

TRINITY NEWS

Sharing Jesus for Life

THIS WEEK

Sunday 10 March

10.30am One Combined Service followed by morning tea

12noon Lunch & Annual Meeting

Monday 11 March

7pm Monday Evening Fellowship Group

Tuesday 12 March

10am Prayer Group

1pm Tuesday Afternoon Fellowship Group

Wednesday 13 March

7am Wednesday Morning Fellowship Group (men)

10.30am Traditional Service followed by morning tea

7-8:30pm Christianity Explored in the Hall

Thursday 14 March

10am Thursday Fellowship Group (ladies)

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday 17 March

8.30am Traditional Service followed by morning tea

10.30am Contemporary Service followed by morning tea

29-31 March

Easter Weekend

7 April to 14 April

Easter Outreach in partnership with St Barnabas, to Share Jesus for Life in Orange

Sunday 21 April

Bishop Mark Calder visit

Saturday 18 May

9am-3pm Diocesan Day Conference in Dubbo

From Andy's Desk...

Is Jesus good news for the whole world?

Maybe that seems like a surprising question and you assume the answer should be, "Yes, of course!"

We are very familiar with verses like John 3:16 which says:

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

So, yes, Jesus is good news for the whole world. But that view was not shared by many 1st century Jewish people. They expected a Messiah, a conquering King, who would rescue God's people, the Israelites, while all their enemies would be destroyed or brought under the Messiah's global rule in the process. Which means that for anyone not Jewish, Jesus would mean judgement.

And yet, a thoughtful Jewish person who read their Old Testament scriptures carefully would have noted that there were occasional examples of people from the nations around Israel, nations which were hostile to God and his people, who joined the people of God and were welcomed in, like Rahab (Judges 2) and Ruth.

We meet another woman like them in today's reading - a woman from Syrian Phoenicia, which means she was a Canaanite! They were the ancient enemies of God's people. But what happens when she meets Jesus? Jesus starts to show how the blessings promised to Abraham and to Israel are going to spread out to the ends of the earth, not because we deserve it, but because of God's mercy.

Jesus has travelled north, out of Israel, and is trying to keep a low profile. But this woman tracks him down and asks for help for her daughter. Jesus' initial response to her request is not promising - but as always with Jesus, you have to ask what he's trying to teach us and dig deeper. While Jesus' response might seem offensive, things aren't quite what they seem - Jesus is testing her with his answer. Why is she asking for help from Israel's Messiah?

This woman does not get offended; she does not presume on Jesus as if he owed her something. We might behave like that today - we can often behave as though we think we are entitled to all sorts of things, and maybe we think God owes us for our long years of service in church. But she knows that Jesus does not owe her anything - God does not owe any of us anything! Instead, with humble faith she asks for "crumbs" of blessing. And Jesus responds with saving, healing power and her daughter is made well. Israel's Messiah heals the daughter of Israel's ancient enemy.

Jesus moves on from there to another area outside Israel where he continues to heal great crowds of people, including a man who is both deaf and mute. The message is clear: Jesus is good news for the whole world, first for Israel, God's historic people to whom he made the promises; and then for the rest of the world as the message goes out with the disciples, who are to be Jesus' eyewitnesses and messengers.

So Jesus is good news for the whole world; but will everyone benefit? Only those with humble faith in Jesus. Sadly, for the rest, judgement remains a future reality.

With love in Christ,

Andy Martin
Minister



Annual Meeting - TODAY 12noon for Lunch, 1pm for Annual Meeting

We will have one combined service at 10.30am followed by a Church Family lunch and our Annual Meeting. Please join us to celebrate what God has done at Holy Trinity, to hear about our plans for 2024, and to choose our Parish Council members. 2023 Report booklets can be printed in the office on request.

Third Friday Morning Tea - Friday 15th March at 10am

Join us in the Hall for unlimited tea, coffee, delicious home baking and good company, \$7 per person.

Orange Christian Men's Breakfast - Saturday 16 March 6.50-8.20am at Duntryleague

\$20 per person. See Mike Middleton for more details.

Orange Easter Festival - Sunday 24 March 12-3pm in Robertson Park

Orange churches are hosting a Family Easter Festival to share the great news of Jesus! See flyer for more details including how to get involved on the day.

EASTER**Good Friday 29 March**

9am All-Age Service followed by morning tea

Easter Sunday 31 March

8.30am Traditional Service

9.30am Family Easter Craft & Morning Tea

10.30am Family All-Age Service

EASTER OUTREACH**Sunday 7th to Sunday 14th April**

A week of joint activities with St Barnabas to share the good news of Jesus with Orange

Playgroup - Kids' Club - Family Fun Day

Organ Recital (TBC) - Meal with Q&A

Dessert Evening with Talk - Parish Visiting

School Chapel & Assemblies

Fellowship Groups

Our midweek small groups are a great time to meet together over coffee to chat, study the bible, pray and encourage each other. If you'd like to join a group contact Andy Martin:

Monday 7pm - Tuesday 1pm & 7pm - Wednesday 7am (men) & 7pm - Thursday 10am (ladies)

Church Directory

We are currently looking into establishing an online Holy Trinity Directory for church family to use, which we hope to launch in the coming months.

PARISH COUNCIL Next Meeting: Sunday 17 March, 3-5pm (TBC)

Andy Martin - *Rector*, Garry West - *Rector's Warden*, Rod Wykes - *Warden & Treasurer*,
Lynne Middleton - *Warden*, John Bosanquet, Lyn Atkins, Steve White, Daniel Willis
Sandy Bosanquet - *Secretary*

If you have feedback, comments or questions for Parish Council please send an email to holytrinityorangesec@gmail.com or leave your contact details with the office and a member of Parish Council will contact you. Minutes will be available to read afterwards, in the church office.

GIVING

If you would like to give financially to support the work at Holy Trinity of Sharing Jesus for Life, gifts can be placed in the baskets or gift-box at church or given online:

Holy Trinity Anglican Church Orange - NAB - BSB 082 774 - Account 391-842-618

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