



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Pentecost 14
25 August 2024

Sunday Services: **9.30am Warracknabeal**
 5.00pm Café Church



Hello Everyone! I hope that your week is going well.

I have to admit, I have no idea how 'Nature' does it. I find this time of year very inspiring as the buds of blossom seem to come from no-where - seemingly overnight in parts of my garden. They are now making way for the green shoots of gorgeousness ... the wonder of our Natural World.

I know there'll be a scientific explanation of how it all happens - but where do all those leaves come from ... I mean it was a 'stick' in the ground two weeks ago! I am also amazed at the gradual revelation from different plants at different times ... evolution or design - whatever it may be I remain gobsmacked!

If trees and plants can do it so effortlessly, what are we capable of as human beings? Is it that we have a brain that makes the natural seasons and 'spring blossom' of our own lives more complicated? Have we compromised our 'natural beauty' by the things we consume and do and the way we 'walk the earth' in our modern times?

Or are you completely aware of the natural beauty that resides deep within you? Are you allowing the Sun and rain to draw out of you - blossom, promise, fruit - as you were designed to do?

What are your inherent and God-given skills and gifts that you are able to share with the 'world' or at least our humble little community to which we belong?

What might be the factors that threaten your natural beauty to 'SHINE!' as you were born to do - what are those stumbling blocks to confidence and resilience that need to be identified, isolated and dissembled in order for you to grow as God wills?

Jesus - who helped fling stars into space at the beginning of Creation may have some insights for you. He who helped people see, and walk and rejoin their rightful place in community - he is here for you! Trust him. *Every blessing, Rev James*

Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry, and rehab routine and recovery;
- For the parish of Ararat and all who praise in her;
- For seasonal weather;
- For our Parish Counsellors; for our next meeting of Parish Council – 27 August;
- For the leaders of all Nations, those with influence to act for the Common Good;
- For our Boys' Shed Project and for all Boys' Shed participants;
- For the people of Papua New Guinea;
- For all people around the world coping with natural disaster;
- For Paralympics in Paris and all who will compete and support participants;
- For the people of Ukraine and Palestine;
- For leaders of Nations meeting in The Pacific; for genuine efforts to enhance regional peace in our Asia & Pacific region; for stability in leadership;
- For those who hunger for food; For those who thirst for water; For those seeking shelter from violence, exploitation, and injustice of any kind;
- For our neighbour/s;
- For all experiencing loneliness, alienation, depression or other ailments;
- For Peace in our hearts and homes;
- For all in our Aged Care Facilities; all known to us in hospital; for those known to us who are unwell;
- For all gardeners – indoor and out;

Years Mind: Elizabeth Morris, William Gleeson, Bradley Tree, Rona Young, Dr. Jim Watts

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

Service Times September

Pentecost 14 – 25 August

9.30am Warracknabeal

5.00pm Café Church – Parish Centre

Pentecost 15 – 01 September

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

11.00am St Mark's Areegra

Pentecost 16 – 08 September

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Pentecost 17 – 15 September

9.30am Warracknabeal

Pentecost 18 – 22 September

9.30am Warracknabeal

5.00pm Café Church

Pentecost 19 – 29 September

10.30am Warracknabeal

I am delighted to be able to inform you that Kate Williamson (from 5.00pm congregation) has accepted my invitation to join Parish Council.

This means that all 12 positions are now filled.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 27th August: 7.00pm refreshments followed by 7.30pm meeting in the Rectory.

If you have any questions or issues to raise on Parish Council - please contact Rev or our elected members. Alternatively you could join us either at 7.00 in the Rectory - and technically, any member of the parish can join our meeting.

Looking forward to another grand year!

TODAY'S READINGS

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

First Reading: 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14

A reading from the first book of Kings

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in front of the whole assembly of Israel, spread out his hands towards heaven and said: ‘ Lord , the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below – you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way. You have kept your promise to your servant David my father; with your mouth you have promised and with your hand you have fulfilled it – as it is today. ‘Now Lord , the God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father the promises you made to him when you said, “You shall never fail to have a successor to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your descendants are careful in all they do to walk before me faithfully as you have done.” And now, God of Israel, let your word that you promised your servant David my father come true. ‘But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built! Yet give attention to your servant’s prayer and his plea for mercy, Lord my God. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day. May your eyes be open towards this temple night and day, this place of which you said, “My Name shall be there,” so that you will hear the prayer your servant prays towards this place. Hear the supplication of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray towards this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive. ‘As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of your name – for they will hear of your great name and your mighty

hand and your outstretched arm – when they come and pray towards this temple, then hear from heaven, your dwelling-place. Do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your own people Israel, and may know that this house I have built bears your Name.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: 84:9-14

Response: *Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help.*

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R)**
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. **(R)**
3. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help. **(R)**

Second Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled round your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Your words Lord, are spirit and life. You have the words of everlasting life. **Alleluia!**

Gospel:

John 6:56-59

A reading from the gospel according to John

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.'

He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. On hearing it, many of his disciples said, 'This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?' Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, 'Does this offend you? Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you – they are full of the Spirit and life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. He went on to say, 'This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them.' From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. 'You do not want to leave too, do you?' Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.'

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPERS

Sentence: Jesus said, 'It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.'

Collect: Everliving God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear the prayers we offer for all your faithful people, that in the ministry to which you have called them each may serve you in holiness and truth; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.