



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Easter 2
16 April 2023

Sunday Service: 9.30am - Warracknabeal



Happy Easter Everybody!

I hope that you've had a good week.

And that the celebrations of Easter will continue in your hearts and homes. Our Easter Feast last weekend **BEGAN** our 40 days (*not including Sundays*) celebration of the Resurrection before Jesus ascends to heaven. Forget about three days ... we have as much time as we did in 'the desert of Lent' to rejoice in God appearing to Jesus' friends and followers and continuing to proclaim that Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

God's 'power' and influence in our lives must not be understated. The Holy Spirit is not restricted by the liturgical calendar nor our church conventions. An open heart and a willing desire for our lives to be intertwined with God's is the 'sacrifice' we are invited to offer to God - no matter what the future may hold. An easy sacrifice? Sometimes not - it seems.

The temptation of the Easter Season is to restrict God to 'times past' and it "won't happen to me" - God has to be busy somewhere else etc etc. God wants to appear again in your heart - in the heart of your friends and family ... our Christian witness is still vital and elementary in showing the world that God is merciful, compassionate and has the ability to overcome all life's difficulties, the reality of death, and the reality of darkness in our broken world.

Suffering needs tending. Brokenness needs healing. Despair needs to be confronted by Hope. Hatred and discord by courageous Love. We are invited to be 'liberated' by God's Resurrection Spirit - and not retreat into the conformities that society places upon us. The 'light that dwells within us' - must SHINE. Shine brightly and boldly. Shine - for others and not just for ourselves.

Let the Easter 'party' continue! Who are you going to invite?

Every blessing, Rev!



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; our Diocesan sisters & brothers;
- For refugees and all seeking asylum;
- For those who hunger for food and thirst for water; for those who seek peace;
- For the people of Ukraine;
- For the people of Palestine;
- For all facing natural disaster;
- For all facing injustice – through Creed, colour, gender, ethnicity or regime;
- For those experiencing grief;
- For Christian Emergency Food Centre;
- For those known to us in our Aged Care facilities – their families and friends;
- For all who care for our animals – vets, vet assistants & neighbours etc;
- For those we know who are unwell – in mind, body or heart;
- For our hearts to be open to God's healing Spirit;
- For our Christian witness in our daily lives; for conviction and compassion;
- For those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries and milestones;

Years Mind: Betty Ryan, Richard Garner, Bess Peters, Edna Fernandes, Peter Taylor, Raymond Mitchell, Reginald Erhardt, Bronc Schilling

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

Services –April

EASTER Services

Easter 2 – 16 April

9.30am Warracknabeal

Easter 3 – 23 April

9.30am Warracknabeal

5.00pm Café Church

Easter 4 – 30 April

10.30am Warracknabeal

(One Service Only)

12.00pm Lunch at the Royal



Thank you!

A huge thank you to EVERYONE who helped prepare our church for the Easter Feast!

Special appreciation to our brass cleaner team: to those who organized the flowers for our celebration: who helped provide some breakfast at the New Fire: our Sacristan team.

Much appreciated.

Café Church

23rd April at 5.00pm

Next Sunday you are invited to Café Church in the Parish Centre as we continue to celebrate the Resurrection.

Bring a plate.

Bring a friend.

Come – celebrate the feast!

TODAY'S READINGS

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading :

Acts 2:14a; 2:22-

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: 'Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. 'Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. David said about him: "I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope, because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence." 'Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm:

16

Response: Lord, you will show us the path of life.

1. Preserve me, O God, for in thee I take refuge. I say to the Lord, "Thou art my Lord." The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; thou holdest my lot. **(R)**
2. I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. **(R)**
3. Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also dwells secure. For thou dost not give me up to the power of death or let thy godly one see the Pit. **(R)**
4. Thou dost show me the path of life; in thy presence there is fullness of joy, in thy right hand are pleasures for evermore. **(R)**

Second Reading:

1 Peter 1:1-12

A reading from the first letter of Peter

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles, scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you

greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things. This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, **Alleluia**

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe! **Alleluia**

Gospel: **John 20:19-31**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father

has sent me, I am sending you.' And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.' Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord!' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.' A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.' Thomas said to him, 'My Lord and my God!' Then Jesus told him, 'Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.' Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPERS

Sentence: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Collect: Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life of all who put their trust in him: raise us, we pray, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness; that we may ever seek the things which are above, where he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

