

TRINITY NEWS

Sharing Jesus for Life

THIS WEEK

Sunday 23 March

8.30am Traditional Service followed by morning tea

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

Monday 24 March

5.30pm Bell Practice

7pm Monday Evening Fellowship Group

7.15pm Believing Out Loud

Tuesday 25 March

10am Prayer Group

1pm Tuesday Afternoon Fellowship Group

7.30pm Tuesday Evening Fellowship Groups

Wednesday 26 March

7am Wednesday Morning Men's Fellowship Group

9.30-11am Playgroup

10.30am Traditional Service followed by morning tea

7pm/7.30pm Wednesday Evening Fellowship Groups

Thursday 27 March

10am Thursday Morning Ladies' Fellowship Group

5-6.30pm Kids' Club

7pm Thursday Evening Fellowship Group

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday 30 March

Combined Service followed by a Bring & Share Church Family Lunch in the Hall

Monday 31 March

Women's Dinner at Robin Hood

Tuesday 1 April

Church family prayer gatherings, 10am and 7pm

Saturday 24 May

Safe Ministry Training onsite at Holy Trinity

From Andy's Desk...

How do you respond to people who hurt you or hate you or mistreat you?

Do you fight back or spit the dummy and throw a tantrum or talk unkindly?

It can happen in and out of church, can't it. We Christians are not immune from a bad temper, selfishness or an unwillingness to put others first. But, this shouldn't be the case for God's children.

Here is one of the most astonishing, most wonderful and most difficult aspects of Jesus' teaching:

"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."

Let me give you three reasons why this is both appropriate for us and possible for us as Christians. The first reason is the very one that Jesus Himself gives in Luke 6:36 where he says, "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." Jesus calls God our Father. We Christians are the children of God, and so Jesus says we should be shaped by the family resemblance. God our Father is a God who shows mercy so let us be like our Father. Indeed, this is the work God is already doing in us - His Spirit is at work to make us like Himself so that we do have the ability to respond with love.

The second reason flows from the first. Where do we see God's love for His enemies most clearly at work? At the cross! Paul says in Romans 5:8-10:

"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us... While we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son."

God loved us while we were his enemies, and gave Jesus to make us his children. We see that same love in Jesus who prayed for the Roman soldiers as they crucified him, "Father, forgive them, they don't know what they are doing!" Isn't that astonishing love for enemies in action! So, in the strength of the Spirit of the Son whom He has given us, let us be who we are, the children of God, and love our enemies.

There is a third reason which Jesus gives in Luke 6:35. He says,

"Love your enemies, do good to them, .. Then your reward will be great."

It seems that God has great 'reward' in store for his children who imitate his great love and respond with love to their enemies. I don't know what this looks like - it is certainly not about God loving us more or earning our place in his family - but God does have something wonderful in store that he gives to his children who respond to evil with good, and love their enemies.

So how might you respond as the child of God you are? Is there someone who you find difficult, unkind or rude - how can you show love towards them today? Has someone hurt you or annoyed you, in church or out of church - how can you do something kind for them today?

With love in Christ

Andy Martin,
Rector



PLEASE KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR PERSONAL BELONGINGS AND CHILDREN AT ALL TIMES**Ladies' Dinner - Monday 31 March 6.30pm at Robin Hood Hotel**

Join us for a relaxed evening, getting to know one another better across our congregations. See Karen Willis or Amanda Martin for more details.

Combined Service & Church Family Lunch - Sunday 30 March

Join us as all our congregations come together for a Combined Service and stay afterwards for a Bring&Share Church Family Lunch in the Hall.

Hope25 - May 2025

In the seven weeks after Easter we will be making a special effort to share the message of Jesus with our community, along with Anglican churches across Australia. Our Sunday sermons will be specifically aimed at sharing the message of Hope, and we will have a small number of mid-week events to which you might like to invite a friend or neighbour who is interested. Please start praying now!

Calare Candidate Forum - Wednesday 2 April at 7.30pm at Orange Evangelical Church

On Wednesday 2nd April there is opportunity to meet our federal electoral candidates and hear what they have to say on a number of issues of particular interest to Christians and churches.

Easter Festival - Sunday 13 April in Robinson Park

Run by the Combined Churches of Orange this event is a great opportunity to engage with our wider Orange community in a relaxed and friendly environment. To volunteer you can sign up online at <https://shorturl.at/JhdAr> or send an email to orangeeasterfestival@gmail.com. See Andy Martin for more details.

MISSION NEWS**Bush Church Aid**

Give thanks for Ben & Alissa Connelly with their three young children, serving at St John's Anglican Church in Cowra. Thank God for the continued good relationship with local schools and the chance to teach SRE.

Pray for the SRE teachers as they start classes for 2025, that students who attend will grow in their knowledge and love of God.

PARISH COUNCIL Next Meeting: TBC

Rector: Andy Martin. Wardens: Lynne Middleton, Garry West, Steve White

Councillors: John Bosanquet, Elyse Gilbert, Heather Morgan, Steve Price, Daniel Willis

If you have feedback, comments or questions for Parish Council please send an email to holytrinityorangesecc@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 on noticeboards and in office 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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