

Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Project Regenerate: Explore. Rejoice. Give.

Epiphany 5
08 February 2026

Sunday Services: 9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal



Hello everyone! Hope you've had a good week.

There are times in your life, or maybe just moments where something happens and it all makes sense! I've had two such moments in two days - has to be a record (but probably not!)

The first was yesterday at Peter Clayton's retirement afternoon tea at WSDS. I was reminded clearly of a moment a couple of years ago when he and I, two grown (hairy) men with tears in our eyes, as one of the 'billy carts' hurled down the school path and around the corner - avoiding a fence and another couple of obstacles. We'd embarked on a journey with the students of making these 'machines' which in reality we thought *would 'never really come to much'* other than a leaning 'moment'. The billy cart endeavour became much, much more - because Peter said, "Go for it Rev!"

The other was this morning (*Thursday*), in my drumming group at WSDS. Last year I played what I called a 'Courage game.' With a drumming beat we say, "I can recognise, the fears I hold. I can find the strength, to be **BOLD!**"

A couple of children remembered exactly the words without any prompting. Moments of growth. Moments of wonder. Moments that no funding can buy.

This week, be the **LIGHT** you are called by God to be! Have a **BRILL** week ahead. *Peace, Rev James*

Extracts of Letters of
**Reverend Frederick
Arthur Booth** –
First Anglican Priest in
Warracknabeal.

September 1889

Page 3: 'Large fire here early Friday morning: Five shops, one store and the Colonial Bank were almost burnt to the ground... Mackenzie and Mr Hay's store was burnt down and they lost about £1000.'

Page 4: 33 miles on horseback the previous day. Tired: flies an issue.

Congregation at Sheep Hills has increased markedly.

Feb 1990

'Great improvements are now being made in the damage of the township. Bricked drains are being laid in all the streets.'

Second fire ... About 6-7 shops were burnt down, some of these very reasonable buildings. A large brick two storey hotel is being built. A third bank soon.



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; +Scott; Ballarat Deanery;
- For all who are hungry, thirsty and seeking shelter around the globe;
- For the Leaders of all Nations; for those of leadership and influence to act for the common good; for United Nations;
- For our farmers and their families;
- For all facing natural disaster: flood, fire, earthquake, cyclone, famine;
- For all returning to school, University and work;
- For the wellbeing for all in our region;
- For our neighbours;
- For Project REGENERATE; for our 140yr celebrations in 2026;
- For The Shed Project;
- For Lions Market Day at CC – February 21st;
- For all known to us in hospital and our Residential Care facilities;
- For all those we love, near and far away;

Years Mind: Minnie GUNNER (1992), Frederick COUSINS (1995), Alec McDOUGALL (1998), Barry LIERSCH (1991), Leslie JONASSON (2013), Rosie SCHILLING (2023), Clifton RAUERT (1985), Chester TAYLOR (1990), Lois O'CALLAGHAN (2001), Lance DUNKLEY (2005), Phyllis WALKER (2011), Gordan JONASSON (2013), Gary TONG (2013), Mary PAYNE (1993), Violet TIPPING (1995)

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

Services - 2026

Sat 07 Feb – Safe Church Training: 12.00pm

Epiphany 5 – 08 February 2026

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Transfiguration – 15 February 2026

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Ash Wednesday – 18th February

5.00pm – Service and Imposition of Ashes

Market Day at Christ Church – 21 February

Lent 1 – 22 February 2026

9.30am Warracknabeal

5.00pm Café Church

Tuesday – 24 February 2026

5.00pm Eucharist & pot luck supper

7.00pm for 7.30pm Parish Council

Lent 2 – 01 March 2026

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

11.00am St Mark's Areegra

RSVP – High Tea Tickets

Tuesday – 03 March 2026

5.00pm Eucharist & pot luck supper

Lent 3 – 08 March 2026

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Lent 4 – 15 February 2026

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

140year High Tea – Saturday 21 March

3.00 for 3.30pm in Parish Centre

(Tickets are ESSENTIAL)

Sunday 22 March – Lent 5

10.30am 140year Liturgical Celebration

& BBQ Lunch

(No 5.00pm)

Palm/Passion – 29 March 2026

9.30am Warracknabeal

5.00pm Café Church

TODAY'S READINGS

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

First Reading:

Isaiah 58:1-9a

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

'Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their rebellion and to the descendants of Jacob their sins. For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways, as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God. They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them. "Why have we fasted," they say, "and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?" 'Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. Your fasting ends in quarrelling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for people to humble themselves? Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? 'Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter – when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: here am I.

'If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm:

112

Response: *The just man and woman is a light in darkness to the upright.*

1. Light shines through the darkness for the upright; they are gracious and merciful and just. Well for the man or woman who is gracious and lends, who conducts their affairs with justice. **(R)**
2. He shall never be moved; the just one shall be in everlasting remembrance. An evil report they shall not fear; their heart is firm, trusting in the LORD. **(R)**
3. Their heart is steadfast; they shall not fear. Lavishly they give to the poor; their justice shall endure forever; their horn shall be exalted in glory **(R)**

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 2:1-13

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power. We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written: 'What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived' – the things God has prepared for those who love him – these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, **Alleluia!**

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Alleluia!

Gospel:

Matthew 5:13-20

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

'You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. 'You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl.

Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practises and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Propers

Sentence: Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Collect: Faithful God, you have appointed us your witnesses, to be a light that shines in the world: let us not hide the bright hope you have given us, but tell everyone your love, revealed in Jesus Christ the Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*This is the beginning of
a new day.*

*God has given me this
day to use as I will. I
can waste it or use it for
good. What I do today
is important because
I'm exchanging a day of
my life for it. When
tomorrow comes, this
day will be gone forever,
leaving something I
have traded for it. I
want it to be gain, not
loss; good, not evil;
success not failure; in
order that I shall not
regret the price I paid
for it.*

Anon.

The Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal
invite you to join us for

High Tea

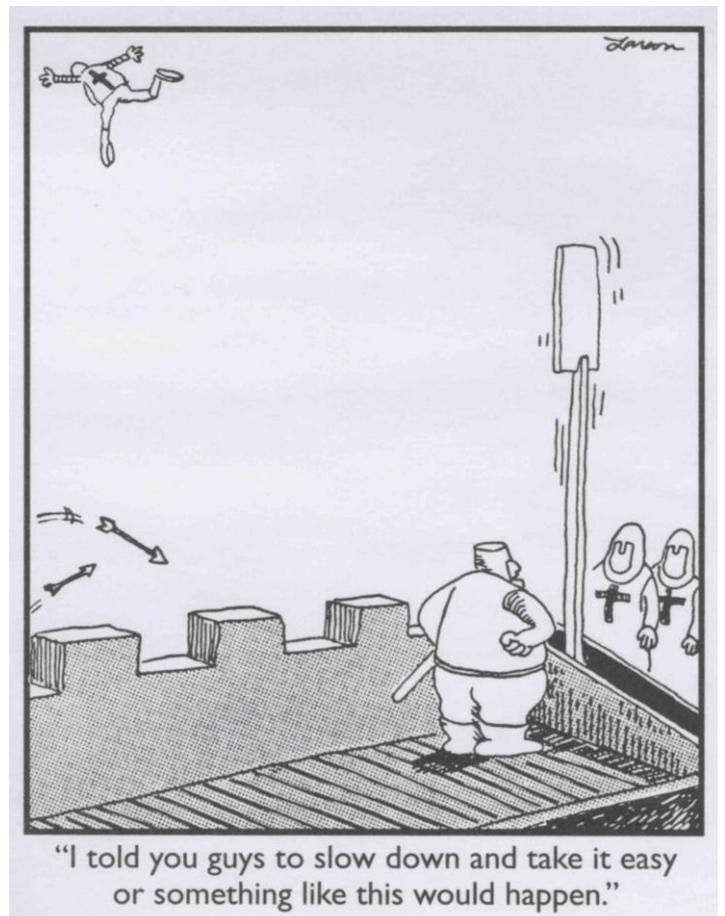
at Anglican Parish Centre,
Warracknabeal to celebrate 140 years
of Prayer, Praise and Proclamation in
the Wimmera.

Saturday 21st March: 3.00 for 3.30pm
\$15.00 per person

RSVP 01 March, 2026

To book tickets (essential):

<https://www.trybooking.com/DIJPI>



Lent 2026

I've ordered a couple of different 'studies' from ABM to use for reflection during this year's Lenten journey.

I haven't worked out completely how I'm going to share content, HOWEVER, I am inviting parishioners and their friends to join us every Tuesday night in Lent:

5.00pm Eucharist at Christ Church - simple service (*approx 30-40 mins*)

6.00pm Pot-luck dinner in Parish Centre to follow (*usually finish 7.30pm*)

The 'Pot-luck Dinner' – please bring a plate to share. BYO refreshments. Tea and Coffee will be available.

The evening won't be a 'study group' per se, but I would like to include simple discussion points and maybe a time for reflection that suits the group who has gathered. I have also invited our Uniting sisters and brothers to join us and I know that a few people have responded positively to the invitation. ALL are WELCOME!

Dates include:

18th February - ASH Wednesday Service 5.00pm [NO dinner]

24th February - 5.00pm & dinner will have to finish by 7.15pm (Parish Council at 7.30pm)

03rd March - 5.00pm & 6.00pm Dinner

10th March - 5.00pm & 6.00pm Dinner

17th March - 5.00pm & 6.00pm Dinner

24th March - 5.00pm & dinner will have to finish by 7.15pm (Parish Council at 7.30pm)

31st March - Holy Week 5.00pm service only

03 April - Good Friday Reflections at the Cross - 9.30am-10.30am

*05 April - Easter Day - 6.00am Lighting of the New Fire & simple breakfast
9.30am Celebration*

Any questions - get in touch.

Regards

Rev James

