



# Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

**Pentecost 13**  
**04 September 2022**

**Hello Everyone!**

I hope you've had a good week!

*A few words from Sr Joan Chittister*

**I believe in....**

Belief is not contrary to fact. It simply transcends it. To believe something is to know its truth not so much in our minds but in the center of our souls.

We believe in goodness, for instance, because, however effective evil seems to be, it contradicts the highest aspirations of humanity. We believe in love rather than hate, because love draws out the best in us, while hate feeds on our smallness. We believe in people whose hearts we hold in our hands, whatever the situations that challenge that certainty, because we ourselves are nourished by that relationship. We believe in the spiritual because the material is simply not enough to justify the sense of the unfinishedness of life that lurks in every human heart.

In sum, belief is the ability to know what we cannot see. None of our beliefs, if they are really "belief," are sure in the way that chemicals on scales are sure. Belief is sure in the way that truth is sure. It rings in our hearts like tines of crystal.

But belief is not supernatural sleight of hand designed to save us from the exigencies of life. "There are those who say in winter," the Sufi story teaches, 'I shall not wear warm clothes. I will trust in God to keep me warm.' But they forget," the story says, "that the God who made winter gave human beings the power to protect themselves from it." Belief is not fantasy. Belief is not an excuse for irrationality. Faith is not what gives us the tricks it takes to control God.

Belief is a basis for personal development and a topographical map of life that signals a way through the valleys and plains, raging rivers and vast oceans of experience in which we grow. Belief makes of life more a quest than a place. Belief is not what makes it possible for us to settle down complacent in our goodness, certain that if we keep the rules we will have life without having to live it. "I went to church every week, I did everything I was told to do, I believed in God," people

say. "How could this divorce have happened?" As if belief were some kind of insurance policy against life. On the contrary. Belief is what enables us to weigh our options in the light of what is really real, what is really important and, in the end, stay the course.

[From *In Search of Belief* by Joan Chittister (Liguori)]

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*From Benjamin Holland's Student Leadership Alpine School reflection blog:*

Tuesday, 23rd August

The lesson today was our Community Service for the term. Normally, it would have been spent planting trees out on Mr. Hill's property, but unluckily(?) there was a LOT of snowfall last night. Now, that's a good thing, but a bit unfortunate when you're about to go put some trees in the ground. Instead, we had to come up with a backup for our community service. A few ideas were floated, but in the end we decided to do some of the things that needed doing around here (Dinner Plain Poma Hut cleanup, ski shed clean + waxing, vehicle shed organisation). Part of the agreement with our Poma lift passes is that we clean up the hut, and it's probably about time we honour that.

Wednesday, 24th August

Today's afternoon was actually really fun. We got to go out with film cameras and do some photography out in the snow with our Expo groups. We certainly took a few photos, and hopefully will get to see them in a couple of weeks. The film will be sent off to be developed once everybody's got to have a turn. I was surprised at how much I knew about how to use a film camera, since I've never used one before. They're a bit fiddly, but certainly a lot more satisfying than a digital camera. It's just something about the "ka-chunk" noise it makes.

**Vulnerability sounds like truth and feels like courage.**

**Truth and courage aren't always comfortable,**

**but they're never weakness.**

Brené Brown

Have a good week one and ALL!

*Every blessing, Rev James*

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## Prayer in the Parish

### In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry;
- For our Diocesan Registry Team;
- For all our Pacific neighbours and friends;
- For all the people of Ukraine;
- For the people of Sudan;
- For the people of Taiwan;
- For the people of Pakistan;
- For victims of abuse – physical, emotional, financial, spiritual;
- For all who seek justice and peace;
- For our Local Council;
- For Christian Emergency Food Centre;
- For all those in hospital; for all facing surgery and recovery;
- For our friends, families, and our neighbours; for those who make us smile and laugh;
- For those grieving;
- For all truck drivers and their families;
- For the courage to walk in faith, hope and love – no matter our circumstances;
- For Benjamin Holland;

**Years Mind:** Margaret Powell, Dorothy Newell, Monie Forsyth, Marie Griffiths, Noel Parsons, Kevin Thompson, Rhonda Taylor, Margaret Wood

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

## Services – Sept/Oct

### Pentecost 13 – 04 September

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal  
11.00am Areegra

### Pentecost 14 – 11 September

10.30am Warracknabeal  
12.00pm – Luncheon

### Pentecost 15 – 18 September

9.30am HC Warracknabeal

### Pentecost 16 – 25 September

10.30am Cafe Church Warracknabeal

### Pentecost 17 – 02 October

9.30am Morning Prayer Warracknabeal  
11.30am Morning Prayer Areegra

### Pentecost 18 – 09 October

9.30 HC Warracknabeal  
8.30-12.30pm COFFEE Van –  
2<sup>nd</sup> Year Birthday Party

### Pentecost 19 – 16 October

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

### Pentecost 20 – 23 September

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal  
8.30-12.30 Coffee Van

### Other Events:

### Soup, Sandwich & Sweets Luncheon

11<sup>th</sup> September at 12.00pm  
\$15 per person

### Anglican Treasures Auction

21<sup>st</sup> October 2022

### Synod

21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> October in Ballarat

# TODAY'S READINGS

## PENTECOST 13

**First Reading:** Jeremiah 18:1-11

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

This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord : 'Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message.' So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. Then the word of the Lord came to me. He said, 'Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?' declares the Lord . 'Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel. If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it. 'Now therefore say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem, "This is what the Lord says: look! I am preparing a disaster for you and devising a plan against you. So turn from your evil ways, each one of you, and reform your ways and your actions."

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Psalm:** 139

### ***Response: I will praise you for I am wonderfully made.***

1. Lord, thou hast searched me and known me! Thou knowest when I sit down and when I rise up; thou discernest my thoughts from afar. Thou searchest out my path and my lying down. **(R)**

2. For thou didst form my inward parts, thou didst knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise thee, for thou art fearful and wonderful. Wonderful are thy works! **(R)**
3. Thou knowest me right well; my frame was not hidden from thee, when I was being made in secret, intricately wrought in the depths of the earth. **(R)**

**Second Reading:** Philemon 1-25

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

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker – also to Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier – and to the church that meets in your home: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus. I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people. Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul – an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus – that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to

you and to me. I am sending him – who is my very heart – back to you. I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favour you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary. Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back for ever –

no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord. So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back – not to mention that you owe me your very self. I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask. And one thing more: prepare a guest room for me, because I hope to be restored to you in answer to your prayers. Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, **alleluia!**

Let your face shine upon your servant;  
and teach me your laws. **Alleluia!**

**Gospel:**

**Luke 14:25-35**

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

Large crowds were travelling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: 'If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters – yes, even their own life – such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. 'Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, "This person began to build and wasn't able to finish." 'Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples. 'Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure heap; it is thrown out. 'Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.'

This is the gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

**The Propers**

**Sentence:** Whoever does not carry the cross and follow Jesus cannot be his disciple.

**Collect:** O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and so great dangers that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

In last week's sermon, I mentioned the micro-loan organization 'KIVA', as a way or invitation for people to help share the blessings and bounty of our privileged and fortunate life here in Warracknabeal with the world. Here is some info as promised: (get in touch if you want more info or help)

From the KIVA website: <https://www.kiva.org/about>

More than 1.7 billion people around the world are unbanked and can't access the financial services they need. Kiva is an international nonprofit, founded in 2005 in San Francisco, with a mission to expand financial access to help underserved communities thrive.

We do this by crowdfunding loans and unlocking capital for the underserved, improving the quality and cost of financial services, and addressing the underlying barriers to financial access around the world. Through Kiva's work, students can pay for tuition, women can start businesses, farmers are able to invest in equipment and families can afford needed emergency care.

By lending as little as \$25 on Kiva, you can be part of the solution and make a real difference in someone's life. 100% of every dollar you lend on Kiva goes to funding loans.

**How it works** - *Create opportunities around the world: From a new fishing net to community solar power, it's easy to help fund a loan that changes someone's life.*



**We envision a financially inclusive world where all people hold the power to improve their lives.**

Kiva by the numbers:

**4.4M**

Borrowers

**77**

Countries

**2.1M**

Lenders

**\$1.78B**

Loans funded through Kiva

**96.4%**

Repayment rate



**1. Find a person you want to support**



**2. Decide how much you want to contribute**



**3. Check out — your funds are allocated to the borrower**



**4. Get repaid, and lend to someone else**

# The Cost of Discipleship



And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. Luke 14:27 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 14:25-33 (NIV).

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

PEACE	ENOUGH	TRAVELING	TOWER	LARGE
FINISH	CROWDS	COMPLETE	CROSS	MONEY
JESUS	WAR	DISCIPLE	BUILD	KING
CARRY	COST	FOLLOW	ESTIMATE	THOUSAND