



# Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

**Lent 5**  
**17 March 2024**

**Sunday Services: 9.30am & 5.00pm - Warracknabeal**



Hello everyone! I hope that I find you well.

*"Nothing is either good or bad, only thinking makes it so."*  
[Hamlet (William Shakespeare)]

For many or most situations in our lives - this can be a helpful way of re-framing how we see the world and our place in it. As human beings we are intrinsically seeking meaning from the things that life throws at us, and especially if we are unable to work out 'why?' or 'what is the point?'

Does there always have to be meaning to EVERYTHING?

I think so - most of the time. Every event or interaction with another person or occurrence planned or otherwise has a chance to help us grow and learn and make meaning in our lives. An attentiveness to the small gifts from God can be the difference between a 'good day' and a 'great' day! Maybe - there is just too many 'gifts' at once and we'd all go mad if we had to remember every single detail to make our lives meaningful.

Maybe I spend way too much time trying to work out the implications of various scenarios that come my way - which someone else may see as a complete waste of time for instance. *'If a tree falls in the forest - does it make a sound?'* If you're standing right next to it - I reckon it would, but from 500 miles away how can this 'benefit' my life etc ... we could spend a long time running around in circles here!

Is this the recipe to a healthy and sustainable life - to engage the moments that really matter, and find a way to let those 'more insignificant' moments go? And - be present to the **MOMENT**. That's really all we've got. Does God change God's mind from time to time? Are we able to influence the way God thinks - or are we supposed to 'comply' - with faith as our guide to whatever our interpretation might be - of any given situation that God presents to us?

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*Project REGENERATE. Renew PEOPLE. Revive PROJECTS. Restore PLACE*

God helps those who help themselves - that's an old adage isn't it?

I have no wisdom to share here other than we've got to give it our best crack at any given moment. When we're 'up against it' - what do we need or what is our motivation to 'give it a red hot go' - participate, plod on, shoulder to the wheel and other metaphors to help us overcome the obstacles or situations that help define us and help us forge our own distinctive character.

There are times - as well - where we cannot or choose not to act because we are exhausted, dis-interested, or paralysed by fear or inadequacy. Will the world really collapse if I choose not to engage, participate, plod on, or if I take my shoulder off the wheel as it grinds to a halt. It may effect a few, but most of us adapt quite well - especially if we have empathy or understanding for coping with difficulty.

Neither good or bad? But thinking ...

There are times when we may feel we HAVE NO CHOICE! Sometimes to 'plod on' means we achieve something we didn't think was possible, and despite our remonstrations to the contrary, we gain a new perspective on our capabilities or those of others. Maybe our role or responsibilities to others and our community means that 'putting the shoulder to the wheel' is what comes with leadership and making something happen for the 'common good.'

Our brains are so POWERFUL!

One of my reflections this week (among many) - is that God - well the God I believe in anyway - is a God of empowerment. Not imprisonment. Is a God of extravagance (not a new idea), not of stingy smelly oily rag. Is a God of opportunity - even in the face of crisis and difficulty. How I choose (because 'free will' is a real thing) to engage the world around me with this knowledge is the key to making meaning of all that life throws at me/us?

When God listens to us - one of God's promises - maybe we can influence the Creator of the heavens and the earth with our passion in lament or joy. Maybe when God stoops down beside us - another of the Biblical promises - God will follow the way we walk - rather than trying to drag us down the path entitled 'My Will Not Yours.' *"Sometimes God's hearts' desire for us is also our hearts' desire for us."* [I think Richard Rohr said that.] Before I proclaim any more heresies, let me also say - that there are some 'bad things' out there! There is no excuse for pure acts of evil, genocide, exploitation of vulnerable people, and sexual, racial or ethnic harassment.

Let all we do, think and say be laced with joy and love this week - so our journey toward Jerusalem can be one of forgiveness, redemption and Salvation. Rev

Rev James Wood: P: 5398 1251 M: 0438 233 630 E: warrackanglican@gmail.com

## Prayer in the Parish

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

- +Garry; for Registry Office;
- For Sherry Barber (Suzy Callaghan's sister) – battling cancer;
- For all who are grieving;
- For YFest preparations;
- For a STOP to war around the globe; and for all brokering peace;
- For the people of Haiti;
- For the people of Ukraine;
- For the people of Israel & Palestine;
- For those who hunger for food; for those who thirst for water; for those who seek peace from war, violence & exploitation;
- For Cocoa farmers; for just and equitable working conditions for chocolate workers and companies to ensure we have Easter eggs in our supermarkets;
- For our Retreat in Daily Life;
- For the Christian Emergency Food Centre in Horsham; for Bev and all the volunteers;
- For the Boys' Shed Project;
- For all facing trying circumstances and situations – beyond our control;
- For those we love – near and far away;
- For PEACE in heart, mind and soul;
- For our neighbour;
- For new Parish Centre blinds and generosity of donor;
- For all NAPLAN participants;
- For ourselves – for wellbeing;
- For Churches in Warracknabeal & region;

**Years Mind:** Anne Roder, Allan Pickering, Kate McGuire

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

## Service Times March/April

### Lent 5 – 17 March

9.30am & 5.00pm – Warracknabeal

### Passion Sunday – 24 March

9.30am & 5.00pm – Warracknabeal

11.00am St Mark's Areegra

### Tuesday 26 March

5.00pm – Eucharist

7.00 for 7.30pm – Parish Council

### Maundy Thursday – 28 March

6.00pm for 6.30pm – Warracknabeal

### Good Friday – 29 March

9.30am – Warracknabeal

### Easter Sunday – 31 March

9.30am – Warracknabeal

### Easter 2 – 07 April

9.30am Warracknabeal

### Easter 3 – 14 April

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

11.00am St Mark's Areegra

### Easter 4 – 21 April

10.30am Baptism and HC

5.00pm Warracknabeal

### Easter 5 – 28 April

9.30am Warracknabeal

5.00pm Café Church

*Hi, I am Del Taite.*

*I arrived in the area in November 2023. I am a qualified Counsellor who is continuing studies and providing free counselling to clients at this time.*

*If you would like more information contact me:*

*[vibrancycounselling@gmail.com](mailto:vibrancycounselling@gmail.com)*

# TODAY'S READINGS

## LENT 5

First Reading:

Jeremiah 31:31-34

***A reading from the prophet Jeremiah***

'The days are coming,' declares the Lord, 'when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,' declares the Lord. 'This is the covenant that I will make with the people of Israel after that time,' declares the Lord. 'I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbour, or say to one another, "Know the Lord," because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,' declares the Lord. 'For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.'

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Psalm:

51

***Response: Create a clean heart in me, O God.***

1. Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense. Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me. **(R)**
2. A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me. Cast me not out from your presence, and your Holy Spirit take not from me. **(R)**

3. Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me. I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners shall return to you. **(R)**

Second Reading:

Hebrews 5:5-14

***A reading from the letter of Paul to the Hebrews***

In the same way, Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, 'You are my Son; today I have become your Father.' And he says in another place, 'You are a priest for ever, in the order of Melchizedek.' During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek. We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
king of endless glory!**

Whoever serves me must follow me,  
says the Lord; and where I am, there  
also will my servant be.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
king of endless glory!**

**Gospel:**

**John 12:20-33**

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

Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. 'Sir,' they said, 'we would like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus. Jesus replied, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me. 'Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.' The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him. Jesus said, 'This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.'

This is the gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

**THE PROPERS**

**Sentence:** 'This is the covenant I will make with them,' says the Lord God: 'I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God and they shall be my people.'

**Collect:** O God, our Redeemer, in our weakness we have failed to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope: renew us by your Holy Spirit, that we may follow your commands and proclaim your reign of love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## Isaiah 55:1-12

### An Invitation to Abundant Life

55 Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters;  
and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread  
and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the  
peoples.

<sup>5</sup> Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know  
you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he  
has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;

<sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

<sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than  
your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

<sup>10</sup> For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven

and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

<sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me  
empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for  
which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup> For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace.

This is God's Word

Thanks be to God!