour our lived experience, our hopes, dreams and what we hold dear in our day to day lives. In fact, at times, to deny lamentation is to deny the truth of our experience and the world. To feel deep sadness is part of the human condition and the wholeness of who we are as people of God. Some things genuinely are really sad and sometimes our lives don’t end up how we expected it. We trust in our lamentation that God is not only with us and surrounding us, but that God is also weeping with us.

I trust that we have all seen the memes and cartoons decrying the year that 2020 has been. That the world has had enough, can we move to 2021 now? However, we know that this isn’t possible, we have to live through it and grow through it. As I write this, I am reflecting that right now I should be in Brisbane, two years ago I committed to marry a couple who have given me great joy as I have watched and encouraged their love to grow over the years. Now, weddings aren’t my favourite because people often get side tracked from the vocation of marriage by the dresses, reception, table settings, menus and essentially the need to have the most “perfect special day”. That being said, it shows how much these two mean to me that I am sad not to celebrate God’s call for them to be together. This wedding was supposed to be at the end of my two-week holiday visiting my step-children and grandchild in Sydney and Canberra. I was also unable to celebrate with my family my mother’s 70th birthday. These are moments that we cannot get back. It is sad to have missed these events and we know that the time will come where we can all come together and celebrate with each other. Our love keeps us connected. Our love wants to keep each other safe.

Now I know that I am not alone in this and what I have named are but small things, the whole world laments that we are in this crisis. Everybody is missing out on special and sacred moments with each other and it is ok and honouring to be sad about that. What have you missed? Weddings, funerals, last goodbyes? Birthdays, holidays, spending time with your relatives? Your livelihood, church community, or something else? It might not even have been something you have “missed out on”, the world didn’t stop turning when this global crisis hit, relationships still melt down, financial struggles occur more now than ever, health concerns, job losses and struggles around addiction and violence have risen. These problems are made harder by the heaviness of our environmental context. What has 2020 been like for you and the people you love? It is important to acknowledge and give honour to our lived experience as people during a year of fires, floods, droughts and pandemic. To name what we as a shared community have lived through and give it due respect so that we can grow through this experience with a view to looking forward. This doesn’t mean shouting it to the neighbours, but honesty in our own hearts.

We know that we have a God that is with us, who grieves with us and keeps us connected with each other. We trust in a God of resurrection who offers us new life and hope especially in times of sadness and confusion. A God that will never leave us and gives us the strength to be people of transformation, who move through hard and sad situations looking for the movement of God and bringing the light into the dark. But we can only do this by being honest about the where we find ourselves. This crisis will come to pass and new life will occur, my prayer is that we honour what is, sturdy ourselves, find joy and the movement of God where we can and to be people of healing and wholeness in a world of turmoil. Even when it is hard.

NORTH COAST ANGLICAN

Transforming lives through Jesus Christ

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Digging deep in uncertain times

The Southern Cross University family has generously heeded the call to support the wellbeing of students impacted by COVID-19, with more than \$673,000 raised and distributed through a new hardship fund.

The University opened the Student Hardship Fund in April with an initial allocation of \$500,000. This was quickly exhausted, highlighting the dire financial circumstances many students faced. Yet a proportion of the student body continues to face hardship during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, despite the University's early intervention.

Last month, the University launched an appeal to its alumni and broader University community. This call resulted in several donations from across the Southern Cross community, with the largest contribution being made by the Anglican Chaplaincy Trust. As a result of the wind up of the Trust, the Trustees resolved to contribute \$50,103 to the Hardship Fund. Southern Cross alumni and staff contributed a further \$36,484.

In response to the generosity, the University has pledged to match all donations dollar-for-dollar, which has resulted in a Fund with \$173,174 (as at 23 July) for distribution to students facing hardship.

The Anglican Chaplaincy Trust has a long association with the University. Established in 1992 with donations from parishioners and the local community, the Trust initially funded a chaplaincy service for students to help with spiritual, social and emotional support at the then



Rev'd Christian I.

University of New England as Southern Cross was formerly known.

"In acknowledging the generosity of the Anglican Diocese, we also acknowledge and thank the foresight of the Trustees and parishioners, many of which are former staff and alumni of the University and its predecessor institution the Northern Rivers College of Advanced Education," said Mr Ben Roche, Vice President (Engagement).

While the delivery of Anglican Chaplaincy Services ended in 1994, the Trust continued in existence up until recently. After discussions, the University and representatives of the Anglican Church agreed to wind up the Trust and redirect the funds to both the Student Hardship Fund and to the Anglican Church to fund youth outreach services.

"The University is grateful to the original donors who contributed to the Trust and to the Anglican Church for their assistance in managing and winding up the Trust," Mr Roche said.

"It speaks to the nature of the Anglican Parish that where there is desperate need, their community will help where it can. So on behalf



Ford (left), Mr Ben Roche, Rev'd Alan Shaw, Ms Dawn Back and Dr Ross Lehman outside St Andrews Anglican Church, Lismore.

of the University and our students who are facing hardship at this time, thank you.”

The Rev'd Christian Ford, Rector of the Lismore Anglicans, praised the generosity of all who supported the Anglican Chaplaincy Trust.

“It speaks to the nature of the Anglican Parish that where there is desperate need, their community will help where it can.”

“Lismore Anglicans Parish Council was really proud of the efforts of our members and the community so long ago to establish the Chaplaincy Fund and raise the money,” Rev'd Ford said.

“To honour these efforts we intend to put the money we have received from the winding up of the trust towards employing a youth worker within our parish to minister to youth of the Lismore Region, including those who learn at Southern Cross University.”

Dr Ross Lehman is one of the original donors to the Anglican Chaplaincy Trust, and helped facilitate its wind-up. He taught student teachers at the Lismore Teachers' College and later at the University's School of Education. During the 1990s Dr Lehman also worked as International Student Adviser and was Head of Student Residences with responsibility for more than 250 male and female students living in four residential centres on the Lismore Campus.

“Both Southern Cross and the Church are confident that the redirected funds will provide benefit to students and youth in Lismore,” Dr Lehman said.

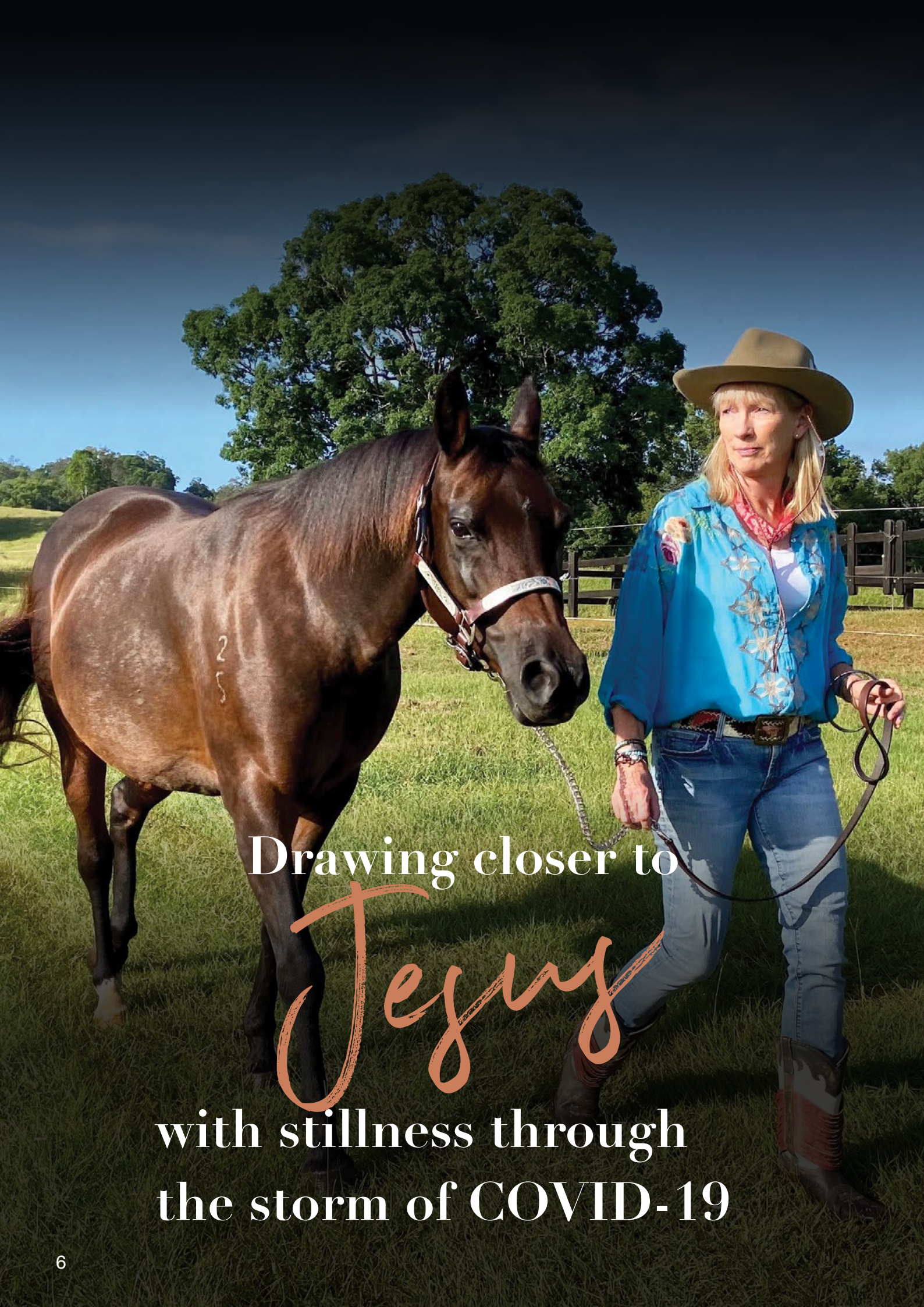
“It is indeed special to encourage providing for the individual differences of students by such love and care in action.”

Mr Roche acknowledged the generosity of the University's staff and alumni in donating to the Fund.

“The health and wellbeing of our students will always remain the central focus of what we do,” Mr Roche said.

“The Hardship Fund will, in some small way, allow our students a small amount of financial relief so that they can maintain focus on their studies.”

Credit: Southern Cross University



Drawing closer to
Jesus
with stillness through
the storm of COVID-19

BY IONA ROSSELY

If I was told about COVID-19 and the impact it would have on our world last year, I would have said you were watching too many science fiction movies. But here we are, learning how to live in the middle of a pandemic. The cogs of our normal daily life have been severely disrupted - even halted at times - and we have no idea what the future holds. Thankfully, God does.

I arrived in Australia in March 2020 to visit our farm for a four-week break and five months later I am still here. Did I get upset? No. Did I panic? No. Did I fall in a heap and cry? No. Did I worry and stress out? No. I miss my husband Jeff and our eight rescued pets who are in Dubai, but I know that God is in control and has a plan. Having had so many ups and downs in my life, I've learned not to focus on the negative but to take disruptions as a challenge and an opportunity. Before I became a Christian, I would have gone into meltdown over COVID-19 - but after my conversion 13 years ago, I know God has the world and humanity firmly in His hands. The devil might be active in this pandemic, but God remains ultimately in absolute control.

We all have different opinions on why this is happening, but I think God is allowing the whole world to be shaken so that we stop what we're doing and focus on Him. The question is, how do we stay focused on Him and not get sucked into the media frenzy or other distractions? One of the things I am passionate about is spending time with Jesus in utter silence - just sitting at His feet and becoming aware of His presence. Not speaking, not asking, not reading but just being with Him. With no planes, less traffic and less pedestrians, it's the perfect time to go one step deeper or one step closer to God. *James 4.8* remind us, 'Draw near to God and he will draw near to you'.

Being still and mindful is not easy, but as a professional sportswoman I've grasped how our thoughts affect

everything, especially our ability to focus. I would not have been able to ski at 160kph without a focused mind and an awareness that moved me into what athletes call the "zone". Learning to take control of our minds and our thoughts can change our world, and when you add Jesus to the mix you start living a supernatural life filled with love, hope, peace and freedom. One of my favourite Bible passages is *2 Corinthians 3.17*, "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom".

I'm grateful that my sports mental training has led me to understand that discipline is a major factor in taking back control of our minds. Today, I live and breathe *Psalms 46.10* which says, "Be still and know I am God". Every tangible encounter with Jesus radically transforms me, including my mind. The apostle Paul reminds us in *Romans 12.2*, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind".

There is nothing more important to me right now than sitting still in His presence. Every daily encounter I have with Jesus helps me love and understand Him more and also results in more clarity around His will for my life. In addition to my prayer, Bible study and worship time I spend a minimum of twenty to thirty minutes each day in stillness and allow God to speak. This brings a greater awareness of God's presence and an opportunity to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying.

Be warned, this daily discipline can turn your life upside down. As it says in Revelation on numerous occasions, "Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says...". Do we want to know what God has planned for our lives? Then we need to listen, focus and be aware. A transformed mind will change your life as it enables you to connect to God every second and every minute of the day. It's in the silence with Jesus that I'm renewed and transformed by His love, His mercy and His grace.



Iona Rossely is a top sporting champion who competed as a speed skier for Britain and then an equestrian endurance rider for Ireland. She is now a lay minister for the Anglican Church in Australia, an artist, speaker and avid animal lover and her passion is sharing her testimony on how God gave her a new life – one of freedom, peace and joy. Her full story can be read in *Racing on Empty*, a fascinating new autobiography where she shares her story of a near fatal accident and the years she spent chasing dreams of fame and glory on the sporting stage in her search for purpose, hope and meaning.



Anglicare North Coast **YEAR IN REVIEW**

Our business at Anglicare North Coast is part of one of the most important types of business for society, the so-called “not-for-profit” sector. For us, the objective is not to make a profit for shareholders, but rather to achieve profitable outcomes for our community. We do this on your behalf, in the service of our Lord.

BY LEON ANKERSMIT

This is a time of year occupied with bookkeeping, auditors, and budgets for the upcoming year, and so it is also a time for reflecting on the year just gone, and looking forward to the year ahead.

About this time last year, the first of the bushfires were reported in our region. One of those fires burned for several months and eventually threatened the coastal communities of Angourie and Wooloweyah, as well as some properties in Gulmarrad, near Maclean. Remarkably, there was no significant loss of assets reported in that particular fire, but of course we know all too well how the season unfolded across the

eastern seaboard, and some of us are still living with the consequences of Black Summer in our communities.

Anglicare North Coast, along with a number of other NSW Anglicare agencies, were a part of the unfolding tragedy as some of our teams of Disaster Recovery volunteers were deployed to provide assistance in evacuation centres. Thankfully, during times of natural disaster and emergency, it is not up to us to make vital decisions about how and where support services are required. That job is left to the NSW Government, in the Department of Communities and Justice. We simply go where we are asked to attend an evacuation centre, and we stay there for as long as we are able.

This time around, the deployment of Disaster Recovery teams reached an unprecedented scale across NSW. The emergency went on for so long and in so many places at the same time, that volunteer resources were stretched to the limit.

Our work in response to the bushfire season is not yet complete. We are currently in a process of reviewing the impact of disaster recovery participation on our volunteers, parishes and communities. We know that many volunteers experienced hardship as a result of their involvement, and we want to work out what needs to be improved about our disaster recovery program. We are going to seek improvements in the way the NSW Government partners with us to help us look after our volunteers and we want to provide better support including “after-care” for those who have been in close contact with trauma.

We also remain active in providing emergency relief, and financial counselling services to bushfire affected households. This year we have been identified by the

Commonwealth Department of Social Services as a preferred provider of emergency relief, which has resulted in a significant increase to our budget for disbursement to households affected by bushfires and COVID-19.

All of our programs are somewhat impacted by COVID-19, and our staff are by now well used to doing most of their work by telephone or via the technology of Zoom or Skype. This has also prompted us to redesign our website which will be launched in the next

few weeks. In the meantime, a referral portal has also been created for people to request an appointment for financial counselling or assistance with their household bills or food. This is available for anyone in genuine need, and can be accessed at fabhelp.org.au

As always, we are grateful for the support we receive from our faith community, as we unite together to demonstrate God's love in our communities and bring HOPE IN ACTION.

From the Chair of Anglicare North Coast

The article in this issue by Dr Leon Ankersmit, Interim CEO of Anglicare North Coast, conveys some of the activities of Anglicare in recent months. Alongside this activity there have been some important changes at a governance and leadership level. After more than 20 years with the organisation, Ms Estelle Graham concluded her work as CEO of Anglicare North Coast in December. Ms Graham made a huge contribution to ANC during this time. It was fitting that ANC had its 20th Anniversary in May 2019 and that Ms Graham was able to be part of the happy celebration of that milestone. We are indebted to Mr Tony Auld, a member of senior staff, who filled the role of Interim CEO for three months until the appointment of Dr Leon Ankersmit in March of this year. The environment for welfare agencies like ANC is constantly changing. It is increasingly difficult for smaller organisations like ANC to attract funding for programs. This is especially the case when funding for some initiatives dries up and the organisation has to venture into new program areas. The future for ANC will be one where we need to look for bigger, like-minded organisations, with whom we can partner in order to secure contracts and funding.



The new Board of ANC, formed in January this year, together with the CEO, is exploring how we can best partner with other agencies to help navigate this increasingly challenging environment.

+Murray Harvey



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Our New Best Friends in Insurance

BY CHRIS NELSON, DIOCESAN REGISTRAR

If I asked you to complete the phrase “Insurance is ...” I am sure that I would get a broad range of answers. Many of your answers would be tinged with emotion and depending on your past experiences with insurance that may be positive or negative emotion.

For the Anglican Diocese of Grafton, which is responsible for a wide range of property, workers, volunteers, activities and decisions, insurance is an essential aspect of our Diocesan life.

Insurance can also be complex to navigate and it doesn’t come cheap. The total annual insurance bill for the Diocese easily exceeds one million dollars.

Considering how important, complex and expensive insurance can be, it is vital to have a good friend to help navigate this environment.

Earlier this year, the Bishop-in-Council agreed that it was time for the Diocese of Grafton to leave the national group insurance scheme. Although the group worked hard for everyone’s interests, it became apparent that our Diocese’s needs were being obscured by the needs and events of other group members. So a decision was made for the Diocese of Grafton to appoint its own broker to be our

“best friend” in the insurance market and strive to get the best terms and service for our Diocese.

After a comprehensive selection process, the Diocese selected Arthur J Gallagher & Co (Gallagher) as our insurance broker.

Gallagher is an international insurance brokerage, risk management and consulting firm, operating in more than 45 countries. With a history of over 100 years of operation, Gallagher are in the top four insurance brokers worldwide by size of business. In Australia, Gallagher has more than 100,000 business customers, from small businesses through to multinational corporations and iconic brands.

Gallagher’s work with the Diocese of Grafton will be headed by Katherine Simmonds, Head of Corporate, with Natasha Barker (Manager Corporate) as the primary person in our relationship.

Both the Diocese and Gallagher are entering a busy time with all categories of insurance needing review and renewal by the end of October. Gary Molam from Gallagher will be a key person assisting in the renewal process.

Here’s hoping for a long and beautiful friendship!



REFLECTIONS

A Golden Anniversary

The Alstonville Anglican community were thrilled to offer heartfelt congratulations to The Rev'd Geoff and Carol Vidal as they celebrated 50 years of marriage. We wish them many more happy years and thank them for their generous contributions to ministry in this parish. Blessings to you both. ►



◀ David Brown is an ordination candidate in the parish of Ballina. David has a passion for the creation and during the COVID-19 lockdown time he has been spending a lot of time caring for the grounds at St Mary's. If he shows as much care for the people as he does for the grounds, then the parish of Ballina will be truly blessed with his ministry. It is hoped that the ordination will take place in October and we look forward to welcoming him formally as a member of the ministry team.

Yamba Pop Up Shop

The Clarence Valley Anglican School Yamba Pop-Up Shop opened in Yamba Street, Yamba on 10 August.

This shop will be open six days a week for six weeks. Our aim is to create awareness of the school and to engage the Yamba community by providing information about what CVAS offers.

Our friendly staff, including Principal Karin Lisle, are excited to meet local families and potential future CVAS students. ►





Commissioning of The Rev'd Rosie Wynter

Despite the cold and damp, despite a global pandemic, lockdowns and closed borders, the Parish of Byron gathered on July 24 to warmly welcome The Rev'd Rosie Wynter as its Community Minister.

The church was a full house, well, as full as COVID-19 social distancing rules allowed. Rev'd Rosie served as a locum in the area earlier in the year and is already known and loved by many. We are very excited to have her with us and look forward to her ministry.

CVAS Students Congregate In New Yarning Circle

Dean Loadsman, the Clarence Valley Anglican School Gumbaynggirr teacher, joined the Year 7 Aboriginal Language and Culture class in the new yarning circle to show students how Aboriginals use an ancient method to start fires in their campsites as an essential way to keep warm on cold nights and to cook food. Dean also taught the students about the persistence and effort this method required. The students managed to get smoke a few times but no flames.





New Independent School for Woolgoolga

An exciting development has occurred with Bishop Druitt College Council fully endorsing a Kindergarten to Year 4 Northern Beaches campus in the heart of Woolgoolga at 1852 – 1856 Solitary Islands Way.

This site is opposite Woolworths and will be a shared site with Ohana Early Learning. Stage 1 plans are with Coffs Harbour City Council at present for the change in DA to be approved.

“The college council were extremely enthusiastic about approving the models. So now we can proceed to the next step of securing approvals from regulatory bodies. The Northern Beaches region and Woolgoolga,

in particular, are growth regions and all are seeking another school to meet the shortfall,” Principal Mr Nick Johnstone said.

It is expected that a Kindy to Year 2 multi-years class will commence at the start of 2021 with stage 2 construction to occur next year for Year 3 and Year 4 to follow.

This exciting new school will offer a local village “feel”, focus on sustainability, safe environment, Walker Learning experience, high engagement and quality teaching, small class sizes, access to BDC resources and specialists, and personalised learning.

Bishop Murray Visits the Sisters

In his role as the Visitor to the Sisters of the Society of the Sacred Advent, the Bishop celebrated the Eucharist and preached in the Sisters Chapel today and attended the SSA Chapter meeting.





(left to right) Hon Kevin Hogan MP, Principal Karin Lisle, Very Reverend Dr Gregory Jenks "turning the sod" of the new Performance Centre.

New Performance Centre Construction Underway at Clarence Valley Anglican School

On July 30 a very exciting moment in the history of Clarence Valley Anglican School and the Clarence Valley occurred. The ground has been broken for the construction of a new 300 seat capacity Performance Centre comprising a stage and performance space, general learning areas for music, drama and art, additional learning spaces, tiered learning area, amenities, and storage.

It is hoped the Performance Centre will enable the school to grow, attracting students who would not otherwise have the opportunity to excel in creative arts. It is also envisioned that the Performance Centre will be available for local community use, strengthening wider relationships.

The School gratefully acknowledges the significant

funding contributions of the Australian Government, an anonymous donor and parents, all of which have contributed to this project being possible.

Principal Mrs Karen Lisle was joined by the Federal Member for Page, The Hon Kevin Hogan MP, for the first turning of the sod. Also in attendance was the Chair School Council, architects, builders and members of the school community.

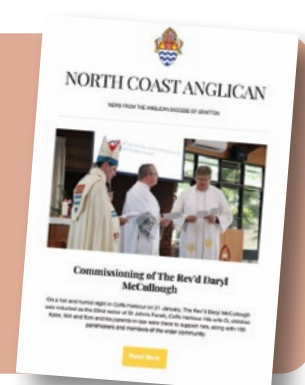
"The Performance Centre will give us the opportunity to highlight our student's talents in the arts and is a very exciting prospect," Principal Karen said.

"We are already offering Dance as an HSC elective subject in 2021. Of course we will welcome community use of this amazing facility when it is completed early next year."

Did you know NCA has gone digital?

In 2020 NCA is going digital! The Diocesan community has the option of not only receiving NCA in their inbox, but also receive electronic newsletters and updates each month. Sign up today to make sure you are kept in the loop.

Please send your details to Kaytrina in the Registry on admin@graftondiocese.org.au and remember: It's free!



Booking a Pew at Sunday Worship

BY YVONNE TURNER

Sunday worship is not quite as simple to organise as it has traditionally been for as long as we can all remember. Firstly there is a need to book your spot – as at St Cuthbert's Tweed Heads, the maximum number allowed in the church space is 50. We now have two services which allow 100 to attend. It seems to be working very well.

On arrival check off your name, sanitize your hands, adjust your face mask, and only then be directed to a seat that says, "You can sit here".

Recorded music heralds the arrival of The Rev'd Dway and the LLM, and this week we had the joy of Bishop Murray joining us.

There is no organist or singing which does give a totally different feel to worship, however this is compensated with appropriate recorded songs of praise and orchestrations that definitely lift our spirit.

With Bishop Murray visiting there was a feeling of celebration. In his sermon he spoke of the universal difficulties coping with COVID-19 and, in particular, to not taking our eyes from Jesus. The Pentecost 10 readings were very appropriate, particularly *Matthew 14. 22-36*. When in a small boat during a storm Peter was walking towards Jesus on the sea when he became frightened and began to sink. "Lord save me," he cried, and Jesus replied, "You of little faith," and reached out his hand and caught him.



Bishop Murray said that we must not take our eyes off Jesus for that is when we begin to falter. Jesus will always catch us.

After each service the cleaning team, under the guidance of Margaret Blaney, thoroughly clean and sanitise the church. It is a very big task and everyone is very grateful for the amazing job they do.

Of course we are not able to enjoy morning tea following the services, but the fellowship, at a safe distance, is definitely not failing. Thank you Bishop Harvey for your visit – we all felt uplifted by you being with us.



BDC announces 2020/2021 student leaders under an innovative leadership structure

Bishop Druitt College students have more innovative learning opportunities than ever before.

The senior leadership structure at BDC was redesigned and put into action in 2019, allowing for more student opportunities that include the areas of leadership, service, the arts, academic, and sport.

Within this leadership structure, each pair of school captains works with a staff mentor. The role of this staff mentor is to help and give guidance to the captains with direction and as an ideas sounding board, working effectively with their committees and as a conduit to help gain action on any decisions that are made by the committee.

For this new structure to work effectively, current best-practice and BDC students have identified that authentic, valid, heard, acted on student voice is fundamental to any leadership model, their fulfilment and success.

"We hope to make BDC a welcoming and creative space by sharing the arts and bringing them out into the open to be appreciated by the whole school community." - Arts Captains.

"As Captains, we hope to continue to embrace diversity and to inspire the BDC community to make the world a better place through service." - Service Captains.

"As academic captains, we envision a BDC community in which academic wellbeing is a central focus and students feel comfortable to grasp and explore new opportunities." - Academic Captains.

"We will strive to create a stronger sporting culture



within the BDC community and strive to accommodate students of all abilities." - Sport Captains

"As leadership captains, we strive to inspire leadership qualities throughout the school community and help grow potential in future leaders." - Leadership Captains.

"As House leaders, we want to encourage participation in all house activities and inspire the rest of our tutor groups to lead with us." - House Leaders.

The students who applied to become a leader needed to comply with certain criteria responsibilities in order to be successful candidates. Some of their leadership responsibilities include: representing the college at functions, involvement in presentation days, academic performance, lead and develop school-based forums, coordinate student feedback, tours, student voice, participate in charity events and more. Bishop Druitt College would like to publicly congratulate the student leaders for 2020/2021.

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.

Ezekiel and the Symbols of the Winged Creatures

Through June and July the lectionary readings for the *Daily Office of Evening Prayer* have included the writing of the Prophet Ezekiel. While Jeremiah was prophesying in Jerusalem that the city would soon fall to the Babylonians, Ezekiel was giving the same message to the captives who were already in Babylon. Ezekiel was a man who chose to obey God.

Although he was a priest, he served as a Jewish “street preacher” in Babylon for 22 years telling everyone about God’s judgment and salvation and calling them to repent and obey. Ezekiel lived what he preached and illustrated the message by dramatic imitation and faithfully proclaimed God’s word. The book of Ezekiel chronicles his life and ministry. Beginning with his call as a prophet and commissioning as a “watchmen for the house of Israel” (chapters 1-3), Ezekiel immediately began to preach and demonstrate God’s truth as he predicted the approaching siege and destruction of Jerusalem (chapters 4–24), the judgment of other nations (25–

32) and a message of hope as Ezekiel proclaimed the faithfulness of God and foretold the future blessings for God’s people (chapters 33–48).

Ezekiel’s call included a vision that revealed God’s absolute perfection. God was spiritually and morally superior to members of Israel’s corrupt and compromising society. Some of the visions of Ezekiel are now familiar to us in the iconography of the four Evangelists. The writings of Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John are often introduced by a cover plate illustrating the vision of the four living creatures with two sets of wings in *Ezekiel Chapter 1*. This same imagery is found in the *Book of Revelation (Chapter 4: 6-9)*.

There is no biblical link to the Evangelists but tradition and Romanesque art of Europe in Cathedrals, church frescoes or mural paintings identify the four evangelists with the symbolism of the vision. Matthew a winged man or angel, Mark a winged lion, Luke an ox, and John an eagle.



Anglican Funds
GRAFTON DIOCESE

Term Investment Accounts

Term	Interest Rate
90 days	0.75% p.a.
180 days	0.95% p.a.
365 days	1.00% p.a.

*Interest paid at maturity

Note: Special Interest Rates on Term Investments are available on request for funds \$100,000 & over

Saver Accounts

Balance	Interest Rate
Balances up to \$4,999	0.10% p.a.
\$5,000 to \$49,999	0.25% p.a.
\$50,000 and over	0.50% p.a.

*Interest paid six monthly

Cheque Accounts (Parishes, Ministry Units & Anglican Affiliate Entities Only)

Entity	Interest Rate
Parish	0.25% p.a.
Anglican Affiliate	0.25% p.a.

*Interest paid monthly

Cash Management Accounts (Parishes, Ministry Units & Anglican Affiliate Entities Only)

Entity	Interest Rate
Parish	0.50% p.a.
Anglican Affiliate	0.50% p.a.

*Interest paid monthly

*All Interest Rates are current as at 14th August 2020 and are subject to change

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Vale David Johnson

**BY KERRY JOHNSTON CF
CHURCHWARDEN, ST MARY'S PARISH OF BALLINA**

The funeral for my husband David Johnston was held at St Mary's Church, Ballina on June 12. David died on June 8 from Vascular Dementia and had been a resident in Boronia at St Andrew's Nursing Home Ballina since October 2017.

David became a parishioner at St Mary's when Canon Bill Doak was the Rector. During this time our children Dave, Cameron, Lachlan and Anna were baptised by Canon Doak. David was a member of Parish Council for many years and was actively involved in activities of the Parish. He was very involved in the planning and building of the new church at Ballina and worked closely with the Rev'd Geoff Smith.

David's contribution to his community, church, colleagues and family was the focus of the funeral service. Music provided by Hamsa Arnold and Abby Parkes provided and created a beautiful, heartfelt essence. One of David's favourite songs The Holy City was also part of the service.

The family accompanied David's coffin in a procession at the start of the service as Abby sang *Pie Jesu*. David's daughter Anna created a beautiful floral artwork for the coffin and sons Cameron and Lachlan read *John 14 - 1-3* and *1 John 7-13*. Eulogies were given by David's best friend Dr Fred de Looze, Pip Carter who was CEO when David was Chairman of the Board of St Andrews Nursing Home, David's eldest son Dave and myself.



David's grandchildren Asher, Evie, Mollie, Reuben, Anjali, Albert, Odamae and Walter participated in the placing of the Christian and family symbols.

The service was streamed allowing many friends in Australia and Japan to feel part of the service.

Grateful thanks to Archdeacon Matthew Jones, Rev'd Cathy Ridd, Executive Committee members John Phillips, Hugh McIntosh, John Bryen and St Mary's Parish members for their love and support.

"What we have once enjoyed we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us," said Helen Keller.

In Brief

APPOINTMENTS:

Community Minister – Byron

The Rev'd Rosie Wynter was recently commissioned as Associate Priest (Community Minister) in the new Parish of Byron.

Intentional Interim Minister – Mid Richmond

The Rev'd Lenore Moules has been appointed Intentional Interim Minister for the Parish of Mid Richmond.

FAREWELL:

The Rev'ds Christine and Bob Woolner – Nambucca Heads - The Woolners were farewelled this month after an extended period as Intentional Locums at Nambucca Heads. They have returned to the Sunshine Coast to be closer to family and resume their retirement.

DIARY DATES:

26/27 September: Synod at St Columba Anglican School, Port Macquarie.

9 October: Induction of new members of Bishop-in-Council.

15/16 October: Governance training days for members of Bishop-in-Council and Corporate Trustees.

16 October: Ordination to the Diaconate of Aaron Coates and Grant Sparks at Grafton Cathedral.

18 October: Ordination to the Diaconate of Kassimiro Yanga at St John's Coffs Harbour.

20 October: Ordination to the Diaconate of David Brown at St Mary's Ballina.

Hildegard of Bingen

ABBESS AND SPIRITUAL WRITER. DIED 1179. FEAST DAY 17 SEPTEMBER.

Hildegard, born in 1098, was the 10th child of noble family, Hildebert and his wife Mechtilde of Bernersheim. At the age of eight she was sent to be taught by Jutta of Disibodenberg, a holy woman and Benedictine anchoress living near a Benedictine monastery between Mainz and Trier in the Rhineland. Jutta became her foster-mother and spiritual guide.

Still in her teens Hildegard became a nun living according to the Benedictine Rule. Other women came to join them and eventually they formed a women's monastery. When Jutta died in 1136 Hildegard was elected the new abbess. Five years later after a serious illness she wrote, "When I was 42 years and seven months old a burning light of tremendous brightness coming from heaven poured into my entire mind like a flame that does not burn but enkindles. It enflamed my entire heart and breast, like the sun that warms an object with its rays. All at once I was able to taste of the understanding of books, the *Psalter*, the *Evangelists*, and the books of the Old and New Testament.

Hildegard was an extraordinary woman living in a time when the world was interested in religious and philosophical thought; a mystic, poet, musician, artist, director of souls and a prolific writer. Her music is beautiful and inordinately difficult to sing, as it includes many dissonances and passages in a minor key and her writings compass the order and structure of the universe and the mystery revealed in her visions which she was encouraged to write down and paint.

She made it clear that her visions were not hallucinations or dreams but were experienced when

she was fully awake and looking around with a clear mind, "With her inner eyes and ears in open places according to the will of God". She has recorded 13 visions which describe the essential and dynamic unity of all living things under God; the heavens and the earth the elements, mountains, rivers and seas, plants and trees. She sees the Holy Trinity like a flame; the shining brightness represents the Father, the "purple vigour", the Son, and the fiery glow is the Holy Spirit poured into the heart of believers.

She produced studies on nature and medicine, liturgical songs and corresponded with popes, emperors and kings including King Henry II of England and church leaders such as Bernard of Clairvaux. She travelled widely and at age 60 preached extensively to clergy: monks, nuns and lay people and preached against those who supported the Crusades and died at the age of 81. Her works are still being published and her music is available even on compact disc.

Can we in this time of pandemic restrictions be set free as we pray with Hildegard of Bingen.

St Hildegard's Prayer to the Holy Spirit
Fire of the Spirit, life of the lives of creatures, spiral of sanctity, bond of all natures,
Glow of charity, lights of clarity, taste of sweetness to sinners, be with us and hear us.
Composer of all things, light of all the risen key of salvation release from the dark prison
Hope of all union, scope of chastities joy in the glory, strong honour, be with us and hear us.
Amen

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."



Don't be afraid, for I am with you.
Don't be discouraged, for I am
your God. I will strengthen you
and help you. I will hold you up
with my victorious right hand.

ISAIAH 41:10

