



Anglican  
Parish  
of  
WARRACKNAEAL

# Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Project Regenerate: Explore. Rejoice. Give.

**Epiphany**  
**04 January 2026**

**Sunday Services:** 9.30am Warracknabeal  
11.00am St Mark's Areegra



Hello everyone! I hope that you are well and in good spirits. Happy New Year! It's that time of year again - three wise men in the one place, at the one time? IMPOSSIBLE! (Ha ha ha)

Epiphany is a very important aspect of Christmas, and most of the world miss it! What a shame ... the mystery and wonder of 'the foreigner' honouring the Prince of Peace before Jew or Greek - following in the wake of the visit by the shepherds. Maybe the story of 'shepherds singing' (Luke 2) was too good to miss and it was important for good stories to be validated in the 'good old days.'

Epiphany is the moment the Christmas story breaks open. The child in the manger is revealed not just as ours, but as God's gift to the whole world. When the Magi arrive, the borders fall away - faith steps beyond familiarity, and worship comes from the edges. Epiphany declares that God's light is not private or tribal. It shines for outsiders, seekers and strangers - inviting the people of all nations into the grace first glimpsed in Bethlehem by the shepherds and Inn Keeper most probably (although not recorded in our Biblical text).

The world misses Epiphany because it looks for brilliance, not quiet radiance. (I love this phrase 'quiet radiance') We expect God in power, speed, and spectacle (to suit our needs and wants and pace of life), not in a vulnerable child. Or a long, (potentially arduous and expensive) patient journey guided by a fragile star.

Awe is lost when we are too hurried to watch the sky, too certain to follow mystery, and too comfortable to be surprised. Epiphany invites/asks us to slow down, to risk moments of wonder, and recognise within the privacy of our homes or the faith community to which we belong - that God often reveals the deepest truth where we least expect it.

With courage for our own earthly pilgrimage this week.

Peace, Rev.



## Prayer in the Parish

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

- +Garry and family; +Scott and family; our Diocese and all who sail in her;
- For God's Spirit to infuse our community and hearts; that light overcomes darkness, that life overcomes death, that love will overcome hatred and discord;
- For all who are hungry, thirsty and seeking shelter around the globe;
- For our farmers and their families;
- For all facing natural disaster: flood, fire, earthquake, cyclone, famine;
- For all travelling this Christmas Season;
- For all visitors to our town, homes, and region; for those travelling or living many miles from 'home';
- For a generous spirit this Christmas Season; for honesty;
- For all known to us in hospital and our Residential Care facilities;
- For all those we love, near and far away;

**Years Mind:** Beverley BOYLE (2020), Thomas CALLAWAY (1989), Myra (June) LANG (2025), Edward HALE (1998), George ARMSTRONG (2023), Herbert HILTON (1994), Mona PAYNE (2004), Barry McKENZIE (2022), Robert PERCY (2013), Millie LANDT (1995), Ian ROBERTSON (2004), Harriett ROBINSON (1985), Sheila POTTER (2003), John WOOD (2007)

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

## Christmas Services

### Epiphany – 04 January 2026

9.30am Warracknabeal  
11.00am Areegra

### Baptism of our Lord – 11 January 2026

9.30am Warracknabeal

### Epiphany 2 – 18 January 2026

9.30am Warracknabeal

### Epiphany 3 – 25 January 2026

10.30am Warracknabeal (with Baptism)  
12.00 Simple Parish Lunch

### Epiphany 4 – 01 February 2026

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



### Warracknabeal Blue Moose

*A Christian Outreach program at Warracknabeal Town Hall - 4-11<sup>th</sup> January. Food, games and 'hangs' for teenagers. (Not a program of our parish. The QR code I had doesn't work) - so more info contact:*

[Blue Moose - Youth Dimension](http://Blue Moose - Youth Dimension)

# TODAY'S READINGS

## THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

### First Reading:

Isaiah 60:1-6

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

'Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. 'Lift up your eyes and look about you: all assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the Lord .

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Psalm:

72

**Response: *Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.***

1. God, with your judgment endow the king, and with your justice, the king's son; He shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment. (R)
2. Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more. May he rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. (R)
3. The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts; the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute. All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him. (R)

4. For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him.

He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save. (R)

### Second Reading:

Ephesians 3:1-12

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

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles – Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

We have seen his star in the East: and have come to adore the Lord.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel:**

**Matthew 2:1-12**

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

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.' When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they replied, 'for this is what the prophet has written:

"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, 'Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.' After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

. This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**THE PROPERs**

**Sentence:** Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**Collect:** Everlasting God, who brought the nations to your light and kings to the brightness of your rising: fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the nations; through him who is the true light and the bright morning star,

Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

The Anglican Parish of  
Warracknabeal  
invite you to join us for  
*High Tea*  
at Anglican Parish Centre,  
Warracknabeal  
to celebrate 140 years of  
Prayer, Praise and Proclamation  
in the Wimmera.



Saturday 21st March 2026

\$15.00/person

RSVP: 01 March 2026

Tickets are limited.

To book tickets (essential):

<https://www.trybooking.com/DIJPI> or Scan QR code

