

This Week's Diary

Sunday December 13th 3rd Sunday of Advent	Holy Communion HTO@10:30	8:30am 10:30am
Monday December 14th	Morning Prayer	8:30am
Tuesday December 15th	Morning Prayer	8:30am
Wednesday December 16th	Morning Prayer Holy Communion Parish Council Meeting	8:30am 10:30am 6:00pm
Thursday December 17th	Morning Prayer	8:30am
Friday December 18th	Morning Prayer	8:30am
Saturday December 19th	Holy Communion	5:30pm
Sunday December 20th The 4th Sunday of Advent	Holy Communion HTO@10:30	8:30am 10:30am

Please note that the office is closed between Christmas and New Years

Zephaniah 3.14-20; For the Psalm: A Song of Isaiah - (Isaiah 12.2-6) Philippians 4.4-7; Luke 3.7-18



Parish Office

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To:
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in Christ

Holy Trinity Anglican Church - Orange

To make disciples for Christ, who will make disciples

13th December 2015

The Third Sunday of Advent

From the Revd. Canon Peter Davison

A story is told of a successful entrepreneur who, invited to address a service club meeting, peppered his speech with these words "I am proud to tell you", he proclaimed, "that I am a self-made man," After the third or fourth repetition, someone in the audience shouted, "Well, that sure relieves God of an awful responsibility!" Perhaps the story is apocryphal, but in many ways it reminds us that our era might well be called "The Age of Narcissism". While the internet has many positive features, it has also become notorious for its promotion of "selfie" photos, while Facebook and its many offspring give the impression that many of us seem to feel the world needs to know every detail of our lives. "Left to our own devices" (excuse the pun), we seem to have lost the art of real communication, with its many nuances. And the darkest side of our self-promotion seems to be the tragic need to put other people down.

A sad aspect of all this is that, when life is "all about me", in the end we end up alone. Having abandoned tradition, we cannot learn the lessons of history, and therefore are condemned to repeat them. Having lost the values and skills acquired in community, we have learned to fear "the other" - whoever that "other" may be. And having succumbed to the protagonists of fear, we create the very conditions we claim to be fighting against. The late Steve Jobs of Apple computer fame is reported to have written, in his dying days, that wealth and fame gave him nothing of what he really needed, of relationships and a sense of

meaning. He was, and still is, not alone in that lonely crowd of people unable to connect with their neighbours, their own true selves, and whoever we mean when we say God.

All of today's reading speak to a widespread sense of alienation and exile, and of our desire for a place to call home. In 1975, the late Hagood Hardy composed his most famous and beloved, "The Homecoming". Today, most of our conflicts are about claiming a homeland for ourselves at the expense of others. Around the eighth century B.C the prophet Zephaniah warned his hearers about the consequences of selfishness, but promised that those who were faithful would know God's homecoming and God's presence among them.

This Advent, then, we are encouraged once again to read the signs of the times, to prepare the way for "The One Who Is to Come". But, if we really think about it, the Messiah always comes as both Saviour and Judge; and all of us who look forward to this event must be prepared to have a new mind, a new heart, and a new will. This is why it seems so hard for most of us, even though it's really so simple. Now as long ago, when God is born among us, will there be a place, within us and among us, for that birthing to take place?

For the challenge and the hope of this time, thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen!

To our visitors

Welcome to our parish community.

We hope you are refreshed by your worship here today.

Please stay for a cup of tea after the service if you are able.

Prayer Response:

Lord, you are our deliverer,

You are our refuge and our strength.

In our prayers:

- The Diocese, Bishop Ian Palmer and Liz
- Father Mal and his family during this difficult time.
- Our parish community, in looking and moving forward.
- Archdeacon Frank and his wife Marilyn
- Revd. Margaret Finlay.
- For those in need this advent season.

ABM Reflection

Zephaniah 3.14-20; *For the Psalm:* A Song of Isaiah - (Isaiah 12.2-6) Philippians 4.4-7; Luke 3.7-18

Gaudete Sunday! The third Sunday in Advent is one of joy with continuous refrain. Rejoice! The coming is near. We are more than half-way there. Salvation is at hand. As we light the rose-coloured candle on the Advent Wreath and in some places, don our rose-coloured vestments, we are transported to a new vision, one that is seen through rose-coloured glasses!

- Pray with an open and joyful heart that Christ's coming will herald a time of peace for all nations. Rejoice!
- Pray for the Church of the Province of Central Africa giving thanks for the work they do to further God's mission in the world.

From the Trinity Foundation

The Parish Council is beginning the process of applying for State Heritage Listing for Holy Trinity Church and the Rectory.

The criterion of interest includes:

- **Historical Significance**
- **Historical associations**
- **Aesthetic significance**
- **Social significance**
- **Technical or research significance**
- **Rare or endangered buildings or inclusions.**
- **Representativeness of type**

In summary we are after early correspondence, records, photos, drawings, contracts, details, alterations, personnel, and the nature of the church through the years.

If any parishioners feel they may have historically important documentation or information that may assist in building the case for listing, can they please contact the Church Office or speak to Mark Bessen.

Have a look at the back of the Church

During this time of Advent there are many organisations attempting to make a difference in our world. Unfortunately, the Church cannot donate to all of them, so parishioners are encouraged to have a look at the back table, read the letters and messages from these organisations - who knows? You may just want to help one of them. If you decide to make a donation please feel free to take what you need.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Dec 18th:** AWA Morning Tea
LLM Meeting 6PM
- Dec 24th:** Christmas Eve Family Service 6:00PM
- Dec 25th:** 7am and 8:30 Holy Communion
NEW TIMES
- Dec 26th:** No 5:30PM Service on this day

Christmas Eve Family Service **6:00PM**

We still need singers and children to lead the special service. Practice this Sunday for ALL who would like to participate in the Choir Vestry.

Please ask anyone you know to come along or contact Pam Brooks or Heather Cummins (6362 6882).

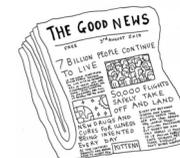
Important to Note:

The Parish Office will be closed between Christmas and New Years. Father Mal will be taking leave on the first three weeks of January.

Trinity News

Production on the Advent Trinity News has started. We aim to get this issue out at Christmas time. If you have any reports or articles for this edition can you please get them to Ashleigh in the next fortnight or so. **HELP ME TO MAKE THIS THE BEST EDITION EVER!**

Thank you.
Ashleigh



Christmas and New Year Service Times

24th Dec: **6PM** Family Service HT.
8PM Borgnora Service
11PM Christmas Lessons and Carols



25th Dec: **7AM & 8:30AM** Holy Communion
Please take note of the new times.

27th Dec: **9AM** Combined Service

3rd - 31st Jan: **9AM** Combined Service on a Sunday

Pilgrims Books Family Sunday

Free BBQ and barista coffee.
When: Sunday 13th 11:30am start
Where: Pilgrim books 52 McNamara Street
Come and grab some last minute gifts!!

Letter's in the Parish Office for:

There are letters in the Parish Office for Denise Perkins, Chris and Tina Mills and Brian and Ann Holden. Please collect at your earliest convenience.