Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

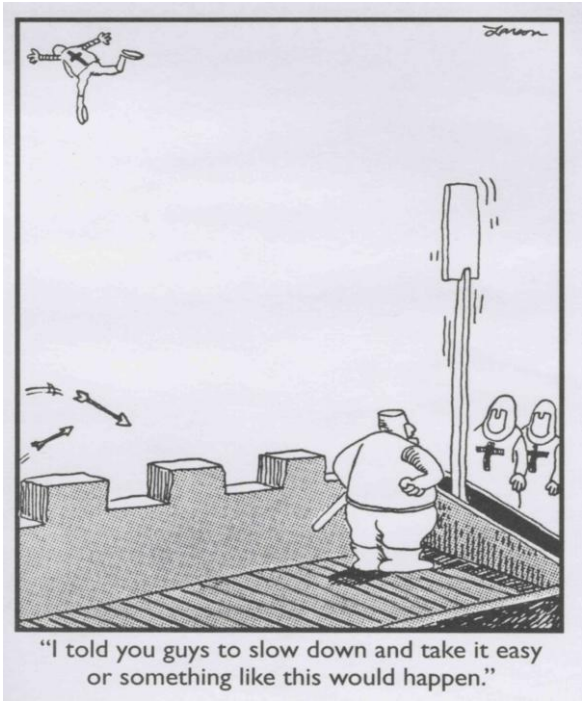
Project Regenerate: Explore. Rejoice. Give.

Pentecost 22

25 October 2026

Hello Everybody! *I hope that you've had a good week!*

It is quite astounding that Jesus combined all 613 laws of the Torah into two profound commandments! A new era of understanding, a new direction for the 'righteous' (those in right relationship with God), and a new 'crossroad' in the lives of many with faith.


"I told you guys to slow down and take it easy or something like this would happen."

I wonder what 'crossroads' you've encountered in your life that helped change a direction or an idea or a relationship etc that 'opened the world' with a new understanding.

There will be positive and negative responses no doubt – and maybe we encounter these moments much more regularly than we would like – especially if we feel as though we're not very good at decision making. In reality, they are probably offered several times daily to help us practise our discernment process. Which way to go? What do I do if I don't know which decision to make? No decision is still a decision … it requires us to trust our gut, to build on past decisions and somehow know that God has not abandoned us – in a deep part of our soul that maybe we're not fully aware of.

Please pray fervently for Helen Haines and her family. What happened in Wangaratta during the week is incomprehensible on so many levels – a 'crossroad' indeed for those who serve in public office and in the service of our community; a 'crossroad' for all who suffer with mental health issues to get help that is required to make significant contributions in our community without violence; a 'crossroad' for tolerance – in the best reading of that word. There are boundaries and respect for another that must be honoured – even when we differ or disagree. Difficult tolerance for a difficult world.

Blessings, Rev James



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Scott; for the 'Board of Electors' Committee as they prepare the process of electing our new Bishop;
- For our Synod reps; all in Registry;
- For all the people of Ukraine;
- For all those in difficulty and we do not know it; for all those with depression and isolated; for all those seeking healing and a return to wholeness;
- For seasonable weather;
- For all who serve in our parish in a variety of ways – seen and unseen;
- For all who are hungry, thirsty and seeking shelter around the globe;
- For those of leadership and influence to act for the common good;
- For all facing natural disaster: flood, fire, earthquake, cyclone, famine;
- For our neighbours;
- For those in our Aged Care Facilities;
- For our farmers and their families;
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- For all those we love, near and far away;

Years Mind: Beatrice JOHNSON (1988), Winifred KIDMAN (1989), Ronald NEILL (1994), Cheryl LIERSCH (1985), Alfred MILLARD (2008), Dorothy O'BRIEN (1987), Myrtle AITKEN (1998), Robert AITKEN (1998), Kevin RADFORD (2007), Raymond FERGUSON (2022)

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

Services - 2026

Synod of the Diocese
Friday 23rd - Saturday 24th October
(Sarah-Jayne H., David H. Rev Fiona & Rev)

Pentecost 22 – 25 October
9.30am / 5.00pm Café Church Warracknabeal

Monday 26th October – Rev Fiona
At Café Peppercorn – 9.00-10.30am

All Saints – 01 November
9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal
11.00am Areegra

Pentecost 24 – 08 November
9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Pentecost 25 – 15 November
9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Christ the King – 22 November
10.30am and Parish Pot-luck Lunch Warracknabeal

Advent 1 – 29 November
9.30am Warracknabeal
6.30pm Prelude to Christmas at The Uniting Church, Warracknabeal

A Prayer for a Bishop

+Garry retires on 03 Oct 2026

Eternal God, shepherd and guide, in your mercy give your Church in this diocese of Ballarat, a shepherd after your own heart who will walk in your ways, and with loving care watch over your people. Give us a leader of vision and a teacher of your truth. So may your Church be built up and your name glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

Today's Readings
Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost

First Reading: Deuteronomy 34:1-12

A reading from the Book of Exodus

Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, opposite Jericho. There the Lord showed him the whole land – from Gilead to Dan, all of Naphtali, the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Mediterranean Sea, the Negev and the whole region from the Valley of Jericho, the City of Palms, as far as Zoar. Then the Lord said to him, 'This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, "I will give it to your descendants." I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it.' And Moses the servant of the Lord died there in Moab, as the Lord had said. He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is. Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone. The Israelites grieved for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days, until the time of weeping and mourning was over. Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the Lord had commanded Moses. Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, who did all those signs and wonders the Lord sent him to do in Egypt – to Pharaoh and to all his officials and to his whole land. For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: 90:1-6, 13-17

Response: ***In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge***

1. Lord, you have been our refuge: from one generation to another. Before the mountains were born or the earth and the world were brought to be: from eternity to eternity you are God. **(R)**

2. You turn us back into dust: saying 'Return to dust, O children of Adam.' For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday passing: or like one watch of the night. **(R)**

3. You cut them short like a dream: like the fresh grass of the morning; In the morning it is green and flourishes: at evening it is withered and dried up. **(R)**

4. Relent, O Lord; how long will you be angry?: take pity on your servants. O satisfy us early with your mercy: that all our days we may rejoice and sing. **(R)**

5. Give us joy for all the days you have afflicted us: for the years we have suffered adversity. Show your servants your work: and let their children see your glory. **(R)**

6. May the gracious favour of the Lord our God be upon us: prosper the work of our hands, O prosper the work of our hands! **(R)**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-13

A reading from the first letter to the Thessalonians

You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. For the appeal we make does

not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed – God is our witness. We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. Instead, we were like young children among you. Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! **Alleluia!**
All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we
will come to them. **Alleluia**!

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-46

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: 'Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?' Jesus replied: '"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbour as yourself." All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.' While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 'What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?' 'The son of David,' they replied. He said to them, 'How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him "Lord"? For he says , '"The Lord said to my Lord : 'Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.'" If then David calls him "Lord", how can he be his son?' No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPERS

Sentence: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Collect: O God, whose Son has taught us that love is the fulfilment of your law: stir up within us the fire of your Holy Spirit, and pour into our hearts your greatest gift of love, so that we may love you with our whole being, and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.