



# Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

**Lent 3**  
**03 March 2024**

**Sunday Services:** 9.30am & 5.00pm – Warracknabeal  
11.00am – St Mark's Areegra



Hello everyone! I hope that I find you well.

I have had the words of Jeremiah in my mind during the week:

*"Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. I the LORD test the mind and search the heart." [Jer 17:7,8,10]*

Trust. Surrender. Test. Search. Mind. Heart.

It's all there isn't it - the simple discipline of 'Letting Go, and letting God.' - (someone said that once). Often the simplest disciplines are the hardest. The first forgotten. The first to wither when the 'heat is ON' - the ones we tend to forget when something takes the wind from our sails or when we are not completely in control of our emotions.

The simple disciplines. What are they for you?

Lighting a candle.

Patting the cat, dog or pet horse.

Seeing the sun rise.

Saying 'thank you'.

Smiling at a stranger.

Waving to someone in town from across the street.

Going around the roundabout more than once.

Breathing deeply.

Phoning a friend.

Looking at BEAUTY in the mirror (rather than disgust).

Writing a letter.

Making a donation to a favourite charity ...

Do the wings of a butterfly in the Amazon really have an impact all the way around the world? Maybe? Perhaps? The wings of a thousand butterfly's will.

Our simple disciplines - as insignificant as they may seem to us - really do affect the world in which we live, the community to which we belong, our minds as we feel tested by life's challenges and our hearts as we embrace God's light, life and love in our homes and relationships with one another.

What simple discipline will you champion this week?

Put a fear to rest.

Forgive someone or yourself.

Turn your heart to God an extra moment or two.

Reach out to ...

I have this marvellous privilege in my role as priest and educator to walk into a school classroom and develop relationships with complete strangers. This was the case on Wednesday, as I began a Rock and Water program with Yr3-6 at Beulah Primary school. Twelve children who I had never met. They had no idea what they were about to do. I had no idea how they might respond to what I had planned for the day.

There is an activity - which builds trust with participants - called the *Rock and Water Salute* - establishing respect and care for one another. There is a mantra:

"I am strong.

I know what is right and wrong.

I know where I am going.

I can make good choices.

Everything we do, is in friendship, peace and communication."

Initially there are a lot of giggles and slight bewilderment - as everyone repeats the mantra after me. But do this for a few times, and I can feel the mood in the room start to change - participants start to enjoy and embrace (for want of a better word) the mantra and its deep truth. After the mantra, they bow to each other and say the word "Respect!" (*I did the same with Yr5 at WPS on Tues - with the same effect*)

I'm not sure what my point is - other than - "*we are powerful beyond measure!*"

"Blessed are those who trust in the Lord ..." I keep saying - it is not for the feint hearted. As we continue our journey toward Jerusalem with Jesus and the disciples - what are the things that will sustain us this week, and how can we seek God's guidance and Grace with humility and courage.

**Rev James**

## Prayer in the Parish

### **In the Parish & Beyond:**

- +Garry; for Registry Office;
- For Sherry Barber (Suzy Callaghan's sister) – battling cancer;
- For all who are dealing with fire danger;
- For ALL CFA & Fire Brigade members across the State – for pilots of water bombers, and ground co-ordinators;
- For generosity this Lenten journey;
- For a STOP to war around the globe; and for all brokering peace;
- For the people of Ukraine;
- For the people of Israel & Palestine;
- For those who hunger for God's Word; for those who thirst for God's Spirit; for those who seek God's mercy and consolation;
- For those facing exploitation and trafficking to ensure we have Easter eggs on our supermarket shelves;
- For those who are grieving;
- For our respective Lenten journey's – wherever they may take us;
- For the Christian Emergency Food Centre in Horsham; for Bev and all the volunteers;
- For the Boys' Shed Project;
- For our Catering team and gratitude for a wonderful luncheon atmosphere;
- For those we love – near and far away;
- For PEACE in heart, mind and soul;
- For our neighbour;
- For new Parish Centre blinds and generosity of donor;

**Years Mind:** Donald McKenzie, Beryl Hooper, Judith Marshman, Coral Panter

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

## Service Times Feb/March

### Lent 3 – 03 March

9.30am & 5.00pm – Warracknabeal  
11.00am St Mark's Areegra

### Tuesday 05 March

5.00pm - Healing Service

### Lent 4 – 10 March

9.30am & 5.00pm – Warracknabeal  
12.00pm Lunch in Parish Centre

### Tuesday 12 March

5.00pm Phase II Conversation in Rectory

### Lent 5 – 17 March

9.30am & 5.00pm – Warracknabeal

### Passion Sunday – 24 March

9.30am & 5.00pm – Warracknabeal  
11.00am St Mark's Areegra

### Tuesday 26 March

5.00pm - Eucharist  
7.00 for 7.30pm - Parish Council

### Maundy Thursday – 28 March

6.00pm for 6.30pm – Warracknabeal

### Good Friday – 29 March

9.30am – Warracknabeal

### Easter Sunday – 31 March

9.30am – Warracknabeal

### Mission Lunch - Thank you

A huge thank you to everyone for their support for our Mission Luncheon on Sunday. To those who donated salads, prizes for the raffle or helped in any way - we couldn't do it without you.

We raised \$1300.00 so \$650.00 each will go to the Australian Board of Missions and the Horsham Cancer Centre.

#### Raffle winners were:

David Holland, Sue Tabone, Beris Hausler, Delwyn Elsom x 2, Alison Dart, Alison Whelan, Val Taylor x 2, Mary Massey, Gwenda Torney.

*The Catering Team*

# TODAY'S READINGS

## LENT 3

First Reading:

Exodus 20:1-17

### ***A reading from the book of Exodus***

And God spoke all these words: 'I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 'You shall have no other gods before me. 'You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. 'You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. 'Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. 'Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you. 'You shall not murder. 'You shall not commit adultery. 'You shall not steal. 'You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour. 'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his male or

female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.' This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Psalm:

19

**Response: *Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life.***

1. The law of the LORD is perfect; it revives the soul. The decrees of the LORD are steadfast; they give wisdom to the simple. **(R)**
2. The precepts of the LORD are right; they gladden the heart. The command of the LORD is clear; it gives light to the eyes. **(R)**
3. The fear of the LORD is pure, abiding forever. The judgments of the LORD are true; they are, all of them, just. **(R)**
4. May the spoken words of my mouth, the thoughts of my heart, win favour in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer! **(R)**

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

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

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.' Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the

foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord, whoever believes in me will never die.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

#### THE PROPERS

**Sentence:** God spoke these words and said, 'I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.'

**Collect:** Lord our God, by your Holy Spirit write your commandments upon our hearts and grant us the wisdom and power of the cross, so that, cleansed from greed and selfishness, we may become a living temple of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Gospel:**

**John 2:13-22**

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

When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, 'Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!' His disciples remembered that it is written: 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then responded to him, 'What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.' They replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?' But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

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

#### *The Perfect Stillness*

*Love is  
the perfect stillness  
and the greatest excitement,  
and most profound act,  
and the word almost as complete  
as His name.*

*Rabia (c. 717-801)*

# Lent 2024

## Difficult text series:

During Lent, I will be embarking on a 'difficult text series' to help our Lenten journey and deepen our understanding of how God works in our lives.

Sometimes, I believe, facing 'difficulty' rather than avoiding it allows us to understand God's influence in our lives with a new perspective - especially as we wrestle with God in honesty and trust (faith) - as we seek healing and try to liberate ourselves from texts written in a very different context than our own.

Below are an outline of what the themes will be for each week.

- Lent 1:** 18<sup>th</sup> February - Testing of Faith and Covenant with God  
Genesis 22 - The binding of Isaac
- Lent 2:** 25<sup>th</sup> February - Confronting Genocide  
Joshua 6 & Joshua 10 (selected verses)
- Lent 3:** 03 March - Sexual Violence: Law and Lore  
Genesis 34: The Rape of Dinah & 2 Samuel 13: Ammon & Tamar
- Lent 4:** 10 March - Refining Fire  
James 1:2-4; James 5:7-11; 1 Peter 1:6-7
- Lent 5:** 17 March - The Mysterious Nature of God  
Isaiah 55:8-9 (John 12:20-33); 1 Corinthians 1:27-29

## Retreat in Daily Life - 10<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> March:

In addition, I am planning to provide an opportunity for parishioners to conduct a 'Retreat in Daily Life' again this year. I had some good feedback from those who engaged last year - and I hope you will find that this particular week enhances your prayer and praise and faithful Lenten journey.

More details will follow, as I work out what this week may look like and provide an opportunity for people to meet for fellowship and/or maybe have a Q&A style gathering during the week.

## Confession:

During Lent, if you would like to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, please get in touch with Rev. Not an obligation but rather an opportunity - should you feel the need or have a secret psychological desire to do so.

Get in touch if you want more information.

## Genesis 34 - The Rape of Dinah

**34** Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to visit the daughters of the region. <sup>2</sup> When Shechem son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the region, saw her, he seized her and lay with her by force. <sup>3</sup> And his soul was drawn to Dinah daughter of Jacob; he loved the young woman and spoke tenderly to her. <sup>4</sup> So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, "Get me this girl to be my wife."

<sup>5</sup> Now Jacob heard that Shechem<sup>[a]</sup> had defiled his daughter Dinah, but his sons were with his cattle in the field, so Jacob held his peace until they came. <sup>6</sup> And Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to speak with him, <sup>7</sup> just as the sons of Jacob came in from the field. When they heard of it, the men were indignant and very angry, because he had committed an outrage in Israel by lying with Jacob's daughter, for such a thing ought not to be done.

<sup>8</sup> But Hamor spoke with them, saying, "The heart of my son Shechem longs for your daughter; please give her to him in marriage. <sup>9</sup> Make marriages with us; give your daughters to us, and take our daughters for yourselves. <sup>10</sup> You shall live with us, and the land shall be open to you; live and trade in it and get property in it." <sup>11</sup> Shechem also said to her father and to her brothers, "Let me find favor with you, and whatever you say to me I will give. <sup>12</sup> Put the marriage present and gift as high as you like, and I will give whatever you ask me; only give me the young woman to be my wife."

<sup>13</sup> The sons of Jacob answered Shechem and his father Hamor deceitfully because he had defiled their sister Dinah. <sup>14</sup> They said to them, "We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one who is uncircumcised, for that would be a disgrace to us. <sup>15</sup> Only on this condition will we consent to you: that you will become as we are and every male among you be circumcised. <sup>16</sup> Then we will give our daughters to you, and we will take your daughters for ourselves, and we will live among you and become one people. <sup>17</sup> But if you will not listen to us and be circumcised, then we will take our daughter and be gone."

<sup>18</sup> Their words pleased Hamor and Hamor's son Shechem. <sup>19</sup> And the young man did not delay to do the thing because he was delighted with Jacob's daughter. Now he was the most honored of all his family. <sup>20</sup> So Hamor and his son Shechem came to the gate of their city and spoke to the men of their city, saying, <sup>21</sup> "These people are friendly with us; let them live in the land and trade in it, for the land is large enough for them; let us take their daughters in marriage, and let us give them our daughters. <sup>22</sup> Only on this condition will they agree to live among us, to become one people: that every male among us be circumcised as they are circumcised. <sup>23</sup> Will not their livestock, their property, and all their animals be ours? Only let us agree with

them, and they will live among us." <sup>24</sup> And all who went out of the city gate heeded Hamor and his son Shechem, and every male was circumcised, all who went out of the gate of his city.

### **Dinah's Brothers Avenge Their Sister**

<sup>25</sup> On the third day, when they were still in pain, two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, took their swords and came against the city unawares and killed all the males. <sup>26</sup> They killed Hamor and his son Shechem with the sword and took Dinah out of Shechem's house and went away. <sup>27</sup> And the other sons of Jacob came upon the slain and plundered the city because their sister had been defiled. <sup>28</sup> They took their flocks and their herds, their donkeys, and whatever was in the city and in the field. <sup>29</sup> All their wealth, all their little ones and their wives, all that was in the houses, they captured and made their prey. <sup>30</sup> Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have brought trouble on me by making me odious to the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites and the Perizzites; my numbers are few, and if they gather themselves against me and attack me, I shall be destroyed, both I and my household." <sup>31</sup> But they said, "Should our sister be treated like a prostitute?"

This is God's Word

**Thanks be to God!**