

This Week's Diary

Sunday December 11	Holy Communion, 7:30am Holy Communion, 9:30 am
Monday December 12	Morning Prayer, 8:30am Evening Prayer, 5:30pm
Tuesday December 13	Morning Prayer, 8:30am Evening Prayer, 5:30pm
Wednesday December 14	Morning Prayer, 8:30am Holy Communion, 10:30am Bishop in Council, Bathurst, 9.30am Mothers' Fellowship, 11:00am Evening Prayer, 5:30pm Choir Practice, 7:30pm
Thursday December 15	Morning Prayer, 8:30am Evening Prayer, 5:30pm Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm
Friday December 16	Morning Prayer, 8:30am Evening Prayer, 5:30pm
Saturday December 17	Holy Communion, 5:30pm
Sunday, December 18 Advent 4	Holy Communion, 7:30am Holy Communion, 9.30 am

**Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16, Psalm, 89: 1-4, 19-20, Romans 16:25-27
Gospel Luke 1:26-38**

Parish Office:

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Growing, loving and serving God in the Community

Holy Trinity Anglican Church - Orange

11 December, 2011

Advent 3



Comments on the Gospel

Our Gospel passage offers us the life and teaching of the Baptist, John by name, who seeks to bring reconciliation and healing between God and the people. The success of his mission is a testimony to the spiritual needs of the people, and their desire to be at one with God. John is described as being from God, sent to bear witness to the light.

The Gospel highlights this strange and mesmerising prophet as a way of showing the ongoing mercy of God towards the people. At the same time, the figure of the Baptist reveals that he indeed is not the light, but rather that he gives way to the fullness of divine love that will be manifest in Christ. In a further parallel, the death of John is a reminder that the "light" is not always welcome. Later Jesus will meet the same fate, but with a more hopeful outcome.

As the season of Advent continues, this play on light is vital to capturing the sense of salvation. The natural light of summer is a reminder to us of the strength of the image, and the way it reveals our physical and spiritual landscape. It offers us an image of power over darkness. At the same time, there is fragility to the light: attempts to contain it (such as defending

it: are you Elijah?) are everywhere, and more insidiously there are constant moves to snuff it out.

Here we see the force of the Baptist's rebuking with the words of the prophet Isaiah: to make straight the way of the Lord is to proclaim that the mighty are pulled down from their thrones, the lowly exalted and the hungry filled with good things. With our worship of the third week of Advent, we are not far from the celebration of the definitive entry of the light into the world.

Christmas Bowl Appeal 2011



To our visitors

Welcome to our parish community. We hope you enjoy your worship here today. Please stay on for a cup of tea after the services if you are able.



PRAYER RESPONSE:

Come, O God for whom we wait, and, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

IN OUR PRAYERS

- Anglican Church in Japan
- The Parishes of Mudgee, Narromine and Nyngan.
- The Christmas Bowl Appeal as it supports people in developing countries
- Political leaders across the world
- Schools and families as the year draws to a close
- Those who are ill and their carers
- The South and Gregory families in their loss

ABM LECTIONARY REFLECTION

The Third Sunday of Advent
– 11 December 2011

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126 or *Song of Mary*, 1 Thessalonians 5: 12-28; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Confidence, humility and knowing oneself are the cornerstone for doing God's mission. The Word takes the form of the human – meaning Christ humbles himself as God to take our nature. John the Baptist has no illusions about who he is, simply the voice of the one who is calling in the wilderness. So small, not even worthy to untie the thongs of the person he is suspected to be.

Grant your Church O Lord a sense of true humbleness and self knowledge to do your mission.

Give thanks for the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui (The Anglican Church of Hong

Kong), for its Archbishop, Paul Kwong, and for his clergy and people.

Text: The Revd Vongai Mkaronda, Gender Co-ordinator for the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea

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Dedication of Windows

We welcome the Jones family today to the Dedication of the two new windows, given in memory of Evan, along with special guests, including Elizabeth Handel and Paddy Robinson, from Finglina Studios. Bishop Richard will perform the Dedication during the 9:30 am service.

A **morning tea** will be held afterwards in the Memorial Hall. Please do stay and join us for this.

Fellowship Luncheon

The Fellowship luncheon **will not** be held today (Sunday, December 11), so as not to conflict with the morning tea

Orange Community Christmas Lunch

A brochure is available today for volunteers, and pledges of support. Please take a sheet home with you if you would like more information.

The Rev Jane Chapman commences as honorary Assistant Priest next Sunday. Jane's ministry will focus on pastoral care. Jane is studying to complete a Graduate Diploma in Theology.

Her ordination to the priesthood took place yesterday, and her farewell from the Cathedral, where she worked this year, takes place today. She will be moving tomorrow.

Service Times for Christmas

Christmas Eve, December 24

Children's Pageant, 6.00pm

Christ Church, Borenore 8:00pm

"Mid-night" Service 11.00pm

Christmas Day, December 25

Holy Communion 7:30am

Holy Communion 9.30am

Children's Pageant Preparation

People interested in assisting with this, especially forming part of a choir, are asked to contact Rachel Budden as soon as possible on 6360 2862 or 0414 737 402. Rehearsals will be held on Friday 9th and 16th December, 4:00pm at 40 William Maker Drive.

Are you able to help out at *any* of our Christmas services?

Lists are available at the entrances where names can be added. Many members of the Choir will be away. If you are interested in forming a small singing group for the 11:00pm service, please contact Pam Brooks.

From Sunday, January 1st to 29th inclusive, there will be **only one service**

each Sunday - at 9.00am. The Wednesday morning service at 10.30am and the Saturday night Vigil Service at 5:30 pm will continue as usual.

The next Family Services will be at 6.00pm, December 24 - the Christmas Pageant, and then 5 February, 2012 at 9.30am.

Trinity News is available for distribution today. Please ensure that they are distributed as soon as possible, so that people have them in time for Christmas.

Looking For Christmas Presents?

Three excellent books are available from the parish office:

As the Sparks Fly Upward, by former Bush Brother, Richard Stamp \$25

See notice board for details.

A light, humorous read.

Australian Native Plants to Grow in and around Orange, produced by well known horticulture teacher and parishioner, Mick Harvey, in conjunction with Orange TAFE. Excellent value for the gardener! \$25

Every Valley, Hill, Mountain and Plain, a history of the Anglican Diocese of Bathurst, by Benjamin Edwards and Ruth Frappell. \$40 An accessible and very readable history.

Christmas Bowl

Envelopes are available in the church. The money raised will help *Act for Peace*, the international aid agency of the National Council Of Churches in Australia, to empower war-torn communities to reduce poverty, protect refugees and prevent further conflict.

HOLY BAPTISM

Today we welcome into the
Church of God

Orlando Thomas Pollard
Elizabeth Ivy Jenkins
Neve Rebecca Powyer

