



# Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

**Easter 4**  
**25 April 2021**

God of Truth,  
We thank you today  
For the Justice of this moment and a  
Judgment according to  
Your will.  
You have again  
Inspired action that  
Brought down the arrogant and  
Called the powerful to account.

May this give all people hope for our  
healing—together!  
May you free us from our  
Need for vengeance  
And clear the field to be ready for new seed.

—Richard Rohr 4/20/21

*Father Richard wrote this prayer yesterday after Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin was found guilty of the murder of George Floyd. Richard and the Daily Meditations editorial team invite you to pray these words, along with your own, as your contemplative practice today.*

***When 'Truth' speaks to 'Power' - we know when something is 'right'. This does not mean that it is easy to deal with or that there are not consequences to many of our actions - whether individually or as a society.***

*We all have our own 'skeletons in the closet' and I know there are things that I have done in my life that I would have rather do differently, and given the opportunity to do so I hope that wisdom would prevail and I would feel empowered by hindsight and reflection to choose a different action, a gentler response, a more compassionate attitude, that led to better outcomes for myself and those I influence or influenced.*

Wednesday's landmark decision in Minnesota - is huge! Whoever we are, and no matter our status, skin colour, privilege, role, influence or however else you

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would like to describe it - we are ALL accountable for acts of violence that cause death. Not just individually, but as a SOCIETY! The events of this week's public trial in the USA, is a 'warning' or another 'invitation' for ALL Australian's to reflect on our treatment of our Great Southern Lands' First Nations people.

Healing is not possible in our country until we acknowledge and seek genuinely to 'speak truth to power' (which includes our churches) and find ways that you and I as a 'community' can aid and implement a culture of recognition and reconciliation. Let's not wait for another 'shepherd' to lead the way. We have a shepherd who showed us how to bring us closer to one another and our God through the great Easter Mystery. You and I are followers of this same shepherd - WE need to show our community the way of this 'Good Shepherd'.

We can all have our own opinions. That is a privilege afforded to all.

We may need to be challenged by our prejudices?

We may need to accept what our forebears did - even with their own good intentions - was not actually helpful in developing our Nation as it exists today - where there is still so much (*and arguably more occurrence and chance of*) disadvantage and disease and dysfunction and early death in regard to our First Nations people.

## **ALL LIVES MATTER!**

Let us not follow that phrase with Orwell's critical comment of last century:

"... but some lives matter more than others!"

As a white, educated man in Australia - with money in my wallet and food in my fridge - I represent the top 5-10% of the richest people in the world.

Whether I like it or not - this makes me extra-ordinarily powerful. And then, through the wisdom of others (white, educated and others in the 5-10% percentile of the richest people in the world) I was asked, discerned, or empowered to take responsibility in our church ... some would say this makes me even more powerful! (I know that this is a fallacy, but let's just go with the theme.) The flip-side is - this makes me even more responsible because of the perceived or otherwise 'power' within my circles of influence.

As you know, this implicates you to become just as responsible.

How you would like to act, think and help 'heal the world' - is in your court ultimately. I am happy to help you and others to discern what this may look like for you and those around you. I invite us all this week to see where we can make a small but significant difference in our own lives, with those we love, in our community and with Creation - to encourage a 'return to wholeness' as Jesus invites us to do. *Your inadequate and competent shepherd, Rev James.*



## **Prayer in the Parish**

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

- All our Diocesan sisters and brothers; Rev Netta Hill priesting next Saturday & Allan (Port Fairy);
- The people of Timor Leste; Myanmar; Papua New Guinea; Mozambique; Sudan; Niger; Yemen; Syria;
- All those displaced and dispossessed;
- All those exploring space and working to find the answers we're all intrigued to know about our Universe;
- ZMorph – reality and dreams & Team;

### **Community:**

- For seasonal weather; all our farmers;
- for all those feeling vulnerable, lonely and isolated;

**Years Mind:** June Robinson, Isabel Milner, Gladys Martin, Nola Ross, Douglas Coates, Bill Coates, Abbie Byron

### Parish Council - 27<sup>th</sup> April

Our parish council meets this Tuesday at the Rectory: 7.00pm refreshments & 7.30 meeting.

Parishioners may not know that they are welcome to attend. If you're not into meetings - then come for a drink or chat before the meeting and see what's on the agenda. You will be more than welcome.

This week - we are following up Project Regenerate Consultation process and Business Plan aspirations.

## **Service Times April/May**

### **Easter 4 – 25 April**

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

### **Easter 5 – 02 May**

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

11.00am Areegra

6.00pm SHINE

### **Easter 6 – 09 May**

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

8.30-12.30pm Coffee Van

### **Easter 7 – 16 May**

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

6.00pm SHINE

### **Pentecost – 23 May**

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

8.30-12.30pm Coffee Van

### **Trinity – 30 May**

10.30am Warracknabeal

**ONE SERVICE ONLY**



**Kilometres  
travelled**

**3,846.57**

**Pledged & Donated**

**\$17,579.49**



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

REL29538

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# TODAY'S READINGS

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading:

Acts 4:5-12

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

The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: 'By what power or what name did you do this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: 'Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: it is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. Jesus is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone." Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.'

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Psalm:

23

**Response: *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want***

1. The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. **(R)**

2. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff--they comfort me. **(R)**

3. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. **(R)**

4. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long. **(R)**

Second Reading:

1 John 3:16-24

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

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: if our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: we know it by the Spirit he gave us.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation:

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my sheep, and mine know me.

**Alleluia!**



Gospel:

John 10:11-18

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

'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. 'I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheepfold. I must bring

them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life – only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.'

This is the gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

**THE PROPERS**

**Sentence:** 'I am the good shepherd,' says the Lord. 'I know my own and my own know me.'

**Collect:** Jesus, good shepherd of the sheep, by whom the lost are sought and guided into the fold: feed us and we shall be satisfied, heal us and we shall be whole, and lead us that we may be with you, where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



The world does not need  
more successful people.  
The planet desperately  
needs more peacemakers,  
healers, restorers,  
storytellers and lovers of  
all kinds.

*Dalai Lama*

## Annual Mission Day - Beulah 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dated 6<sup>th</sup> April:

"We would like to invite all members of the Anglican Church to our Annual Mission Day, to be held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 at the Keith Warren Fellowship Centre at 2.00pm.

There will be a guest speaker and light entertainment including a cake and produce stall. It would be appreciated if you could wear your name tag if you have one. A collection plate will be passed around for the work of the missions. A warm welcome is extended to all."

In Christian Fellowship,

Bev Callander: Secretary Beulah UCAF

5390 2387

### *Warracknabeal Christian Bookshop*

*The WCS is now open for 2 ½ days a week – which includes Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays.*

*The WCS are looking for volunteers to help out in any way that is possible on these days. If you can assist – please contact Dianne Knight directly at 133 Scott Street.*

### ANZAC DAY

**We give thanks for all who have served and who currently serve in our Defence Force, and all their families. We acknowledge the grim cost of war and injury, and hold before God all those who have been or are experiencing trauma because of their service for their country.**

***The Ode*** - The Ode comes from For the Fallen, a poem by the English poet and writer Laurence Binyon and was published in London in the Wincing Fan; Poems of the Great War in 1914. The verse, which became the League Ode, was already used in association with commemoration services in Australia in 1921.

*"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them."*

# Earth Day Challenge

Saving the earth starts with simple green acts.  
Do five in a row or as many as you can!

Turn off and unplug devices that are not in use

Prepare a plant-based meal

Have a recycling bin at home

Use a reusable bag when shopping

Turn food leftovers to compost

Carry a reusable water bottle

Buy produce from local farmers

Buy from a local small business

Use a reusable coffee tumbler

Pick up rubbish when you see it

Use energy-saving light bulbs

Upcycle or reuse old or secondhand clothing

◆  
YOUR OWN IDEA  
◆

Donate to an environment nonprofit

Use eco-friendly and natural house cleaners

Walk or bike instead of taking a car

Take steps towards paperless living

Carry reusable utensils

Use locally made shampoo or soap bars

Support or participate in an eco campaign

Plant a tree or support a tree-planting project

Grow own vegetables or produce

Use reusable or paper packaging

Post about Earth Day to encourage others

Repurpose something into a craft or useful item

All of the Activated Eco team will be joining the challenge! How many can you achieve?!