

TRINITY NEWS

Sharing Jesus for Life

THIS WEEK

Sunday 17 March

8.30am Traditional Service followed by morning tea

10.30am Contemporary Service followed by morning tea

Monday 18 March

7pm Monday Evening Fellowship Group

Tuesday 19 March

10am Prayer Group

1pm Tuesday Afternoon Fellowship Group

7pm Tuesday Evening Fellowship Group

Wednesday 20 March

7am Wednesday Morning Fellowship Group (men)

10.30am Traditional Service followed by morning tea

7pm Christianity Explored in the Hall

Thursday 21 March

10am Thursday Fellowship Group (ladies)

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday 24 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...

In our reading today we have a second amazing picnic provided by Jesus. He feeds a crowd of four thousand people with seven loaves and a few fish. I suspect it sounds familiar! But wasn't it 5000...?

Some people suggest that this is the same event as the amazing feeding of the 5000 back in chapter 6, but that Mark has either got a bit confused about some different sources, or that he has made up this second miraculous picnic for his own purposes.

Straight away I hope that puts you on red alert. If that were true, it would mean Mark invented part of the Bible and put words into Jesus' mouth that Jesus didn't say. It would mean that what we are reading is not all eye-witness testimony or God's divinely-inspired word but that at least some of it was made up by people. It would be a recipe for chaos and confusion. How would we know what to believe? Everyone would just choose the bits they like.

But no. Every bit of the Bible is God's divinely-inspired word, given through Spirit-filled human authors. These writers had come to believe the earth-shattering truth that Jesus is the Son of God and Messiah; the extraordinary events that they saw and heard were seared into their memories and stuck with them all through their lives, and they had absolutely no need to make up anything. Many of them even died for what they believed, and you don't die for something you know is a lie!

Peter puts it like this later in one of his letters (and remember that Peter is most likely Mark's eyewitness source):

For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 2 Peter 1:16

Mark was not cleverly devising another picnic, but recording what really happened as seen by Peter. And this is clear from the details: this second meal involved 4000 people who have been with Jesus for several days already outside of Israel in Gentile territory, 7 loaves, a few fish, 7 baskets of leftovers collected afterwards. Look back to chapter 6:30-44 and you'll find all the details are different. Mark expects us to understand that two separate real historical events took place.

However, the similarity between the feedings is important, of course. I'm sure we are meant to compare them - why? Because the feeding of 5000 in chapter 6 demonstrated Jesus' wonderful divine provision for his people Israel; the feeding of 4000 in chapter 8 demonstrated Jesus' wonderful divine provision for the Gentiles too. In both cases those who eat are completely satisfied and there is plenty to spare (6:42 and 8:8). This is particularly exciting given the conversation Jesus had with the Greek woman. Do you remember how she seemed to be content with the crumbs? This miracle straight away suggests that Gentiles who trust Jesus will be as deeply and completely satisfied as Jewish followers of Jesus. We don't just get the crumbs but we get to sit at Jesus' feast in the Kingdom of God. We can be forgiven and adopted, with all the blessings of full membership of God's family.

With love in Christ,

Andy Martin
Minister



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

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.

Diocesan Day Conference on 'Prayer' - Saturday 28 May in Dubbo

Join with others from around our Diocese to enjoy a great day of fellowship, teaching and practical help with a focus on **Prayer**: Why we pray, how we pray and practical 'all-in' seminars to rejuvenate and challenge our prayer life. Speaker Peter Rodgers, former International Director of CMS Australia and now Assistant Minister at Newtown Erskineville Anglican Church. Morning Tea and Lunch provided. Kids' & Youth programmes plus Crèche. See flyer for more details and information on how to register.

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: TBC

Andy Martin - *Rector*, Garry West - *Rector's Warden*, Rod Wykes - *Warden & Treasurer*,
Lynne Middleton - *Warden*, John Bosanquet, Charles Jones, Elyse Gilbert, 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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