

TRINITY NEWS

SHARING JESUS for LIFE

THIS WEEK

Sunday 3 May

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Contemporary Service with Crèche, Kids' Group & Youth

Tuesday 5 May

10am Prayer Group
1pm Tuesday Afternoon Fellowship Group
5pm & 7.30pm Tuesday Evening Fellowship Groups

Wednesday 6 May

7am Wednesday Men's Fellowship Group
10.30am Wednesday Service
7pm & 7.30pm Wednesday Evening Fellowship Groups

Thursday 7 May

7am Thursday Early Ladies' Fellowship Group
10am Thursday Morning Ladies' Fellowship Group
5-6.30pm Kids' Club
7pm & 7.30pm Thursday Evening Fellowship Groups

Friday 8 May

6-8pm Friday Youth in the Trinity Centre

Saturday 9 May

10am Commissioning of Ben & Bron McKay at St Barnabas Orange East

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday 10 May

Bishop Mark visiting

Friday 15 May

Safe Ministry Training

Saturday 16 May

2pm Women's Afternoon Tea

Saturday 23 May

6.30pm Men's Dinner

Sunday 31 May

9.30am Combined Service

Saturday 20 June

8am-2pm Working Bee

From Andy's Desk...

For a couple of Sundays, we are considering God's teaching about giving. Paul wrote a letter to a church in wealthy, sophisticated Corinth (in modern day Greece), urging them to give generously to help their brothers and sisters in the Church in Jerusalem, who were under particular pressure because of famine, taxation and overpopulation.

Paul tells them about the generosity of the Macedonian churches (which included the Thessalonians and the Philippians). They were poor people compared to many well-to-do Corinthians, and yet their giving was stunning. Paul described their generosity as a gift given by God. Pray for that same gift for us! Here is how Paul describes it:

"In the midst of very severe trial, their overflowing joy and extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people." (2 Corinthians 8:2-4)

Do you see that they gave beyond their ability and saw it as a privilege! They were able to give like this because they had first of all given their whole selves to God and therefore they saw everything they had as belonging to God (v. 5). Now Paul didn't **command** giving like this – but he did **encourage** and **commend** it as an appropriate way of responding to God's grace in Jesus, who *"though he was rich, yet for our sake he became poor so that we through his poverty might become rich"* (v. 8-9).

Because of the gospel, they knew overflowing joy even in the midst of severe trial and extreme poverty. Poverty and joy! We might think that poverty would result in small gifts, given grudgingly. Not here! Their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. In fact, Paul tells us they pleaded with him for what they saw was a privilege – sharing with the saints in Jerusalem. How is this possible? How do you give generously when you yourself have so little?

Here is why: when you give your entire self to the Lord as a first priority, then you can trust him to look after you and provide for you. When you take hold of him entirely, your hold on money and material possessions loosens considerably. When you put the Lord first, then everything else in life falls into place and will hold a very different place in your hearts. And your thoughts about your money and material possessions will become very different from that of people around you. So Paul uses the example of the Macedonians to urge the Corinthians to a similar generosity.

What about us? Many of us have so much, but only give a tiny bit of it away, either to church for gospel ministry or to support the poor and vulnerable. Have you ever pleaded with someone to be allowed to share in the grace of giving? And do you consider you have given yourself utterly and completely to the Lord? If you have, then real generosity – and a *passion* to be generous - will be the natural outcome for all of us.

With love in Christ,
Andy Martin, Rector



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

New Term Card now available

Bishop Mark's Farewell Visit - Sunday 10 May at 8.30am and 10.30am

Bishop Mark will be preaching at both our services for one last time before he retires in September. Join us as we say thank you and goodbye to Mark and Susan.

Safe Ministry Training - Friday 15 May in the Hall

As part of the Bathurst Diocese's commitment to keeping everyone safe at church, **ALL** volunteers involved in serving at church **must** complete Safe Ministry Training. If you haven't yet completed yours, please attend this training session, or see Louise in the office for details of how to complete it online.

Women's Afternoon Tea - Saturday 16 May at 2pm in the Hall

Join us for a delicious afternoon tea, a short Bible talk and time to chat around tables. See leaflet for more details or chat to Bec Choi and Amanda Martin.

Men's Dinner - Saturday 23 May at 6.30pm in the Trinity Centre

Grab a friend and come along for a lamb spit roast, home-brewed beer, and to hear from a Christian farmer. See leaflet for more details or chat to James Morrison.



MISSION NEWS

Anglicare exists to share the love of Jesus and value all people as made in the image of our living God. Pray for new funding to be granted to allow several ministries to begin here in Orange. Pray also for our local team in Orange as they work and minister in our area - Scott and Dallas - especially for energy as they travel and oversee their ministries.

PARISH COUNCIL Next Meeting: Monday 4 May

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 - 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 or our Safe Ministry Coordinator, Louise Wythes. Alternatively, you can directly contact the Bathurst Diocesan Office at louise@bathurstanglican.org.au

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