



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Advent 4 18 December 2022

Sunday Services: 9.30am Warracknabeal

Hello Everyone! I hope you've had a good week!

How are your Christmas preparations going? Calm? Frantic? Feeling generous?

I remember an exchange between Shrek & Donkey in the first SHREK movie - I think they were heading towards the 'dragon's lair' full of danger and fear. Donkey was giving Shrek a hard time about his 'layers' ... trying to work out what was going on for his 'friend'. I feel like I've got a 'donkey shadow' - berating me quietly so that no-one can hear, about the complicated layers of how I'm feeling about Christmas this year.

I agree that 'Joy' is one of God's gifts that we can experience no matter what emotional state we are in - for whatever reason. I am wrestling with the disadvantage and destruction of various parts of the world, the reality of 'evil' in many of the news reports, and the media's obsession with 'darkness' and 'dis-ease' and 'depression.' With so much negativity, it is very, very difficult to break through the onslaught with a 'joyful noise' that is almost seen as glib and flippant under these circumstances. And yet, it is JOY in its most genuine expression that will allow us to embrace family and friend over the next few weeks. It is JOY, that we have experienced through our respective endeavours that gives us meaning and purpose and a sense of direction for the year that lies ahead. At the end of the day, it is our calling to honour this JOY within our lives - and give thanks to God for daring to stop to earth - for our sakes, for our wellbeing, for our "Salvation" or as I say - our 'return to wholeness.' JOY can do this. JOY must do this!

The paradox is, that for JOY to overcome - we must also confront our fears and our pain and our disappointments and our missed opportunities and so on and so on. It is worth it - really worth it: but it seems to take much energy and challenges the pure joy and wonder of the Christmas Season. So, the easiest thing to do - is bring it before Jesus - the man who knows the dust and pain of the same earth on which we live and move and have our being - and offer it to him: in gratitude. And let the Holy Spirit do her work in our hearts and homes. Every Blessing, Rev!



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; all in our Diocese;
- For our Farmers and their families;
- For Christmas 'goodwill' and 'forgiveness';
- For the people of Haiti; Ukraine; Indonesia; Myanmar; the women & children of Iran; the women & children of Afghanistan; the people of Peru; Syria; Yemen;
- For the Elimination of Violence Against ALL Women; for strong and tender men & boys of all ages;
- For all our Police Officers;
- For those continuing to deal with flood waters and other natural disasters;
- For those experiencing trauma, grief or mental illness of any kind;
- For Christian Emergency Food Centre; Reverse Advent Calendar initiative;
- For those facing significant hardship in body and mind;
- For all those travelling to see family and friends during the Christmas Season;
- For George Armstrong & family;
- Thanks for our all God's blessings;

Years Mind: Pearl Bibby, Amy Jamieson, Thomas White

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

Services –Dec/Jan

Advent 4 – 18 December

9.30am Warracknabeal

6.00pm Community Carols

Christmas Services

Lessons & Carols – Areegra

Thursday 22nd Dec – 6.00pm

Christmas Eve – 24 Dec

8.30pm Refreshments & fellowship

10.00pm – Lessons & Carols & HC

Christmas Day – 25 Dec

9.30am – Christmas Celebration & HC

Christmas 1 – 01 January 2023

10.30am – Carols & HC

Epiphany – 08 Jan 2023

9.30am – HC

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12-14-2012

I THINK YOUR LIGHTS MIGHT BE TOO BRIGHT
THIS YEAR

*Last Advent study - Tuesday 20 at
265 Scott St: 4.00-5.00pm*

**Rev is still running the TEARFUND
Useful Gift Shop up until Christmas –
for those 'gifts that give twice'. Buy a
goat, a Community Health Worker, a
chicken, Seeds and tools, Safe Water
and Good Food – and many more!
Contact Rev immediately!**

Rev James Wood: P: 5398 1251 M: 0438 233 630 E: warrackanglican@gmail.com

TODAY'S READINGS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading:

Isaiah 7:10-16

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said, 'Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm:

116

Response: Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.

1. The LORD's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it. For he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers**(R)**

2. Who can ascend the mountain of the LORD? Or who may stand in his holy place? One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean, who desires not what is vain. **(R)**

3. He shall receive a blessing from the LORD, a reward from God his saviour. Such is the race that seeks for him, that seeks the face of the God of Jacob. **(R)**

Second Reading:

Romans 1:1-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God – the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, **Alleluia!**

A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia!

Gospel:

Matthew 1:18-25

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: his mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace,

he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel'(which means 'God with us'). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus

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

The Propers

Sentence: A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel: God with us.

Collect: Gracious God you chose the virgin Mary by your grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour: so fill us with your grace, that with her we may rejoice in your salvation, and in all things embrace your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The season of Advent is a
sticky-note reminder to the
church:

God is doing a new thing. Again.
[Anon]

For a number of years now, we have offered community members the opportunity to support the life of our faith community and our mission in the region through giving a grain a wheat - to produce a harvest opportunity within our parish.

If you, or someone you know would like to donate to our church in this way - quote the NGR number below.



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

NGR 12439740