

# Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

**Easter Sunday**  
**31 March 2024**

**Sunday Services:**      **Easter Sunday - 9.30am Warracknabeal**  
   **Easter 2 (07 April) - 9.30am Warracknabeal**

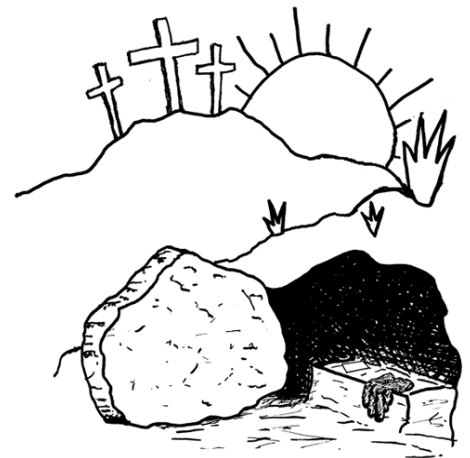


## **Happy Easter Everyone!**

*I hope that this Easter Season is full of all the wonder and mystery of the Resurrection - that you may hear God 'call your name' and be able to recognize the One sent by God to 'put death to flight' in your daily life.*

Soren Kierkegaard wrote:

"Just because Christ was upon the cross proves that he is the Son of God. But humanity cannot grasp the Divine mind. It would rather conclude that he was the Son of God, if only he had come down from the cross." (*Provocations* © 1999)



He is not here; for He is risen, as He said.  
Come, see the place where the Lord lay.  
Matthew 28:6

The RESURRECTION is genuinely where Christianity 'hits the road running'.

I think many can believe that human beings are destructive enough to leave people on crosses as a way of punishment and provide a Roman warning to passer's by. There is no denying that the suffering of humanity around the world is delivered in real time via our media channels. There has always been violence, abuses of power and a seeming undeniable de-valuing of our humanity in various parts of the globe through dictatorships, fear and unchecked megalomania.

Jesus' resurrection - is accepting that there can be a completely different way to understand the world. The Divine - having 'become flesh' and lived as one of us - goes through DEATH itself ... Resurrection is NOT revival! Resurrection is NOT resuscitation! Resurrection is NOT rational - at any level.

Jesus died. Jesus was buried. Jesus' **RISING** is no small detail in our Gospel account of Good News - of healings, personal and community transformation, emotions and physical challenges - as well as the well known metaphors of service, harvest, and forgiveness that we have come to know and love and use as our spiritual food in this our own earthly pilgrimage.

Death is put to flight. Evil is banished. There is a bucket load of hope for the disciples of old and for you and I as we seek to make meaning of our lives and bring some light where there is darkness, love where there is discord and hatred and **LIFE** even in the face of death.

The Resurrection of Jesus - is completely unique in all the religions and spiritual practises around the world. We are matter! 'Matter' - matters to God - **ABSOLUTELY!** We are to rejoice in our frailty and vulnerabilities and our fears because they lead to deeper trust with the **ONE** who rejoices in **US!** The **ONE** who calls us by name. The **ONE** who seeks to meet our deepest needs and wants to see us experience God's **JOY** that permeates throughout the resurrection season that follows for 40 days and 40 nights.

Whatever difficulties we currently experience. Whether your personal 'jury' is still debating what the whole faith thing is all about and how it works - God is in our midst - leading, inviting, sustaining and rejoicing in all who are willing to take a risk and follow the **ONE** who overcame death on our behalf. There is much to be grateful for, and we know that **GOD WILL NOT ABANDON US. EVER!**

*And of course it wouldn't be Easter without my favourite Quote:*

**"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.**

**Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.**

**It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us.**

**We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?**

**Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God.**

**Your playing small does not serve the world.**

**There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you.**

**We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.**

**It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone.**

**And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.**

**As we are liberated from our own fear,  
our presence automatically liberates others."**

*Marrienne Williamson*

## Prayer in the Parish

### **In the Parish & Beyond:**

- +Garry; for our Diocesan Sisters and Brothers in Christ; for the Greater West Wimmera Deanery;
- For Sherry Barber (Suzy Callaghan's sister) – battling cancer;
- For those travelling over the Easter period; for those visiting;
- For YFest preparations;
- For our Parish Council and all who exercise ministry on our behalf;
- For a STOP to war around the globe; and for all brokering peace;
- For the people of Haiti; the Sudan;
- For the people of Ukraine and Palestine;
- For those who hunger for food; for those who thirst for water; for those who seek peace from war, violence & exploitation;
- For Cocoa farmers; for just and equitable working conditions for chocolate workers and companies to ensure we have Easter eggs in our supermarkets;
- For the Christian Emergency Food Centre in Horsham; for Bev and all the volunteers; for people's generosity to this important ministry in the region;
- For the Boys' Shed Project;
- For those we love – near and far away;
- For our neighbour/s;
- For those known to us who are unwell;
- For ourselves – for open hearts to welcome the wonder of the Resurrection;
- For Churches in Warracknabeal & region;

**Years Mind:** Sonya Marshman, Robert Walker, Pamela Day, Lindsay Taylor

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

## Service Times March/April

### Easter Season

#### Maundy Thursday – 28 March

##### Christian Seder Meal

6.00pm for 6.30pm – Warracknabeal  
In the Parish Centre

#### Good Friday – 29 March

9.30am – Warracknabeal

#### Easter Sunday – 31 March

9.30am – Warracknabeal

#### Easter 2 – 07 April

9.30am Warracknabeal

#### Easter 3 – 14 April

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal  
11.00am St Mark's Areegra

#### Easter 4 – 21 April

10.30am Baptism and HC  
5.00pm Warracknabeal

#### Easter 5 – 28 April

9.30am Warracknabeal  
5.00pm Café Church

### Easter Working Bee

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped pitch in with getting our beloved church ready for the Easter Weekend.

All efforts most appreciated.

# TODAY'S READINGS

## EASTER SUNDAY

First Reading:

Acts 10:34-43

### ***A reading from the book of Acts***

Then Peter began to speak: 'I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached – how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. 'We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen – by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Psalm:

118:1-2, 14-24

**Response: *This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad***

1. O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good:  
his mercy endures for ever.  
Let Israel now proclaim:  
that his mercy endures for ever. **(R)**
2. The Lord is my strength and my song:  
and has become my salvation.  
The sounds of joy and deliverance:  
are in the tents of the righteous. **(R)**
3. The right hand of the Lord does mighty things:  
the right hand of the Lord raises up.  
I shall not die but live: and proclaim the  
works of the Lord. **(R)**
4. The Lord has disciplined me hard:  
but he has not given me over to death.  
Open me the gates of righteousness:  
and I will enter and give thanks to the  
Lord. **(R)**
5. This is the gate of the Lord:  
the righteous shall enter it.  
I will praise you, for you answered me:  
and have become my salvation. **(R)**
6. The stone that the builders rejected:  
has become the head of the corner.  
This is the Lord's doing:  
and it is marvellous in our eyes.  
This is the day that the Lord has  
made: let us rejoice and be glad in  
it. **(R)**

***A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians***

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them – yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, Alleluia**

Remain in me as I remain in you, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me will bear much fruit. **Alleluia!**

***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark***

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, 'Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?' But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. 'Don't be alarmed,' he said. 'You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, "He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

This is the gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

**THE PROPERS**

**Sentence:** Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast. The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!

**Collect:** Brightness of God's glory, whom death could not conquer nor the tomb imprison: as you have shared our frailty in human flesh, help us to share your immortality in the Spirit; let no shadow of the grave terrify us, and no fear of darkness turn our hearts from you. Reveal yourself to us this day and all our days, as the First and the Last, the Living One, our immortal Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

## **Food for thought:**

**Bishop George Browning**  
**26 March 2024**

*[Blog \(georgebrowning.com.au\)](http://georgebrowning.com.au)*

### **Lights on or Lights Out?**

*In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.*

This weekend we celebrate the Christian festival of Easter and proclaim once more that life is always on offer. What sets sentient human beings apart is choice, we can choose life in all our interactions, or we can choose to turn the lights out. Why in Gaza has Israel chosen utter darkness – for Palestinians and for itself?

*Narratives hold power. The narrative of Israel's extreme right insists their brutality against Palestinians is a righteous cause because they are (re)-claiming what is theirs – land bestowed on them by God. This claim must be called out for its obscene tribalism which should play no part in the concept of nationhood. This narrative should not be taken at all seriously by the world community, least of all by the Christian community.*

The current Israeli government comprises people on the extreme right of Israeli society, many of whom have a history of involvement with unlawful activity ranging from tax evasion to association with extreme and illegal groups (even under Israeli law) while at the same time claiming to be 'ultra-orthodox'. Mr Itamar Ben-Gvir, minister for national security recently applauded the killing of a 12-year-old Palestinian boy who let off a fire work in Jerusalem in the direction of Israeli security personnel. He claims killing a Palestinian is doing Israel a service. This blog is addressed to him and Mr Bezalel Smotrich minister for finance, both of whom have recently been described as terrorists by Shin Bet's internal security director Ami Ayalon. Ayalon uses the literal definition – one who incites terror – in contrast to the way it is commonly used to describe one who objects

to having their rights and land denied or confiscated.

Gentlemen, you claim to know a great deal about Hebrew history as recorded in Hebrew scripture - the Old Testament. You would know the patriarchal period (c1700 BC) is where promise and claims about land have their genesis. It was a period in which tribal ambitions contested land ownership in the name of their god. Gods and their worship were associated with place. Inter-tribal warfare strengthened or diminished the influence of the tribal god. The land allotted to followers of Yahweh became the place where Yahweh was worshipped. You will know the rise and fall of kings of Israel and Judah (with some notable exceptions) was directly associated with involvement they had with gods of other places.

You have identified your Gazan enterprise with the Amalek narrative. The Amalekite threat was not simply about a military incursion, it was about the subversive influence of their god, the Canaanite god, Baal, with Hebrew people. Saul was in trouble because he brought 'booty' back from his victorious fight with Amalek, in doing so he was potentially bringing the influence of Baal back with him.

The Hebrew faith did not become genuinely monotheistic until the Babylonian exile when, forced out of Judah and Jerusalem, the prophets encouraged the people to understand that Yahweh could be faithfully worshipped in Babylon or beyond – for there is only one God, not confined to place. **Monotheism is a denial of God being restricted to a particular place.**

It is a reality that in the West a growing number, perhaps the majority, find it intellectually impossible to believe in God at all. However, if belief is to be contemplated, there can only be one God, in whose likeness all are to find commonality.

Your Zionist narrative, gentlemen, is belief in a tribal God, the god of your tribe, whom you apparently believe advantages you at the expense of others. In as much as this belief is

clearly causing enormous pain and devastation on others, your narrative must be rejected by the world community. Because such belief conflicts with Christian belief, you should not receive comfort from the American Christian conservative base.

From creation narratives onward, Hebrew scriptures struggle with the competing, and yet appropriate, claims of universality and particularity. In the 21st century we continue to struggle with these competing claims. We remain impotent to deal with major issues such as climate change, global inequality, mass migration, refugees etc, because powerful particularities prevent outcomes for common good.

Zionism is a particularity that has no place in the 21st century. Worse, Zionism is a denial of the most important promise to Abraham and any who would claim descendancy from him, that chosen-ness has meaning only in as much we become a source of blessing to others.

It appears you are willfully ignorant of the writings of your prophets, particularly the 8th century prophets who understood moral and ethical obligations of belief took priority over religious claim and practice. Also, 6th century prophets who taught Hebrew faith was not tied to place but could be practiced in Babylon and beyond.

The true mark of monotheistic belief is not distinctive identity, but virtue inherent in that identity, which is a source of blessing to all with whom we share commonality despite our different identities.

Neither of you are strengthening Israel's security but undermining it with such severity many now wonder if Israel has not written its own death warrant. How so?

First, any national or community identity must be based in a moral code, a set of values. It appears that those of you who currently lead Israel have no discernable moral code, other than the expansion of national identity at the expense of the

identity, land, and culture of others. A moral code is founded not on a diminished self, but on less attention paid to self. Individuals and nations grow and mature through relationships with others. The number of nations now prepared to unequivocally walk with Israel into the future has shrunk to very few.

Second, I cannot imagine what now defines the 'soul' of Israel. How the country's young men and women live the rest of their lives with the scar of involvement in atrocities which have included the burial of children alive in the rubble of their homes and now includes the painful and ignominious death of thousands of others through starvation, I do not know.

Third, you are not defeating Hamas, you are creating Hamas (or its equivalent) in the hatred and loathing of young Palestinians and their supporters globally. There can be no place for tribalism, least of all national tribalism in the 21st century. Judaism is not in and of itself tribal. It is a religious, cultural, even ethnic identity through which enormous individual contributions have been made to the global community.

The brand you are supporting, or endeavouring to create, is a pariah state.

The late Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks was the guest speaker at the 2008 Lambeth conference of Anglican Bishops in Canterbury, guest of his friend Rowan Williams, then Archbishop of Canterbury. In a Qand A following his main address he was asked what he made of Jesus? After some banter about the nature of the question his response was: "what I make of Jesus is determined by what I make of you who claim to be his followers. At your best you have brought love to the whole world which we, even at our best have failed to do".

What are we to make of the Israel you have now created?

*(Used with permission)*

# The Resurrection - Word Search



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



Early	first	day	week	dark
Mary	Magdalene	tomb	stone	moved
Angels	white	Lord	woman	crying
Gardener	teacher	Father	brothers	disciples

## Bible Memory Verse

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!"  
 And she told them that he had said these things to her.  
 John 20:18 (NIV)