



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Easter 5
07 May 2023

Sunday Service: 9.30am & 5.00pm - Warracknabeal
11.00am - St Mark's Areegra



Hello Everyone!

How is your Easter journey going? We continue our Easter celebrations until the end of this month when we will honour once again the 'birth of the church' at the Feast of Pentecost.

The 'resurrection season' could also be described as a "threshold" of sorts - neither 'here' nor 'there' - a space where God reveals something to us as nourishment for our faith journey and how we make sense of the world. Is our life a 'threshold' too?

A time when we are vulnerable and open to whatever may happen today?

Do you see yourself as a 'blank canvas' each new day - where God has a chance to fill an empty heart or bring a salving balm to a wound?

Are we attentive to what God may have to teach us anew - or for the first time - in the here and now of our present earthly pilgrimage?

Are we prepared for the surprises of life - or is our routine such that God finds it difficult to have any impact at all?

There is no right or wrong - in this 'threshold' we call life. That's true freedom!

Often however, there is a temptation to act in such a way that we try and guess the reactions or impact on others that restricts our true movement through the world.

There is a temptation to second-guess ourselves and as a result (from my perspective) we become unsure of our actions. Potentially we then distort our dreams and goals to satisfy the 'status quo' or not to 'rock the boat'. Is this truly living?

I'm not talking about "Anything Goes!" That could lead to disaster of course - let alone chaos and just add more salt to our wounds.

With the assurance that Jesus is the 'way', the 'truth' and the 'life' - how can you and I grow in our interactions with the world and those who surround us - whether 'they' are there to annoy or support us; challenge or encourage our journey of resurrection freedom and wonder. *Every blessing, Rev!*



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry;
- For the people of the world;
- For our environment;
- For King Charles III & Queen Consort;
- For those who hunger for food and thirst for water; for those who seek peace;
- For the people of the Sudan;
- For the people of Ukraine;
- For those experiencing grief;
- For Christian Emergency Food Centre;
- For our farmers – for safe machinery and safe practise in mind and body;
- For all our small business owners and their staff;
- For those we know who are unwell – in mind, body or heart;
- For our friends and families – near or far away;
- For our pets;
- For our Christian witness in our daily lives; for conviction and compassion;
- For those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries and milestones;

Years Mind: Betty Kent, Margaret Kennedy, Jeffrey Kay, Phyllis Nuske, Dorothy Smith

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

Services – May

EASTER Services

Easter 5 – 07 May

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal
11.00am St Mark’s Areegra

Easter 6 – 14 May

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Easter 7 – 21 May

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

PENTECOST – 28 May

9.30am Warracknabeal
5.00pm Café Church



Annual Mission Day – 11th May

You are invited to the Annual Mission Day at Keith Warren Fellowship Centre, Beulah on 11 May 2023 at 2.00pm.

Guest Speaker: Margaret Pedler, UCAF Rep for Presbytery of Western Victoria.

There will also be light entertainment including cake and produce stalls.
A collection plate will be taken for the work of missions.

Pam Hewitt has offered transport for anyone interested.

RSVP: Pam Hewitt 0488 960 683
or Bev Callander on 5390 2387

TODAY'S READINGS

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading : Acts 7:55-60

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.' At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he fell on his knees and cried out, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he fell asleep.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: 31:1-5, 17-18

Response: Father, I put my life in your hands

1. To you, Lord, have I come for shelter:
let me never be put to shame.

O deliver me in your righteousness:
incline your ear to me and be swift to
save me. **(R)**

2. Be for me a rock of refuge, a fortress
to defend me: for you are my high rock
and my stronghold. Lead me and guide
me for your name's sake: bring me out
of the net that they have secretly laid
for me, for you are my strength. **(R)**

3. Into your hands I commit my spirit:
you will redeem me, O Lord God of
truth. All my days are in your hand:
O deliver me from the power of my
enemies and from my persecutors.

Make your face to shine upon your
servant: and save me for your
mercy's sake. **(R)**

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:11-25

A reading from the first letter of Peter

Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honour the emperor. Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.' When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges

justly. 'He himself bore our sins' in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; 'by his wounds you have been healed.' For 'you were like sheep going astray,' but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him and we will come to him.

Alleluia!

Gospel:

John 14:1-14

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.' Philip said, 'Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.' Jesus answered: 'Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPERS

Sentence: 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life,' says the Lord. 'No one comes to the Father except through me.'

Collect: Everliving God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Mission!

Start here.

Start small.

Start now.