

Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Advent 2
06th December 2020

Hello everyone!

I hope that you've had a good week. Has the hand of time quickened any for you since we are starting to resume a new normal? It seems to have done so for me. I've always wondered why we think that 'time goes quicker' sometimes than others. The science tells me - it does not change! But I reckon there must be dial somewhere, with someone turning it?

This morning (*Thursday*), I got back on the bike after a week off. I didn't really mean to have such a break, however, circumstances and 'time' constraints conspired to do just that. It has been a lovely gift - if I'm honest, and getting back into a steady cadence on my town circuit felt very invigorating. If I'm honest (again) I think I'd still be going if I didn't have things to do today. What beauty surrounds us.

Advent at this time of year is a paradox in one way - creating time to 'wait' and reflect and prepare the way for God to enter our hearts again - AND THEN THERE SEEMS SO MUCH TO DO. So much stress around what will happen for Christmas, and who will we celebrate it with etc etc... blah, blah, blah.

John the Baptist's message of a Promise of FREEDOM in relationship with God, is carefully balanced by the call not to 'fall asleep' in our responsibilities and tasks in making our homes and hearts and church ready for the wonderful Christmas Joy and Peace.

The Gospel was never intended for simple personal piety and self-absorbed introspection. As the 'people of God' on earth - we are called to ACT! And ACT for the benefit of the OTHER ... neighbour, friend, 'enemy', infirm, hungry, thirsty, anxious, isolated, lonely, sick, grieving, confused, disturbed, quirky, rough, 'outsider', traveler maybe even family.

"May the start of the 'good news' - the good news of Jesus the Messiah, God's Son" (Mark 1:1) inspire you this week to be open to the promise of something new this Christmas Season.

With every blessing, Rev James

Coffee ZOOM Tuesday!

Catch all the 'good news' and a bit more besides Tuesday at 9.30am via ZOOM. Link sent via email or ask Rev for details.



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond: +Garry; Sandra and Andy Taylor; for Advent Season and fruitful time in 'the waiting'; those working for ABM; those whose lives need more peace; Parish Centre Revamp meetings.

Community: Front-line health care workers; all our business owners in town; for all dealing with depression; our farmers and all who support and care for them.

Years Mind: Nancy Meredith, Gladys Schriever, Frank Mitchell, Annie Parker, Bonnie Butler, Melva Jackson, Valda Fisher, Lois Bibby, Annie Muller, Ellen Clarke

December Intercession booklets available from Rev on request.

Advent 2 youTube from Rev:

Freedom - A Promise

<https://youtu.be/HXDKRULEPOE>

Bishop Garry's youTube message:

Advent Sermon Series – Week 1

The Four Last Things - Death

<https://youtu.be/5Dxk-IVOGzY>



Kilometres travelled

2,070.38

Pledged & Donated

\$8,824.94

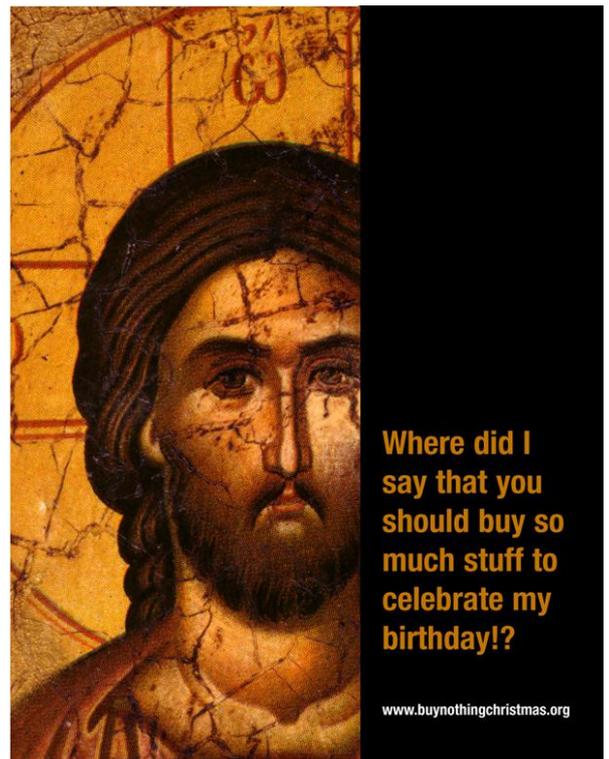
IGA Event – Thurs 10th Dec – 9.00am
Rev is looking for willing volunteers to help take Raffle details from 9.00am please.

Want to give a grain of wheat -
to produce a harvest
opportunity within our parish?



Donations of grain - of any
quantity can be made using the
Church's NGR number:

NGR 12439740



Where did I
say that you
should buy so
much stuff to
celebrate my
birthday!?

www.buynothingchristmas.org

Rev James Wood: P: 5398 1251 M: 0438 233 630 E: warrackanglican@gmail.com

Service Times November/December

Holy Communion Services continue this week!

Communion will be in one kind as per Diocesan guidelines.

Advent 2 - December 06th

9.30am & 4.00pm – Christ Church Warracknabeal
11.00am – Areegra / 5.00pm - SHINE Youth Group

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

Project REGENERATE

Renew PEOPLE. Revive PROJECTS. Restore PLACE.



**Rev is looking for volunteers to take
Raffle Ticket details on Thurs 10th
from 9.00am outside IGA.**

**Are you able to spare an hour to
help the cause?**

Please get in touch with Rev ASAP!

Coffee Van Project

This Sunday - 06th December
Outside the Visitor's Centre
Warracknabeal - 9.00am-1.00pm



Good Coffee!
Good vibe!
Giving young people an
opportunity to gain
skills and serve their
community.

TODAY'S READINGS

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading:

Isaiah 40:1-11

A reading from the book of Isaiah

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling: 'In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' A voice says, 'Cry out.' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' 'All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures for ever.' You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: he gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm:

85:9-14

Response: *Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.*

1. I will hear what God proclaims;
the LORD – for he proclaims peace to his people.
Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land. **(R)**
2. Kindness and truth shall meet;
justice and peace shall kiss.
Truth shall spring out of the earth,
and justice shall look down from heaven. **(R)**
3. The LORD himself will give his benefits;
our land shall yield its increase.
Justice shall walk before him, and prepare the way of his steps. **(R)**

Second Reading:

2 Peter 3:8-15a

A reading from the second letter of Peter

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: with the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way,

what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom that God gave him.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, **Alleluia!**

Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight his paths: all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel:

Mark 1:1-8

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way' – 'a voice of one calling in the wilderness, "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him."' And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the River Jordan. John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt round his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: 'After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPERS

Sentence: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together.

Collect: Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



ADVENT Reflections

“Don’t do church, DO GOD!”

As promised (foreshadowed in pew sheet a couple of weeks ago) – Advent will bring some practical responses to the Gospel message during our Sunday service – ‘prayer in action’ might be another way to explain it.

For those who missed the opportunity, the following was last week’s activity.

Hope that you have some fun!

Activity – Advent 1

I invite you to trace your hand on a piece of paper.

Each digit represents an opportunity for growth – for you to extend the ‘hand of God’ this Advent Season. Therefore, for each digit, I invite you to name a person and corresponding activity for you to follow throughout the next four weeks.

- 1. A neighbour in your street (known or unknown) – name or number:
What ‘act of kindness’ will you plan to extend to them.*
- 2. A family member (near or far way):
What can you do for them that you wouldn’t normally do during Advent.*
- 3. Someone you find difficult:
Find a way you can extend a Christmas greeting to them without necessarily ‘solving’ the issues you have with them.*
- 4. God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit:
Is there an aspect of God’s Nature that you would like to know better or discover something more about?
What activity would enable an ‘encounter with God’ this Advent Season?*
- 5. Self:
How would you like to grow this Advent Season?
What aspect of your personality would you like to become more God-like?*

Christ was born in a stable, wrapped in rags, laid in a manger – so unimportant was this child apparently, so meagrely valued.

And immediately afterward this child was so valuable that it costs the lives of the children in Bethlehem.

Such is the squandering that can take place in connection with this child.

Søren Kierkegaard - ‘Provocations’

A Messenger Sent from God

It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way."
Mark 1:2 (NIV)

Based on Mark 1:1-8 (NIV)



V J P O I V S T C O N F E S S
 E A A M C L H M P R O P H E T
 Z K T G A G N R M X J R G C C
 S W H D I A L T E L T E F J H
 J X N A D R R C S O R A S V C
 R A T R S E Q H S C E C A U E
 S S O U S V J O E U P H P M S
 B J C E C O B N N S E I I T N
 U I D A Z L A E G T N N K C K
 J B T K L Z P Y E S T G Q H C
 O H Z E A L T Y R V A K F R A
 H V O I C E I Y E W N I I I N
 N S L L B T Z N T L C L S S R
 L I N B H K E A G V E H P T B
 C N G O S P E L W R I V E R R

LOCUSTS	PATH	GOSPEL	VOICE	PROPHET
CALLING	HONEY	STRAIGHT	CHRIST	JOHN
REPENTANCE	PREACHING	RIVER	JESUS	DESERT
JORDAN	SANDALS	BAPTIZE	MESSENGER	CONFESS