

Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

LENT 4

22 March 2020

WELCOME TO CAFÉ CHURCH & REGENERATE Service

We hope that you find our fellowship and worship this morning uplifting and nourishing for your Lenten journey. Please hold your neighbours and loved ones in prayer - as many may not feel comfortable joining us this morning. If you are able we'd love you make contact with them and/or leave a pew sheet in their letter box. Rev James is more than happy to follow up any pastoral matters if needed.

Rev James writes;

Dear ALL,

Recent events around COVID-19 Pandemic are certainly starting to affect our local community in numerous ways - and as a church we are not immune from having to adapt and respond appropriately to expectations of the public and adhere to advice from medical and health experts.

I believe it is important to retain our liturgical rhythm - and it is my intention to keep the church open for prayer and our normal Sunday and weekday services. However, as you may have realized by now, I have decided to change some elements of our liturgy to limit the chance of spreading any disease and respond to requests from Government authorizes in regard to 'social distancing' within the appropriate bounds within our faith community.

- *Protocols instigated by the Diocese 'Ad Clerum' - 4 March remain in place.*
- *Greeting at the front door will not include a handshake.*
- *There will be NO 'Greeting of the Lord's Peace'.*
- *Holy Communion will only be offered in one kind.*
- *I invite all members of our congregations to respect the appropriate personal space of others and be sensitive to the needs of other congregational members - this is not a time to be 'distant' but rather to be creative as how we can support each other, our neighbours and friends.*
- *Working with our Safe Church Officer, Sarah-Jayne Holland, we are intending to implement a process to disinfect the church after Sunday services which will include: pews, hand rails, door knobs and other significant surfaces. This is an extra precaution in addition to the church cleaner on a weekly basis.*

"Challenging violence & injustice: Working for peace & reconciliation."

- *If someone is feeling unwell or exhibit flu like symptoms - we recommend that they stay at home. Rev James can be contacted for pastoral care.*

I have also decided to adapt how we would normally celebrate our Easter week. I would like to suggest the following:

- *Palm Sunday - 9.30am*
- *Tuesday - Holy Week 5.00pm - Taize reflective service & HC*
- *Good Friday - 9.30am - Reflections at Foot of the Cross*
- *Easter Sunday - 9.30am - Holy Communion and Celebration*

Some of the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic include:

Youth gathering (last Sunday) was CANCELLED

March Raffle selling - CANCELLED - (April 9 selling still planned)

Hopetoun Lodge & Dunmunkle Services - CANCELLED until further notice.

Murray2Moyne - CANCELLED

Walk of the Cross - CANCELLED

Maundy Thursday Seder Meal - CANCELLED

Holy Saturday New Fire - CANCELLED

Mission Luncheons - POSTPONED

- *Yarriambiack Lodge (at the time of writing) are still inviting us to conduct HC services at RNH.*
- *Rev James is still running GLAD Programs in school and Boys' Shed program at Rectory Garage continues until further notice. The Boys' Shed was taken to WPS during the week because children's outing off school premises have been banned.*
- *At this stage, hospitality at Rev James' on a Tuesday evening after the 5.00pm Eucharist will continue.*

As you will be aware of the rhetoric throughout media channels - things can change very quickly, and with Parish Council guidance and advice from Diocesan and Health-care professionals we will make further decisions as needed and required to ensure that we play our part in helping to limit the spread of COVID-19 within our local community.

The important thing to remember is:

We are available (as a church faith community) to provide pastoral and well-being support for anyone who needs it, and we are going to help take our responsibility in helping to manage this pandemic.

Thank you for your understanding!

Rev James Wood (0438 233 630)

Join us for Coffee at Cafe Peppercorn tomorrow if you feel comfortable in doing so! 9.00-10.20am (approx)



Prayer in the Parish

Week beginning 22nd March

Please pray and give thanks for:

Those in need: Those who broker peace in the face of war; those who confront violence; those who disrupt oppression and those who nurture genuine justice; COVID-19 sufferers; those in quarantine.

Events: With so many events cancelled – maybe give thanks for time to breathe and rest and welcome God into our fears and our distress this Lenten journey.

In the Parish & Beyond: +Garry; Tony Tamblin; Project REGENERATE: Renew People. Revive Projects. Restore Place.; Revs REVOLUTION.

Community: Our community; all those in positions of leadership as we face COVID-19 together.

Years Mind: Kate McGuire, Honor Whyte, Eric Croser, Ernest Hooper

Service Times & Events – March/April 2020

Sunday 22nd March – Lent 4

9.30am Warracknabeal Cafe Church in Parish Centre

TUESDAY Holy Communion in LENT – 5.00pm

Please note change of time.

Simple meal in Rectory and gentle discussion on faith and daily life will follow.

Sunday 29th March – Lent 5

HC 10.30am Warracknabeal

Sunday 5th April – PALM Sunday

HC 9.30am Warracknabeal

HC 11.30am Areegra

Tuesday in Holy Week – 7th April

5.00pm HC and Taize Service of Reflection

No meal in Rectory

Good Friday – 10th April

9.30am Reflections at the Cross

Sunday 12th April – EASTER Sunday

HC 9.30am Warracknabeal

Sunday 19th April – Easter 2

HC 9.30am Warracknabeal

HC 11.30am Areegra

Tuesdays in LENT

You are invited to the Rectory on Tuesday 24th and Tuesday 31st March during LENT at 5.45-7.15pm - following the 5.00pm Eucharist in the church. We will share a simple meal together! It is a chance to deepen our relationship with God over fellowship and gentle discussion regarding the things that daily life throws at us.

Project REGENERATE.

Renew PEOPLE. Revive PROJECTS. Restore PLACE.

REVS REVOLUTION : 01 APRIL 2020 – 01 April 2021

As planned, Rev James is embarking on a journey on Weds 01 April to ride 5,000kms to try and raise \$25,000 for Project REGENERATE in one calendar year. Watch this space! Pray!

"Challenging violence & injustice: Working for peace & reconciliation."

TODAY'S READINGS

LENT 4

First Reading : 1 Samuel 16:1-13

A reading from the first book of Samuel

The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.' But Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.' The Lord said, 'Take a heifer with you and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord ." Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.' Samuel did what the Lord said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, 'Do you come in peace?' Samuel replied, 'Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord . Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.' Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord 's anointed stands here before the Lord .' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.' Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, 'The Lord has not chosen this one either.' Jesse then made Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, 'Nor has the Lord chosen this one.' Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said

to him, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' So he asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' 'There is still the youngest,' Jesse answered. 'He is tending the sheep.' Samuel said, 'Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.' So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; this is the one.' So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm:

23

Response: *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

1. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose; beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul. **(R)**
2. He guides me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side With your rod and your staff that give me courage. **(R)**
3. You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. **(R)**
4. Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come. **(R)**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible – and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said: ‘Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel:

John 9:1-41

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ ‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned,’ said Jesus, ‘but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.’ After saying this, he spat on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s

eyes. ‘Go,’ he told him, ‘wash in the Pool of Siloam’ (this word means ‘Sent’). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. His neighbours and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, ‘Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?’ Some claimed that he was. Others said, ‘No, he only looks like him.’ But he himself insisted, ‘I am the man.’ ‘How then were your eyes opened?’ they asked. He replied, ‘The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.’ ‘Where is this man?’ they asked him. ‘I don’t know,’ he said. They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. ‘He put mud on my eyes,’ the man replied, ‘and I washed, and now I see.’ Some of the Pharisees said, ‘This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.’ But others asked, ‘How can a sinner perform such signs?’ So they were divided. Then they turned again to the blind man, ‘What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.’ The man replied, ‘He is a prophet.’ They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man’s parents. ‘Is this your son?’ they asked. ‘Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?’ ‘We know he is our son,’ the parents answered, ‘and we know he was born blind. But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don’t know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.’ His parents

said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. That was why his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.' A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. 'Give glory to God by telling the truth,' they said. 'We know this man is a sinner.' He replied, 'Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!' Then they asked him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered, 'I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' Then they hurled insults at him and said, 'You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from.' The man answered, 'Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born

blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' To this they replied, 'You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!' And they threw him out. Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Who is he, sir?' the man asked. 'Tell me so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.' Then the man said, 'Lord, I believe,' and he worshipped him. Jesus said, 'For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.' Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, 'What? Are we blind too?' Jesus said, 'If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Next sunday:



The Propers

Sentence: 'I am the light of the world,' says the Lord; 'those who follow me will have the light of life.'

Collect: Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ROSTERS AT CHRIST CHURCH

29TH MARCH 2020

E.A:	K. Taylor
Reader:	B. Clarke
Intercessor:	M. Boyle
Stewards:	G. Steinmeyer & J. Taylor
Flowers:	Lent – No Flowers
Morning Tea:	Not today – ROYAL for lunch

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19 March 2020

Statement from the Bishop of Ballarat Concerning Sunday services and the coronavirus (COVID-19)

In the Diocese of Ballarat ordinary Sunday services will be held as usual for the time being.

Unlike the Bishops in NSW, Tasmania and Bendigo, I do not ask you to suspend worship at this time. However we will take seriously the major recommendations of the General Synod task force.

<https://anglican.org.au/resources/covid-19/>

This includes trying to keep a distance of about 1.5 metres between people in the Church buildings.

Parishioners are encouraged to receive the Sacrament in one kind only. However, the Chalice of wine will not be banned. If anyone wishes to drink from the Common Cup, they may do so. No meaning will be intended or inferred by those who do or do not receive the Chalice. Those who receive the Sacrament in one kind receive all the spiritual benefits of receiving in both kinds.

Parishioners who have cold or flu symptoms should refrain from attending Church. All parishioners should feel free from "the Sunday Obligation".

Personal contact should be avoided as much as possible - this includes the Peace. It is wise to avoid sharing food after services. Similarly, it may be necessary to reschedule parish fetes and to develop extra safety policies around Op Shop ministry and emergency care ministry.

Pastoral services that might involve more than 100 people will require special sensitivity; e.g. it may be necessary to change

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wedding dates, or to encourage small celebrations for Holy Baptism, Confirmation and Funeral services. In some cases, you may only be able to offer a graveside service if a large crowd is likely to be present for a funeral. Remember to be pastorally sensitive to the families involved in these situations. The Ceremonies of Easter will need to be modified to meet GS guidelines and the simplified services by the Liturgy Commission are recommended:

<https://anglican.org.au/our-work/liturgy-worship/lent-holy-week-and-easter/>

The clergy and authorised Lay Ministers are asked to be particularly vigilant concerning hygiene requirements around daily masses, and Communion in the home.

Services in Nursing Homes/ Aged care facilities are cancelled in accordance with the relevant institutional policies.

Clergy will be particularly careful to respond to anxious or stressed parishioners, and to make electronic contact with those who do not come to church services, for whatever reason. Many elderly folk who may not use a computer are very likely to welcome a pastoral telephone call.

Most extra services e.g. Harmony Week, Pilgrim Supper on Passion Sunday evening, Refugee Week, will normally be rescheduled for later in the year or cancelled for this year. Lady Day will be observed on 25th March, but there will be no hospitality following the Mass and Presentation of Badges in the Cathedral.

The Diocesan Finance Committee reminds all people that the costs of each parish will not diminish during this time. Parishioners are encouraged to arrange Direct Credit payments to the Parish accounts if they have not already done so.

Above all, we are to remain people of faith and hope, who are confident in the good purposes of our loving God.

With blessings,

Garry Weatherill Bishop of Ballarat

Services in Holy Week and Easter at Christ Church

Tuesday in Holy Week - 7th April at 5.00pm

As I have cancelled Maundy Thursday Seder Meal and Holy Saturday New Fire, I would like to offer a reflective service in the style of Taize on Tuesday 7th at 5.00pm.

This service will offer Holy Communion (as normal), however, it may last a little longer - and offer an opportunity for people to 'rest in the Lord' with times of prayer and silence (rather than our usual prayer book liturgy).

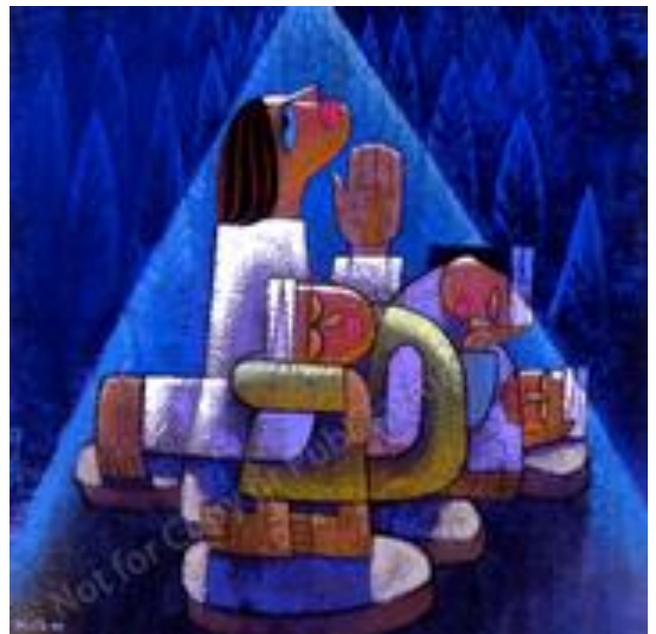
(I will not be offering hospitality in the Rectory following the service.)

GOOD FRIDAY 2020 - April 10 at 9.30am

'Seven Last Words of Jesus' planned for Good Friday has now been adapted.

Reflections at the Foot of the Cross will take place at 9.30am. The service will still incorporate some reflections from parishioners - in a modified form, and you can expect the reverence and solemnity that Good Friday deserves.

As has become our custom - there will be no Holy Communion at this service.



EASTER SUNDAY - 12th April at 9.30am

Our Easter Service will go ahead as planned;

- a) Because as a faith community this is a necessary gathering,
- b) I'm not expecting 100 people to join us
- c) I probably won't invite you to bring a friend - although it may be the perfect opportunity to do so - if many people are choosing to stay at home.

Holy Communion will be offered at this service in one kind as stated on the front of the pew sheet - and the liturgy will be adapted (as we will have become used to) to comply with government and health authority protocols.

It is important that as a faith community we will celebrate "Christ is Risen!" - to show that LIFE is God's last word - not death or fear.

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Jesus Heals a Blind Man

So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. John 9:7 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 9:1-34 (NIV).



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

BLIND	EYES	SPIT	POOL	WASH
WORLD	SINNED	SIGHT	NIGHT	BORN
HOME	MUD	LIFE	OPENED	LIGHT
SILOAM	PARENTS	RECEIVED	BIRTH	GROUND

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Richard Rohr writes;*(from New Mexico, USA)*

Love Alone Overcomes Fear (19th March 2020)

It is shocking to think how much the world has changed in such a brief time. Each of us has had our lives and communities disrupted. Of course, I am here in this with you. I feel that I'm in no position to tell you how to feel or how to think, but there are a few things that come to mind I will share.

A few days ago I was encouraged by the Franciscans and by the leadership team here at the CAC to self-quarantine, so I've been in my little hermitage now for three or four days. I've had years of practice, literally, how to do what we are calling "social distancing." I have a nice, large yard behind me where there are four huge, beautiful cottonwood trees, and so I walk my dog Opie every few hours.

Right now I'm trying to take in psychologically, spiritually, and personally, what is God trying to say? When I use that phrase, I'm not saying that God causes suffering to teach us good things. But God does use everything, and if God wanted us to experience global solidarity, I can't think of a better way. We all have access to this suffering, and it bypasses race, gender, religion, and nation.

We are in the midst of a highly teachable moment. There's no doubt that this period will be referred to for the rest of our lifetimes. We have a chance to go deep, and to go broad. Globally, we're in this together. Depth is being forced on us by great suffering, which as I like to say, always leads to great love.

But for God to reach us, we have to allow suffering to wound us. Now is no time for an academic solidarity with the world. Real solidarity needs to be felt and suffered. That's the real meaning of the word "suffer" - to allow someone else's pain to influence us in a real way. We need to move beyond our own personal feelings and take in the whole.

This, I must say, is one of the gifts of television: we can turn it on and see how people in countries other than our own are hurting. What is going to happen to those living in isolated places or for those who don't have health care? Imagine the fragility of the most marginalized, of people in prisons, the homeless, or even the people performing necessary services, such as ambulance drivers, nurses, and doctors, risking their lives to keep society together?

Our feelings of urgency and devastation are not exaggeration: they are responding to the real human situation. We're not pushing the panic button; we are the panic button. And we have to allow these feelings, and invite God's presence to hold and sustain us in a time of collective prayer and lament.

I hope this experience will force our attention outwards to the suffering of the most vulnerable. Love always means going beyond yourself to otherness. It takes two. There has to be the lover and the beloved. We must be stretched to an encounter with otherness, and only then do we know it's love. This is what we call the subject-subject relationship. Love alone overcomes fear and is the true foundation that lasts (1 Corinthians 13:13).



**What lies behind us and
what lies before us are small matters
compared to what lies within us.**

Ralph Waldo Emerson