TRINITY NEWS

SHARING JESUS for LIFE

THIS WEEK

Sunday 20 September
8.30am Traditional Service

10.30am Contemporary Service with Crèche, Kids' Group & Youth

12.30pm Senior Youth Lunch & Bible Study

Tuesday 22 September
10am Prayer Group on Zoom

1pm Tuesday Afternoon Fellowship Group

5pm & 7.30pm Tuesday Evening Fellowship Groups

Wednesday 23 September
7am Wednesday Early Men's Fellowship Group

10.30am Wednesday Service

7pm The Bible Course in Trinity Centre

Thursday 24 September
7am Thursday Early Ladies' Fellowship Group

10am Thursday Morning Ladies' Fellowship Group

NO Kids' Club (resumes Thursday 22 October)

7pm & 7.30pm Thursday Evening Fellowship Groups

Friday 25 September
NO Friday Youth (resumes Friday 23 October)

LOOKING AHEAD

Wed 7 - Fri 9 October
Holiday Club for Kids

Sunday 11 October
9.30am Holiday Club Service at St Barnabas (no 10.30am service)

Saturday 24 October
Diocesan Women's Conference in Bathurst

From Andy's Desk…

Do you ever feel overlooked or invisible? Does it feel as if God doesn't see or hear or care about you? Sometimes that leads us to ignore God's word and take matters into our own hands to get what we want… but it never ends well!

In Genesis 16 we meet an Egyptian slave called Hagar, who was caught up in Abraham and Sarah's messy attempt to get for themselves what God had promised but not yet delivered. God made great promises to Abraham and Sarah, chief of which was that God would give them a child and make them into a great nation. But eleven years had passed and God hadn't yet given them the child they were hoping for. And so, like we are all sometimes tempted to do, Abraham and Sarah came up with a plan … and in their case, it involved poor Hagar.

Hagar was Sarah's Egyptian slave, and Sarah offered her to Abraham to sleep with so they could have a child through Hagar. Now, this seems awful to us today, but it was pretty common at the time of Abraham and Sarah, so maybe they thought it would be ok - after all, everyone else does it! But God's people are meant to be different. God had made His promise and He would keep it in His own time. Abraham and Sarah should have trusted God to keep His word and waited patiently. Indeed, when Sarah offered Hagar to Abraham, he should have said, 'No, we're going to trust God!' But he didn't.

Now their plan seemed to work, and Hagar became pregnant, but this led to tension between Hagar and Sarah, and Sarah mistreated her so that Hagar ran away. This may have seemed to poor Hagar like her only way out, but a pregnant runaway slave in the desert did not stand much of a chance.

While Abraham and Sarah do not come out of this well, we see something wonderful about our faithful God. While His promises of blessing for the world were to come through Abraham the patriarch, and Hagar was ('only') an Egyptian runaway slave, God cared for her too! The angel of the Lord found Hagar, and sent her home with a promise of blessing for her and her son, *"I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count… You will give birth to a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the Lord has heard of your misery." (16:10, 11)*

Hagar responded, *'"You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the one who sees me."' (16:13)*

I think this is stunning. The Sovereign, Creator God whose great plans focussed on Abraham, did not overlook this lowly, abused slave. He heard her cries and saw her misery and came to help. She and her son knew God's blessing. God sees and hears the overlooked and abused!

And this is true for us too. Listen to Jesus: *"Look at the birds of the air… are you not much more valuable than they? …your heavenly Father knows… Therefore do not worry about tomorrow." (Matthew 6:26-34).* Taking matters into our own hands always leads to sadness and confusion. Our faithful God protects and provides for us - you are so precious to Him. And we know that for certain because God the Son, Jesus Christ, died for us!

With love in Christ,
Andy Martin, Rector

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

Ministries in Recess - Sunday 27 September to Sunday 11 October

Sunday Crèche/Kids' Group/Youth, Wednesday Service, Fellowship Groups, Kids' Club and Youth will all take a break over the school holidays. Wednesday Service resumes 14 October. Sunday Kids/Youth resumes 18 October, Fellowship Groups, Kids' Club and Youth resume resume week of 19 October.

Sunday Services 27 September & 4th October

8.30am Traditional as normal, 10.30am All-Age with **NO** Kids' Group.

Holiday Kids Club: Wednesday 7- Friday 9 Oct at St Barnabas

Registrations are now open! See flyers or Ben Feather for more details.

Holiday Club Service: Sunday 11 October at 9.30am, St Barnabas Church, Dora Street

Join us at St Barnabas for a joint service and BBQ to end our Holiday Club week! (Note: 8.30am service as normal but **NO** 10.30am service at Holy Trinity)

Diocesan Women's Conference - Saturday 24 October 9.30am-3pm at Bathurst Cathedral

Join us for a wonderful day of teaching and fellowship. Morning tea provided, BYO picnic lunch. Registrations are free - book online at bathurstanglican.org.au/event/womens-conference-2026.

MISSION NEWS

Wycliffe Bible Translators

Please pray for Bruce & Kathy in Nigeria. Pray for Kathy as she begins supervising the production of a basic primer in one of the local languages. Pray for Bruce as he leads the team, and writes a paper for publication on Iceve. Pray for God's ongoing protection given the precarious security situation in Nigeria.

PARISH COUNCIL Next Meeting: 19 October

Rector: Andy Martin Wardens: Lynne Middleton, Garry West, Steve White
Councillors: John Bosanquet, Andy McMaster, James Morrison, Megan Nicholson, Steve Price
If you have feedback, comments or questions for Parish Council, or WHS matters to report, please contact Wardens or Louise Wythes in the church office. 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
Bank: 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 on noticeboards for more details). If you need to speak to someone about a concern please contact Andy Martin or our Safe Ministry Coordinator, Louise Wythes. Alternatively, you can contact the Bathurst Diocesan Office: office@bathurstanglican.org.au

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Holy Trinity Anglican Orange
Sharing Jesus For Life