

This Week's Diary

Sunday December 15 <i>The Third Sunday of Advent</i>	Holy Communion 8:30am Family Service (10:30@HTO) 10:30am Bible Study Group 5:00pm
Monday December 16	Morning Prayer 8:30am Evening Prayer 5:30pm
Tuesday December 17	Morning Prayer 8:30am Evening Prayer 5:30pm Bible Study Group 7:30pm
Wednesday December 18	Morning Prayer 8:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Evening Prayer 5:30pm Choir Practice 7:30pm LLMs Meeting 7:30pm
Thursday December 19	Morning Prayer 8:30am Evening Prayer 5:30pm Parish Council 7:30pm
Friday December 20	Morning Prayer 8:30am Evening Prayer 5:30pm
Saturday December 21	Morning Prayer 8:30am Evening Prayer 5:30pm
Sunday December 22 <i>The Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	Holy Communion 8:30am Advent into Christmas 10:30am

(Songs of the Season tracing the story of God's love in song and scripture.)

Followed by morning tea.

Please bring some fruit cake or something "Christmassie" if you are able.

Readings: Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80.1-7, 17-19, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25

Please note that children's activities conclude today.

Activity sheets will be available in the church during the next few weeks.

Parish Office:

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9.00am - 1.00pm Monday to Friday

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Know + Grow
Show + Go
In Christ

Holy Trinity Anglican Church - Orange

To make disciples for Christ, who will make disciples

15 December 2013

The Third Sunday of Advent

Building a Sustainable Future

The Christmas Bowl supports long-term programs that help countries and communities build a better, more sustainable future. One of these is Vanuatu, a place that has many challenges to development, as the country is spread over 83 islands and there are over 100 different languages spoken. The churches in Vanuatu have strong support in villages and are crucial in influencing, building and sustaining civil society and essential services. One of the ways they do this is through helping communities develop their agriculture and livestock resources.

"My name is Harry Tura and I am from a village on Ambae Island in Vanuatu. Most people call me "Papa Harry."

I was trained as a secondary teacher but after Vanuatu's independence in 1980, I went to work as manager of a coconut and cocoa plantation. That's when I also became a pastor in my church. I now work as the Field Coordinator for the Vanuatu Church Partnership Project (VCP). Through my job with VCP, I have helped improve agriculture and livestock programs in our communities.

We grow crops including sandalwood, and also train our communities in improved livestock practices, such as butchering and milking. The income from these projects will be used to develop

clean water and sanitation, and in improving health facilities in our communities.

In Vanuatu, we face many threats to our way of life through foreigners buying up parts of our land, sometimes through corruption of our own government. Young people have some education but there are few jobs. Many villages have poor access to clean water supplies, and sanitation can also be a problem. Many children suffer from diarrheal diseases, respiratory infections and malaria.

The VCP, in partnership with Act for Peace, helps us to build on our strengths and work towards strengthening our communities' self-sufficiency and quality of life. When the community is strong, the church is strong, and the country is strong. With this project we know we will survive into the future no matter what, as we are becoming self-reliant and strong.

Thank you for your help!"



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

You come to rescue us.

Come, Lord our Saviour.

In our prayers:

- Bishop Ian Palmer and Liz, and all leaders of our diocese
- The parishes of Oberon, Orange and Orange East
- The Christmas Bowl and all the people who will receive its care
- That the spirit of generosity and peace may dwell in our society
- The Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse
- Resolution to conflicts in the Middle East
- The people of South Africa mourning the death of Nelson Mandela
- Those caring for terminally ill relatives and friends
- The Mathews family in their grief

ABM Reflection

Isaiah 35.1-10; Psalm: Song of Mary (Luke 1:47-55); James 5.7-10; Matthew 11.2-11

The prophets Isaiah and John the Baptist found both solace and harsh realities in the wilderness. A camel glides by padding the sand. We stumble and fall in its tracks and then the mirage turns to fresh water. Then it accompanies us as spiritual drink and never fades away or loses its refreshing taste.

Today's question: Why do we reiterate the sufferings of our arid aimless slots in time and forget the anointing of the Wilderness Spirit?

- Prayer: Lord, you felt troubled but you had no regrets. Give us your ultimate peace.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente, the Philippines Independent Church.

Days of Prayer

Bishop Ian has asked that Friday, March 7 and Friday, June 6 be held as days of special prayer for the diocese. Please make a note of them in your diary.

Callistemon Trees

Bishop Ian gave each parish a callistemon tree during Synod, to be signs of unity and prayer across the Diocese. Our tree has been planted near the Parish Centre. Mick Harvey is propagating some of cuttings, some of which will be planted in the church grounds. Others will be given to folk who would like one to place in their garden as a reminder for the need for both prayer and spiritual growth. So far, about a dozen have been ordered. **Please check the list at the cross aisle to see that your name is on it, or to put it there if you would like one.** **Thank you** Mick for your careful and loving work.

SRE in 2014

Scripture in the town schools is on Tuesday to Thursday mornings. The greatest needs are for more Infant and Lower Primary teachers, particularly at Torpy Street and Orange East Public Schools. Bowen and Glenroi Heights Assembly groups, held on Tuesday mornings, are currently run by only 2 people and sometimes just one. More people, even on a part time basis, would assist immensely at these Assembly groups. **Please prayerfully consider if you might be able to be part of the solution to these needs.** If interested please talk to Heather Cummins.

SRE is taught ecumenically to hundreds of children each week.

Altar Front

Thanks to Lyn Atkins whose artwork appears on the front of the altar. Watch it as it unfolds in the Advent season in preparation for Christmas.

Mission Targets for 2013

Our Giving to date:

- Anglican Board of Missions (ABM) \$4,768; Over target by \$125.45
- National Home Mission Fund (NHMF) \$868; Under target by \$818
- Company of the Good Shepherd (CGS) \$1,511; Under target by \$287.30

If you are able, please put a little in the duplex envelopes to help us reach these targets. Our gifts are critical to the ministries of each of these organizations.

As well, in the last two months, \$70 has been given to the Philippines Recovery Appeal, \$120 to the Syrian Refugee Appeal, \$150 to Anglicare for the Blue Mountains Bushfire Appeal, \$198.65 to BCA, and \$60 to Wycliffe.

Thanks to all who have given towards these targets in the last two weeks to help achieve these targets.

Parish Papers and 3D News

There are still a few Parish Papers for delivery. Please check to see if you could deliver them in your local area. If you don't have the diocesan paper, please take one. Think about attending the Conference in Goulburn on January 17, 18, 2014.

The keynote speaker will be well known historian and presenter, Dr John Dickson. Cost is \$50.

Name Badges

Thank-you to all who are wearing name badges - it is very helpful for many people.

The Study Book for Lent 2014 is "Experiencing God's Love" by Bishop Stephen Croft. Cost will be about \$18.

Accommodation Needed

A married couple is seeking accommodation/house-sitting over the Christmas & New Year period. Please speak to the Rector if you may be able to assist.

Services this Month

Today's Family Service (10:30@HTO) will be Holy Communion and the last for 2013. A light lunch will follow. Please bring something to share.

10:30@HTO will recommence on Sunday, **February 2, 2014.**

Sunday, 22 December 2013

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am **Advent into Christmas**

(Songs of the Season tracing the story of God's love in song and scripture.)

Followed by morning tea.

Christmas Eve, December 24

6:00pm Children's Pageant

(Please contact Elaine Cooper if you are able to help: 6362 1623)

11:00pm "Mid-night" Service

8:00pm Christ Church, Borenore

Christmas Day December 25

7:30am Holy Communion

9:30am Holy Communion

Volunteers for Christmas Services

Thank-you to those who have volunteered to help at the various services. All positions are filled and the rosters are available today.

Extra helpers are needed for the 8:30am Morning Tea Roster for next year.

We have relied for a long time on a couple of stalwarts, who for very good reasons need a break for the present. Please speak to Canon Margaret if you are able to help. Food supply is taken care of. It is chiefly setting up, serving and tidying up that are needed. The rewards are great!