



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Lent 4
14 March 2021

Hello Everyone - Greetings!

Sr Joan Chittister writes: 'A time to weep'

On this planet, psychic numbing has been raised to high art. This people avoids pain and misery, in others as well as in themselves, at all costs. This is not a people who braves grief in the face and stares it down. No, this people dedicates itself to the elimination of pain—its own—and the aversion of pain—everyone else's. But grief comes nevertheless.

Tears fall despite the fact that we resist them so strongly. Weeping and wailing are heard everywhere in the land of milk and honey—from the unemployed and underemployed who want basics they can't have; from the sick and lonely who feel they have nothing to live for at all; from the beaten and the powerless whose lives are faceless and unrecognized; from the privileged and well-to-do who have it all and still have nothing that really satisfies. *(continued on back page)*



"What is the use of praying if at the very moment of prayer we have so little confidence in God that we are busy planning our own kind of answer to our prayer?" *Thomas Merton*

**"In the desert you discover your true name.
And God calls you by that name."** *Alessandro Pronzato*

"How many ways do you think there are of loving? How many ways are there of giving oneself? There is only one: the strong way, the complete way, the heroic way. Of those who really mean to serve him, Jesus requires nothing less."

René Voillaume

["The Desert" © 1997 John Moses. Canterbury Press: UK]

Here is another meditation for your Lenten Journey.

Before you start I recommend the following:

1. Find a comfortable position in your chair or posture of choice;
2. Notice your breathing rhythm - is it fast or slow?
Find a rhythm that allows you to relax, and become more aware of your body (*this may take 2-5 mins - maybe more if you want*);
3. Ask God to reveal a 'gift' / insight to you through this exercise;
4. Expect God to reveal something to you.

The Empty Chair

De Mello writes: I developed this exercise as a result of hearing the story of a priest who went to visit a patient in his home. He noticed an empty chair at the patient's bedside and asked what it was doing there. The patient said, "I had placed Jesus on that chair and was talking to him before you arrived. For years I found it extremely difficult to pray until a friend explained to me that prayer was a matter of talking to Jesus. So now I imagine Jesus sitting on a chair in front of me and I speak with him and listen to what he says to me in reply. I've had no difficulty praying ever since."

The story goes that sometime later, the daughter informed the priest that her father had died - and had said, "I left him alone for a couple of hours. When I got back to the room, I found his head resting on a chair that was beside his bed."

(So, when you're ready - even though it might seem childish):

Imagine you see Jesus sitting close to you. In doing this you are putting your imagination at the service of your faith: Jesus obviously isn't here in the way you imagine him to be but he is here all right and your imagination helps to make this real for you.

Now speak to Jesus ... if no-one is around, speak out in a soft voice...

Imagine what Jesus says to you in reply...

If you do not know what exactly to say to him give him an account of the events of the past day and your comment on each of them. Our speaking out become our 'prayer'. This method of praying is one of the simplest means of "experiencing the presence of Christ" that I know of. Imagine that Jesus is by your side all through the day. Speak with him in the midst of your occupations.

People sometimes ask me how they can meet the Risen Lord in their lives. I know of no simpler way than this one."

[Sadhana: A Way to God.© 1987 De Mello]

LADY DAY – Ballarat, Thursday 25th March at 11.00am

Join the throng and song and fellowship of Lady Day at the Cathedral on Thursday 25th March beginning at 11.00am. Bring your own lunch! (due to COVID restrictions etc) Rev James will be guest speaker: “Saws and Soul-bearing: The Alchemy of Oxytocin” *(Please arrange your own transport)*



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; Diocesan Parish Councils;
- for people in Yemen, Syria, Peru and other forgotten parts of the world;
- Lenten pilgrims in heart, mind and soul; the gift of tears and laughter;
- Project REGENERATE – Parish Centre Revamp & consultation;
- COFFEE Van - Sunday;
- Tony & Julie Tamblin.

Community:

- Give thanks for Nurses & Doctors;
- For seasonable weather;
- for all those feeling angry and disheartened; those who are lonely;
- All affected by COVID.

Years Mind: Idwen Harries, Stephen Jeffrey, Anne Roder, Allan Pickering

Christian Seder Meal - Maundy Thursday - 01 April in Parish Centre.
Bookings are essential (max 40).
\$10 per person. 6.00 for 6.30pm

Service Times March/April

Lent 4 – 14 March

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal
8.30-12.30 – Coffee Van

Lent 5 – 21 March

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal
2.00pm Dunmunkle Lodge
6.00-8.00pm SHINE Youth Group

Palm Sunday 28 March

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal
8.30-12.30 – Coffee Van

Walk of the Cross

30 March - 01 April

Maundy Thursday – Seder Meal

01 April: 6.00 for 6.30pm
Warracknabeal

Good Friday – 02 April

9.30am Warracknabeal

Easter Bonfire – Sat 03 April

From 5.00pm at Areegra



**Kilometres
travelled
3,327.43**

**Pledged & Donated
\$15,204.69**

TODAY'S READINGS

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

First Reading:

Numbers 21:4-9

A reading from the book of Numbers

They travelled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go round Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!' Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, 'We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. The Lord said to Moses, 'Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.' So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm:

107:1-3, 17-22

Response: *Give thanks to the Lord, his love is everlasting*

1. O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good: for his loving mercy is for ever. Let the Lord's redeemed say so whom he has redeemed from the hand of the enemy, And gathered in from every land, from the east and from the west: from the north and from the south. **(R)**

2. Fools were far gone in transgression: and because of their sins were afflicted. They sickened at any food: and had come to the gates of death. **(R)**
3. Then they cried to the Lord in their distress: and he took them out of their trouble. He sent his word and healed them: and saved their life from the Pit. **(R)**
4. Let them thank the Lord for his goodness: and for the wonders that he does for the children of Adam; Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving: and tell what he has done with shouts of joy. **(R)**

Second Reading:

Ephesians 2:1-10

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness

to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

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

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so everyone who believes in him might have eternal life.

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

Gospel:

John 3:14-21

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

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.’ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal

Bishop Garry’s youTube message

Tableturning (Lent 3)

<https://youtu.be/dkEmgY0yV7s>

Rev’s youTube message - Lent 4

‘No Truce with the Furies’

<https://youtu.be/d0mguZ-bNzQ>

life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. This is the verdict: light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPERS

Sentence: The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

Collect: Everlasting God in whom we live and move and have our being, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you: give us purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, no weakness prevent us from doing it; that in your light we may see light, and in your service find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A LENTEN Reflection

Drop, drop, slow tears,
And bathe those beauteous feet,
Which brought from heaven
the news and Prince of Peace.

Cease not, wet eyes,
his mercies to entreat;
To cry for vengeance
Sin doth never cease.

In your deep floods
Drown all my faults and fears;
Nor let his eye see sin,
But through my tears.

Phineas Fletcher (1582-1650)



A Sinful Woman Forgiven – Luke 7:36-50

³⁶ One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. ³⁷ And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. ³⁸ She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. ³⁹ Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him—that she is a sinner." ⁴⁰ Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." ⁴¹ "A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² When they could not pay, he cancelled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" ⁴³ Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he cancelled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." ⁴⁴ Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. ⁴⁷ Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." ⁴⁸ Then he said to her, "**Your sins are forgiven.**" ⁴⁹ But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" ⁵⁰ And he said to the woman, "**Your faith has saved you; go in peace.**"

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

- To whoever painted the yellow lines on concrete ramp
- To whoever lay the gravel at the church ramp
- To whoever cleaned the church PC, and the pews
- To whoever donated money for Coffee Van Aprons
- To our young volunteers for Coffee Van on Sunday
- To Catering Team as they prepare for Walk of the Cross & Maundy Thursday Seder Meal
- To Parish Council for Project Regenerate Concept Plans
- To our amazing God!

Walk of the Cross Pilgrimage: 30 March-01 April 2021

Rev James will be walking from Hopetoun to Warracknabeal during Holy Week – Tues-Thurs. He is seeking several volunteers to help make the ‘Walk of the Cross’ a success again this year please. Get in touch if you can help.

A driver/s for Escort vehicle:

1. Tues = Hopetoun to Beulah; 2. Weds = Beulah to Brim; 3. Thurs = Brim to Lah (Rev will walk down the creek to Warrack)

You may be able to cover a couple of hours or several.

A driver for Rev’s Car & Camper Van:

1. Tues am from Hopetoun (tbc). 2. Weds pm to Brim. 3. Thurs am to Warrack.

A Cat-minder:

To feed the cats am & pm on Tues, Weds & Thurs morning.

Catering: Please contact Sandra Taylor – 0408 991 235 if you can assist.

There are probably a couple of things I’ve forgotten at the moment. Anyway, I’ll try and get more info to you in the next couple of weeks.

I’m not promoting an opportunity for people to join me on the Pilgrimage for COVID & Rural Roads Vic reasons. However, if someone really wanted to walk some of the way – get in touch and we can come to a suitable arrangement.

Rev James: 0438 233 630 or via email: warrackanglican@gmail.com

(continued from front page)

Unfortunately, few of us see our weeping as spiritual gift or a matter of divine design. But we are wrong. Weeping is very holy and life-giving. It sounds the alarm for a society and wizens the soul of the individual. If we do not weep on the personal level, we shall never understand humanity around us. If we do not weep on the public level, we are less than human ourselves.

If we do not allow ourselves to face and feel pain, we run the risk of entombing ourselves in a plastic bubble where our lies about life shrink our hearts and limit our vision. It is not healthy, for instance, to say that massive poverty is sad but "normal." It is not right to say that sexism is unfortunate, but "necessary." It is not human to say that war is miserable but "essential." It is not healthy to insist that our deep hurts and cutting disappointments and appalling losses and great personal mistakes do not exist. On the contrary. To weep tears of frustration about them may be to take our first real steps toward honesty, toward mental health, toward a life that is worth living.

Weeping, in fact, may be the best indicator we have of what life is really all about for us. It may be only when we weep that we can come to know best either ourselves or our worlds. What we weep for measures what we are. What we weep over indicates what others may expect of us in life.

[“ For Everything a Season” by Joan Chittister (Orbis)]



Project REGENERATE – Parish Centre Revamp Consultation Sessions

Wednesday 17 March – 2.00pm

Sunday 28 March – 2.00pm

You are invited to participate in the Parish Revamp Consultation Sessions to discuss, explore and comment on Concept Designs for Phase1 (Boys' Shed), 2 (PC Facilities) & 3 (Future Worship) as part of our commitment to Project REGENERATE – an ambitious 5 year plan to Renew People: Revive Projects: Restore Place.

No expertise required. Tea & Coffee provided.
Come to one or come to both.