

Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Christ the King *20 November 2022*

Hello Everyone! I hope you've had a good week!

Sunday Services: 10.30am Warracknabeal
11.30am BBQ Lunch & Salad
6.00pm SHINE Youth Group

I have been considerably distressed watching the news this week.

The unpredictable nature of flooding in NSW, 'war in Europe' escalating across another international border, the reality that more women are being abused and murdered in Australia than ever before, famine and malnutrition in some of the poorest places in the world, and to top it off - the pretentious posturing and 'promising' as we head toward our State Election.

I could turn the telly off. Probably a sensible move. **HOWEVER**, why should I shirk my responsibility as a privileged, white, educated, and fortunate human being just because I can.

Christmas is coming. I both love and hate Christmas. As a man of faith, I love the story and the reality of Jesus' birth - the expected Saviour of World incarnate in the most unexpected way in the dirt and dust of Galilee - a real place with real people - a real 'world event'. I hate (and I know that 'hate' is a strong word) the commercial hype and the expectations that this time of season brings. The useless junk that we seem to be expected to buy to satisfy our loved ones.

As we celebrate our Feast this weekend, and identify with the God of Light, Life and Love who stooped to earth to empower the poor, the hungry and the dispossessed, I strongly encourage each one of us to think seriously about how you will celebrate Christmas this year - in light of what's happening around the world and within our own country this very day. I know it is difficult - as I've tried a number of things over the years ... at the end of the day - we are allowed to celebrate! I just think we can collectively, make a significant difference to bringing PEACE to earth this Christmas season - no matter how small or large we think that contribution can be.

With every blessing, Rev!



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; the faithful people of our Greater West Wimmera Deanery;
- For our Farmers and their families;
- For NSW Flood victims;
- For VIC flood recovery & clean-up;
- For Project Regenerate – Renew People, Revive Projects, Restore Place;
- For all the people of Iran;
- For all the people of Ukraine; for all embroiled in conflict around our globe;
- For the women & young women of Afghanistan;
- For the people of Poland;
- For Christian Emergency Food Centre;
- For those we know who are grieving;
- For those celebrating significant milestones, birthdays, anniversaries;
- For a sensible State Election campaign;
- For all those in financial stress; for those unable to ‘make ends meet’;
- For ‘Prelude’ preparations;
- Thanks for our all God’s blessings;

Years Mind: Bill Hand, Lois Crawford, Michael Verber, Beverley Kaal, Donald Merritt, William Clarke, Lisa Curtis, Helen Patterson

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

Services –Nov/Dec

Christ the King – 20 November

10.30am Warracknabeal
Followed by BBQ & Salad Lunch
6.00pm SHINE Youth Group

Advent 1 – 27 November

9.30am Warracknabeal
8.30-12.30 Coffee Van
6.00/6.30pm **Prelude to Christmas**
at Uniting Church

Advent 2 – 04 December

9.30am Warracknabeal
‘Celebration of Commitment’
Special Morning Tea to follow

Advent 3 – 11 December

9.30am Warracknabeal
8.30-12.30 Coffee Van
5.00pm Café Church

Advent 4 – 18 December

9.30am Warracknabeal
6.00pm Community Carols

Christmas Services

Lessons & Carols – Areegra

Thursday 22nd Dec – 6.00pm

Christmas Eve – 24 Dec

8.30pm Refreshments & fellowship
10.00pm – Lessons & Carols & HC

Christmas Day – 25 Dec

9.30am – Christmas Celebration & HC

Christmas 1 – 01 January 2023

10.30am – Carols & HC

Epiphany – 08 Jan 2023

9.30am – HC

Christmas Hamper Initiative

I believe that the Horsham Community Sports Centre in collaboration with the Horsham Christian Emergency Food Centre and other participating organizations such as our own Neighbourhood House here in Warracknabeal - have launched the "Reverse Advent Calendar Project" late October.

We as a community are invited to participate by collecting specific non-perishable goods towards the goal of 500 hampers that will be distributed to those in need at Christmas. I would like to invite our faith community to continue (as we have been doing) to make donations toward the Christian Emergency Food Centre for this project. Specific items are listed below. Your donations can be some, all or a selection of the items. PLEASE NO GLASS

Item Name	Weight / Size
Canned Fruit	825g
Canned Baked Beans	
Canned Spaghetti	
Packet Soup (eg Cuppa Soup)	
2 Min Noodles	
Pasta Sauce (plastic bottles)	350-500g
Pasta	500g
Sugar	1kg
SR Flour	1kg
Plain Flour	1kg
Rice	1kg
Cake Mix	Packet
Breakfast Cereal	Asstd. Sizes
Peanut Butter	Asstd. Sizes
Vegemite (tubes)	Asstd. Sizes
Tomato Sauce	Plastic bottles
Tomato Paste	Sachets
Ready to eat non-perishable meals (rice/pasta/noodles)	
Coffee (cans or sachets)	100 or 200g
Black tea (no flavoured)	Asstd. Sizes
Sweet biscuits	200-500g
Savoury biscuits	200-500g
Jelly Crystals	
Toothbrushes	
Toothpaste	

“Giving is not just about making a donation.”

If you would prefer to make a monetary donation toward the Reverse Advent Calendar Project – via Christian Emergency Food Centre - please give to Rev directly and we will ensure to pass it directly to Bev and her team.

If you are able to make a contribution to the Reverse Advent Calendar Project, please do so as soon as possible - via the laundry baskets at the Font in church. Thanks for you continued generosity to those less fortunate in our region.

TEARFUND Useful Gift Shop
Christmas Season 2022

tearfund

Rev James will once again be running the Useful Gifts Shop this Christmas Season.

In doing so, on behalf of the parish, we will be helping to bring hope, healing and new opportunities to people in some of the world's most vulnerable communities.

Our world is facing great challenges at this time, and it is crying out for good news. **Useful Gifts bring good news.** By creating new opportunities for health, education, safe water, food and stronger communities, every Useful Gift purchased helps to spread hope to a world in need.

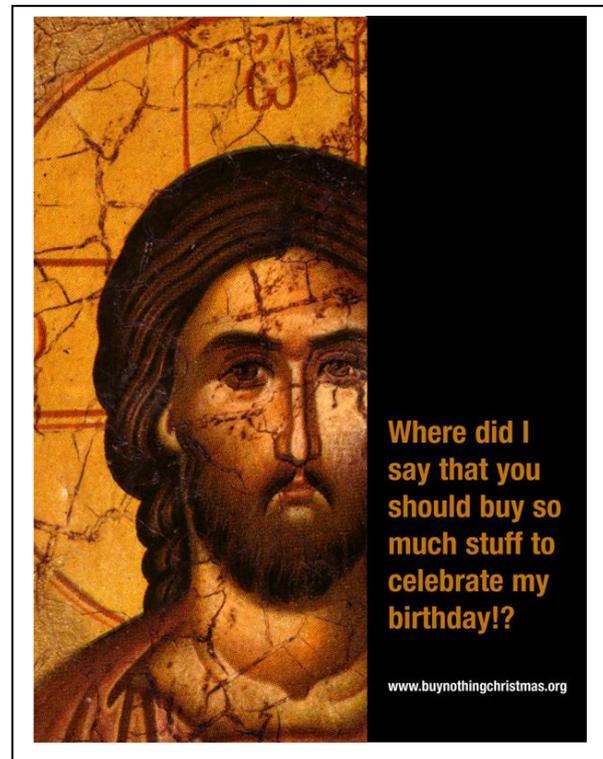
You are able to purchase your Useful Gifts:

1. Personally through Rev James at anytime during the next two months. He will accept cash, cheque or credit card payments.
2. Through TEARFUND Useful Gifts directly: 1800 244 986 or usefulgifts.org
3. Every transaction is securely processed online, and with every gift over \$2 you will receive a tax-deductable receipt.

A Useful Gifts poster is displayed in the foyer of the church. If you want more information to see what gifts are on offer, their price, and the effect they will have on the communities which will be enabled and supported through your generosity – go directly to –

usefulgifts.org

Please contact Rev James for more information, a Useful Gift Catalogue or any other query you may have.



In last week's sermon, I mentioned the micro-loan organization 'KIVA', as invitation for people to think about Christmas giving to help share the blessings and bounty of our privileged and fortunate life here in Warracknabeal with the world. KIVA Gift Cards are available from the website.

Here is some info as promised: *(get in touch if you want more info or help)*

From the KIVA website: <https://www.kiva.org/about>

More than 1.7 billion people around the world are unbanked and can't access the financial services they need. Kiva is an international non-profit, founded in 2005 in San Francisco, with a mission to expand financial access to help underserved communities thrive.

We do this by crowdfunding loans and unlocking capital for the underserved, improving the quality and cost of financial services, and addressing the underlying barriers to financial access around the world. Through Kiva's work, students can pay for tuition, women can start businesses, farmers are able to invest in equipment and families can afford needed emergency care.

By lending as little as \$25(USD) on Kiva = ~AD\$32, you can be part of the solution and make a real difference in someone's life. 100% of every dollar you lend on Kiva goes to funding loans.

How it works - *Create opportunities around the world: From a new fishing net to community solar power, it's easy to help fund a loan that changes someone's life.*



We envision a financially inclusive world where all people hold the power to improve their lives.

Kiva by the numbers:

4.4M

Borrowers

77

Countries

2.1M

Lenders

\$1.78B

Loans funded through Kiva

96.4%

Repayment rate



1. Find a person you want to support



2. Decide how much you want to contribute



3. Check out — your funds are allocated to the borrower



4. Get repaid, and lend to someone else

TODAY'S READINGS

CHRIST THE KING

First Reading:

Jeremiah 23:1-6

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

'Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!' declares the Lord . Therefore this is what the Lord , the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: 'Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done,' declares the Lord . 'I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number. I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing,' declares the Lord . 'The days are coming,' declares the Lord , 'when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Saviour.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm:

Song of Zechariah

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel: you have come to your people and set them free.

You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour: born of the house of your servant David.

Through your holy prophets, you promised of old: to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us, To show mercy to our forebears: and to remember your holy covenant.

This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship you without fear: holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High: for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way, To give God's people knowledge of salvation: by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God: the dawn from on high shall break upon us, To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death: and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Second Reading:

Colossians 1:11-20

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians

being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. The Son is the image of the invisible God, the

firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fulness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, **Alleluia!**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come!

Alleluia!

Gospel:

Luke 23:33-43

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals – one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not

know what they are doing.’ And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, ‘He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.’ The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, ‘If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.’ There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the jews . One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: ‘Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!’ But the other criminal rebuked him. ‘Don’t you fear God,’ he said, ‘since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.’ Then he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ Jesus answered him, ‘Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.’

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

The Propers

Sentence: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Collect: Eternal God, you exalted Jesus Christ to rule over all things, and have made us instruments of his kingdom: by your Spirit empower us to love the unloved, and to minister to all in need, then at the last bring us to your eternal realm where we may be welcomed into your everlasting joy and may worship and adore you for ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

