



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Advent 3
13th December 2020

Hello everyone!

Are you looking forward to Christmas?

It's about this time of year some panic can set in - don't you think? The chaos before the calm of happy juice and contentment and some cricket or tennis ... family dynamics, booking accommodation, what to wear, what to compromise and what to stand up for! Who is doing the cooking? Did I get the cake made in time? "The tree looks bare this year..." , and similar conversations.

How much does it matter?

It's a trick question - because it matters not and it MATTERS A LOT! How can you and I find our balance this Christmas Season. Whatever our circumstances - our Gospel this week helps us to focus on God's LIGHT - a 'light' that can never be put out, a 'light' that can warm our hearts when we are feeling lonely, a 'light' that can bring peace to grief or discontent, a 'light' that can help us tell the truth - express when we've had enough or need to go home, or ask that difficult question because you care.

It's been quite a year! Where have you brought some 'light' to a situation this year? Where have you received some 'light' to get you through difficult times? The paradox is - that sometimes when the light shines our shadow becomes more obvious and we have to deal with the part of us that prefers to remain hidden and cloudy and can stalk us when we do not want or need it to. Balance in all things - the eternal task for all our human endeavours.

Advent - the time of paradox! We wait for God, and yet we must move. We rejoice in our 'freedoms' and struggle sometimes with our responsibilities and obligations. We embrace 'the Prince of Peace' even when our lives seem in chaos. We are 'supposed' to be happy - and yet can feel depleted and despondent.

HOWEVER, the 'Light of the World' seeks to share God's 'JOY' - God's promise for all who open their hearts to God's true nature and gift - no matter what, who and where we are this Christmas Season.

With every blessing, Rev James

No Coffee ZOOM Tuesday!

Christmas Flowers - If anyone has a secret psychological desire to donate some money toward Christmas Flowers this year – would you be kind enough to get in touch with Margaret Dart or Margaret Thompson or Margaret Rev. *Thanks!*



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond: +Garry; for a surprising Advent Season and fruitful time in 'the waiting'; those working for BCA; those whose lives need more peace; Boys' Shed & SHINE – joyous end to year!

Community: Front-line health care workers; all our community organizations; for all dealing with sickness; our employed and all looking for work; our school teachers-all year 6's as they finish their primary schooling

Years Mind: Gavin Bibby, Ronald Hooper, Jean Cowan, Florence White, Frank Hewitt, Bea Emmett, Kenneth Dempsey.

December Intercession booklets available from Rev on request.

Our beloved brother in Christ

ANDY TAYLOR

returned to God's Presence on 09th Dec.

Our heartfelt sympathy to Sandra and all Andy's family, friends and fellow earthly pilgrims in the parish.

A service of Thanksgiving and Farewell will take place on Tuesday at 11.00am.

With all our prayers and love!

Advent 3 youTube from Rev:

LIGHT

<https://youtu.be/7MRQTIGoSmk>

Bishop Garry's youTube message:

**Advent Sermon Series – Week 2
The Four Last Things – Judgement**

<https://youtu.be/F89ZarkBHfI>



Kilometres travelled

2,162.70

Pledged & Donated

\$9,474.94

IGA Event – Thanks to everyone who came to support and help out!

Service Times December

Advent 3 – December 13th

9.30am & 12.00pm – Christ Church
Warracknabeal

10.30am - ZOOM Church

Advent 4 – December 20th

9.30am & 4.00pm – Christ Church
Warracknabeal

2.00pm Dunmunkle Lodge

Christmas Eve – December 24th

9.00pm Drinks & refreshments
10.00pm HC & Celebration

Christmas Day – December 25th

9.30am HC & Celebration

Christmas 1 – December 27th

5.00pm – Parish Centre

TODAY'S READINGS

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading:

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

A reading from the book of Isaiah

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion – to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendour. They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations. 'For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the Lord has blessed.' I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the soil makes the young plant come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm:

Song of Mary

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, who has looked with favour on his lowly servant: From this day all generations will call me blessed.

The Almighty has done great things for me: and holy is his Name.

God has mercy on those who fear him:

from generation to generation.

The Lord has shown strength with his arm: And scattered the proud in their conceit, casting down the mighty from their thrones: And lifting up the lowly.

God has filled the hungry with good things: And sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel to remember the promise of mercy, The promise made to our forebears: To Abraham and his children forever.

Second Reading:

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays

back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil. May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it. Brothers and sisters, pray for us. Greet all God's people with a holy kiss. I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers and sisters. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, **Alleluia!**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;

he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. **Alleluia!**

Gospel:

John 1:6-8, 19-28

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, 'I am not the Messiah.' They asked him, 'Then who are you? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Finally they said, 'Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, 'I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, "Make straight the way for the Lord."' Now the Pharisees who had been sent questioned him, 'Why then do you baptise if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?' 'I baptise with water,' John replied, 'but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.' This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPERS

Sentence: Bind up the broken-hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, the day of vengeance of our God.

Collect: Eternal God, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of your Son: grant us wisdom to see your purpose and openness to hear your will, that we too may prepare the way for Christ who is coming in power and glory to establish his rule of peace of justice; through Jesus Christ our Judge and our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**