

Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Easter Sunday
12th April 2020

*This is the message we have heard from Christ:
That God is light, in whom there is no darkness at all.*

(1 John 1:5)

Happy Easter everyone!

How strange does it feel to be celebrating Easter from the armchair at home? We can sympathize now with the disciples who were "locked indoors for fear" on the first Easter weekend so many years ago. I certainly feel "locked indoors" (of sorts) for fear of Government reprisals etc - and of course for the greater good!

The building may be closed - BUT THE CHURCH IS STILL OPEN!

This is our cry, this is our conversation, this is our reality as we celebrate Easter within the confines of current global circumstances. Freedom is God's promise to us - no matter who we are, where we live, or what restrictions are placed on us by those who know better.

I hope that you are able to enjoy fellowship with each other in whatever means are available to you. At least we're ALL in the same boat, and we can still make it a meaningful time together. It is certainly one we're not going to forget in a hurry.

During the week, I read the following by Charles Ringma; "Christ offers us freedom from the power of sin. This freedom motivates us to live in conformity with God's will and purpose. But God's gift of freedom never allows us to do our own thing. We might think that freedom has to do with being able to do what we want, but this is actually being trapped in our own wanting and willing. Christ's gift of freedom takes us beyond the limits of our own selfishness and into the realm of God's greater good. And when doing the greater good arises out of true thankfulness rather than compulsion or guilt, then we are free indeed."

[Seize the Day with Dietrich Bonhoeffer' © 2000. NavPress:CO, USA.]

I am not suggesting that God has created these circumstances for our own good! That would not be something I would be proud of. The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly shone a light on human greed and the global economy that we are

privileged (unlike half the world) to enjoy the benefits of most of the time. We are called to 'slow-down'; face ourselves in the 'cell' or 'cave' of our own company; and reflect on what is really important for our own well-being, and more importantly for those who live next door - there is a word for that 'NEIGHBOUR.'

Jesus talked about 'our neighbour' ALL the time! The building may indeed be closed, and we are still adjusting to how disruptive this is to our normal spiritual disciplines - but this Easter, we really need an OPEN heart - the 'perfect' sacrifice to God as the Scripture suggests! Take courage!

With every blessing to you, and those you love; this day and always.

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



***A message from our Parish Treasurer & Secretary
on behalf of the Parish Council:***

Our church is currently in unchartered waters and we're sure you're also feeling the strain. Our doors are closed but there is still much work happening and like everyone else our expenses continue to need to be met.

You may have read in the DNews that the Diocese are making some allowances for parishes during this time, which we are grateful for. The costs associated with running the parish are more than just our Diocesan assessment and it is our responsibility to continue to care for Rev. James and ensure his stipend is being met. Parish Council are also working hard on projects that we want to see bloom once we are no longer in lockdown, for this to happen we need to remain in a financially viable position. Parish Council would therefore like to strongly encourage that if you are able (or can get a family member to help you) to give your offertory gift via direct debit each week please do so. This would benefit the parish by funds being received regularly but also decreased risks associated with handling cash during these uncertain times.

Parish Council thanks you for your consideration of this, but of course if you have any questions or concerns please speak to your wardens or treasurer.

Bank Details are:

Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

BSB: 063 544

Account: 1006 8567

With Gratitude, Andrew and Sarah-Jayne

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

TODAY'S READINGS

EASTER DAY

First Reading :

Acts 10:34-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Then Peter began to speak: 'I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached – how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. 'We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen – by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm:

118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

Response: *This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.*

1. We thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.
Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.' **(R)**
2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds. **(R)**
3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. **(R)**

Second Reading:

Colossians 3:1-4

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord.

Alleluia!

Rev will be in church on the following days and times.

Please join him in spirit if you are able:

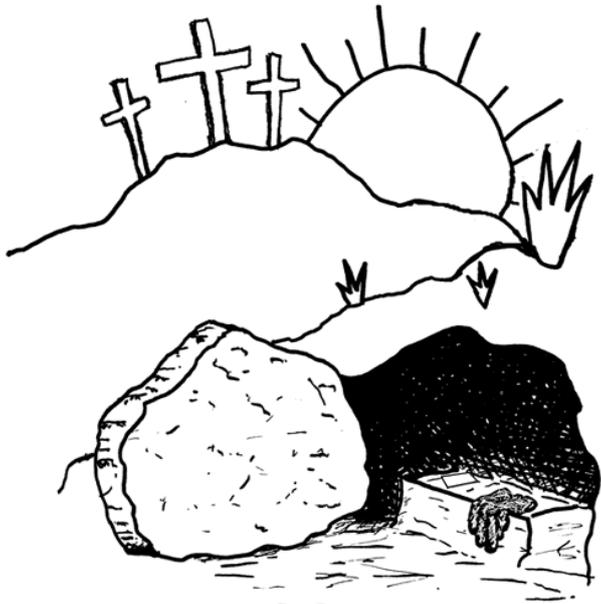
Good Friday 9.30-10.30am Warracknabeal

Easter Sunday 9.30-10.30am Warracknabeal

Project REGENERATE. Renew PEOPLE. Revive PROJECTS. Restore PLACE

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

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: "He has risen from the dead



**He is not here; for He is risen, as He said.
Come, see the place where the Lord lay.
Matthew 28:6**

EASTER YouTube from Rev:

Good Friday: "Three Reflections"

<https://youtu.be/1vemLXF6ym4>

Easter Sunday: "Happy Easter"

<https://youtu.be/8OU4kpQrSlS>

and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him." Now I have told you.' So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. 'Greetings,' he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

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

THE PROPERS

Sentence: The Lord is risen indeed, alleluia!

Collect: Lord of all life and power, who, through the mighty resurrection of your Son, overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise, honour and thanksgiving, now and for all eternity **Amen.**



Prayer in the Parish

Please pray and give thanks for:

In the Parish & Beyond: +Garry; our own prayer disciplines in times of adversity; joy in the depth of our being – no matter the circumstances.

Community: Those we love – both near and far away; front-line health care workers; those in need; those feeling trapped.

Years Mind: Bob Lynch, Elizabeth Dart, Dave Hobson, Nancy Clyne, Betty Ryan