



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Epiphany 3
21 January 2024

Sunday Services: 9.30am - Morning Prayer - Warracknabeal



*"Give me a place to stand, and I will move the whole earth with a lever."
[Archimedes]*

Richard Rohr writes: "Archimedes, a third-century BCE Greek philosopher and mathematician, noticed that a lever balanced in the correct place, on the correct fulcrum, could move proportionally much greater weights than the force actually applied. He calculated that if the lever stretched far enough and the fulcrum point remained fixed close to Earth, even a small weight at one end would be able to move the world at the other.

The fixed point is our place to stand. It is a contemplative stance: steady, centred, poised, and rooted. To be contemplative, we have to have a slight distance from the world to allow time for withdrawal from business as usual, for contemplation, for going into what Jesus calls our 'private room' (Matt 6:6). However, we have to remain quite close to the world at the same time, loving it, feeling its pain and its joy as our pain and our joy. Otherwise, our distance can become a form of escapism.

True contemplation, the great teachers say, is really quite down to earth and practical, and doesn't require life in a monastery. It is, however, an utterly different way of receiving the moment, and therefore all of life. In order to have the capacity to "move the world," we need some distancing and detachment from the diversionary nature and delusions of mass culture and the false self. Contemplation builds on the hard bottom of reality - as it is - without ideology, denial, or fantasy.

Unfortunately, many of us do not have a fixed place to stand, a fulcrum of critical distance, and thus we cannot find our levers, or true "delivery systems," by which to move the world. We do not have the steadiness or spiritual practice to keep our sight keen and alive. We need a delivery ... (continued on back page)

Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; for Greater West Wimmera Deanery;
- For all travelling during the holiday period; for safety and refreshment;
- For those dealing with too much water;
- For the people of Ukraine;
- For the people of Bangladesh; Colombia; Argentina;
- For the people of the Israel & Palestine;
- For all facing natural disaster and tragedy;
- For those who hunger for food; for those who thirst for water;
- For those hunger for justice; for those who thirst for compassion;
- For all seeking asylum around the world; for all who are displaced;
- For those who are grieving;
- For those in discomfort in heart, mind or body; for those who are lonely, isolated;
- For all those facing the Black Dog;
- For gratitude for all the good things we enjoy; for privilege; for civil society;
- For the Christian Emergency Food Centre in Horsham; for Bev and all the volunteers;

Years Mind: Mary Gove, Verda Loats, Ralph Clarkson, Jill Hewitt, Leonard Sandford, Henry Chapman, Roderick Steed
“Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.”

*Rev James will be on 5 day silent retreat at Jesuit Retreat house in Sevenhill, SA - 19th-24th Jan.
Please pray for openness and insight.*

Service Times Jan/Feb

Epiphany 3 – 21 January 2024

9.30am – MP Warracknabeal

Epiphany 4 – 28 January 2024

9.30am – HC Warracknabeal

5.00pm Café Church

Epiphany 5 – 04 February 2024

9.30am & 5.00pm – Warracknabeal

11.00am Areegra

Eucharist - 06 February 2024

5.00pm - Warracknabeal

Transfiguration – 11 February 2024

9.30am & 5.00pm – Warracknabeal

12.00pm Lunch in Rectory

Lent 1 – 18 February 2024

9.30am – Warracknabeal

Lent 2 – 25 February 2024

10.30am – Warracknabeal

(+Garry to visit)

12.00 – Mission Lunch

5.00pm Café Church

Next Mission Lunch

**Sunday 25th February at 12.00pm
following the 10.30am service.**

\$25 - please place your name on the list at the back of the church or contact:

Sandra Taylor: 0408 991 235

Jill Bibby: 0438 909 202

Mission focus to be decided. Any ideas to PC members.

Donations of grain - of any quantity can be made using the Church's NGR number: **NGR 12439740**

TODAY'S READINGS

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-10

A reading from the prophet Jonah

Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: 'Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.' Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, 'Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.' The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh: 'By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.' When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: 62:5-12

Response: Teach me your ways, O Lord.

1. Your ways, O LORD, make known to me; teach me your paths, Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my saviour. **(R)**
2. Remember that your compassion, O LORD, and your love are from of old. In your kindness remember me, because of your goodness, O LORD. **(R)**
3. Good and upright is the LORD; thus he shows sinners the way. He guides the humble to justice and teaches the humble his way. **(R)**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they do not; those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The kingdom of God is at hand.

Repent and believe in the Gospel.

Alleluia!

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

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 'The time has come,' he said. 'The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!' As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew 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. When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

This is the gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPERS

Sentence: The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel.

Collect: O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you: mercifully accept our prayers, and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do nothing good without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(continued from front page) ...

We need a delivery system in the world to provide the capacity for building bridges and connecting the dots of life.

Some degree of inner experience is necessary for true spiritual authority, but we need some form of outer validation, too. We need to be taken seriously as competent and committed individuals and not just "inner" people. Could this perhaps be what Jesus means by being both "wise as serpents and innocent as doves" (Matt 10:16)?

God offers us quiet, contemplative eyes; God also calls us to be prophetic and critical involvement in the pain and sufferings of our world - both at the same time. This is so obvious in the life and ministry of Jesus that I wonder why it has not been taught as an essential part of Christianity.

[Richard Rohr's Daily Meditations. Friday 12, 2024. Adapted from Richard Rohr: "Dancing Standing Still: Healing the world from a place of prayer."]

Rev James adds:

Please pray that we will be able to find our 'delivery systems' through our own ministry and life as a faith community in our town and region. No special training required!

What do you require of me to enable you to do this within your own sphere of influence and engagement in the community in which you live?

Every blessing!