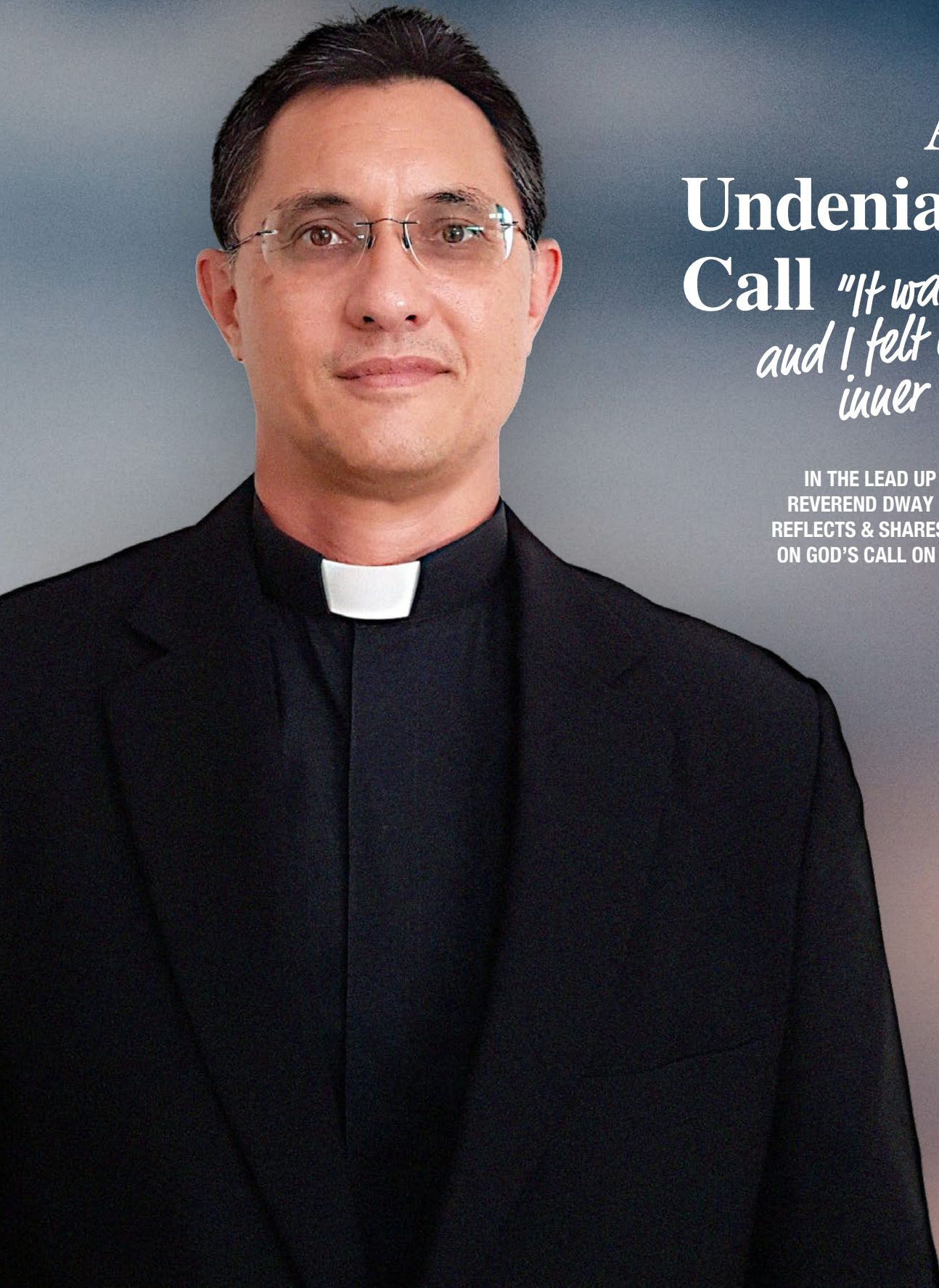


MAGAZINE OF THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF GRAFTON, NEW SOUTH WALES

NORTH COAST ANGLICAN

SUMMER 2021 | ISSUE NO 2



An Undeniable Call

"It was strong and I felt it in my inner being"

IN THE LEAD UP TO ADVENT,
REVEREND DWAY GOON CHEW
REFLECTS & SHARES HIS STORY
ON GOD'S CALL ON HIS LIFE, P2

A letter from the Bishop

I read recently that a missing man in Turkey accidentally joined his own search party for hours before realising that he was the person they were looking for. The penny dropped when he heard his own name being called out by one of the other searchers.

Sometimes in 2021, I've felt a bit like this man. Well-meaning but quite disoriented, bewildered and confused by the many changes, reversals, cancellations and rearrangements that the year has brought. For most of us, living with the Delta strain of COVID-19 in 2021 has been even more challenging than the beginning of the Pandemic in 2020.

The Season of Advent marks the beginning of a new Christian Year. The word comes from the Latin *advenio*, meaning come or happen. There is also a sense that we come up against, or encounter, what God is doing in the world.

Advent can help us to make sense of what has been a difficult year and to see it in the light of the fullness of God's purposes and time. It's helpful to remember too that this season is not just about recalling and



celebrating what God has done in the past but of honouring what he is doing now and discerning what he might do in the future.

May this Advent be for you a time of hopeful anticipation, as you follow the path to Bethlehem and beyond to discover blessing, gift and joy.

† *Murray*

NORTH COAST ANGLICAN

Transforming lives through Jesus Christ

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ALL CONTENT

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Advent in Grafton:

When rubber hits the road

During Advent Bishop Sarah Macneil and Fr Ian Chaplin will be leading 4 sessions at Grafton Cathedral, exploring various aspects of the Five Marks of Mission and how they relate to our everyday practice of Christian faith in the contemporary world.

Live-streaming from Grafton Cathedral at 5:30-6:15pm on four Tuesdays during this year's Advent:

23
NOV

30
NOV

7
DEC

14
DEC

What are the Five Marks of Mission?

What's happening around the world?

What's happening in Australia?

What's happening in our parishes and our own lives?

What can we learn?

What can we imagine and dream?

We encourage you to form local groups and watch the livestream together, then discuss the presentation over drinks or a meal.

Let's explore how we can live our faith in these complex times.

Join the livestream via our website, or Youtube channel 'Christ Church Cathedral Grafton'.

www.graftoncathedral.org.au/advent2021

Discerning my call to the Priesthood

BY REVEREND DWAY GOON CHEW

In one sense discerning a call to the priesthood, is similar to anyone deciding how God is calling them to live their lives. In 1 Peter 2:9, we are reminded that all Christians are a royal priesthood, and in our Baptismal vows we are all asked whether we will turn to Jesus and live as his disciples. That said, I would like to share with you some of my journey of discernment to ordination.

Origins

I am a cradle Anglican. My parents were baptised and confirmed in the Anglican Church, and since birth, I have known nothing other than being part of an Anglican Faith Community. Initially I took this for granted, but as I grew older, I came to realise the privilege and blessing that was gifted to me.

The Call

When I was teenager, my mother challenged me about what it meant to accept Jesus personally. I began to own my own faith and follow Jesus more intentionally. I remember devouring the bible until I had read it from cover to cover and when I was around 16 years old, I felt God calling me to full time Christian Ministry. It wasn't specifically to 'priesthood'. I had met a youth

worker from another parish and thought that God might use me in the same way.

Although my sense of call was not to a specific ministry, it was strong and I felt it in my inner being. It was a calling which was undeniable. It wasn't until much later when I read the book "Called or Collared" by Reverend Francis Dewar, that I understood this sense of having an undeniable calling was not unique.

Response

I met with my local priest who was retired (but still leads worship on a Sunday) and he suggested that I become a teacher first. I met another priest and he suggested that I do a trade, so I would have something to 'fall back on'. This suggestion struck me as very odd. I wondered why I would need something to 'fall back onto'.

There didn't appear to be a clear path between leaving school and going into Christian Ministry, so I took on board some of the advice I was given. I became a civil engineer and worked in construction and infrastructure management with the a plan to study theology down the track. How would God use me to share the Good News of Jesus with others?



Reminder

Leeza and I married and it was as if we were on 'autopilot'. Life was good, but busy, and the plan to study theology was still distant. I had worked for a few different companies, but when I was 29 in a new job, for the first time I felt I didn't really fit in. It was a very difficult working environment, but it turned out to be a blessing in disguise. It forced me to call out to God, which in turn lead me to meet with the Bishop of North Queensland.

“

...it was strong and I felt within my inner being. It was a calling which was undeniable.

There was a genuine warmth in our meeting, but I remember he said something along the lines of "This process of discernment will be long and difficult, and if you end up being ordained, it will probably mean God wanted it to happen". Again, I thought this was an odd thing to say, but it ended up helping me through the process.

Ordination

The discernment process started formally in 1998. I was ordained as a deacon in 2003, and as a priest in 2004.

This discernment was not only mine. As part of the Body of Christ, it is not just up to an individual to claim a call to be ordained. The Church must discern, examine, prepare and confirm the suitability of those who come forward.

Of course, there have been ups and downs, highs and lows, but I have felt God's hand on my life throughout it all and I will continue to seek God's will into the future. • NCA

Images: (Top left) Reverend Dway with his wife, Leeza, son, Luke and daughter, Emily at his ordination to the diaconate at St' James Cathedral, Townsville, 2003; (Top right) Reverend Dway being ordained to the priesthood by Bishop John Noble at St' James Cathedral, Townsville, 2004.



Bishop Druitt College builds teamwork & resilience in disasters

BY KATHERINE LISTKOW, ACTING MARKETING & EVENTS COORDINATOR, B.D.C

They say that things come in threes, and this is true for Bishop Druitt College's exposure to natural disasters since the start of 2020.

First, in February 2020, bushfires raged through the outskirts of the town which is surrounded by state forest. These fires caused a school evacuation as a safety precaution from smoke and embers that had covered the school. It also gave families an opportunity to protect their properties.

Then in March 2021, floods caused more heartache for the local residents and a large cleanup. For Bishop Druitt College, the rising waters caused further evacuations due to the threat of the school community being closed off from their families. This had happened once before in 2009, where some 300 students were forced to 'camp out' in the campus hall until the flood waters receded – a memory that many students hold dearly in their memories.

"Each time these natural disasters have struck, Bishop Druitt College has implemented a well-rehearsed and finely-executed exodus from the school grounds," said BDC principal Nick Johnstone. "Our priority has always

been to keep students and staff safe, and families comforted that Bishop Druitt College is taking the lead on safety."

More recently in the hail storms which hit Coffs Harbour in October 2021, there was no time to pre-empt an evacuation. The supercell hailstorm, which dumped golf ball sized hail, caused significant damage to many properties at the southern end of Coffs Harbour.

"The storm occurred on a Wednesday during school hours, and it was scary. Again, our priority was the safety of students and staff, and thankfully, the storm subsided quickly," said Mr Johnstone.

The now well-versed staff at BDC kept the students safe and comforted during the storm, and helped them to navigate their way safely from the campus through the knee-deep hail mounds.

It was only then that the BDC staff team could review the damage. As a result of the storm, more than 22 classrooms and office spaces at the BDC campus were damaged. Deemed unsafe, the school was subsequently closed, and students moved to online learning.



How did Bishop Druit College recover from this disaster so quickly?

All staff on campus for day one of the closure, assessed the damage, cleaned up the mess and engaged with local contractors to get support quickly. More than 40 contractors were on the site within 24 hours, including carpet cleaners, tree removalists, water removalists, roof repairers, and electricians, to repair the water damage. Students enjoyed a pupil free day, and were encouraged to support their families and neighbours with their cleanups at home.

"We received an overwhelming amount of support from families offering help with the clean-up," said Mr Johnstone. "We also received many calls from families at the school whose homes were damaged, so we were able to offer them some support, by connecting staff and families to those who needed help during this time."

Meanwhile, the teaching staff were preparing for online learning. Due to the COVID-19 lockdowns in 2020 and 2021, the college has learnt a lot about alternative modes of delivery. They seamlessly returned to class only two school days after the storm hit the campus.



Many of the students excitedly shared their retrospective experience of 'that time we had to wade through the hail at school'. This seamless transition meant minimal interruptions to learning, many of whom were at critical exam and assessment periods during early Term 4.

"We are so grateful to the BDC community (families, staff and students), who went over and above to get the campus ready to welcome students back", said Mr Johnstone. "While the cleanup in the community is still going on (we expect it too for some time), we are so proud of what we were able to achieve, together. • NCA

Images: (Top left) B.D.C. students from year three holding hailstones after the storm; (Top right images) The school grounds covered with hail, after and during the storm.



A student's perspective:

What service means to us at Bishop Druitt College

BY KATIE HODGSON AND TEMESGEN BAHTA, PRIMARY SERVICE CAPTAINS, YEAR 6

We are the Service Captains for 2021 at Bishop Druitt College, Coffs Harbour. We have two key roles as Captains. One is to help lead chapel services in the school, and the other is to serve our local community.

Our role in leading chapel services includes acting out bible passages, writing prayers, lighting the candle and adjusting the arrow to point to the right week on our liturgical calendar. We also organise special jobs for younger students to do at chapel services.

Our favourite Chapel this year was when we acted out The Beatitudes. The message we took away was about God's special care for those in difficult situations. We also enjoyed listening to guest speaker, Rev Richard Browning. He inspired us as he acted out biblical agricultural stories.

As Service Captains, we care about serving the community. We've represented the school at Sustainability meetings with students from schools around the world, as part of the Round Square program. We've learnt that there's so many little things that we could be doing. There are easy ways to save our environment, and have started a composting

system for our food waste (from morning tea and lunch). We're also planning on starting a worm farm. God has created so many beautiful parts of the environment and it's our responsibility to protect the things that God made.

We've carried the school flag at the ANZAC Day March in Coffs Harbour. It felt fulfilling to represent the school, as we're remembering and honouring people who died protecting us.

As we write this, we are about to go to 'The Soupie' which is the local Soup Kitchen in Coffs Harbour, and Warrina Women's Shelter. This is where our school's Christmas Hampers go every year. We're going to see where all our donations will go. We'll come back and start collecting donations of food, toiletries and baby items from students at school for the hampers, to present at the Christmas Service. Christmas is about giving. We feel like it's really good to donate to those in need.

We have been the first Service Captains for Primary at Bishop Druitt College, so we've had to create our role. It has been an exciting challenge. God has helped us on this journey for this past year, and we can't wait for the journey ahead into high school. • NCA

You call that a career?

BY REVEREND GREG MARCH

I think I was 24. The idea of all that raw 'stuff' did not attract me at all! Yet, here I was with a stranger, an ex-christian monk, on holiday at a Japanese restaurant in Adelaide, thousands of Kilometres away from Brisbane, saying: "I've been feeling this urge, this prompting to be a priest since I was about 15 and I don't want to do it, but it won't go away, and it is getting louder and more insistent. It annoys me a lot. What should I do?" "Ask God, 'what would make God happy?'" He replied.

I thought 'That's hardly a great and profound spiritual insight!' But I did it anyway. I shot up an arrow prayer in that strange place, at that strange time. "Lord, what would make you happy?" The answer came back as quick as a flash. I was surprised by its promptness and clarity. "I want you to be a priest. I want you to build Christian community in parishes". So I knew I had no choice. I knew what I had to do. Finally, after all this time, I was resolved.

Back in Brisbane, I was in a lecture, 'Managerial Accounting 2' at Queensland Institute of Technology – a subject that I hated as I progressed forward in my part-time study to gain a Bachelor of Business (Accountancy). The gnawing of the call, like an annoying ear-worm, was still eating away into my mind. I had not done anything yet. So I did something I had never done before. I left the lecture after the first break and went home to pray to get rid of the ear-worm.

Around midnight, I thought that I'd better do something about the annoying ear-worm of a call. So I wrote a letter to my Rector telling him I was going to be a priest in God's church. At that ungodly hour, I put the letter in his letter box. I wonder what the neighbours thought. And then it hit me like a ton of bricks – Peace. Peace at last. And it hasn't disappeared since.



“

The gnawing of the call,
like an annoying ear-worm,
was still eating away into
my mind.

Flip forward to my mum's birthday at a very 'swanky' restaurant. This only child was telling his parents that he was going to leave his career of the money market, equity analysis and investment portfolio management in a large corporation, to study to be a priest. "I'm going to go to the interviews to become an Anglican priest." My dad said: "I feel like I've lost a son. That's not a real career!" I felt devastated, but still at peace.

A couple of months before my dad died, after four parishes, and many executive positions in the church my dad said for the first time: "I'm proud of you".

The peace continues. • NCA

Around the Diocese



Members of Celtic Fusion: Dougie, David, Deisree and Marius

Raising the roof, raising spirits and raising money for charity!

St Martin's Mullumbimby hosted the 'Bach Bagpipes and Beatles' concert on the 11th July. Desiree, Rector of Alstonville and her band of merry musicians delighted the audience with their talents and tunes.

In a time when live entertainment is at an all-time low, it was a joy to be able to include this event in the Byron Parish diary! There was a COVID capacity crowd who were all left wanting more!

The concert was a fundraiser for 'Make-a-Wish' foundation and \$1700 was raised.



Callum and Rev. Matthew Jones after the Baptism

A significant moment for Callum

Callum Sawras took a significant step in his spiritual journey on June 27th when he was baptised at St Mary's. Callum, who is almost 15 years old, is from Lennox Head. He made this choice to be baptised on his own and is well supported by his family.

Callum, once attended Emmanuel Anglican College and now attends Richmond Christian College. He was supported by the Principal of Ballina Christian College, Mr. Jonathon Simmons.



A collation and a welcoming

On the 22nd September 2021, The Ven. Zoe Everingham was collated as Archdeacon of the Southern Region and The Ven. Judy Edwards was commissioned as Archdeacon (Acting) of the Northern Region at Christ Church Cathedral.

Left to right: The Reverend Canon Camellia Flanagan, Archdeacon Zoe Everingham, Bishop Murray Harvey, Archdeacon Judy Edwards and Mark Cameron



Images: (Left) By Judi Kent, (Above) St Patrick's Church in Nimbin, before the fire

Fire destroys historic church at Nimbin

Police are still investigating a mystery fire at Nimbin which destroyed the town's Catholic Church.

Arson is believed to be one line of inquiry being pursued by fire investigators.

St Patrick's Church in Cullen Street has been part of the Nimbin community for decades, but has not been used for worship for some time.

A spokesperson for the Lismore Parish said although St Patrick's had not been used for mass it was still a consecrated building.

All sacramental items had been removed.

A dozen NSW Rural Fire Service fire-fighters were called to the scene of the blaze, which broke out shortly after dark.

The fire quickly destroyed the building, which collapsed in on itself.

The fire comes almost five years after Nimbin's museum and well-known Rainbow Cafe, also in the main street, were destroyed by fire.

Bishop Murray with Obed Osuchukwu and his father, The Reverend Constantine Osuchukwu



Reverend Constantine Osuchukwu commissioned as Chaplain

On 16th June, 2021, The Reverend Constantine Osuchukwu was commissioned as Chaplain of Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School.

When the Minister Rode a Horse: Eureka Recalls 126 Years

More than 120 years of faithful church history has ended at Eureka, north of Lismore, with the closure of St Aiden's Church.

A Thanksgiving Service, led by Archdeacon Matthew Jones and Locum Rector of Byron Parish, Rev. Sandra Kjellgren, celebrated the history and community support for the church opened in 1895.

Many of the worshippers attending the service were fourth generation descendants of pioneer settlers who felled timber in The Big Scrub and helped build the area's first Anglican Church.

At its peak the Parish of Eureka embraced the villages of Clunes, Federal, Goonengerry, Springvale, Rosebank, Repentance Creek and Eltham.

Its closure is part of the re-structuring program of the Diocese of Grafton and the incorporation of the former Parishes of Byron Bay, Bangalow and Mullumbimby into the new Parish of Byron.

A history of the Eureka parish written by parishioner, Christopher Gray, offers fascinating accounts of its day to day history drawn from parish records.

Providing suitable transport for the minister (and the means to pay for it) was among the most common challenges for parish council.

In the early years of the 20th century the choice lay between horseback, sulky, motor bike and car with parishioners struggling to find money to provide any of these.

Christopher Gray's book also reveals some telling opinions of ministers unhappy with the response of worshippers, or the lack of them.



Deconsecration of St Faiths Doubtful Creek

Members of the Parish of Casino gathered together for the Deconsecration Service at St Faith's Doubtful Creek on Saturday 18th September, followed by a picnic lunch in the grounds of the church.

The parish register shows the exasperation of one vicar in 1911 when he wrote "Evening. Three present, full moon, beautiful night, but too lazy to meet with God. Not even a church warden."

Perhaps he should have opted for Morning Prayer!

Records show the amazing loyalty of many parishioners. Mrs A. E. Hill, nee Emily Gallaher was the parish organist for 60 years.

Not surprising knowing the Gallaher family who were key parish supporters for generations and at the 1995 centenary celebration cricket match provided almost an entire team.

Fourth generation descendant Ron Weir, remembers picnics, concerts, church dinners, Sunday school outings, birthday celebrations, cricket matches and other sports days as part of parish activities.

"There were big families and we all came together whenever the opportunity presented", he said.

"This church was the centre of our lives."

Image (Left), from left to right: Gabriel Strong (descendant of the Gallaher family who attended St Aidan's for over 100 years), Amanda Coutts (the new owner of the building), and Julieanne Sinclair, Joan Davies and Patricia Ellis, who were all former worshippers.

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

28
NOV

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual global event supported by the United Nations that aims to draw community and government attention to the gendered violence that women

and girls experience. The 16 Days starts on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, International Human Rights Day. This year's global campaign theme is: **"Orange the World: End violence against women now!"**

St James Anglican Church in Kyogle is holding a service in support of the 16 Days Campaign. It will be at St James Anglican Church, corner Kyogle and Campbell Road on Sunday, November 28 at 8.30 am. Everyone is welcome to attend the service.

Farewell to Dean Greg Jenks

Dean Greg has made many significant contributions to the life of our Diocese and has recently raised the profile of the Anglican Church in our diocese by coming third in the Clarence Valleys most Influential People 2020. Below is the motion crafted by Archdeacon Zoe and seconded by Canon Terry Shorten that was to go to the 2021 Synod before we had to cancel it. I believe it echoes the sentiments of most in the Diocese. The Dean's farewell service is on the 21st of November at 9 am.

Dean Greg, you will be missed.
Archdeacon Tiffany Sparks

Motion to 2nd session of the 37th Synod 2021

That Synod recognises the imminent retirement of The Very Reverend Dr Greg Jenks as the Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, acknowledges his significant contribution to the life of the Diocese of Grafton, and thanks him for his scholarly leadership, his valuable involvement in multiple committees, including the restructure of the Diocese, and the Board of Anglicare North Coast, his attention to heritage building improvements and the establishment of functioning state of the

A New Chaplain for St Columba Anglican School, Port Macquarie

A highly experienced Anglican priest has been appointed chaplain at St Columba Anglican School, Port Macquarie.

The Rev. John (Jon) Cornish is well known for his years of service in the Diocese of Brisbane. Though more recently he has served in Dubai and Western Australia in school chaplaincy.

Rev. Jon takes up this role following Rev. Paul Hodge's resignation as chaplain.

His appointment was announced recently by the Bishop of Grafton, the Rt. Rev. Dr Murray Harvey.

"Jon will commence at St Columba's in term one of 2022," Bishop Murray said. "I look forward to welcoming Jon to the school and the Diocese early next year."



art technology in the Cathedral, his encouraging work with the Cathedral Parish team, and his collaboration with civic leaders both locally and at NSW state level following the massacre in Christchurch, New Zealand, in 2019.

Greg, Synod hopes that retirement affords you the opportunity to explore those things close to your heart that have had to be put aside because of your dedication to ministry during your working life.

Synod prays every blessing be upon Eve and yourself as you come to that time when distance no longer separates. • NCA

Moved: The Venerable Zoe Everingham
Seconded: Canon Terry Shorten

Introductory Online Pastoral Care Course

BY DR ROSS LEHMAN FROM LISMORE ANGLICANS ON BEHALF OF DR LEON ANKERSMIT,
DIRECTOR AT ANGLICARE NORTH COAST

Do you provide pastoral care support within your church community? Or do you volunteer at a hospital, or aged-care facility? This course is for you!

This course goes through vital topics, such as: Listening Skills, Vulnerability; Shame & Guilt; Understanding the art of Questioning (General, Specific & God-focussed); the importance of Reflection; Encouragement; Equip by training, Connection, and Love in Action; Prayer; Responsibility continuum; Boundaries and a Biblical foundation for pastoral care.

**HIGHLY
RECOMMENDED
for clergy and
lay people.**

The online course is offered by Zoom, one day a week, for five weeks, from 9:00am – 2:00pm with breaks for Morning Tea and Lunch.

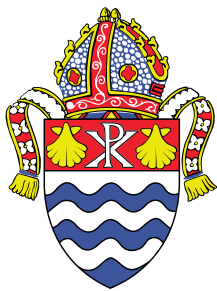
The cost is \$80 and a completion Certificate is provided.

For the next coarse dates in 2022, please check anglicare.org.au, or keep an eye out for our monthly email newsletter.

Registration is essential and should be made as soon as possible, as each course is limited to 20 participants.



For further information, email ACPD@anglicare.org.au or call 1300 111 278



Grafton Diocese

Mission & Ministry Overview

God's work equipped by God's Spirit

Vision Statement

Transforming lives through Jesus Christ.

Mission Statement

Sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, making disciples and growing faith communities.

Diocesan Prayer

God in whom we live and move and have our being, we thank you for Jesus Christ who is the good news. By the power of your Holy Spirit, enable us to be people who transform lives, make disciples and grow communities, that your glory may be revealed in all creation. We pray this through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Five Marks of Mission

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind, and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.



Priorities

Faithfully strengthen our mission focus

- Intentionally build up new disciples
- Reinvigorate all age ministry
- Encourage closer relationships between schools and parishes
- Collaborate with care and advocacy agencies

Resource and equip people for Mission and Ministry

- Enrich our spiritual life
- Continue education for Lay Ministers
- Leadership and change management training
- Training in behavioural and cultural issues
- Encourage people to use technology

Support local partnerships/initiatives

- Ecumenical relationships & inter-faith dialogue
- Collaborate across regions and between parishes

Attend to our governance and culture

- Develop policies and procedures
- Expand the Diocesan website to centralise resources
- Promote environmental stewardship

Restructure the Diocese

- Engage external consultants
- Explore innovative models of ministry
- Analyse use of Diocesan properties

The Presence of God

BY SISTER HELEN CSC

Can we recognise and appreciate the presence of God in the ordinary things of life? In beauty and ugliness, suffering and joy, meeting with friends and strangers, in the feel of a fowl's soft feathers and even in the not so ordinary scams that stress us when we are using the internet?

Sometimes we might stop and gaze at the beauty of a sunset or sunrise, or a particular flower. At other times, all we might see around us is rubbish or a horrible mess we want to avoid.

The other morning I was walking down our driveway when a vibrant orange colour caught my eye. In amongst the leaf litter and grass under the gum trees, I saw a glowing leaf lying on the ground. It was briefly lit by the sun shining between some trees. I stopped to wonder and appreciate it.

Beauty in nature can appear in many places. It is part of our world, ready as God's presence, to lift our spirits and encourage us to give thanks to God. Animals also

offer pleasure and comfort with their acceptance of us, being there to hold and handle when Covid-19 restricts our contact with other humans. However, there are times in our daily lives when we tend to overlook God's presence in nature, animals and the people surrounding us.

In Mark 6:1-13 we have a story of Jesus returning to Nazareth and to the people he grew up with and served as a carpenter. They thought they knew Jesus and his family well, but to their surprise, Jesus suddenly stood up on the Sabbath and began to teach them in the synagogue.

The people didn't know how to respond. How could this young man who was one of them, teach them anything? What would he know? They were not prepared to listen to Jesus or learn from what he said. Most of them believed they knew more than he did. They were older and had more experience. Further, he was only a carpenter like his father, not a trained rabbi. The people were not open to receive anything from Jesus.

Are we open to gratefully receive God's love and care in our everyday environment? How can experiences in ordinary places teach us anything?



When we are tired or stressed, we can forget that God is with us. There always seems to be a place where we can find God's presence if we are open to seeing.

Services I have taken at Aged Care Facilities can be a little chaotic and distracting. Sometimes I ask myself, how can this group of people know the presence of God when someone is calling out or muttering, and people are moving in or out of the room?

But there is a deeper presence pervading all. These people accept and respect each other. They value this time of worship together as residents and members of God's family. It is an opportunity for them to be Christ's body within the Aged Care Facility, to receive God's love, and to pray for one another and all who are in need. I have experienced God's love and presence in such gatherings, lifting me out of my current worries and stress.

Each night when we lie down to sleep, we have the opportunity to give thanks for all that happened

during the day. We may have experienced stressful or painful moments. Maybe even some small, thoughtful acts of care. Perhaps a stranger we passed in the street smiled at us, acknowledging our being.

In our daily lives, we should never underestimate other people, ourselves or nature. We are all part of God's creation, where God's presence can be found. Such a presence is revealed when we are open to it, and observe the beauty of the kingdom of God breaking into our world.

As humans, we have the freedom to pause, notice, and give thanks to God and others for what we see and experience, or we could simply look elsewhere and hurry on to our next activity. When we avoid such glimpses, we may unknowingly prevent God's presence from reaching others through us. Each day, like a leaf lit by the sun, we can choose to allow God's light to reveal the beauty of God's love in our world for everyone, including ourselves. • NCA

DIOCESAN PRAYER

**God in whom we live and move and have our being,
we thank you for Jesus Christ who is the good news.**

**By the power of your Holy Spirit,
enable us to be people who transform lives,
make disciples and grow communities,
that your glory may be revealed in all creation.
We pray this through your Son, Jesus Christ.**

Amen

A cuppa with Jan Fryer

Settle in with a cup of tea or coffee and meet Jan Fryer from St John's, Lennox Head to find out what projects she is currently working on, about her faith journey, favourite scripture verse, and what she would sing at a karaoke night.

Where do you currently live and where do you worship?

My husband Graham and I are retired and we live and worship in Lennox Head at St John's. We were both school teachers. We have three sons and moved here over 37 years ago when our second son was born.

How long have you been involved in the Anglican Church and in what roles?

I've always been involved. How lucky am I! I was born in 1956 and baptised as a baby, in the Anglican Church at St Peter's Bendolba, a little location 10 minutes out of Dungog, NSW. I worshipped at St Peter's, Bendolba until I was married in 1978. The church was built on our family's dairy farm after my grandparents donated land for the church to use, on the proviso that they could still run cattle in the paddock. To the chagrin of the congregation, they often had to step over cow pats to enter the church.

My roles in the church have been many and varied, starting with being a Sunday School teacher at 12; Mothers Union member and Caritas member at St Mark's in Casino; and then Parish Councillor, Church Server, Messy Church helper, Cursillo table leader, prayer chain member and being involved in PACT (Prayer and Care Team) at St Mary's, Ballina.

What are your current Anglican Church roles and how do these roles contribute to the Church's mission?

Presently, I am one of two parish Media Officers and an acolyte at Lennox Head, which includes being a Eucharist Assistant, reader and intercessor, and a sound and data desk operator. I am also a BCEC (Ballina Christian Education Committee) representative.



Our mission in Ballina is to be 'an inclusive Christ-centred community growing in our relationship with God and the wider community', so I think these roles contribute to this.

What Anglican Church projects and activities are you currently working on?

As Media Officer I write content for the North Coast Anglican and news stories for submission to local papers, not that many exist now. I am the secretary for the BCEC, which has existed for over 22 years, and employs a paid SRE Teacher at Ballina Coast High School; and I attend 'Coffee and Chat' and 'Coffee and Conversation', which are outreach initiatives in the community.

What has been one of the highlights of your time in the Diocese of Grafton?

My Cursillo weekend held at Woodburn, was a real highlight of God in action. During the 'Dying moments' segment, I realised I had been harbouring a lot of resentments that had been impacting my marriage relationship. From that time our marriage has become better and better. We have been married now for over 43 years. The Cursillo Movement Reunion groups have continued to give me many amazing Christian friendships.

Can you tell us a little about your personal faith journey?

I grew up in a Christian home led by my father's steadfast faith and example. He is 90 years of age now. I moved away when I was an older teenager, returning when I married and had children. Along the way there have been many inspiring and uplifting moments (jam) but the ordinary times (the bread and butter) are what have fed my faith.

How does your vocation as a spouse intersect with your faith?

As a Christian wife, my role is to look to my husband for guidance in all important issues. (1 Corinthians 11:3). In the same way, a Christian wife like me is placed on a pedestal and valued by my husband so my views are important (Ephesians 5:33) too. Marriage has not been a walk in the park, but we complement each other in our Christian beliefs and these have helped us overcome our problems. We have been married for 43 years now.

How do your related vocations as a mother and grandmother intersect with your faith?

I see my role as a mother to model my faith. I always prayed over my children at night and as they left for school, and I read them Christian stories. I've always gone to church and once my youngest son was asked by someone what he liked to do. He was 3 years old and said, 'I like to go to the Bible Studies!'. Now I give all my grandchildren a bible of their own, and discuss the big issues in life with the older children. I take them to church when they visit (or we go with them when we visit). And I play with them and love them.



Images: (Above) Jan Fryer on left, with two friends at their confirmation in 1973, at Christ Church Anglican Church, Dungog; (Below) 'Messy Church' Teams from Ballina and Alstonville Parishes.

What advice do you have for newlyweds in our community?

My advice is: Love unconditionally, forgive often, and build goals together. Learn what your love languages are and provide for each other's needs.

If you could go back in time to when your first child was born, what would you say to encourage yourself?

All things of value are worth working hard for. Trust yourself and lean on God and trust him as he only wants the best for those who belong to him.

How does serving as a lay person in the Church help build the kingdom?

Serving as a layperson is a two way street. There is so much reward in giving. Serving in a supportive community gives me confidence and growth as a person.

What is your favourite scripture and why?

1 Thessalonians 5:17: "Pray without ceasing." This, for me, is like having God with you every step of the day. ➤





Images: (Above) Receiving a donation for BCEE from Ballina Parish at the AGM; (Below) Jan, third from left, singing in the altos at Evensong at St Mary's, Ballina in 2018.

What person of faith inspires you the most and why?

I can't pin it down to one person, but I can point to some amazing Anglican women, particularly Dorothy (Armstrong) Collings and Ellen Goodger from Casino, and Marg Tait from Ballina, who have all passed on now, along with my two beautiful godmothers, aunty Margaret and aunty Pat. They lived their faith and inspired me to be my best self. I also remember how my youth group leaders made me see Christianity as fun!

What are the primary strengths of the Anglican Church and what is the best way to make the most of these for the benefit of our communities?

I like that it's a mainstream denomination with time-tested liturgies harking back to Henry VIII. It's also a very supportive and encouraging community, willing to reach out to the wider community and connect into support networks – doing the Gospel, not just talking it!

What is the kindest gesture you have ever received in the Diocese of Grafton?

Every week I see friends from the church who freely give of themselves to support each other and our community in a kindly, trustworthy and confidential manner in things like our op shop, singing to palliative care patients, praying and hospital visiting. Their sacrificial attitude and example feels like a kindness being done to me.

What is the best piece of advice you have ever received and who gave you this advice?

So many words of wisdom from many forgotten sources, but my favourite is that Christians are not perfect just forgiven!

What is most important to you?

My faith because being valued is very important to me; my family – husband, three boys, their wives and our six grandchildren and extended family; my friends; reading; singing; and recycling. Lots of money and power do not mean that much to me, but I am so grateful for what I do have!

How would your friends describe you?

I can only hope that they describe me as being interested in others, talkative, friendly, encouraging, kind, caring, generous, knowledgeable and family orientated.

If you could choose to do anything for a day, what would it be?

First, I'd double the hours in the day because I often feel there's never enough time to do all the things I'd like to do each day. I'd swim, walk, talk or visit friends, paint a picture, do some craft, contact our grandchildren, go op shopping, sing, read, research and cook and eat. I'm feeling tired now.

What would you sing at a karaoke night?

Singing is one of my passions in life. I would sing, 'I Am Woman' by Helen Reddy, followed by 'Count On Me' by Bruno Mars, and would finish with 'Hallelujah' by Leonard Cohen!

If you are having a bad day, what do you do to cheer yourself up?

Pray, ring or FaceTime our sons, grandchildren or a friend, research interesting items on the Internet, sing, cook and eat nice food, get busy or go shopping at the op shop. • NCA





Virtues and Vices

The three theological virtues are known to be Faith, Hope and Love (Love sometimes being translated as Charity). They cannot be learned or earned, but are gifts from God which are planted in our souls, and which draw us to God. They are mentioned in Saint Paul's first letter to the Corinthians (chapter 13) and are easily found in the symbolism of religious art and embroidery.

There are three stained glass windows in Grafton Cathedral Chapel of the Epiphany. They are named: 'Faith – St John', 'Hope – the Virgin Mary' and 'Love – Jesus', reminding us of these virtues and of the Cardinal or Hinged (Moral) Virtues on which the Theological Virtues hang. They are justice, prudence, temperance, and fortitude, extending to hospitality, humility, empathy, and innocence.

As we grow in faith and understanding walking with Christ in our lives, these virtues develop and we grow more loving, creating harmony and fostering hopefulness in ourselves and others.

In the battle between virtues and vices we often find them illustrated in pairs as opposites, for example, hope against despair; charity or love against envy; humility against pride; justice against injustice and so on.

Faith is sometimes illustrated as a chalice or a lighted candle. Hope may be seen as an anchor, sometimes with an ivy vine a symbol of never-ending hope or eternity, or as a ship voyaging hopefully onwards.

The universal symbol for love is a Heart shaped design, but love is also illustrated as a pelican feeding its young with its own blood sacrificing herself for the ones she loves. Love, the greatest of the virtues spoken of by St Paul is sometimes represented by a young woman, holding clothes for the naked and food for the hungry, or with an infant, or a cornucopia or bowl of fruit emphasising bounty and kindness.

Justice may be illustrated by a woman holding a sword of power and scales of judgment. After COVID with restrictions easing, let us once again gather in places of worship and look around with new eyes, seeing the symbols of virtue on our journey of faith. • NCA

Repairing tears in the community

BY EMMA ASPDEN, MULTICULTURAL HUB CONVENOR
AND NEXT LEVEL COORDINATOR AT ANGLICARE



One of my children recently asked me, if I won lotto, would I continue to do the work I do? After a few moments of indulgence, imagining a pool in my backyard, the answer was a definite 'yes'.

I am one of 15 professionals employed at Anglicare North Coast that willingly steps into people's lives to respect, respond and support. Meeting people on a daily basis when they are feeling vulnerable, scared and frustrated, takes compassion, acceptance, a kind heart and a genuine smile!

For the last 4 years I have worked with refugee and migrant women in the '3E's to Freedom' program at Anglicare North Coast, based in Coffs Harbour on Gumbaynggirr Country. I feel privileged to work with this cohort of women, creating space for their stories and fears, and to support their hopes for a life of safety and freedom.

The people I work with have been my teachers. I have learnt so much about their culture, countries, war, worship, and the power of women's tears and laughter. They have taught me what it means to live in a country with freedom of choice. Working in this position challenges me, strengthens me, and rewards me. Once you work in the area of helping others, it's

hard to ever let it go. You realise the work is about more than just supporting others. It's about you. Doing work that makes you feel valued becomes more than just a job. It's a vocation.

Yet, I believe it's volunteer work that demonstrates the true meaning of vocation. Nothing is more meaningful than when a person gives up their time to be with others. I would like to acknowledge the work of volunteers who work alongside us, often at the front line supporting people in their time of need.

Since I won't be winning lotto anytime soon (because I never actually buy a ticket), I feel extremely lucky to do the work I do. I'll leave you with the insightful and inspiring words of Justice Ruth Badger Ginsburg, who sums up our work at ANC perfectly.

"If you want to be a true professional you will do something outside yourself. Something to repair tears in your community. Something to make life a little better for people less fortunate than you." • NCA

Image: Emma Aspden (left) with participants from '3E's to Freedom' Program, Coffs Harbour, after a 'sharing skills' workshop. One woman from the group taught everyone how to make artificial flowers with stocking fabric.

Sergius of Moscow (Radonezh)

ABBOT AND TEACHER D. 1392.

It is thought that Sergius was born in 1314 at Rostov into a noble family – about 100 years after the Tartars conquered Russia. He was given the baptismal name of Bartholomew. The family fled to Radonezh near Moscow, and after the death of their parents, Sergius joined his brother Stefan at a monastery near Moscow. They were responsible for restoring community life which had ceased under the rule of the Tartars.

In time Stefan moved to a monastery in Moscow and Bartholomew was tonsured as a monk and given the name of Sergius. Sergius sought a more solitary place to lead an ascetic life in the deep forest of Makovets Hill (over 70km from Moscow) and spent more than a year in the forest as a hermit.

Some time before, Stefan and Sergius built a small cell and a church in the forest dedicated to the Holy Trinity and soon others began to join them. With others seeking the ascetic life, they built cells of wood grouped round a wooden refectory building and a stone church, and after some time, the other monks who followed him persuaded Sergius to become their leader in 1334. He was ordained to the priesthood. His insistence on the common life and prohibition of begging led to discontent and several monks wanted Stefan to be their abbot instead.

Sergius was left to found another monastery in the remote forest and later he was restored as abbot by the metropolitan Alexis. By 1354, his small establishment was recognised as a spiritual centre known as the Sergian Monastery of the Trinity.

Sergius and his monks were deeply respected for the impression they gave – of great moral strength,

which was particularly needed in society at the time. They contributed to Russia's economic and cultural recovery after the 13th Century Mongol invasions by establishing monastic schools and many monasteries.

Sergius became famous for his ascetic life, wonder-working, compassion for the needy and teaching peasants better methods for cultivating the soil. He carried out several diplomatic missions as a mediator and peacemaker in the political arena to unite scattered Russian principalities under the authority of Great Prince Dimitri of Moscow. And the great military success of Dimitri of Moscow over the Tartars in 1380 was attributed in part to the prayers and advice of Sergius.

He founded about forty monasteries and after his death more were founded owing to his influence. He was invited to become metropolitan of Moscow, but he refused. Sergius based his observance and rule of life on the teaching of Theodore the Studite a Byzantine Greek monk, hymnographer, theologian and abbot of the Stoudios Monastery in Constantinople. Sergius left no writings, but in life and after death was venerated as a Saint and canonised before 1449. A mystic who favoured close co-operation with the State, Sergius became patron of Moscow and later of all Russia.

As we remember Sergius of Moscow, in a world ravaged by Covid-19 virus and lack of moral strength, be diligent in prayer as he was, and wise in the advice we may give to others. His monastery and shrine were re-opened in 1945. • NCA

Image: (Above) Vision of Youth Bartholomew; oil on canvas by artist Mikhail Nesterov

Help us help others

**‘Whatever you did for one of the least... you did for me’
Matthew 25:40**

In these uncertain times, we are working as hard as ever to bring **HOPE in ACTION** to households in our communities, just as we have done on your behalf for the past 22 years.

Anglicare North Coast make a difference in your community by helping households in need to:



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Housed



Pay their
bills



Put food on
the table



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debt



Develop
skills



Access education,
employment &
support services



Recover from
disasters

Did you know: We do not receive regular income from op-shops or the Diocese? And we do not receive finances from the Anglicare Australia Network of providers? We are your truly local charity!

Your regular tax deductible donation can make a big difference in the lives of your less fortunate neighbours.

For just **\$5 per week*** we can provide a bag of groceries to a household in need.
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