

This Week's Diary

Sunday December 23 Advent 4	Holy Communion	7:30am
	Holy Communion	9:30am
	Bible Study Group	5:00pm
Monday December 24	Morning Prayer	8:30am
	Children's Pageant	6:00pm
	Christ Church Borenore "Midnight Service"	8:00pm 11:00pm
Tuesday December 25	Holy Communion	7:30am
	Holy Communion	9.30am
Wednesday December 26	Morning Prayer	8:30am
	Holy Communion	10:30am
	Evening Prayer	5:30pm
Thursday December 27	Morning Prayer	8:30am
	Evening Prayer	5:30pm
Friday December 28	Morning Prayer	8:30am
	Evening Prayer	5:30pm
Saturday December 29	Morning Prayer	8:30am
	Holy Communion	5:30pm
Sunday December 30 The First Sunday after Christmas	Holy Communion	9:00am

Readings: Samuel 2:18-20,26, Psalm 148, Colossians 3:12-1, Luke 2:41-52

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

23 December 2012

The Fourth Sunday Of Advent

From the Rector,

After more than 30 years of unrest and conflict in Iraq, the country is littered with landmines and unexploded remnants of war. This is particularly dangerous to children who pick them up out of curiosity, or mistake them for toys. For many children, it is too dangerous to travel across the land to school, so they miss out on an education. For farmers, mines prevent them from returning to their land. Many Iraqis remain dependent on food aid and have no access to health care services.

The story is tragic. For example, a shepherd was injured in a cluster munitions accident while grazing livestock in 2005. He accidentally took animals into a contaminated area, stepped on an unexploded cluster bomb and lost a leg. Since then, teams have cleared the land of those deadly weapons. It is now safe to take animals back into that area. In 1984, the former Iraqi regime evacuated the farmer's village. Military positions were installed to protect oil fields. Landmines were laid to protect those positions.

During the 2003 conflict, coalition forces used cluster bombs to attack the former Iraqi military positions in that area. The cluster bombs were airdropped. They are explosive weapons which eject smaller munitions: a cluster of bomblets. They are

designed to kill enemy personnel and destroy vehicles. The problem is that unexploded cluster bombs or bomblets can kill or maim civilians long after a conflict has ended and the military has moved on. When people returned to rebuild their semi-destroyed village, the presence of landmines, unexploded ordnance and cluster munitions blocked access to land and limited what people could do.

Under the Christmas Bowl, children are taught what to do if they see a device, how to safely escape from a minefield, and how to recognise warning signs. During the lessons, children have been told where the mines have been seen and are being cleared to keep the community safe.

This is a far cry from Christmas in Australia! Please do support the work of the Christmas Bowl this year. Gifts are tax-deductible and envelopes are available.



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 services if you are able.



Prayer Response

Jesus, Son of Mary
hear our prayer.

In our Prayers:

- All who will worship with us over Christmas
- The Christmas Bowl as it supports people around the world
- The parishes of Parkes, Rylstone-Kandos and Trundle
- Bishop elect, Ian Palmer
- Peace in the world, especially the Middle East
- People preparing to travel and all working in emergency services
- Those who face extreme loneliness at Christmas time
- The Meyers Family in their grief

“Advent into Christmas – Songs of the Seasons” Hymn Festival **today** from 2:30pm to 3:30pm, followed by Christmas cake and drinks.

Please bring some Christmas cake and/or nibbles and a drink to share afterwards in the choir Vestry.

Helpers for Christmas Services

If you are able to help at the Christmas Pageant in any capacity, please contact Rachel Budden on 6360 2862 or 0414 737 402. Helpers are urgently needed to assist with the sausage sizzle, please.

Trinity News:

The Christmas edition of Trinity News is currently being delivered. **If you are a “deliverer”, and haven’t yet completed this, please can you do so urgently, so that they can reach homes before Christmas.** Thank you.

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

From Sunday, December 30 up to and including **Sunday, January 27**, there will only Sunday Service will be held at 9.00am.

Anglicare

Emergency food stocks are very low. Gifts of non perishable food to help over the Christmas season are urgently needed. Please bring them to church and put them in the Anglicare basket at the services.

Updated Waiting List for Village

The waiting list continues to be updated for our Retirement Village. Please contact the office if you or a family member would like to be added to it.

Peaceful Central Quality Retirement Villa – Holy Trinity Village

This is a comfortable 2 bedroom villa set amongst beautifully maintained gardens with only 8 other villas, with new paint and carpet. It also features ducted air conditioning and a single garage with internal access.

All enquiries to the Parish Office between 9am and 1pm - 6362 1623.

The Christmas Bowl

In Iraq, \$75 given through the Christmas Bowl appeal can educate a village at risk from the threat of landmines and help keep communities safe. Between 1991 and 2003, coalition forces dropped 61,000 cluster bombs! Almost 7,000,000 Iraqis (one quarter of the population) live in poverty.

ABM Reflections

Micah 5.2-5a; Song of Mary (APBA p. 31); Hebrews 10.5-10; Luke 1.39-45 (46-55)

In today’s readings, particularly the Gospel and Micah, we are told about how God uses insignificant things or people to do significant things. The town of Bethlehem and Mary were not notable but through them the Saviour entered the human scene, thereby showing that God is ready to use anyone as long as they are faithful, available and trusted. He is the God who turns zeroes into heroes.

Today’s question: How do I recognise the work of God in all those around me without looking down on those who may not have the right profile?

Let us pray that all who call themselves Christians will not discriminate or write off people God may be using because of their background and status in society.

Give thanks for the people who will worship with us in Church over the Christmas period. May they find a warm welcome.

For Sale:

CD: “The Bells of Holy Trinity Orange” rung by members of the Ancient Society of College Youth from the UK. This is the group that rang for the last royal wedding.

Good buying for \$15 from the Parish Office.

Authentic Christmas bells.....

Parish Council Notes



Monday, 17 December, 2012

Apology: Mark Bessen

A number of maintenance matters were discussed, including the water easement through the Retirement Village; a renewal of the lease on the Memorial Hall; a new agreement for parking spaces on the northern side of the Memorial Hall. Council is anxious for the plumber to commence work to repair guttering and Hall roofing.

The Rector reported that during services in January the results of the National Church Life Survey will be made available.

A Lenten study program aimed at encouraging folk with young families will commence on February 17. Other Lenten study material will be made available.

Finances: Treasurer, Rod Wykes reported that the Spring fair helped bring parish accounts into a more satisfactory position.

General Account balance as at 17 December: \$12,950.

Trust Account: \$41,240. Amounts given for mission will be transferred in early January.

A number of important matters, including workplace health and safety were deferred until the January meeting.

HOLY BAPTISM

We welcome into the Church of God today:

Nathaniel Ethan Hunt
Kristen Ann Maybin
Oliver James Crellen
Emily Elizabeth Carr

