



# Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
**17th May 2020**

Hello everyone! I hope that I find you well.

*"If one does not know to which port one is sailing, no wind is favourable." [Seneca]*

Jesus this week promises to send 'the Helper', 'the Advocate', 'the Paraclete' (depending on which version of the Bible you are reading). Are there conditions attached? Is love conditional? What happens if I cannot keep the 'commands' Jesus talks of? This Gospel reading sometimes gives me shudders and I often feel I fall way too short of God's expectations of me (let alone the expectations - perceived or otherwise, of my role).

The danger we all face as faithful people of God - is to have a fixed view of God, which we then try to fit Jesus into. God gives us 'free will' but maybe not that much self-determination! The danger is that I am tempted (I'll speak for myself), as I receive the Spirit to justify my own actions as God's actions in the world. This makes me feel good and I feel 'successful', and my private devotions and prayer life can lead me to a false sense of 'keeping God's commands.'

The truth is that - the Spirit IS SENT to ALL of us. Not to reassure our complacency and comfort zones and skills that we have developed in our own understanding of what ministry means to us, but rather TO SEND US OUT!

God the Father will fill our church in ways that God's Spirit will see fit (and in God's time). Our role is to WITNESS to others - this is the purpose of Jesus sending the Spirit! This takes us to new 'places'. This means we are encouraged to experiment with where God wants to place us. This means we may feel discomfort from time to time. This is where the term 'Mass' (*missa*) originates - "Go, I am sending you!" Following Jesus has real consequences!

Discerning the 'port' of our lives during this time of continued (and slightly more relaxed) isolation - remains an opportunity for each of us to 'find a favourable wind' to help us get there. There are no conditions - BUT, an open heart will help!

*With every blessing, Rev James*

## Easter Season Quiz IV:

1. How many questions does Jesus ask in the Bible?
2. How many questions were asked of Jesus?
3. How many of the above number did he answer?

### 4. Who am I?

- I was not a Jew.
- My Hebrew name means 'Friend'.
- I am the great grandmother of David.
- In the Bible I am a symbol of abiding loyalty and devotion.
- I was married. Widowed. Remarried.
- I am one of five to be found in Matthew 1. [Answers next week]

### Last week's answers - Quiz III:

- 1). BBQ Fish & bread
- 2). Peter and Andrew
- 3). 66 books
- 4). King Nebuchadnezzar II



### **Prayer in the Parish**

**In the Parish & Beyond:** +Garry; all in times of transition; Nola & Mollison family; those who do not have access to medicine and safe water.

**Community:** Front-line health care workers; people being able to return to work; those hopeful for employment; meeting up with friends and family once again.

**Years Mind:** Derek Close, Carl Adler, Thelma Hose, Mary Ridoutt, Olive Gregson

### **EASTER 6 youTube from Rev:**

"Seeking Authenticity & Truth"

<https://youtu.be/H7yNI2eTMoQ>

### **Bishop Garry's youTube message:**

Easter 5 – *Do Not Be Troubled?*

<https://youtu.be/W2m8J6LM1V8>

The great decisions in life are not made with the trumpet sounding, but rather the gentle whisper of authenticity and truth.

*'A pilgrim'*

During the COVID-19 restrictions - Rev will be in Christ Church every Sunday for prayer and praise at 9.30am.

Please join him in solidarity at home if you are able – covering the parish in prayer and thought.

# *A Simple Service – for Sixth Sunday of Easter*

## **Hymn: Christ Is Alive!**

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring;  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now,  
and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift and war,  
where colour, scorn or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age or youth  
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
and find the way, the life, the truth,  
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy,  
with justice, love, and praise.

Brian Arthur Wren. CCL 610638

## **Reflection:**

- a) *What was your most satisfying moment this week?*
- b) *What would you like to give thanks to God for this week?*

*In a moment of silence – offer these thoughts to God through the Holy Spirit.*

## **Prayer of Preparation:**

Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Readings:** *(I suggest one or two – the others can become the basis for your devotions throughout the week)*

**Videos:** +Garry and/or Rev

## **Reflection:**

- a) What was something new for you in the readings this morning?
- b) What is your understanding of the Holy Spirit being your ‘Advocate’ as part of your walk with God?

## **Prayer:**

Praise. Petition. Intercession. Thanksgiving.  
*(or follow your own discipline.)*

The Lord’s Prayer.

Collect for the Day.

## **Blessing:**

May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warmly on your face.  
May the rain fall softly on your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you, and those you love,  
in the palm of God’s hand. Amen.

*[Old Irish Saying]*

## **Song: Come Down, O Love Divine** (vs 1,3,4)

Come down, O Love divine,  
seek now this soul of mine,  
and visit it with your own ardour glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear  
and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity  
my outer garment be,  
and lowliness become my inner clothing:  
true lowliness of heart,  
which takes the humbler part  
and for its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong  
with which the soul will long  
shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
for none can guess its grace  
till we become the place  
in which the Holy Spirit makes her dwelling.

*Bianco de Siena d.1434 CCL 610638*

# TODAY'S READINGS

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**First Reading:**

**Acts 17:22-31**

### ***A reading from the Acts of the Apostles***

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: 'People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god . So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship – and this is what I am going to proclaim to you. 'The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. "For in him we live and move and have our being." As some of your own poets have said, "We are his offspring." 'Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone – an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this

to everyone by raising him from the dead.'

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Psalm:**

**66:1-7, 16**

**Response: *Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.***

1. Shout joyfully to God, all the earth, sing praise to the glory of his name; proclaim his glorious praise.  
Say to God, "How tremendous are your deeds! **(R)**
2. "Let all on earth worship and sing praise to you,  
sing praise to your name!"  
Come and see the works of God,  
his tremendous deeds among the children of Adam. **(R)**
3. He has changed the sea into dry land;  
through the river they passed on foot;  
therefore let us rejoice in him.  
He rules by his might forever. **(R)**
4. Hear now, all you who fear God,  
while I declare what he has done for me.  
Blessed be God who refused me  
not my prayer or his kindness! **(R)**

**Second Reading:**

**1 Peter 3:8-22**

### ***A reading from the first letter of Peter***

Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. For, 'Whoever would love life and see good days must keep

their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.' Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. 'Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.' But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits – to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolises baptism that now saves you also – not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience towards God. It

saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand – with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia! **Alleluia!**

Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him and we will come to him.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel:**

**John 14:15-21**

***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John***

'If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you for ever – the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me any more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.'

This is the gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

## **THE PROPERS**

**Sentence:** 'Those who love me will keep my word,' Jesus promises, 'and my Father will love them, and we will come to, them and make our home with them.'

**Collect:** Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant that we may walk in his way, rejoice in his truth, and share his risen life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

# Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever." John 14:16 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 14:15-21 (NIV).



**John 14:16**

B L L A D W G C L A I A X R N  
 D X S L S G N C O S A M I O O  
 Q N R H P K Y O I M H S A I K  
 N O R M I O L E R S M O K A X  
 W I U K R A C C E P T A W B K  
 H F Y U I E M O B G H Z N E A  
 H J T G T V C C V V B A S D J  
 G W N H N I N O Q W G D N S E  
 F X S L D M Y U K H Q F P S F  
 R C T K I H Y N C T H O G M R  
 Z Z G L O V E S R G L R T Y D  
 F A T H E R E E P A B E R S Y  
 M U R O P S O L I E T V U E E  
 K O O B E Y V O M Z M E T L O  
 H C Q N E I P R Z B F R H F U

FATHER	WORLD	OBEY	COUNSELOR	SHOW
ASK	COMMAND	LIVE	SPIRIT	LOVE
FOREVER	ORPHANS	MYSELF	TRUTH	ACCEPT

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(I don't have a menu for this week I am sorry)