

TRINITY NEWS

Sharing Jesus for Life

THIS WEEK

Sunday 28 April

8.30am Traditional Service followed by morning tea

10.30am Contemporary All-Age Service followed by morning tea

Tuesday 30 April

10am Church Family Prayer Gathering

1pm Tuesday Afternoon Fellowship Group

Wednesday 1 May

7am Wednesday Morning Fellowship Group (men)

9.30-11am Trinity Playgroup in the Hall

10.30am Traditional Service followed by morning tea

5.30pm Prayer Gathering in the Hall

7pm Identity Course begins at St Barnabas

Thursday 2 May

10am Thursday Fellowship Group (ladies)

5pm Trinity Kids' Club in the Hall

LOOKING AHEAD

Saturday 18 May

Diocesan Day in Dubbo with Kids' and Youth Programmes

Fri 9-Sun 11 Aug

Diocesan Camp at Ridgecrest with Andy Martin as speaker

From Andy's Desk...

When Jesus' disciples asked him for help with prayer, he gave them a beautifully simple but spiritually stunning outline known as 'the Lord's Prayer'. This extraordinary prayer has been cherished by Christians everywhere and always. In his opening phrase, 'Our Father in heaven', Jesus spotlights the intimate relationship with God that should motivate all our prayers.

People of different religions pray in very different ways, depending on their view of the god they are praying to. Muslims repeat ritual prayers five times a day for a god who is a distant judge. Buddhists meditate silently on their own inner being. Witchdoctors summon demonic spirits with ecstatic frenzy. Many Roman Catholics quietly repeat the 'Hail Mary' with their rosary beads.

But Jesus tells us that Christians can pray to 'Our Father in heaven'. This is extraordinary! The original word that Jesus used was 'Abba' a term of intimacy used in Jewish families, a little bit like 'Daddy'. So, Jesus tells us to begin our prayers by addressing the transcendent Creator, omnipotent ruler and terrifying judge of the cosmos as 'Dad'! What was he thinking? Among all the names invented for God by man, nothing compares to this apparently blasphemous irreverence. Jesus could have begun with 'Our Creator', or 'Our Sovereign', or 'Our Judge', but instead he began, 'Our Father'.

Jesus wants us to understand the extraordinary relationship we have as Christians with the God to whom we pray. We are his adopted children and we can approach him as our heavenly Father, with affectionate and confident intimacy. Our whole lives are to be lived not in a display of competitive religious performance motivated by fear of failure or pride in superiority, but with an attitude of childlike love and trust in our heavenly Father.

If we struggle to pray, as many Christians do, what we need is not better techniques but better theology: a fresh view of God our Father, his magnificent character and amazing plans for us his children.

This is how Jesus himself prayed. He could do this because he is the eternal Son of God. When he became flesh at that first Christmas, he revealed himself as the second person of the Trinity, eternally related to God the Father as the Son. He was entitled to call God 'Father'. And that is what we see Jesus doing consistently in the gospels.

But we are not naturally God's children. Without Jesus, God calls us 'objects of wrath' (Ephesians 2:3) and 'children of the devil' (1 John 3:10). But incredibly, by God's grace, we Christians have been reborn by the Spirit of God and adopted into God's family by faith in Jesus:

"To all who received Him (that is, Jesus), to those who believed in His name, he gave the right to become children of God." (John 1:12).

It is the most amazing privilege to talk to God as our Father. It doesn't take any special words or techniques; we can just talk like children to the best father in the world: so enjoy it!

With love in Christ,

Andy Martin
Minister





Diocesan Day Conference - Saturday 18 May in Dubbo

Join with others from around our Diocese to enjoy a great day of fellowship, teaching and practical help with a focus on **Prayer**: Why we pray, how we pray and practical 'all-in' seminars to rejuvenate and challenge our prayer life. Speaker Peter Rodgers, former International Director of CMS Australia and now Assistant Minister at Newtown Erskineville Anglican Church. Morning Tea and Lunch provided. Kids' & Youth programmes plus Crèche. See flyer for more details and information on how to register.

New Term Card

Pick up a copy to see what's happening this term and key dates for 2024. We are beginning a new series in the book of 1 Thessalonians in our Sunday services, Kids' Group and Fellowship Groups.

Church Family Prayer Gathering - Tuesday 30 April at 10am and Wednesday 1 May at 5.30pm

Our monthly Church Family Prayer Gatherings are normally in the week of the first Tuesday/Wednesday of each month. Tuesdays are in the Church and Wednesdays in the Hall. Please come along to pray together for our church family, our city and our world.

Trinity Playgroup - Wednesdays 9.30-11am in the Hall

For kids under school-age and their parents/carers. Free play, Storytime, Singing & Craft. Contact Elyse Gilbert or Amanda Martin for more details.

Trinity Kids' Club - Thursdays 5-6.30pm in the Hall

For kids in school years 2-6. Fun, Games, Bible Talk, Activities & Dinner. Contact Caitlyn White for details.

Fellowship Groups - Resume this week

Our midweek small groups will resume this week. They are a great time to meet together over coffee to chat, study the bible, pray and encourage each other. If you'd like to join a group contact Andy Martin: Monday 7pm - Tuesday 1pm & 7pm - Wednesday 7am (men) & 7pm - Thursday 10am (ladies)

Save the Date!

Diocesan Camp at Ridgecrest, Lake Burrendong, Friday 9 - Sunday 11 August
Diocesan Women's Conference in Bathurst, Saturday 19 October

PARISH COUNCIL Next Meeting: Sunday 28 April 3-5pm

Andy Martin - *Rector*, Garry West - *Rector's Warden*, Rod Wykes - *Warden & Treasurer*,
 Lynne Middleton - *Warden*, Sandy Bosanquet - *Secretary*
 John Bosanquet, Charles Jones, Elyse Gilbert, Steve White, Daniel Willis

If you have feedback, comments or questions for Parish Council please send an email to holytrinityorangesec@gmail.com or leave your contact details with the office and a member of Parish Council will contact you. Minutes will be available to read afterwards, in the church office.

GIVING

If you would like to give financially to support the work at Holy Trinity of Sharing Jesus for Life, gifts can be placed in the baskets or gift-box at church or given online:

Holy Trinity Anglican Church Orange - NAB - BSB 082 774 - Account 391-842-618

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