



# Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

**Epiphany**  
**07 January 2024**

**Sunday Services:**      **9.30am Warracknabeal**  
   **11.00am Areegra**



You've heard me say before: "Three wise men. In the one place. At the one time. Impossible!" (ha ha ha)

The phrase "three wise men" typically refers to the biblical story of the Magi or the Three Kings who visited the infant Jesus in Bethlehem, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The significance of the three wise men lies in their role as symbolic figures representing the acknowledgment of Jesus as the King of the Jews by Gentiles (non-Jews). The visitation of the Magi is considered an important event in Christian tradition as it emphasizes the universality of Christ's message and the recognition of his divinity beyond the Jewish Community.

The number three is often associated with completeness or perfection in many cultures and religions. In this context, the three gifts and the three wise men may symbolize different aspects of Christ's identity, such as his kingship, priestly role, and eventual sacrifice.

While the Bible does not specify the exact number of wise men, the tradition of three Magi has been popularized over the centuries, possibly because of the three distinct gifts they brought. The names traditionally associated with the three wise men are Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, although these names are not mentioned in the biblical account. The significance of the three wise men lies in their role as symbolic figures recognizing and honouring the newborn Jesus as a divine and universal figure.

What are you going to bring to 'the stable' to honour Jesus this Epiphany Season? Something new. Something old. Something 'out of the box.' More of the same. What 'pilgrimage' are you planning this year to grow your sense of awe and wonder in the One sent by God to 'return us to wholeness'? Be brave! Do not be afraid!  
**Every blessing, Rev James**

## Prayer in the Parish

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

- +Garry;
- For all travelling during the holiday period; for safety and refreshment;
- For seasonal weather; for those still finishing harvesting;
- For the people of Ukraine;
- For the people of Haiti; Yemen; Syria; Lebanon; Egypt;
- For the people of the Israel & Palestine;
- For all facing natural disaster and tragedy;
- For those who hunger for food; for those who thirst for water;
- For those hunger for peace; for those who thirst for justice;
- For all refugees around the world;
- For those who are grieving; for those in discomfort in heart, mind or body;
- For all those less fortunate than ourselves;
- For gratitude for all the good things we enjoy; for freedom;

**Years Mind:** Sheila Potter, John Wood, Lorna Freeland

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

*There are three things all wise men fear:  
the sea in storm,  
a night with no moon,  
and the anger of a gentle man.*

*Patrick Rothfuss*

## Service Times Jan/Feb

### Epiphany – 07 January 2024

9.30am – Warracknabeal

11.00am Areegra

### Baptism of Jesus – 14 January 2024

9.30am – HC Warracknabeal

### Epiphany 3 – 21 January 2024

9.30am – MP Warracknabeal

### Epiphany 4 – 28 January 2024

9.30am – HC Warracknabeal

5.00pm Café Church

### Epiphany 5 – 04 February 2024

9.30am & 5.00pm – Warracknabeal

11.00am Areegra

### Transfiguration – 11 February 2024

9.30am & 5.00pm – Warracknabeal

### Lent 1 – 18 February 2024

9.30am – Warracknabeal

### Lent 2 – 25 February 2024

10.30am – Warracknabeal

5.00pm Café Church



*It is with a heavy heart to  
inform you that our beloved  
sister in Christ,*

*Pam Hewitt*

*recently returned to God's Presence. Our  
heartfelt sympathy is extended to all  
Pam's family and friends! Let us seek  
God's guidance and blessing as we prepare  
to say farewell at a graveside service on*

*Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 11.00am*

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

# TODAY'S READINGS

## THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

**First Reading:** Isaiah 61:10-62:3

***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.**

Wise \* Men



Still Seek  
Him