

# Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

## Advent 1

## 03 December 2023

**Sunday Services:** 9.30am - Warracknabeal  
11.00am - Areegra



**Hello Everyone.**

**I hope that you've had a good week!**

First, I am grateful for the simple acts of generosity in our church community toward the Christian Emergency Food Centre in Horsham. You have no idea how grateful they are to see someone walk through the doors with a bundle of bags for their store. Every time I have visited in the last few weeks there has been a 'full house' of people needing basic foods and support to make ends meet.

Secondly, I am also grateful for the sometimes seen and mostly unseen elbow grease and time that parishioners put into working bees and small jobs that are needed to clean the church and polish brass and fix this and that. There is a never-ending list really. So, if you want to get involved there is always a chance to.

Thirdly, I am grateful to all who serve on our roster - and especially Gwen who puts it all together on our behalf. What people may not know is that there is also a 'Sacristy Roster' - where vessels and elements are prepared for our Sunday services. These are important tasks in that 'someone has to do them' - and I'm glad it isn't just left to one or two. "*Teamwork makes the dreamwork*" - or so they tell me! So, if you are wanting to make a contribution to our church life together in small, simple or more public ways - please do let me know!

Finally, our 'journey to Bethlehem' has begun. Real-life Bethlehem is a place of conflict and discontent in current times. The current conflict in the Middle East and Gaza - highlights the political tensions that exist today would also have existed in Jesus' day. Will 'peace' ever truly return to the hearts and homes of those who have been displaced and destroyed in this troubled land.

I invite each of us to prepare room in our hearts for God's Grace, God's Peace and God's Challenge to the world be true brokers of good-will and harmony this Christmas Season. **Every Blessing for the week ahead.** Rev James

## Prayer in the Parish

### In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; Prison Chaplains;
- For the people of Ukraine;
- For the people of the Israel & Palestine;
- For those who hunger and thirst; for those seeking asylum; for refugees; those displaced by war, greed or prejudice;
- For those known to us living with suffering, isolation, and alienation;
- For all who are recovering from surgery;
- For our farmers and their families;
- Pam Hewitt – her family & friends;
- For the Emergency Food Centre;
- For our respective Advent journey's and reflections; help us be 'aware' and 'awake.'

**Years Mind:** Louisa Henderson, Nancy Meredith, Gladys Schriever, Frank Mitchell, Annie Parker, Bonnie Butler, Melva Jackson, Valda Fisher, Lois Bibby

### Christian Emergency Food Centre

Once again this year, the CEFC will be distributing Christmas Hampers to people in our region. Each hamper is packed with Christmas goodies that are practical and nourishing for those less fortunate. Each hamper costs approximately \$30.00.

### Would you like to SPONSOR or part-SPONSOR a hamper?

For the next three weeks – place your financial contribution in an envelope clearly marked CEFC or Christian Emergency Food Centre in the offertory – and we'll forward to them.

*Food items continue to be received as per normal. Thanks for your generosity.*

## Services – Dec

### Advent 1 – 03 December

9.30am – Warracknabeal

11.00am - St Mark's Areegra

**6.00pm - PRELUDE to Christmas at Lutheran Church**

### Healing Service – 05 December

Tuesday at 5.00pm Warracknabeal

### Advent 2 – 10 December

9.30am & 5.00pm – Warracknabeal

12.00pm – Simple Lunch in PC

### Advent 3 - 17 Dec

9.30am – Warracknabeal

**Community Carols from 5.00pm**

### Advent 4 – 24 December

10.30am – Areegra

### Christmas Eve – 24 December

8.30pm - Refreshments

10.00pm – HC Warracknabeal

### Christmas Day – 25 December

9.30am – HC Warracknabeal

### New Years Eve – 31 December

10.30am Warracknabeal

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



The season of Advent is a sticky-note reminder to the church:  
God is doing a new thing. Again!

*[Anon]*

## Always in God's Presence

“Why is there a war?... Because I and my neighbor and everyone else do not have enough love. Yet we could fight war and all its excrescences by releasing, each day, the love that is shackled inside us, and giving it a chance to live.” [Etty Hillesum]

*Richard Rohr has long drawn comfort and wisdom from the writings of the young Jewish woman Etty Hillesum (1914–1943), believing her to be a voice of inspiration for our times. Shortly before her departure for internment at the Westerbork transit camp, Hillesum wrote in her journal:*

“One thing is becoming increasingly clear to me: that You cannot help us, that we must help You to help ourselves. And that is all we can manage these days and also all that really matters: that we safeguard that little piece of You, God, in ourselves. And perhaps in others as well. Alas, there doesn't seem to be much You Yourself can do about our circumstances, about our lives. Neither do I hold You responsible. You cannot help us, but we must help You and defend Your dwelling place inside us to the last.” [An Interrupted Life: The Diaries of Etty Hillesum, 1941–1943, trans. Arno Pomerans (New York: Pantheon Books, 1984), 151.]

*Etty Hillesum fully accepted the “cruciform nature of reality” and chose to love ever more consciously:*

“Something has crystallised. I have looked our destruction, our miserable end which has already begun in so many small ways in our daily life, straight in the eye and accepted it into my life, and my love of life has not been diminished. I am not bitter or rebellious, or in any way discouraged. I continue to grow from day to day, even with the likelihood of destruction staring me in the face. I shall no longer flirt with words, for words merely evoke misunderstandings: I have come to terms with life....

By “coming to terms with life” I mean: the reality of death has become a definite part of my life; my life has, so to speak, been extended by death, by my looking death in the eye and accepting it, by accepting destruction as part of life and no longer wasting my energies on fear of death or the refusal to acknowledge its inevitability. It sounds paradoxical: by excluding death from our life we cannot live a full life, and by admitting death into our life we enlarge and enrich [life].” [Hillesum, *Interrupted Life*, 131–132.]

*Reflecting on Jesus' words in Matthew 6:34 not to worry about tomorrow, Hillesum writes:*

“We have to fight them daily ... those many small worries about the morrow, for they sap our energies.... The things that have to be done must be done, and for the rest we must not allow ourselves to become infested with thousands of petty fears and worries, so many motions of no confidence in God.... Ultimately, we have just one moral duty: to reclaim large areas of peace in ourselves, more and more peace, and to reflect it towards others. And the more peace there is in us, the more peace there will also be in our troubled world.” [Hillesum, *Interrupted Life*, 185.]

# TODAY'S READINGS

## ADVENT 1

First Reading :

Isaiah 64:1-9

### ***A reading from the prophet Isaiah***

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins. Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be angry beyond measure, Lord; do not remember our sins for ever. Oh, look upon us we pray, for we are all your people.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Psalm:

80

***Response: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.***

1. O shepherd of Israel, hearken, from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth. Rouse your power, and come to save us. **(R)**

2. Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted the son of man whom you yourself made strong **(R)**
3. May your help be with the man of your right hand, with the son of man whom you yourself made strong. Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your Name. **(R)**

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

### ***A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians***

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ – their Lord and ours: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way – with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge – God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**



**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, **Alleluia!**  
Lord, let us see your kindness, and  
grant us your salvation.  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel:** **Mark 13:24-37**

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

‘But in those days, following that distress, ‘“the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.” ‘At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens. ‘Now learn this lesson from the fig-tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. ‘But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It’s like a man going away: he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. ‘Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back – whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: “Watch!”’

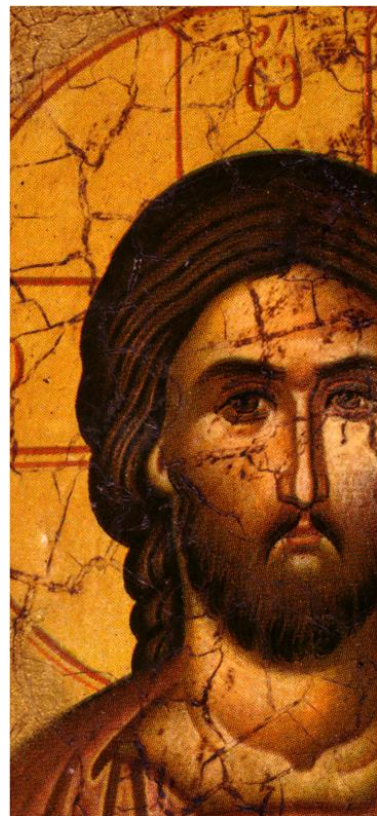
This is the gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!**

**THE PROPERS**

**Sentence:** Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and the we may walk in his paths.

**Collect:** Faithful God, whose promises stand unshaken through all generations: renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our judge and saviour. who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Be Patient  
& Stand firm  
Because  
the Lords  
coming  
is Near*



**Where did I  
say that you  
should buy so  
much stuff to  
celebrate my  
birthday!?**

[www.buynothingchristmas.org](http://www.buynothingchristmas.org)

# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS **APPEAL** 2023

Nungalinya and Wontulp-Bi-Buya colleges are facing increasing demand.

They need your support to train their students to build stronger communities and churches together.

To make a donation, or read more about this appeal, please scan the QR code below.



**DONATE ONLINE**  
[www.abmission.org/Christmas2023](http://www.abmission.org/Christmas2023)



**Envelopes are at the back of Church**



## **TEARFUND Useful Gift Shop - Christmas Season 2023**

Rev James will once again be running the Useful Gifts Shop this Christmas Season. In doing so, on behalf of the parish, we will be helping to bring hope, healing and new opportunities to people in some of the world's most vulnerable communities.

**Useful Gifts bring good news.** By creating new opportunities for health, education, safe water, food and stronger communities, every Useful Gift purchased helps to spread hope to a world in need.

You are able to purchase your Useful Gifts:

1. Personally through Rev James at anytime during the next two months. He will accept cash, cheque or credit card payments.
2. Through TEARFUND Useful Gifts directly: 1800 244 986 or [usefulgifts.org](http://usefulgifts.org)
3. Every transaction is securely processed online, and with every gift over \$2 you will receive a tax-deductable receipt.

***For more information = [usefulgifts.org](http://usefulgifts.org) or contact Rev directly***

# Advent Christmas Calander

Choose one or more of the following options as your 'Advent Christmas Calander' in the next four weeks until the end of the year.

## 03 Dec - 09 Dec

- Donate \$5-\$30 (or more) toward Christian Emergency Food Hamper
- Call an old friend and wish them well for the Christmas Season
- Write a simple Christmas note to someone who lives in your street
- Invite a friend or neighbour to our Simple Lunch in PC

## 10 Dec - 16 Dec

- Tell another Parishioner what you appreciate about them
- Support a local stall at Warrack Market on Saturday
- Donate \$1.00 for every tap in your house to ABM Christmas Appeal
- Write a simple Christmas note to someone who lives in your street

## 17 Dec - 23 Dec

- Donate \$5.00 for every toilet in your house to ABM Christmas Appeal
- Write a simple Christmas note to someone who lives in your street
- Ring the church bell at a 'random' time to celebrate Christmas
- Surprise a friend with a special Christmas Greeting

## 24 Dec - 31 Dec

- Support a KIVA micro-loan somewhere in the world: [www.kiva.org](http://www.kiva.org)
- Choose a 'new' activity to try in 2024 - make plans to implement
- Write a special note to a favourite or difficult family member
- Donate \$1.00 for every present you received to ABM Christmas Appeal