

Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Pentecost 24
15th November 2020

Hello everyone!

I hope that I find you well and in good spirits!

God WAS. God IS. GOD WILL BE!

This is the truth of our Scripture. Because God was NOT created - God cannot be destroyed. Because God IS LOVE - LOVE cannot be destroyed.

The discovery of a 2 million year old skull during the week - for me was WONDERFUL and exciting and awe-inspiring. We were created - a long time ago! Our earthly shell of skin, bone and water will perish. However, our stories - our love for each other remain (given the chance of memory etc); our culture may change and adapt to current circumstances. As human beings on the planet, we have a shared humanity which must be preserved and honoured and VALUED - for those who have gone before us. For those who surround us. For those who will follow.

Skin colour matters! How long will we remain - Divided? Prejudiced? Racist? Intolerant? Dismissive? Silent? Patronizing? It is time for all this to STOP!

I encourage you to RECOGNISE - in whatever way you can muster - the original inhabitants of our great land this week. We give thanks to God!

INDOOR AGAPE SERVICES

The 'Agape' Service is a 'remembering' service which acknowledges what Jesus did and does for us in our faith journey. It is not 'communion', however, some gluten free flat bread is offered within our liturgy. Communion Services will begin Advent 1 - 29th Nov.

A friend of mine commented to me informally on my writing in the pew sheet last week that it seems like I am trying to justify myself in some way regarding our current service rhythm. They are right.

I worry from time to time whether I am doing the right thing.

I worry that people think that I'm not interested in returning to our church building.
(Cont back page)

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; for all we love – near and far away; Sandra and Andy Taylor; for our Indoor Services and transition to 'new normal'; for our truck drivers and hay carters; Project REGENERATE.

Community: Front-line health care workers; for those celebrating birthdays in November; suffering from isolation and alienation; for all our Indigenous brothers and sisters across our wide land; for tolerance.

Years Mind: Jack Willsher, Hazel Werner, Hazel McDonald, Bill Hand, Lois Crawford

Pentecost 24 youTube from Rev:

Generosity & Being Generous
<https://youtu.be/8RaAZbOPI8k>

Bishop Garry's youTube message:

'Watching for God's Kingdom'
<https://youtu.be/Pzwe6UVuttA>



Kilometres travelled

1,734.03

Pledged & Donated

\$8,049.09

Next Event: Warrack Markets – 21 Nov
Next IGA Event: 10 Dec – 9.00am til late avo

Project REGENERATE

In order to progress our vision and begin the action of putting dreams into reality, the Parish Council have engaged an architect, Jeff Armstrong, to begin a 'Concept Design Phase' of our Parish Centre/Site revamp. This will enable us to envisage what is possible, what is not, and probably more besides – and begin to develop a visual plan to accompany our Business Plan.

If you are interested in joining Rev, Jeff and PC members on Thursday 19th Nov at 11.00am for initial discussions – please let Rev know. Booking essential.

Coffee Van Project

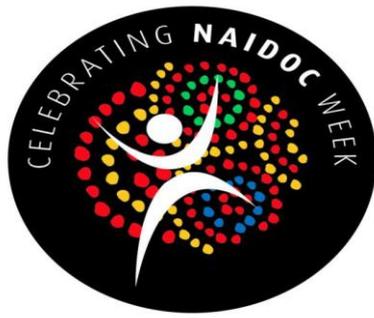
Next Sunday – 22nd November
Outside the Visitor's Centre
Warracknabeal - 9.00am-1.00pm



Good Coffee!

Good vibe!

Giving young people an opportunity to gain skills and serve their community.



Always Was, Always Will Be.

8-15 NOV 2020

Always Was, Always Will Be. Recognises that First Nations people have occupied and cared for this continent for over 65,000 years.

We are spiritually and culturally connected to this country.

This country was criss-crossed by generations of brilliant Nations.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were Australia's first explorers, first navigators, first engineers, first farmers, first botanists, first scientists, first diplomats, first astronomers and first artists.

Australia has the world's oldest oral stories. The First Peoples engraved the world's first maps, made the earliest paintings of ceremony and invented unique technologies. We built and engineered structures - structures on Earth - predating well-known sites such as the Egyptian Pyramids and Stonehenge.

Our adaptation and intimate knowledge of Country enabled us to endure climate change, catastrophic droughts and rising sea levels. *Always Was, Always Will Be.* acknowledges that hundreds of Nations and our cultures covered this continent. All were managing the land - the biggest estate on earth - to sustainably provide for their future. Through ingenious land management systems like fire stick farming we transformed the harshest habitable continent into a land of bounty.

NAIDOC Week 2020 acknowledges and celebrates that our nation's story didn't begin with documented European contact whether in 1770 or 1606 - with the arrival of the Dutch on the western coast of the Cape York Peninsula.

The very first footprints on this continent were those belonging to First Nations peoples.

Our coastal Nations watched and interacted with at least 36 contacts made by Europeans prior to 1770. Many of them resulting in the charting of the northern, western and southern coastlines – of our lands and our waters. For us, this nation's story began at the dawn of time.

NAIDOC 2020 invites all Australians to embrace the true history of this country – a history which dates back thousands of generations.

It's about seeing, hearing and learning the First Nations' 65,000+ year history of this country - which is Australian history. We want all Australians to celebrate that we have the oldest continuing cultures on the planet and to recognise that our sovereignty was never ceded.

Always Was, Always Will Be.

TODAY'S READINGS

PENTECOST 24

First Reading : Judges 4:1-10

A reading from the Book of Judges

Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, now that Ehud was dead. So the Lord sold them into the hands of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. Sisera, the commander of his army, was based in Harosheth Haggoyim. Because he had nine hundred chariots fitted with iron and had cruelly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years, they cried to the Lord for help. Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time. She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided. She sent for Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, 'The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you: "Go, take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali and Zebulun and lead them up to Mount Tabor. I will lead Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his troops to the River Kishon and give him into your hands.'" Barak said to her, 'If you go with me, I will go; but if you don't go with me, I won't go.' 'Certainly I will go with you,' said Deborah. 'But because of the course you are taking, the honour will not be yours, for the Lord will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman.' So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh. There Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali, and ten thousand men went up under his command. Deborah also went up with him.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: 123

Response: *To you, O Lord, I lift up my eyes*

1. To you I lift up my eyes: you who are enthroned in the heavens.

As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master: or as the eyes of a maid toward the hand of her mistress,

So our eyes look to the Lord our God: until he show us his mercy. **(R)**

2. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have had our fill of derision. Our souls overflow with the mockery of those at ease: and with the contempt of the proud. **(R)**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

A reading from the first letter to the Thessalonians

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, 'Peace and safety', destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to

suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! **Alleluia!**

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia

Gospel:

Matthew 25:14-30

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

‘Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ‘After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. “Master,” he said, “you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.” ‘His master replied, “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!” ‘The man with two bags of gold also came. “Master,” he said, “you entrusted me with two bags of gold: see, I have gained two more.” ‘His master replied, “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!” ‘Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. “Master,” he said, “I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.” ‘His master replied, “You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. “So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPERS

Sentence: God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvations through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other up.

Collect: Ever-living God, before the earth was formed, and even after it shall cease to be, you are God. Break into our short span of life and show us those things that are eternal, that we may serve your purpose in all we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Indoor Service Times November/December

November 15th

9.30am & 12.00pm – Christ Church Warracknabeal
10.30am - ZOOM Church
5.00pm – SHINE Youth Group

Christ the King - November 22nd

9.30am & 12.00pm – Christ Church Warracknabeal
Coffee Van – 9.00am–1.00pm

Advent 1 - November 29th

9.30am & 12.00pm – Christ Church Warracknabeal
10.30am – ZOOM Church
5.00pm SHINE Youth Group

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

The Sustainable Development Goals – (for your information)

The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.

Goal 17: Partnerships

The SDGs can only be realized with strong global partnerships and cooperation. A successful development agenda requires inclusive partnerships — at the global, regional, national and local levels — built upon principles and values, and upon a shared vision and shared goals placing people and the planet at the centre.

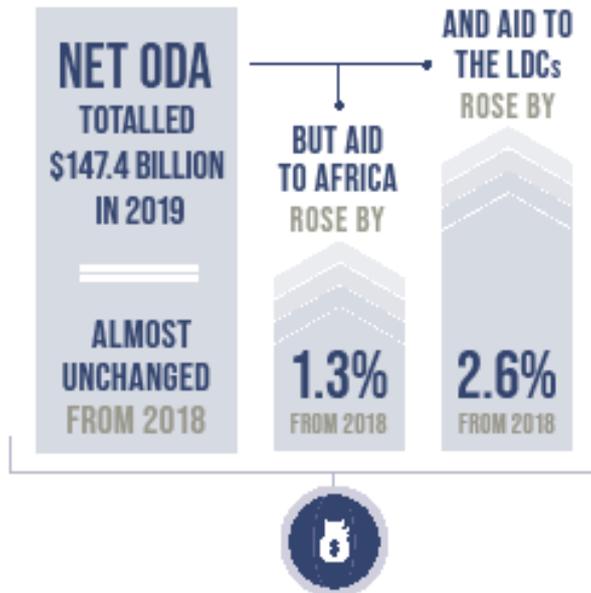
Many countries require Official Development Assistance to encourage growth and trade. Yet, aid levels are falling and donor countries have not lived up to their pledge to ramp up development finance. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the global economy is projected to contract sharply, by 3 per cent, in 2020, experiencing its worst recession since the Great Depression.

Strong international cooperation is needed now more than ever to ensure that countries have the means to recover from the pandemic, build back better and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.



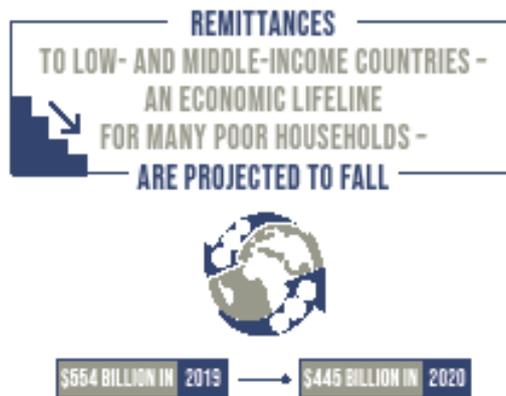
STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

BEFORE COVID-19



GLOBAL FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT IS EXPECTED TO DECLINE BY UP TO 40% IN 2020

COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS



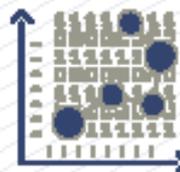
FIXED-BROADBAND SUBSCRIPTIONS

PER 100 INHABITANTS IN 2019

DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
33.8

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
11.2

INTERNATIONAL FUNDING FOR DATA AND STATISTICS WAS \$690 MILLION IN 2017



ONLY HALF THE LEVEL IT NEEDS TO BE



ACCESS MORE DATA AND INFORMATION ON THE INDICATORS AT [HTTPS://UNSTATS.UN.ORG/SDGS/REPORT/2020/](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2020/)

(cont from front)

I worry that our faith community is relevant and open to change under circumstances beyond our control.

I worry that our traditional 'Holy Communion' Service is alienating and may not meet the needs of people wanting to come to church because of COVID.

I worry that I am upsetting those who want Communion now!

I worry that as people just want to go back to 'normal' - I am instigating more change just for the sake of it.

I worry that our 'beloved institution' as it stood before COVID - may not be able to sustain us 'as we were' - very far into the future.

I want our faith community to be nourished by God's WORD.

I want our faith community to be equipped to share God's blessings with others.

I want our faith community to be able to adapt and change to the circumstances we must face and deal with in the face of a deadly virus.

I want our faith community to be a place of welcome and connection with others - especially those who find our church building imposing, and who feel they 'do not deserve to be there' ...

I want our faith community to be nourished by our connection with each other - not just Jesus - a faith community where there is genuine support for spiritual growth whether one believes in God or not.

I want our faith community to be thinking about others more than themselves - so that it is not 'what I can get' but more focussed on 'what I can give.'

I am in a privileged position. I'm at the keyboard of this computer ...

I am in a privileged position - because I'm the priest?

What kind of a faith community do you want to be part of?

Our indoor services continue this week in the Parish Centre, and with current restrictions only allowing 20 persons max - Registration is ESSENTIAL!

Please contact Rev immediately if you would like to participate.

P: 0438 233 630 or E: warrackanglican@gmail.com

(Please leave a message if you get the answering machine!)

With provocation, understanding, and loads of love. Rev James