

This Week's Diary

Sunday February 21st 2nd Sunday of Lent	Holy Communion Contemporary Service Borenore Service	8:30am 10:30am 5:00pm
Monday February 22nd	Morning Prayer	8:30am
Tuesday February 23rd	Morning Prayer	8:30am
Wednesday February 24th	Morning Prayer Holy Communion	8:30am 10:30am
Thursday February 25th	Morning Prayer Holy Terrors Play Group	8:30am 10:00am
Friday February 26th	Morning Prayer AWA Morning Tea	8:30am 10:00am
Saturday February 27th	Saturday Night Service	5:30pm
Sunday February 28st 3rd Sunday of Lent	Holy Communion Contemporary Service	8:30am 10:30am

Isiah 55.1-9; Psalm 63.1-9; 1 Corinthians 10.1-13; Luke 13.31-35



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To:
 Know | Grow
 Show | Go
 in Christ

Holy Trinity Anglican Church - Orange

To make disciples for Christ, who will make disciples

21st February 2016

The Second Sunday of Lent

1 Corinthians 12:27-31a

Gifts and Ministries - Part 3

If this is what these gifts were, they were not given for people to enjoy the experience of receiving or exercising them. Of course, there is an exhilaration, a delight, in being fully what God has called and equipped you to be. But the point is that the 'gift' is God's gift *to* the whole church *through* the individual who has received it. God naturally, gives gifts to different people in such a way that the church will be bonded together in ways that God sees appropriate.

After 'apostles' we find, in all the lists, 'prophecy'. This is distinguished from 'teaching', and there is no agreement on agreement on what Paul meant by it or whether it is still important today. Some have seen it in terms of the teaching of scripture, opening the Bible with special insight for a new generation. Others have suggested that it has to do with speaking 'words of the risen Jesus' to the church, enabling Jesus to communicate with his people in the power of the spirit. This shades off into a special 'spiritual gift' which has nothing to do with learning or biblical study, but which comes instead, like tongues and healing, into the category of 'non-natural' or 'supernatural' workings. Perhaps, then, 'prophecy' is the activity through which particular words are given to particular individuals or groups by people speaking in church and claiming that that the spirit is leading them to say such things, or that Jesus himself is speaking these words?

That kind of ministry undoubtedly happens, and Paul is comfortable with it. (According to acts, he sometimes exercised it himself, for instance in 27:31-34.) But in the list in verse 8 it seems to be covered by 'words of wisdom' or 'words of knowledge', in which the speaker is suddenly able

to say something, without previous ordinary-level knowledge of a person or situation, which nevertheless rings true and produces a sense of conviction. 'Prophecy' could then be a larger category of which these are subsets. Or it could, after all, be the special, God-given ability to understand what the Bible is saying and apply it to fresh hearers.

Paul will deal particularly with the relationship of prophecy and tongues in chapter 14. But we should note already that, though he has warned against an elitist approach to the whole question of 'gifts' and 'spiritual things', he can still urge them to 'be eager for the better gifts'. This too will be explained in chapter 14. And we should note, against those who from time to time make claims about this, that Paul assumes that none of these gifts are given to everybody. 'Do all speak in tongues?', like the other questions, expects the answer 'No'. And, though Paul is always eager for God to do new things in the lives of people and communities, he sees no needs to suggest that the 'not all' categories of verses 29 and 30 should be challenged, that everyone should, after all, be prophets, or teachers, or tongue-speakers, or whatever.

It is all summed up in verse 27. These words should be engraved on the mind and heart of all heart of all church members. They should be especially taken to heart by those who are called to more high-profile office, or who have been given some special gift that, by thrusting them into the public eye, brings upon them the temptation to arrogance that was afflicting some in Corinth. 'You are the Messiah's body; individually, you're members of it.' That is the basis of all true understandings of the church, and of all humble service within it.

Tom Wright

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, we put our hope in you

You are our protector and our shield.

In our prayers:

- The Diocese
- Bishop Ian Palmer and Liz
- Father Mal and his wife Rosie
- Our parish community, in looking and moving forward.



ABM Reflection

Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27;
 Philippians 3.7-4.1; Luke 13.1-9 or Luke
 9.28-36

As we journey through Lent we might find ourselves with the keen awareness that our God is a God of journeys. In our readings from today we see two journeys - one of Abraham from Ur to Canaan, and the other Jesus and a handful of his disciples going to Mt tabor. In both cases God is bringing his servants away from what is familiar and taking them to unfamiliar places, and often it can be scary for them. We know that ultimately they were strengthened by the experience in their faith. When God calls us out of our familiar surroundings we should take heart knowing that he is with us and we will ultimately be strengthened by our journey.

- pray for all those who God has called to difficult ministries, callings and occupations.
- Give thanks for the church of the province of South East Asia, remembering especially the Most rev Ng Moon Hing as he is installed as Primate of the church of tomorrow.

An Introduction to our Lenten Studies, this year see a change in your faith because of the 'Power of God'.

The Gospel and Jesus Christ

What is the Gospel?

What does it have to do with Jesus?

Is it necessary to our Faith as Christians today?

Is it significant for the growth of the Church?

These are all questions that have plagued the church since its inception, which happened because of the Gospel of Jesus the Christ. The early church in just over 300 years came to the point of understanding that had an awareness of not only what the Gospel said, but what it meant to them as individual within the wider church. The Gospel was clearly about the community of God, more so than the person and their relationship with God.

The apostolic church saw that the Gospel was several things (not in order of importance); firstly, the Gospel was spelled out by acclamation of Faith, better known today as the 'creeds';

Secondly, the Gospel was about active belief/faith/life/worship that everyone participated in (the Word, the Eucharist, liturgy, psalmody, hymnody, and discipleship through each within the greater context of their communities);

Thirdly, the Gospel was about knowing Jesus, but not as some peripheral ethereal being, but as "Jesus the Christ" in our lives.

The church saw these aspects of understanding of the Gospel as foundational Christian life in grace. A life that could easily be taken at any time because of this understanding, a life that was part of the growth within the church because people were attracted to the message of Jesus the Gospel/Christ, and

life that made sense no matter who they were in society and how they lived within it.

Mothers' Union

Mothers' Union will be meeting at 2:30 Saturday 27th February in the Parish Centre.

Borenore Service

All welcome at 5PM Sunday for Service out at Borenore.

27th Annual Orange Easter Family Festival

ROBERTSON PARK

SUNDAY MARCH 20TH 2016

12NOON to 4PM

Purpose: To create an open crowd where everyone is welcome; family, friends, neighbours & visitors are invited to participate in a range of free, fun and inclusive games and activities.

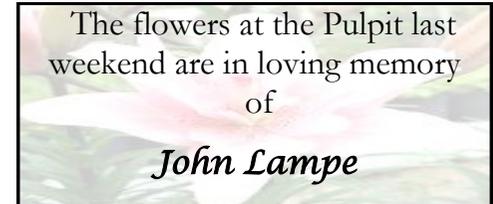
Flowers

Due to a shortage of flower arrangements this year, silk flowers will be used more often in the Church. Anyone available to assist with flower arranging or who can donate suitable silk flowers, please contact Kathie Mills on 6362 1354.



AGM Reports DUE!

AGM reports are due Monday 22nd February.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Palm Sunday -	20th March 8:30am & 10:30am
Maundy - Thursday	24th March 6PM Simple meal and feet washing service directly after.
Good Friday -	25th March Morning Service 7am & Passion of the Christ Service 7PM
Easter - Saturday	Pascal Candle Service 7PM
Easter - Sunday	27th March 8:30am and 10:30am