

This Week's Diary

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| Sunday December 1 <i>The First Sunday of Advent</i> | Holy Communion Family Service (10:30@HTO) Bible Study Group | 8:30am 10:30am 5:00pm |
| Monday December 2 | Morning Prayer Evening Prayer | 8:30am 5:30pm |
| Tuesday December 3 | Morning Prayer Evening Prayer Bible Study Group | 8:30am 5:30pm 7:30pm |
| Wednesday December 4 | Morning Prayer Holy Communion Evening Prayer Choir Practice | 8:30am 10:30am 5:30pm 7:30pm |
| Thursday December 5 | Morning Prayer Evening Prayer | 8:30am 5:30pm |
| Friday December 6 | Morning Prayer Evening Prayer | 8:30am 5:30pm |
| Day of Prayer for the Diocese | | |
| Saturday December 7 | Morning Prayer Evening Prayer | 8:30am 5:30pm |
| Sunday December 8 <i>The Second Day of Advent</i> | Holy Communion Family Service (10:30@HTO) Parish Luncheon Bible Study | 8:30am 10:30am 12:30pm 5:00pm |

Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72. 1-7, 18-21, Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12

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9.00am - 1.00pm Monday to Friday

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Holy Trinity Anglican Church - Orange

To make disciples for Christ, who will make disciples

1 December 2013

The First Day Of Advent

From The Christmas Bowl

The Christmas Bowl helps many communities around the world to prepare for unexpected threats, which include major disasters. An example is the work they do in the Philippines. The Bicol region of the Philippines is located on the south east peninsula of Luzon Island, about 250km from Manila and within the "Pacific Ring of Fire".

It is prone to a number of natural disasters. It has three active volcanoes that lie within the typhoon belt area, and about 20 typhoons hit Bicol every year. Just a few hours of heavy rain puts many towns in Bicol under water. It is also very susceptible to man made disasters due to destructive mining, aggressive development and illegal logging. As a result, landslides and flash floods are common risks that the people in these communities face all year round.

"My name is Pastor Davvy A. Camba and I work with the National Council of Churches in the Philippines' (NCCP) Disaster Risk Reduction program. My first disaster response was to victims in Bicol in 2000, when the Mayon volcano erupted. It was during this time that NCCP's ecumenical work in responding to disasters began. This took the form of emergency relief operations and rehabilitation programs.

In 2006 typhoon Reming hit the Bicol region, killing over 1,000 residents, with about 1,000 more missing and almost \$4.5 million dollars' worth of damage to property. NCCP responded through emergency relief operations and a rehabilitation program. I was involved in the relief program, which ran for over a year.

Throughout my volunteer work, I have seen the suffering of people in disaster-risk communities. To ensure their safety, families have to leave their homes and seek temporary shelter in cramped evacuation centres. The heads of families usually stay behind to attend to their crops and animals. The loss of lives and livelihoods is an unwelcome reality.

The terrible experience of typhoons has left a scar in the consciousness of people, which has caused them to become more receptive to disaster risk reduction programs. Eventually, they started attending community disaster risk sessions and observing early warning systems. Local government now enforces compulsory evacuation whenever there is an impending calamity.

Climate change truly aggravates disaster risks. But these risks can be reduced to a more manageable level in order to have disaster-resilient communities. It's important to put what I learned from the seminar into practice, as it will save lives. Thank you for helping us to effectively identify and manage the risks we face."

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, come down,
come in, come among us.

In our prayers:

- Bishop Ian Palmer and Liz, and all leaders of our diocese
- The parishes of Kelso and Molong
- Our Mission giving
- The Christmas Bowl and all the people who will receive its care
- The Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse
- Resolution to conflicts in the Middle East
- Those caring for terminally ill relatives and friends
- The Brown and Shepherd families in their sadness

Day of Prayer, Friday, December 6

Next Friday has been set aside as a Day of Prayer, as a follow-up to Bishop Ian's Pilgrimage of Prayer. Clergy and lay people across the diocese are invited, in unity with one another, to turn their hearts and minds to God and pray intentionally for the needs of the diocese.

You might like to come and pray in the chapel at 8:30am for Morning Prayer, or 5:30pm Evening Prayer.

The passage for reflection is Luke 1:67-69.

The next two Days of Prayer will take place on Friday, March 7 and Friday, June 6.

Callistemon Trees

(Based on Len Bailey's report from Synod)

Bishop Ian reminded Synod on Friday, November 8 of his invitation last Easter. On Good Friday a clay bowl was laid at the foot of the cross and we were all invited to take a piece of paper & write down our failures, our frailties, our losses and our

hurts and all the baggage which we no longer wanted to carry around with us. Then we were invited to place those pieces of paper in the bowl. On Easter Day we were again invited to take a piece of paper & write down our dreams, our hopes and our prayers - in fact anything that we could offer to God in faith. We were invited to also place those pieces of paper in the bowl. Bishop Ian collected all those pieces of paper from around the diocese to compost them and produce some seedlings which had grown in the compost as a symbol of new life in the diocese.

There were too many pieces of paper to compost, so Bishop Ian prayerfully and carefully burned the papers and sprinkled those ashes over the callistemon plants. He gave one to each Parish and Diocesan entity, and to several Diocesan Leaders - one each, as his gifts to the Diocese.

One tree has been planted near the Parish Centre. Mick Harvey has taken a number of cuttings from the plant given to the Rector and propagated a number of them. Some will be planted in the church grounds. Other parishioners have asked for a plant. If you would like one, as a reminder for prayer and growth, please speak to the Rector today.

Car Park.

Tomorrow morning, the construction of the new car parking area on the northern side of the Memorial Hall will commence. There may be some minor delays while trucks and machinery move in and out. This work is being funded by the Retirement Village, and repaid for by a lease to a local firm. In five years, income will revert to the parish.

Name Badges

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

Parish Luncheon Next Sunday

in the Parish Centre, from 12:30pm. Please bring some food or drink to share. The theme will be "A Taste of Christmas." *All are welcome* to this last luncheon for 2013.

Parish Paper

If you deliver copies of the "Trinity News", please take them with you today.

ABM Reflection

Isaiah 2.1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13.9-14; Matthew 24.36-44

Isaiah saw earth cast in shimmering silhouettes of peace. We have not yet seen it. Wars dressed up in false religion spout darkness and violence and make us tremble. Torture is justified with forked tongues.

Today's question: Why do we think that buttons of destruction pressed far away guarantee anonymity?

Prayer: Prince of Peace, refresh our hearts and minds with your example and teaching.

Give thanks for the work and witness of the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East (Algeria, Bahrain, Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Israel/Palestine, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen)

Mission Targets for 2013

Our Giving to the end of September

- Anglican Board of Missions (ABM) \$4,768; Shortfall of: \$381
- National Home Mission Fund (NHMF) \$863; Shortfall of: \$863
- Company of the Good Shepherd (CGS) \$1,511; Shortfall of: \$707

Please, if you are able, put a little in the duplex envelopes to help reach these targets. Our gifts are critical to each of these organizations.

Services this Month

The last Family Service (10:30@HTO) for this year will be Holy Communion, on Sunday, **December 15**, followed by a simple lunch and games in the church grounds. 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

Those people who are available and willing to participate in the varied ministry roles for the 6:00pm, 11:00pm, 7:30am or 9:30am Services, are asked to place your names on the list at the cross aisle - **today please, so that the roster may be finalised.**

HOLY BAPTISM

We welcome into God's church

Mason Thomas Carfi

Hendrix Ethan Walton

&

Theodore Peter Dutton

