

This Week's Diary

Sunday May 20	Holy Communion	7:30am
Seventh Sunday of Easter	Holy Communion	9:30am
Monday May 21	Morning Prayer	8:30am
	Evening Prayer	5:30pm
	Baptism Preparation	7:30pm
Tuesday May 22	Morning Prayer	8:30am
	Evening Prayer	5:30pm
Wednesday May 23	Morning Prayer	8:30am
	Holy Communion	10.30am
	Evening Prayer	5:30pm
Thursday May 24	Morning Prayer	8:30am
	Covenant Signing Conference, Bathurst	11.45am
	Evening Prayer	5.30pm
	OAGS	7.30pm
Friday May 25	Morning Prayer	8:30am
	Evening Prayer	5:30pm
Saturday May 26	Morning Prayer	8:30am
	Holy Communion	5:30pm
Sunday May 27	Holy Communion	7.30am
The Feast of Pentecost	Holy Communion	9.30am

Readings: Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:26-36, Romans 8:22-27, John 15:26-27;16:4b-15
(Wear something red, please)

Parish Office:

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9.00am - 1.00pm Monday to Friday
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Rector

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The Rev'd Canon Margaret Finlay
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Holy Trinity Anglican Church - Orange

Growing, loving and serving God in the Community

May 20, 2012

Sunday after Ascension

From the Rev'd Jane Chapman,

At our mid-week Eucharist we celebrated the feast of the Ascension, where – as Mark's Gospel has recorded it, Jesus "was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God" (Mk16:19). In talking through the readings before he went on retreat, Fr Frank and I were thinking about the experience of "looking up", which we imagined was the way the disciples were left after Jesus was taken up.

So at the Wednesday Eucharist, I shared a few thoughts about what it might mean for us to be "looking up" and these are some of the thoughts that came to me: I started by thinking about the difference between looking up and looking down.

When I look down, I am a person of limited vision. True, I am less likely to trip over things. But there is also the chance that I might walk straight into a wall, or even knock another person down. Then there is the rather irritating stance of downcast eyes, and the false modesty of "poor-little-me-ism": not an attractive way to be at all!

If I look up, I *see more*. I can make eye-contact with people. I can enter into relationships. I can see the far horizons. I can appreciate God's world. I can spot people in trouble (they are probably

looking down!) and perhaps befriend them. By looking up, I become *open to possibilities*.

Yes, there are risks...even adventures. By looking up, I am not alone. I can gather company. When we think about our name here at Holy Trinity, we realise that our God is a God-of-*with*. Trinity is a form of looking out and looking up...and we are formed in the likeness of a Trinitarian God. We are made for open-ness and looking up is an *open* way of being.

Up is positive. Up is open. Up is **promise**, as Jesus is promise: of companionship, adventure, relatedness, everlasting-ness... and, most of all, of love.



To our visitors

Welcome to our parish community.

We hope you enjoy your worship here today.

Please stay for a cup of tea after the services if you are able.



Prayer Response

God of our splendour,

Hear our prayer.

In our Prayers

- ◆ Praise God for Jesus' Ascension
- ◆ Pray for the Anglican Communion
- The parishes of Gulgong, Kelso, Molong and the Company of the Good Shepherd.
- That world leaders may look to the King of Kings for inspiration, hope and guidance
- Service groups in our community
- Those who battle depression and mental illness and the hospitalized
- The Sinclair and Wright families in their sadness

ABM Lectionary Reflection

- ◆ Acts 1.15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1;
1 John 5.9-13; John 17.6-19

These words could well be the final prayer on the lips of all Christ's disciples. In some ways it is mirrored in the words of Saint Paul, "I have fought the good fight, I have kept the faith etc.". How blessed our lives would be if in our dying moments we could speak to the Father in terms of having fulfilled the plans and purposes for which he gave us life, called us and consecrated us to his service. No matter at what age we are called to face death, we should be confident that God is in charge, not only of us but of our loved ones as well. In dying we entrust our lives to God and we also entrust the lives of all those near and dear to us.

Let us pray for all who will die today that they may peacefully place the past, the present and the future in the loving hands of God.

Give thanks for the mission work going on in your diocese

A Prayer Request update from Bruce Cox and Kathy Cummins is available at the church entrances. Copies of the Parish prayer diary are also available.

New Sets of Offering Envelopes are available today. Please take your set home with you if you haven't already. They are a convenient way to maintain regular giving to the parish and to other agencies (through the duplex envelopes).

If you would like a set, please write your name on the sheet for parish records.

A number of folk use Direct Debit, arranged through the Anglican Diocese of Bathurst, at no cost. Some of these people use offering envelopes each Sunday, so that they have "something to put on the plate". Information sheets are available on the table near the offering envelope sets.

"Anglican News" has articles on:

- ◆ The Election process for our next Bishop.
- ◆ the Covenant to be signed with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Bathurst next Thursday to allow closer working together.

A Prayer for use at the time of choosing a bishop

*Eternal God, shepherd and guide,
in your mercy give your Church in this diocese*

*a shepherd after your heart
who will walk in your ways,
and with loving care watch over
your people.*

*Give us a leader of vision and a teacher
of your truth.*

*So many may be built up
and your name glorified;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



The Food Trolley: each Sunday at the offertory, the trolley is taken forward as part of the gifts that are being offered to God. Non-perishable, prepackaged foods such as noodles, cereals and tinned food is best, as it is easily repacked for distribution by **Orange Anglicare** on Sunday afternoon from its emergency food service at Saint Barnabas.

It is an excellent way of caring for people in need.

Certificate in Theology and Ministry

An information sheet concerning this course is available at the back of the church. There are six units, all of which have very practical application.

Unit 1, "Experiencing Faith" will be offered if there is sufficient interest.

If you would like further information please speak to the Rector as soon as possible.

Confirmation Classes: the Confirmation Service will take place on Friday, October 12. Classes for young people and adults will commence soon. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like further information.

A Men's Cursillo is being held next month. If you would like information about the Cursillo movement, please speak to the Rector, Ray Norman or David Ironside.

Parish Council met last Thursday night. Apologies: Ruth Jones, Lyn Atkins

Dawn Easton, a retired senior public servant, has become the minute secretary.

A number of practical matters were reviewed, including maintenance on the Memorial and Bluestone Halls. An

agreement for parking on the northern side of the hall and a request to Orange City Council for no parking signs at the Anson Street entrance and exit have been followed up.

The Mission Action Plan group presented a working document which will now be taken to groups within the parish. Seminars on Spiritual Gifts will be held on Sunday, June 2 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, with another on Sunday, June 17 from 2 pm to 5 pm. All parishioners are encouraged to attend.

Finances:

\$45,000 from reserves in the Business Online Saver account and \$20,000 from the Trust Account are being transferred into the Diocesan Income Account. These funds remain available to us at call. The General Account balance is \$8969, and the Trust Account, after the transfers, \$12,329. In the last month, payments have been made to the following agencies:

ABM \$1,099.90,
Anglicare, \$10
Bush Church Aid Society \$263,
Easter Awakening (Fusion) \$200
Wycliffe \$250
Brotherhood of the Good Shepherd \$55.65
Will Graham Reality \$1500

Significant time was spent discussing future plans for ministry and maintenance.

At 4.30 pm this afternoon, Father Frank will be the preacher at **Evensong** in All Saint's Cathedral, Bathurst.

