

Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Advent 4
20th December 2020

Hello everyone!

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

First, THANK YOU to everyone who chipped in last week to help clean the church and 'usher' on the day of Andy's Funeral Service, and pack up the Parish Centre. It made a huge task much easier to burden. We continue to implore God's Holy Spirit to bring peace to the hearts and lives of all who are grieving during this Christmas Season - whether for recent, during 2020 or distant relatives that remain separated from our earthly pilgrimage with us.

Secondly, there will be a cleaning working bee at 10.00am Tuesday to prepare for Christmas. There is not major 'work' to be done, however, all the pews will need to be disinfected and the task should not be that difficult. The community atmosphere as we were cleaning last week was very edifying, so I didn't want to leave anyone out of a similar experience.

I recall when I was in Spain, every Friday morning in churches over the country there would be a hive of activity as churches were cleaned in preparation for Sunday. I don't think I can anticipate the same here, however, let's take the opportunity to build community and enjoy the church's atmosphere. It needs people at the end of the day doesn't it!

As we prepare for our Christmas Feast and all the activity between family and friends etc, I also hope you will be able to find some time to think of those less fortunate this Christmas Season. Every minute a man, woman or child is trafficked across a border for exploitation - to pick coffee beans, for sex, for making our cheap clothing and mining essential materials needed for our latest mobile phone or iPad. Every thirty seconds a child dies of malnutrition and/or a mosquito bite. Every day someone is imprisoned unfairly because of their faith, skin colour or Creed. These are the people the 'Light of the World', the 'Prince of Peace', the 'Saviour of the Universe' - Emmanuel; GOD WITH US seeks to visit this Christmas Season. And you and I of course ... there by the Grace of God ...

Wishing you, your family and loves ones - every blessing,
Rev James

No Coffee ZOOM Tuesday! There will be a CLEANING working bee in the church to prepare for Christmas from 10.00am!



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond: +Garry; for all our Christmas celebrations; for those working in our prisons; for all those in grief and mourning; Coffee Van Project this morning; for all travelling to loved ones over the next week; for our Diocesan sisters & brothers.

Community: For those less advantaged than ourselves; for all who hunger & thirst for food & water; for all dealing with sickness; for those who hunger & thirst for justice; all school related organizations and staff.

Years Mind: Pearl Bibby, Amy Jamieson, Thomas White

Advent 4 youTube from Rev:

Mystery & Hope

<https://youtu.be/Oj59wv9zy9Q>

Bishop Garry's youTube message:

**Advent Sermon Series – Week 3
The Four Last Things – Heaven**

<https://youtu.be/v8w1boi8PKc>

Kilometres travelled

2,346.95

Pledged & Donated

\$11,389.19



Service Times December

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 Lessons and Carols & HC

Christmas Day – December 25th

9.30am HC & Celebration

Christmas 1 – December 27th

5.00pm – Parish Centre

Coffee Van Project

This Sunday – 20th 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.

What is Christmas?

It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present and hope for the future.

Agnes M. Pahren

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TODAY'S READINGS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

A reading from the book of Samuel

After the king was settled in his palace and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, he said to Nathan the prophet, 'Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.' Nathan replied to the king, 'Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you.' But that night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying: 'Go and tell my servant David, "This is what the Lord says: are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?'" 'Now then, tell my servant David, "This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people shall not oppress them any more, as they did at the beginning and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

"The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: Your house and your kingdom shall endure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever."

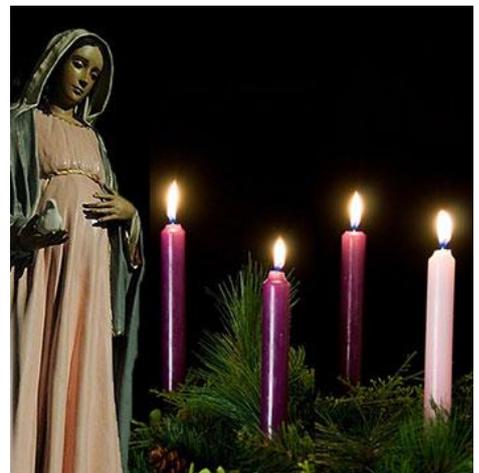
This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: 89

Response: *For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.*

1. The promises of the LORD I will sing forever;
through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness.
For you have said, "My kindness is established for ever";
in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness. **(R)**
2. "I have made a covenant with my chosen
one, I have sworn to David my servant:
Forever will I confirm your posterity and
establish your throne for all generations." **(R)**
3. "He shall say of me, 'You are my father,
my God, the Rock, my saviour.'
Forever I will maintain my kindness
toward him, and my covenant with him
stands firm." **(R)**



A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith – to the only wise God be glory for ever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, **Alleluia!**

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.

May it be done to me according to your word. **Alleluia!**

Gospel:

Luke 1:26-38

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants for ever; his kingdom will never end.' 'How will this be,' Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?' The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.' 'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered. 'May your word to me be fulfilled.' Then the angel left her.

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPERS

Sentence: This child will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

Collect: Gracious God, whose eternal Word took flesh among us when Mary placed her life at the service of your will: prepare our hearts for his coming again and keep us steadfast in hope, that we may be ready for the coming of his kingdom; for his sake, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.