



# Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Project Regenerate: Explore. Rejoice. Give.

**Advent 1**  
**30 November 2025**

**Sunday Services: 10.30am - Warracknabeal**



***Hello Everybody!*** I hope that you've had a good week.

Happy New Year!

A new liturgical year begins - new insights, new challenges, new adventures, new goals, new rhythms ... Christ is coming to make all things new!

We have much to celebrate, and much to be grateful for in our privileged and fortunate positions in the world. Many face the harshness of winter with very little protection. Many face the Christmas Season without peace, hope or joy. Many people around the globe are voiceless and unvalued. I invite us to really seek those in need - whether many miles away or somewhere on our street.

As part of our Project Regenerate vision in our 140<sup>th</sup> year - I strongly urge us to focus on what we can 'Give' during the pending festive season.

There are many ways to do this:

- a) To continue to give to the **Christian Emergency Food Centre** (Horsham) as they prepare for the festive season. Our simple contribution of non-perishable goods make a significant difference in the lives of many within our region.
- b) I have only heard this week about Kat - a worker in our Warrack hospital whose family has been significantly affected by the recent typhoon in Cebu in the Philippines. **THEY NEED CLOTHES**. If you are able to drop off clothes for children, women and men that are clean and wearable at the Rectory, Maggie will forward them on our behalf. Maybe you would like to make a donation to the postage of these clothes - if so, place in an envelope marked PHILIPPINES Disaster - and I will forward monies.
- c) Rev will be running the **Useful Gift Shop** again this year. Details in church foyer and Parish Centre.
- d) As in the past - maybe you would like to empower a person somewhere in the world with a micro-loan through **KIVA**. (details in pew sheet).

I thank you for your generosity.

---

*Project REGENERATE. 140 years in 2026.*

The Diocesan 150 year celebration at Hamilton last weekend was a relaxed and wholesome occasion. I was disappointed that Serj wasn't asked to 'toss the banner' down the aisle in the possession (*not part of the chaplain's service*). Anyway, there were many people gathered and fantastic weather for the picnic.



Serj & Rev with the Banner (left) and Celebration of the Eucharist (above).

The parish made a \$150.00 donation to +Garry's "150 for 150" campaign that was delivered in Hamilton, and the Parish Council also donated \$150.00 to the Anglican Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza as part of this campaign.

Some of my school 'gigs' are coming to an end with another successful year of the GLAD Program (Good Living and Development). It is lovely to see genuine and positive development in some of those I am privileged to spend some time with during the week in my school engagements funded by the Leith Charitable Trust. Children have a way of helping a man 'sharpen the saw' - and I feel like I too have grown in my role as mentor and educator. I am looking forward to a little more breathing space in the week in preparation for the Christmas Season.

In this vein, the MDC - Mission Development Committee in the Diocese has provided some resources online. The first (mentioned in the dNews) is available in the following link: [2025-Advent-Hymn-Reflections.pdf](#) They have also borrowed our Advent Retreat in Daily Life from last year, which you can follow via this link: [2025-Advent-Retreat-in-Daily-Life-James-Wood.pdf](#)

I am sure that there will be much to do over the next four weeks as we prepare to welcome family, or travel to close or distant places, catch up with random friends and neighbours or work colleagues ...

*Blessings, Rev James*



## **Prayer in the Parish**

### **In the Parish & Beyond:**

- +Garry; Diocesan 150yr celebrations;
- For all our Diocesan sisters and brothers of faith; all in the Wimmera Deanery;
- For sustainable peace in Middle East;
- For our farmers and their families;
- People of Palestine, GAZA, Philippines, Yemen, Syria, Haiti, Ukraine and all in the Caribbean;
- For all who are hungry, thirsty and seeking shelter around the globe;
- For all facing natural disaster: flood, fire, earthquake, cyclone, famine;
- For all known to us in hospital and our Residential Care facilities;
- For Christian Emergency Food Centre;
- For those who are grieving; for those who are lonely; for those confused;
- For all those we love, near and far away;

**Years Mind:** Frederick (Leslie) DART (1984), Alexander WALDER (1996), William LARKE (2004), Lisa CURTIS (2001), Ada FAGAN (1989), Robert RIVETT (1998), Helen PATTERSON (2005), Christian (Allan) MAHNS (1990), Albert MANNING (1996), Herbert LIERSCH (1998), Clement (Jimmy) BISHOP (1986), Lindsay WESTERLAND (2009), Ephraim (Jack) SAUNDERS (1997), Kenneth NEWELL (2001), Clifford FERNANDES (2005), Anne TREACY (1989)

*“Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.”*

## **Service Times Dec**

### **Advent 1 – 30 November**

10.30am Warracknabeal  
6.30pm Prelude to Christmas at Lutheran Church

### **Advent 2 – 07 December**

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal  
11.00am St Mark's Areegra

### **Advent 3 – 14 December**

9.30am Warracknabeal  
6.00pm Warracknabeal Community Carols

## **Christmas Services**

### **Advent 4 – 21 December**

9.30am Warracknabeal  
6.00pm Areegra – Café Carols

### **Christmas Eve – 24 December**

8.00pm refreshments / 10.00pm Celebration

### **Christmas Day – 25 December**

9.30am Celebration

### **Christmas 1 – 28 December**

9.30am Warracknabeal





# TODAY'S READINGS

## ADVENT 1

**First Reading:** Isaiah 2:1-5

### ***A reading from the prophet Isaiah***

This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: in the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.' The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war any more. Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord. This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Psalms:** 122:1-5

**Response:** *Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.*

1. I rejoiced because they said to me,  
"We will go up to the house of the  
LORD." And now we have set foot  
within your gates, O Jerusalem. **(R)**

2. Jerusalem, built as a city  
with compact unity.  
To it the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the LORD. **(R)**

3. According to the decree for Israel,  
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.  
In it are set up judgment seats,  
seats for the house of David. **(R)**

4. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!  
May those who love you prosper!

May peace be within your walls,  
prosperity in your buildings. **(R)**

5. Because of my brothers and friends  
I will say, "Peace be within you!"  
Because of the house of the LORD,  
our God, I will pray for your good. **(R)**
6. Because of my brothers and friends  
I will say, "Peace be within you!"  
Because of the house of the LORD,  
our God, I will pray for your good. **(R)**

**Second Reading:** Romans 13:9-14

### ***A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans***

The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not covet,' and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Love does no harm to a neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law. And do this, understanding the present time: the hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, **Alleluia!**

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation. **Alleluia!**

### Gospel:

**Matthew 24:36-44**

#### ***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew***

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark ; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. ‘Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

The season of Advent is a sticky-  
note reminder to the church:  
God is doing a new thing. Again!  
*[Anon]*

### The Propers

**Sentence:** Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and the we may walk in his paths.

**Collect:** Faithful God, whose promises stand unshaken through all generations: renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our Judge and Saviour, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Be Patient  
& Stand firm  
Because  
The Lord's  
Coming  
is Near*

Donations of grain - of any quantity  
can be made using the  
Church's NGR number:  
**NGR 12439740**

## Advent Christmas Calander

**Choose one or more of the following options as your 'Advent Christmas Calander' in the next four weeks until the end of the year.**

### 30 Nov – 06 Dec

☐

Make a donation to 'Kat's Philippines Appeal' via Rev James

☐

Call an old friend and wish them well for the Christmas Season

☐

Write a simple Christmas note to someone who lives in your street

☐

Invite a friend to our Christmas celebration

### 07 Dec – 13 Dec

☐

Tell another Parishioner what you appreciate about them

☐

Donate non-perishables toward Christian Emergency Food Centre

☐

Donate \$1.00 for every tap in your house to ABM Christmas Appeal

☐

Write a simple Christmas note to someone who lives in your street

### 14 Dec – 20 Dec

☐

Donate \$5.00 for every toilet in your house to ABM Christmas Appeal

☐

Write a simple Christmas note to someone who lives in your street

☐

Ring the church bell at a 'random' time to celebrate Christmas

☐

Surprise a friend with a special Christmas Greeting

### 21 Dec – 28 Dec

☐

Support a KIVA micro-loan somewhere in the world: [www.kiva.org](http://www.kiva.org)

☐

Choose a 'new' activity to try in 2026 – make plans to implement

☐

Write a special note to a favourite or difficult family member

☐

Donate \$1.00 for every present you received to ABM Christmas Appeal

On various occasions I have mentioned the micro-loan organization 'KIVA', as invitation for people to think about Christmas giving to help share the blessings and bounty of our privileged and fortunate life here in Warracknabeal with the world. KIVA Gift Cards are available from the website.

Here is some info: (get in touch if you want more info or help)

From the KIVA website: <https://www.kiva.org/about>

More than 1 billion people around the world are unbanked and can't access the financial services they need. Kiva is an international non-profit, founded in 2005 in San Francisco, with a mission to expand financial access to help underserved communities thrive.

We do this by crowdfunding loans and unlocking capital for the underserved, improving the quality and cost of financial services, and addressing the underlying barriers to financial access around the world. Through Kiva's work, students can pay for tuition, women can start businesses, farmers are able to invest in equipment and families can afford needed emergency care.

By lending as little as \$25(USD) on Kiva = ~AD\$32, you can be part of the solution and make a real difference in someone's life. 100% of every dollar you lend on Kiva goes to funding loans.

**How it works** - Create opportunities around the world: From a new fishing net to community solar power, it's easy to help fund a loan that changes someone's life.



**We envision a financially inclusive world where all people hold the power to improve their lives.**

**Kiva by the numbers:**

**5 Million - people reached**

**92% said their lives had been improved**

**78% said that they managed business better**

**83% said business income had increased**

**2.3 Million loans funded**

**1 Person reached every 90 secs**



**1. Find a person you want to support**



**2. Decide how much you want to contribute**



**3. Check out — your funds are allocated to the borrower**



**4. Get repaid, and lend to someone else**