



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Easter 4
30 April 2023

Sunday Service: 10.30am - Warracknabeal



Hello Everyone!

How is your Easter journey going?

Been walking anywhere and found a 'stranger' joining you with wisdom and joy?

Any special insights into our Easter stories of revelation and wonder?

How has Easter this year changed the way you look at the world or yourself?

I wonder if you can experience the resurrection when missiles are flying over the house you have lived in for your whole life - or worse, if it has just been hit - and raised to the ground? Or when your country has been enveloped by brutal civil war that seems to have no way of ending? Or if your children are so hungry that they cannot stop crying? Or if - because of your gender - you are in constant fear of being raped or abused by those who should be helping keep you safe? Or if you are living in a tent city of plastic, disease and have no idea when you will be able to return home or be considered for asylum ... through no choice of your own?

Would I be open to God's Grace and Peace? Would I recognise God through the fear and poverty and injustice? Would I accept the promises of strangers? Would I be able to trust - anyone, let alone God?

As a privileged and 'powerful' faith community - what can we do to aide the world's people and their desire for peace and a safe home? How can we assist in education? Empowerment? Justice? Resurrection revolution and hope and be able to recognise Jesus in the 'breaking of bread'. Are not our hearts burning within us?

It begins with - what we can do in our own town? To assist healing and a 'return to wholeness' at our back door. How do you and I encourage our friends, family and neighbours SEE the living God in their lives? Let alone our own! Jesus calls us to be witnesses of God's Grace. Jesus calls us to 'feed the hungry', visit those who are lonely, open our hearts to those who we find disturbing and discomfoting.

You and I are called to be 'good shepherds' - here, now and attentive. Yes?

Every blessing, Rev!



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry;
- For those who face war, violence, exploitation or injustice of any kind;
- For those who hunger for food and thirst for water; for those who seek peace;
- For the people of the Sudan; for their neighbours Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Chad and South Sudan who are welcoming refugees;
- For the people of Ukraine;
- For the people of Palestine;
- For those experiencing grief;
- For Christian Emergency Food Centre;
- For our farmers and their families as the next phase of the season gets under way;
- For all who work in our medical facilities – for their expertise & wisdom;
- For those we know who are unwell – in mind, body or heart;
- For our resurrection encounters with the living Lord of Light & Love;
- For our Christian witness in our daily lives; for conviction and compassion;
- For those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries and milestones;

Years Mind: Abbie Byron, Lily Wood, Coral Smith, Robert Walker, Pamela Day, Lindsay Taylor, Heather Johnson

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

Services –April/May

EASTER Services

Easter 4 – 30 April

10.30am Warracknabeal

(One Service Only)

12.00pm Lunch at the Royal

Easter 5 – 07 May

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

11.00am St Mark's Areegra

Easter 6 – 14 May

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Easter 7 – 21 May

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

PENTECOST – 28 May

9.30am Warracknabeal

5.00pm Café Church



Annual Mission Day – 11th May

You are invited to the Annual Mission Day at Keith Warren Fellowship Centre, Beulah on 11 May 2023 at 2.00pm.

Guest Speaker: Margaret Pedler, UCAF Rep for Presbytery of Western Victoria.

There will also be light entertainment including cake and produce stalls.

A collection plate will be taken for the work of missions.

RSVP: Pam Hewitt or Bev Callander on 5390 2387

TODAY'S READINGS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading : Acts 2:42-47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

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)**

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:1-10

A reading from the first letter of Peter

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him – you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says: 'See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.' Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, 'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,' and, 'A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.' They stumble because they disobey the message – which is also what they were destined for. But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! **Alleluia!**

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

Gospel:

John 10:1-10

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

'Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognise a stranger's voice.' Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them. Therefore Jesus said again, 'Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPERS

Sentence: 'I am the good shepherd' says the Lord. 'The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.'

Collect: God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant: make us perfect in every good work to do your will, and work in us that which is well-pleasing in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Mission! Start here. Start small. Start now.