



# Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

**Epiphany 3**  
**22 January 2023**

**Sunday Service: 9.30am Warracknabeal**

***"The human race has one really effective weapon, and that is laughter."***

*Mark Twain*

As they say, if you don't laugh - you cry.

"Laughter knows no limits," writes Karl-Josef Kuschel, "no tabu, no respect, and there is much laughter at the loftiest things as at the lowliest, as much laughter at the holiest as at the most banal. Thus laughter embraces the whole spectrum of life and morality: from goodness to meanness, from humanity to barbarism. The spirit of laughter seems in principle to be the spirit of freedom, the lack of concern which reacts to distortions of reality and is out to break down barriers, to find an echo in a group of people."

"A theology of laughter has two sides. It reflects on the laughter of Christians and is aware of the risk of being laughed at. Like their Master from Nazareth, Christians have to take account of both laughing and being laughed at, joy and mockery, humour and malice. This duality has to be maintained - against the pessimists and the cynics, whether inside or outside the church walls. It has to be maintained by holding fast to a truth which God himself (sic), who, according to the basic message of scripture, is not a cynical player but a God of joy, joy in human beings and their creation.

So we have to continue to trust that this God - despite all we human beings do to his creation - does not burst into inscrutable laughter at our wretchedness but is the one of whom scripture says that he laughs at the doubters and the desperate (Abraham & Sarah) and takes more delight in the conversation of a single sinner than the ninety-nine righteous people who believe that they need no repentance."  
[*'Laughter: A Theological Reflection'* ©1994. Karl-Josef Kuschel. Continuum: New York.]

I hope that this week you may find something to laugh about.

With friends, looking in the mirror, at the TV, the absurdity of life - or it's wonder with those around you whether they are young or much older! Let joy overcome!

*Every Blessing, Rev!*



## Prayer in the Parish

### In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; the people in Parish of Horsham;
- For all people dealing with violence, war, and injustice of any kind;
- For the people of Queensland; for the people of the Kimberly;
- For the people of Ukraine;
- For those experiencing grief;
- For all on holiday; and all those travelling to see family and friends;
- For Project Regenerate – Renew People: Revive Projects: Restore Place;
- For our neighbours;
- For the Yarriambiack Shire Council & all who ‘sail’ in her;
- For Christian Emergency Food Centre;
- For those facing significant hardship in body and mind and soul;
- For those living alone;
- For our region’s Silo employees and all who are away from home;
- For those we love – near and far away;
- Thanks for our all God’s blessings;

**Years Mind:** Verda Loats, Ralph Clarkson, Jill Hewitt, Leonard Sandford, Roderick Steed, Cecil Bryce

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

## Services – Jan/Feb

### Epiphany 3 – 22 Jan 2023

9.30am – HC

### Epiphany 4 – 29 Jan 2023

10.30am – Café Church

### Epiphany 5 – 05 February

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

11.00am Areegra

### Epiphany 6 – 12 February

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

### Transfiguration – 19 February

10.30am – *note time change please*

5.00pm Warracknabeal

### Ash Wednesday – 22 February

5.30pm Warracknabeal

Followed by simple Rectory meal

### Lent 1 – 26 February

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

### Lent 2 – 05 March

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

11.00am Areegra

## Next Sunday

## Café Church

29<sup>th</sup> January at 10.30am

in the Parish Centre.

**Bring a plate and bring a friend.**

**A time to catch up and share some fellowship with each other to celebrate another harvest, and to cast our minds into the New Year as we settle into it.**

# TODAY'S READINGS

## EPIPHANY 3

**First Reading :** Isaiah 9:1-4

***A reading from the prophet Isaiah***

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honour Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan – The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Psalm:** 27:1, 4, 13,

**Response: *The Lord is my light and my salvation.***

1. The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear?  
The LORD is my life's refuge;  
of whom should I be afraid? **(R)**

2. One thing I ask of the LORD;  
this I seek: to dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,  
that I may gaze on the loveliness of the LORD and contemplate his temple. **(R)**

3. I believe that I shall see the bounty of the LORD in the land of the living.  
Wait for the LORD with courage;  
be stouthearted, and wait for the LORD. **(R)**

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

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

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. What I mean is this: one of you says, 'I follow Paul'; another, 'I follow Apollos'; another, 'I follow Cephas'; still another, 'I follow Christ.' Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul? I thank God that I did not baptise any of you except Crispus and Gaius, so no one can say that you were baptised in my name. (Yes, I also baptised the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptised anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the gospel – not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, **Alleluia!**

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom, and healed those who were sick.

**Alleluia!**

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

When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali – to fulfil what was said through the prophet Isaiah: ‘Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles – the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.’ From that time on Jesus began to preach, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ‘Come, follow me,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will send you out to fish for people.’ At once they left their nets and followed him. Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and illness among the people. News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralysed; and he healed them. Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

This is the gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

**The Propers**

**Sentence:** Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

**Collect:** Loving God, the light of the minds that know you, the life of the souls that love you, and the strength of the hearts that serve you: help us so to know you that we may truly love you, and so to love you that we may faithfully serve you, whose service is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*For your amusement:*

Q: What did the Elephant say to the naked man?

A: Very cute, but can it pick up peanuts?



*The human race has one really  
effective weapon,  
and that is laughter.*

*Mark Twain*

**Project REGENERATE**

**Renew People.**

**Revive Projects.**

**Restore Place.**