

Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Sunday After Ascension
24th May 2020

Hello everyone! I hope that I find you well and in good spirits.

A couple of practical things this week:

Resumption of Church services: You will have been aware through the media and communications from +Garry, that existing church services can resume with appropriate protocols for up to 10 people. I DO NOT PLAN TO RESUME SERVICES JUST YET.

My reasons: a) Under current circumstances that would allow only 7 parishioners to attend at one time; b) I have no desire to TURN PEOPLE AWAY FROM CHURCH. I have spoken to at least 18 parishioners who would appreciate being able to meet in our church once again, and I do not think that organizing a 'roster' of attendance would be adequate; c) Cleaning before and after each service, and the administration required to satisfy the conditions of entry outweigh (I believe) the capacity for our doors to be 'opened temporarily' - bit like a drafting gate for the select few; d) soon, I pray, we will be able to open the doors for ALL people!

Small household gatherings: As alternative to the above, I am slowly organizing some 'Hosts' who are willing to invite up to five (in total) members of our congregations to meet at a time that suits them and their guests - as an official 'Church Activity'. These 'house groups' would mean, God willing, that every parishioner has the opportunity to gather with others on a weekend to pray and 'worship' respecting the max of 5 people decreed by Govt. & Health authorities under the lifting of isolation restrictions.

First, this is taking a little time to organize and establish expectations. I seek your patience in seeing if this will actually work. Secondly, if you are willing to 'Host' a gathering, and I have not contacted you - please let me know! Finally, this is NOT A COMMAND. It is an opportunity to try something different that may meet our spiritual needs - as it is my belief that we will not be able to gather as a wider congregation for at least another two months. Get in touch if you have other ideas!

With every blessing, Rev James

Easter Season Quiz V:

1. How large was Noah's Ark?
2. Which animal did NOT make it onto the ark?
3. Which bird was sent first from the Ark by Noah to find land?
4. How old was Noah when he died?
5. Who am I?
 - I was a wealthy man of faith.
 - I was, "... "blameless" and "upright," always careful to avoid doing evil" (Chapter 1 & verse 1 of this book).
 - I suffered much under God. I suffered more under 'human judgement'.
 - I lost everything I owned.
 - The message that was portrayed through me was, "that righteous people can suffer even though they have not done anything wrong." *[Answers next week]*

Last week's answers - Quiz IV:

1). 307 2). 183 3). 3 4). Ruth (The Book of Ruth)



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond: +Garry; thanks for sunshine and rain; those in Pacific Islands; those facing natural disaster; those with COVID-19 not reported by media;

Community: Front-line health care workers; those returning to school this week; those who are still lonely; friends and family; Chief Medical Officers around the country.

Years Mind: Taz Clark, Elma McKenzie, Lucy Couzner, Betty Allen, William Thompson, Daphne Thompson

EASTER 7 youTube from Rev:

"Letting Go' - For More"

<https://youtu.be/yHAPwVckfTk>

Bishop Garry's youTube message:

Easter 6 – *Happy Trails...*

<https://youtu.be/YQPpgHU3LbY>

At His Ascension our Lord entered Heaven, and He keeps the door open for humanity to enter.

Oswald Chambers

During the COVID-19 restrictions - Rev will be in Christ Church every Sunday for prayer and praise at 9.30am.

Please join him in solidarity at home if you are able – covering the parish in prayer and thought.

A Simple Service – for Seventh Sunday of Easter

Hymn: By Your Kingly Power

*By your kingly power, O risen Lord,
All that Adam lost is now restored:
In your resurrection be adored.*

**Sing the joyful Easter cry,
sound it to the souls in prison,
shout our triumph to the sky:
sing Christ risen, sing Christ risen.**

**Sing the joyful Easter cry,
let all times and peoples listen:
death has no more victory,
sing Christ risen, sing Christ risen.**

**Death has lost and life has won;
every newborn soul we christen
has the Father's child become:
sing Christ risen, sing Christ risen.**

James Phillip McAuley CCL 610638

Reflection:

- a) *Given the chance, what you do again this week?*
- b) *What would you like to give thanks to God for this week?*

In a moment of silence – offer these thoughts to God through the Holy Spirit.

Prayer of Preparation:

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings: *(I suggest one or two – the others can become the basis for your devotions throughout the week)*

Videos: +Garry and/or Rev

Reflection:

- a) Where in my life do I need harmony most?
- b) What would be the first step toward achieving a greater sense of peace in my life?

Prayer:

Praise. Petition. Intercession. Thanksgiving.
(or follow your own discipline.)

The Lord's Prayer.

Collect for the Day.

Blessing:

God be in my head and in my understanding;
God be in my eyes and in my looking;
God be in my mouth and in my speaking;
God be in my heart and in my thinking;
God be at my end and at my departing.

Richard Pynson's Horae B.V.M Sarun 1514

Song: Make Me A Channel

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me sow your love;
where there is injury your pardon Lord;
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
*O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood, as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, let me bring your
light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.
O Master, grant...

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.
O Master, grant...

Johann Sebastian Templehoff CCL 610638

TODAY'S READINGS

SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION

First Reading:

Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Then they gathered round him and asked him, 'Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will

come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.'

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm:

47:2-3, 6-9

Response: *God mounts his throne to shouts of joy; a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

1. O clap your hands, all you peoples: and cry aloud to God with shouts of joy.
For the Lord Most High is to be feared: he is a great king over all the earth. **(R)**
2. God has gone up with the sound of rejoicing: and the Lord to the blast of the horn.
O sing praises, sing praises to God: O sing praises, sing praises to our king. **(R)**
3. For God is the king of all the earth: O praise him in a well-wrought psalm.
God has become the king of the nations: he has taken his seat upon his holy throne. **(R)**
4. The princes of the peoples are gathered together: with the people of the God of Abraham.
For the mighty ones of the earth are become the servants of God: and he is greatly exalted. **(R)**

Second Reading:

Ephesians 1:15-23

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you,

remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord.

I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice.

Alleluia!

Gospel:

Matthew 28:16-20

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPERS

Sentence: 'Go and make disciples of all nations,' Jesus commands; 'I am with you always, to the close of the age.'

Collect: God of majesty, you led the Messiah through suffering into risen life, and took him up into the glory of heaven: clothe us with the power promised from on high, and send us forth to the ends of the earth as heralds of repentance and witnesses of Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead, who lives with you now and always in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**



Feast of the Ascension may be more about us

Sr. Joan Chittister writes;

Only one evangelist, Luke, talks about the Ascension as a separate dimension of the life of Christ. Only Luke, in Acts, dates it “on the fortieth day.” That the Resurrection proved Jesus’ identity with God the other evangelists took for granted. They link the Ascension to Easter itself. But Luke has another lesson in mind. Jewish students studied with a rabbi “forty days,” a symbolic number meaning the amount of time it took them to learn the master’s teachings well enough to be able to repeat them. To Luke, then, the time after we experience the Resurrection may have less to do with Jesus than it does with us, with the centering of our minds and hearts on the world and the work at hand. To acknowledge the Resurrection, to be raised to a new understanding of Jesus ourselves, in other words, requires the fashioning of a life of contemplative awareness.

The last line of Luke’s Gospel reads, “They returned to Jerusalem (after he was ‘taken up to heaven’) with great joy and they were continually in the temple praising God.” Jesus is gone but not gone. Jesus has left them but not left them at all. They remember the Jesus of history, yes, but they live now immersed in the Christ of faith. Their minds and souls are raised to new awareness, to new insight, to new consciousness of the power of God among them. They have learned the teachings and are about to live them out themselves. They become contemplatives, those who plunge themselves into the quest for the mind of God, those who seek to see the world as God sees the world, those who see more to the world than simply the world.

The contemplative life, the mystical moment, lies shrouded under centuries of confusion, misunderstanding, misnomers, and inventions. Even the spiritual life itself was defined in steps ranging from the purgative—the withdrawal from the material accoutrements of life in favor of a more spiritual existence, to the unitive—that point of spiritual development where there existed perfect union with God. The process was charted. As a result, the spiritual life became the domain of professionals who retired to cloisters where, the thinking was, only God could gain entrance. There, completely centered on the spiritual life as opposed to “the life of the world,” a person became “contemplative.” No other way.

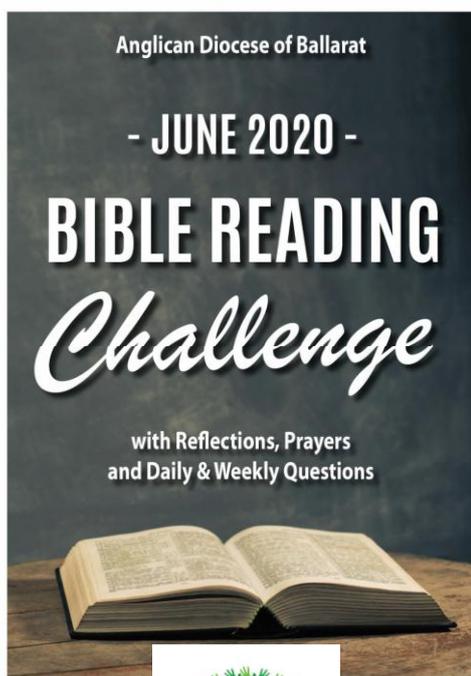
There is a serious problem with that spirituality. It counts most of the world out, in the first place, and in the second place, it completely discounts Jesus himself. The truth is that the Jesus who raised our hearts and minds to heaven, who told us that he himself was the Way, lived a life totally involved in the world around him, totally attuned to the heart of God, completely consumed by the will of God for the world.

The point is that contemplatives are not professional religious types. “Contemplative” and “cloister” are not synonyms. Cloister is at best only one of many vehicles to contemplation, needed by some, irrelevant to others who see the face of Jesus in the poor, the rejected, the starving, the beaten, and love it dearly. To call only one of these “the contemplative life,” is to overlook the contemplative dimension of all life—the life of the mother who feels the presence of God while bathing her baby; the life of the man who feels God’s breaking heart when he sees young soldiers walking by; the lives of old people who have spent all their lives doing good so

that the reign of God could finally come, the lives of young people who offer themselves up for the love of another.

To the contemplative, the entire world is sacramental. Everything speaks of God. Everything unveils God to us. Here in the struggles of marriage and unemployment, of dissension and jealousies, of rejection and the broken shards of trust, the contemplative sees the Jesus who showed the way beyond the crucifixion to the Ascension, beyond suffering to the glory of wholeness.

[from [In Search of Belief](#). (Liguori/Triumph) by Joan Chittister]



Next Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 26th May at 7.30pm

(location to be confirmed shortly)

Please pray for us – as we continue to discuss some of the details and strategy for Project REGENERATE.

Last time we asked the question: "How can we 'introduce' people to our church community of faith in concrete and tangible ways?" How would you respond? Contact Rev!

The now annual **Bible Reading Challenge** for June through the Diocesan Ministry Development Committee is rapidly approaching. "Do not fear. For I am with you!" assures Jesus. In next week's pew sheet 'package' - you will all receive the booklet needed to complete the challenge (*left*). For those who receive emails, it will arrive as a pdf - just as the 'pew sheet' & dNews does every week.

If you would like a hard copy sent to you - please let Rev know by Tuesday 26th May.

Sarah-Jayne & Rev will be running two separate weekly ZOOM study groups during June for those who would like join and discuss the contents and issues that arise from the study.

Tuesday at 11.00am (2nd, 9th, 16th)

Tuesday at 8.00pm (2nd, 9th, 16th, 30th)

So we can ensure you have the login details for either ZOOM meeting - would you please register your name, preferred time & confirm your email address to the parish email address:

warrackanglican@gmail.com

by Sunday 31st May.

The Ascension of Jesus

While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up to heaven. Luke 24:51 (NIV)

Based on Luke 24:44-53



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

RISE
SUFFER
HEAVEN
WORSHIPED

REPENT
PSALMS
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(I don't have a menu for this week I am sorry)