

This Week's Diary

Sunday February 15 Last Sunday after the Epiphany	Holy Communion HTO@10:30	8:30am 10:30am
Monday February 16	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer Finance Committee Meeting	8:30am 5:00pm 7:00pm
Tuesday February 17	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer Bell Ringers	8:30am 5:00pm 6:30pm
Wednesday February 18	Morning Prayer Holy Communion Choir Practice Evening Prayer	8:30am 10:30am 4:30pm 5:00pm
Thursday February 19	Morning Prayer Holy Terrors Evening Prayer Parish Council Meeting	8:30am 10:00am 5:00pm 7:30pm
Friday February 20	Morning Prayer Clergy Conference Evening Prayer	8:30am 10:30am 5:00pm
Saturday February 21	Holy Communion	5:30pm
Sunday February 22 First Sunday in Lent	Holy Communion HTO@10:30	8:30am 10:30am

Genesis 9.8-17; Psalm 25.1-10; 1 Peter 3.18-22; Mark 1.9-15

Parish Office

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Office Manager: Mrs Ashleigh Bock

9.00am - 1.00pm Monday to Friday

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Rector

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**Direct Debit Banking: BSB 082 774,
Account 391842618 (NAB, Orange)**

To:
Know | Grow
Show | Go
in Christ

Holy Trinity Anglican Church - Orange

To make disciples for Christ, who will make disciples

15th February 2015

Last Sunday after the Epiphany

How can I know it's all-true?

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

I don't know how many times I've heard it said, "you can't believe in the bible, it was written so many years after the fact!" or "you know the church changed it over time!" or "If Jesus is really alive then let him come right now and let me see him".

Each of these questions is historically based around urban myth and personal desire. The questions of proof and truth have plagued the church since it's inception. The questions of 'show me now' which are evident in the Gospel passages date back even further to the times of Moses, Abraham and Noah.

From Judaizers, Religious Christians, Gnostics, mystics, monastics, and other heresies in the church, it's very survival has meant that it has had to know exactly, 'what was the truth', 'how far can we trust that truth' and 'is that truth worth dying for'.

But, what do all of these questions answer in the end?

To be honest, *absolutely nothing!*

The questions of faith, and in fact faith in God, cannot be reduced to such simplicity. Otherwise faith becomes what you can prove in the here and now, not what is in eternity because life changes constantly whether we like it or not. In our culture today faith would become a commodity of the best arguments, and proofs, which would make it completely different from generation to generation.

The faith of God can't be that way; for it to be real it needs to transcend and transform humanity.

There is no doubt the amount of academic evidence demands a verdict when considered reasonably. This should lead people to the fact that Jesus lived, performed miracles, was the fulfilment of every Old Testament prophecy about the messiah. Jesus died on a cross and rose from the grave. This was testified to by people who were there at the time it happened. It is evident that the 'church' grew out of His teachings, life and all of these other things.

But faith can't come from these mere facts. Faith must come from a deep conviction that the bible, God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are real, alive and active in the world today and through eternity.

This doesn't mean faith won't ask questions or struggle with answers that don't make sense in the moment or even over time. It does mean that faith is increased by the Word of God, His Spirit's action of engaging in that word and the experience, conviction and evidence in our own lives that this faith is real.

Now you could argue away Christianity from any of these points, you could say that this doesn't mean Christianity is either, 'the way, the truth and the life' (Jn 14:6), and you'd be right in terms of the 'current reality' of this evidence.

All I can say to you for fact is that, 'Faith in God comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ!' (Rom.10:17) and in the end the question that I would need to ask you is:

What are you actually listening to?

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 come to you.
**You alone can
make us whole.**



In our prayers:

- The Diocese
- Bishop Ian Palmer and Liz in their settling into the Parish of Dubbo
- Parishes of Gulgong, Kelso and Molong
- Father Mal and his family
- Canon Margaret
- The preparations for the Parish Annual Meeting
- Peace around the world; a safe outcome for hostages
- Rain on parched lands
- Those struggling with bushfires
- Those who are unwell
- The Hyland family in their grieving

ABM Reflection

2 Kings 2.1-12; Psalm 50.1-6;
2 Corinthians 4.3-12; Mark 9.2-9

Bewildered and terrified, Peter, James and John hear the voice of God proclaiming Jesus as his Son. God gives them one command, 'Listen to him'. Only by really listening to Jesus will they and we discover the truth of Christ and his passion. Pray that we may listen to Jesus who calls us to share his suffering and glory. Pray for the Church of North India, giving thanks for the work they do to further God's mission in the world.

Thank-you

to the **AWA members and the extended helping 'family'** for your wonderful efforts in organizing the lunch with Bishop Ian and Liz on Tuesday. It was a wonderful effort and greatly appreciated.



Disaster Training
21st February, 10am-2pm: in Dubbo.
Please see Notice Boards for details.

WANTED:
A home for a Hammond Organ.
Please contact Marg Murray:
6361 3766

The latest Parish Prayer Diary
is enclosed *-with apologies* for its lateness.

Ash Wednesday Services
18th February:
7:15am, 10:30am and 5:00pm
Holy Week and Easter Service times
next week.

Holy Week & Easter
Palm Sunday, 29 March: usual
worship times

Maundy Thursday, 2nd April:
Passover Meal: 6:00pm
Worship: 8:00pm

Good Friday, 3rd April:
Morning Prayer: 9:00am
Evening Prayer: 5:00pm

Easter Eve, 4th April:
Pascal Candle Service: 8:00pm

Easter Day, 5th April:
Worship: 7:30am and 9:30am
9:30am at Borenore

**Donations are being sought for a
retirement gift for Canon
Margaret Finlay.**
Please contact Ann Holden
(63623 399) or Marcia Thorp
(6361 1181) for further details.

Dates for the Diary

- **World Day of Prayer Service:**
10:00am, 6th March: Salvation
Army Citadel, Kite Street
 - **Parish Annual Meeting:**
2:30pm, 8th March - in the Parish
Centre
 - **Daylight Saving ends:** 5th April
 - **Blessing of the Harvest:**
10:30am, 12th April, at Mortimers'
Vineyard, followed by a picnic
lunch - in place of the 'usual'
fellowship luncheon
 - **Solomon Islands Mission:**
21st September - 7th October
More details will follow over time,
together with other events.
- Lenten Studies:** yet to be arranged.

From the Trinity Foundation:

The final stage in addressing the critical rising damp issue for the church, involves creating new walkway access to the **two northern doors - which will be closed** for most of the project.

Please note the only exits from the church are via the main south door and the bell tower during this work.

Please also be aware of the distance to walk from the Church to the toilets.

The Wednesday and Saturday Congregations will worship in the Parish Centre during this time. **All other Service will take place in the church.**

Due to the difficulty of access to the Church during this work period, flowers in the Church will be minimal, except on special occasions.

Sunday 1st March

Worship at 9:00am

Please note: there will be **one Service only** on this, Canon Margaret's last Sunday before her retirement from the Parish. It will be in the church, and will be **followed by brunch in the Memorial Hall.**

Parish Annual Meeting

2:30pm, Sunday, 8 March, 2015,
This is election year for Parish positions. Please give thought to who you would like to nominate to the positions of Warden, Parish Councillor, Synod Representative or Parish Appointment Board member.

The **Annual Reports** will be available next week-end. Regrettably, due to circumstances beyond our control, the **Audited Financial Statement and proposed Budget** will not be available until the following week-end. Please take a copy home as soon as they are available, and read carefully in preparation for the Annual Meeting.

**The flowers in the Church are in
loving memory of**

John Lampe

HOLY BAPTISM

We welcome into the Church
of God

**Tyler Douglas Moore
Jackson Peter Moore**