

TRINITY NEWS

Sharing Jesus for Life

SUMMER SERVICES

Sunday 19 January

10.30am Combined All-Age Service followed by morning tea

Sunday 26 January

10.30am Combined All-Age Service followed by morning tea

LOOKING AHEAD

Fellowship Group Leaders Meeting

Wednesday 29 January 7pm in Trinity Centre

Sunday 2 February

8.30am Traditional Service followed by morning tea in the Hall

10.30am Contemporary Service with Kids' Group, followed by morning tea

Kids' Ministry Team Training

Sunday 2 February 2-4pm in Trinity Centre

Church Family Prayer Gatherings

Tuesday 4 February
10-11am in Trinity Centre
7-8pm in Trinity Centre

321 begins

Wednesday 5 February
7-8.30pm in the Trinity Centre

Pastoral Care Team Meeting

Sunday 9 February 3pm in Trinity Centre

Diocesan Day

Saturday 22 March in Dubbo

From Andy's Desk...

We spend a lot of time at Christmas thinking about the miraculous arrival of Jesus Christ on earth. We see lots of pictures of a baby in a stable, with shepherds and sheep, wise men and camels, and bright shining angels. It is right to focus regularly on the miracle of God the Son becoming a man - it is staggering to think of the infinite God limiting Himself in that way. But most people then tidy away the decorations and, with them, any more thought of the baby in the manger. How foolish!



Because that baby in the manger is the person at the very heart of history, indeed, of all eternity. That baby in the manger is the whole reason for your existence. What He did and said when He grew up changed everything!

Luke wrote his biography of Jesus Christ, carefully researched history based on the evidence of the eyewitnesses, because he wanted us to be confident of the real identity of Jesus and of the magnitude of what he did and why. There is no nonsense here about things being 'true' for some people but not for others. Luke is dealing with facts, real times and dates, real people having real conversations with Jesus Christ, the incredible person at the centre of history!

The account of the adult Jesus begins with his cousin, John the Baptist. John's job was to prepare the people of Israel for Jesus' arrival. He does it by reminding the people of their failure to obey God and keep his covenant; he calls them to repent and be baptised as a sign that they recognise their sin and their need for the forgiveness brought by God's Messiah.

It is slightly puzzling then that the first thing Luke records about the adult Jesus is ... his baptism! If baptism is a sign of being washed clean of sin, why on earth is Jesus being baptised?! After all, Jesus is no sinner, he is not unworthy - he is the one whose sandals John isn't worthy to untie! (Luke 3:16)

Here is the headline: Jesus' baptism was part of the perfect obedience owed to God by all His people; and it was necessary for Him to save God's people.

Adam in Genesis 3, and then Israel through the Old Testament, failed to give God the obedience due. In His life, Jesus embodied everything Adam and then Israel were called to be. What does this have to do with Jesus's baptism? Just think: the crowds hear John's message of repentance. They come to the Jordan and are washed. It's as if their sin, shame, and guilt are left there in the river. Then the Saviour comes. He's the perfect Lamb of God without blemish, but He steps into those judgment waters. Jesus identifies Himself with the people and their sin so He might take that sin on Himself and save the people.

After Jesus was baptised, the heavens opened. God's Spirit came down like a dove, and a voice from heaven declared, "*This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased*" (Luke 3:21-22). These verses identify Jesus not just as Son of God but as the anointed Servant (Isaiah 42) and David's Son (2 Samuel 7, Psalm 2); they also reveal what's true of all those united to Jesus by faith (Romans 8)! Jesus's baptism was part and parcel of the glorious work He did to win our salvation.

With love in Christ,

Andy Martin,
Rector

PLEASE KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR PERSONAL BELONGINGS AND CHILDREN AT ALL TIMES

Church Family Prayer Gatherings - Tuesday 4 February 10-11am and 7-8pm

Join with Church family in the Trinity Centre to pray for God's work in us and through us in 2025.

3-2-1 Course begins Wednesday 5 February 7-8.30pm

We will be running this course over 4 Wednesday evenings, looking at who Jesus is, why Jesus came and what this means for us. A great course for those enquiring and for those wanting a refresher. Contact Andy Martin for more details and to sign up.

Summer Sunday Services - Sunday 29 December to Sunday 26 January at 10.30am

In the quieter weeks over the Summer we will be combining all our services into one all-age service on Sundays at 10.30am, followed by morning tea in the Trinity Centre.

Office Hours 20-24 January 9am-12noon

As Louise will be away on annual leave next week the office opening hours will be reduced. The office will also be closed on Monday 27 January for the public holiday. Normal office hours resume from Tuesday 28 January.

Ministries in Recess

Our midweek Playgroup, Kids' Club & Fellowship groups are resuming in February 2025.

Brainfood and Fellowship

Paul Meeth is hosting several Bible seminars over the summer. For more details, contact Paul on 0401 963144.



MISSION NEWS

Give thanks for our SRE teachers serving in local schools and pray for them as they begin a new school year sharing God's good news!



PARISH COUNCIL Next Meeting: 19 January 2025

Andy Martin - Rector, Garry West - Rector's Warden, Rod Wykes - Warden & Treasurer
Lynne Middleton - Warden, Sandy Bosanquet - Secretary
John Bosanquet, Charles Jones, Elyse Gilbert, Steve White, Daniel Willis

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. Meeting Minutes are available to read in the church office.

GIVING FOR THE GOSPEL

If you would like to give financially to support the work at Holy Trinity of Sharing Jesus for Life, please take a copy of our **Giving** leaflet and prayerfully consider how you might contribute.

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

SAFE MINISTRY

At Holy Trinity Orange we are committed to Safe Ministry and have zero tolerance for any kind of abuse.

We adhere to the NSW Child Safe Standards (see posters for more details)

If you need to speak to someone about a concern please contact Andy Martin (Rector) or our Safe Ministry Coordinator, Heather Morgan (safeministry@holytrinityorange.org.au)

Alternatively, you can directly contact the Bathurst Diocesan Office (louise@bathurstanglican.org.au)

HOLY TRINITY ORANGE

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