

This Week's Diary



Sunday November 30 First Sunday of Advent	Holy Communion HTO@10:30 Baptism Bear Reunion - <i>in the Church</i>	8:30am 10:30am
Monday December 6	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	8:30am 5:00pm
Tuesday December 7	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	8:30am 5:00pm
Wednesday December 8	Morning Prayer Holy Communion Choir Practice Evening Prayer	8:30am 10:30am 4:30pm 5:00pm
Thursday December 9	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	8:30am 5:00pm
Friday December 10	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer AWA meeting	8:30am 5:00pm 2:30pm
Saturday December 11	Holy Communion	5:30pm
Sunday December 12 Second Sunday of Advent	Holy Communion HTO@10:30 <i>in the Memorial Hall</i>	8:30am 10:30am

Isaiah 40.1-11; Psalm 85.1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3.8-15a; Mark 1.1-8

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To:
Know | Grow
Show | Go
in Christ

Holy Trinity Anglican Church - Orange

To make disciples for Christ, who will make disciples

30 November 2014

First Sunday of Advent

The Immortal questions asked of King Arthur in the hunt for the Holy Grail...

'What is your name?
What is your quest?
What is the airspeed and velocity of a sparrow?'

Who we are, what our lives are about and even the trivial, funny and lightheartedness of day-to-day life are as important today as they were during the first time of advent. Advent is a strange oxymoron - it means 'coming' but also 'arrived'. It's about preparation, remembrance and celebration of what is to come and what is here already.

But what does that have to do with Arthur's quest? Arthur was looking for the cup of Christ, the legendary cup that had Jesus' blood mingled with water at his crucifixion. It was purported to have the power to give eternal life for the one who drank from it. The questions were asked of Arthur so he could pass over a gorge of death. If he answered incorrectly he would be dead, if he answered correctly he would live.

How many of us journey through life seeking the answers to the same questions to gain eternal life and not be hurled into that gorge of death? I think often, we are looking for a lightning bolt, or some such occurrence to give us the answers to the questions of life. Yet from a young age, we have had the answer 'coming' and 'here/arrived', right in front of us.

Advent is all about answers to the questions of life, justice, peace, joyful expectation, hope, the God of hope, redemption and the inauguration of the Kingdom of God that is eternal. Those answers start here, are here, and have been here for over 2,000 years. They all revolve around who Jesus is, what his life was about and the journey he took everyday of his life. It had trivialness, fun, lightheartedness, but also joy, frustration, a prescience of what was to come. He also had the integrity to follow God's will through to completion, no matter what. He lived a full and varied life no different to what we are faced with everyday.

Advent is a challenge every year for us all, it helps remind us who we are, and what we stand for in all of our life. It needs to be kept fresh in our hearts year after year, so that we will always have that wonder and delight of Christmas.

The question is, "Do we remember?"

God bless you all this Advent.

From the Rectors Desk



ADVENT

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, stir up your strength
and come among us.

In our prayers:

- The Diocese, Bishop Ian Palmer and Liz
- Parishes of Kelso and Molong
- Our Parish
- A good Advent observance
- Father Mal and his family
- The community of Orange
- The Catholic Parish of Orange celebrating its Sesquicentenary
- Resolution to conflict in all countries of the Middle East
- Give thanks for our freedom
- Rain on parched lands
- Those mourning the death of Diane Mead, Geoffrey Ogilvie and Phillip Hughes

ABM Reflection

Isaiah 64.1-9; Psalm 80.1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1.1-9; Mark 13.24-37

Today marks the beginning of the season of waiting and watching for Christ's coming. According to Mark's Gospel, that coming will not be entirely pleasant. The injustice, the darkness, and the corruption of the world cannot stand in the presence of Christ, and so the world must be changed in the light of his coming. But through this intimidating thought shines the message of hope – hope for a redeemed world in which all things have been made new. And in the meantime, we can be certain that God 'will also strengthen [us] to the end'. (1 Cor. 1:8)

Pray that we may be strengthened to prepare for Christ's coming in our lives, our churches, and our communities.

Pray for the *Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui*, the Anglican Church in Hong Kong, giving thanks for the work they do to further God's mission in the world.

MU News

A stall of Christmas 'bits and pieces' will be held following the 8:30am Service on **7th December**.

This will be MU's contribution to support the Diocesan Legal Defence. A great Christmas shopping opportunity!

Name Badges

Please, would you assist by wearing your name badge as often as possible. This will be especially helpful to Father Mal and his family as they get to know us.

The Legal Defence parish Fundraising Committee

continues to plan and seek ideas for further fundraising ideas. **All ideas are welcome.** Any-one who wishes to hold such a fundraising activity is asked to please *speak with a committee member first*.

The Committee would also like to hear from any-one who is planning an activity, and to support them with these.

For further information, or to contribute ideas, please contact Ann Holden 6362 3399 or Len Bailey 6360 1072.

Anglicare Food Service

Thank-you to all who are supporting this service. All contributions are very welcome and may be made via the shopping basket/trolley at any service (or left in the office during the week).

Meals on Wheels Reminder

Holy Trinity team's turn: **1st December**.

Orange Community Christmas Lunch

Volunteers are needed to enable this Christmas significant community event to take place. For further information please see the flyers on the back table of the Church.

Baptism Bear Reunion

10:30am, today.



Welcome

to all who have come to share in this occasion. We trust it has been a valuable time of fellowship and worship for you. All are invited to enjoy the **sausage sizzle** as you are leaving.

Thank-you

to all who did so much in preparation for, and had involvement in, Father Mal's Service on Tuesday night, as well as the following refreshments - with a special thank-you to Joy Wythes, Ann Holden, Brian Holden and 'their team'. It was a great celebration and 'team effort' all round.



New Ministry Rosters are out to-day.

Please, would you collect your copy to-day.

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve, December 24

6:00pm Christmas Pageant

11:00pm "Mid-night" Service

8:00pm Christ Church, Borenore

Christmas Day, December 25

7:30am Holy Communion

9:30am Holy Communion

A Final Word.....

Thank-you so much for last Sunday - your kind words, the special morning tea, the peel of bells and the lovely hamper basket.

It was a privilege to be amongst you, welcomed and accepted, and very fulfilling to see the transition from sadness and grief at your former rector's departure, to enthusiasm and hope in the coming of your new priest and his family.

May you continue to grow in anticipation of new life as God's gift for those who love Him.

Thank-you - peace and blessings,

Father Ian Crooks

Christmas Bowl Appeal

Christmas Bowl Appeal envelopes are available at the entrances for those who would like to support this annual appeal by the National Council of Churches.

Gifts placed in the special envelope may be forwarded directly, or by placing on the offertory plate for forwarding on.

Those taking part in the Christmas Bowl appeal join with Christians across Australia in sharing God's gift of love and hope with people in great need this Christmas. *For example*, making sure Burmese refugees have enough to eat, providing desperately needed medical care for Palestinian families in Gaza, and giving hope to Christians and other groups fleeing persecution in Iraq.

Pastoral Care

If, at any time, you know of a member of the Parish family who is ill or in hospital, would you please let Canon Margaret or Father Ian know. It is not possible to offer ministry to these folk unless we know of such need.