



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Easter 6
25 May 2025

Sunday Service: 9.30am - Warracknabeal
5.00pm - Café Church



Happy Easter Everybody! I hope that you've had a good week.

I don't know if you remember a number of years ago - I had in the pew sheet a kind-of mantra that read: *"MISSION. Start here. Start small. Start now."*

A simple phrase. However, it can be quite complicated in reality. Essentially though, this is the Easter cry or calling that we get to fulfill in all our daily endeavours no matter who we are, what we do or how we go about doing it.

The word 'Mission' in itself has connotations of going to foreign lands and converting the masses (as Jesus commanded Matthew Chapter 20) - which also was associated with 'Imperial style - listen to me I know what's best for you!' cringe factor arrogance and superiority.

It was always harder to stay at 'home' and challenge the status quo where people either had pre-conceived ideas of who you were or what you could talk about - religion NOT being one of them. Wouldn't you agree?

It seems that life is getting harder not easier for almost all of us. Our resilience is tested. The rising prevalence of mental health issues in all aspects of life and cost of living pressures are seriously challenging the core fabric of our communities. On top of it all, Government decisions on land use within our region, Emergency Services Levy and more besides ... adds to a growing number of pressures that we're facing in the bush. It really feels like our friends and our neighbours are under siege. It is hard to know what to do.

Mission - or 'reaching out' - is not reserved for the few who are brave - but for all of us! A listening ear is vitally important. Empathy is the key to truly understanding what is going on - not just for ourselves but all who cross our path. These are no small steps to healing, but are also essential. Let's pray that we are able to act with grace and conviction. *Every blessing, Rev James*



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; +Scott; for the Registry staff;
- For our Southern Deanery sisters and brothers of faith;
- For our sisters and brothers on the South American Continent;
- For Project Regenerate: Explore. Rejoice. Give. 2025-2026 – 140 years!
- For cultural diversity and good will toward neighbours from other lands;
- For peace for all God's people around the world; peace in our hearts, homes, lives;
- For all who are hungry, thirsty and homeless or displaced;
- For those who face the reality of war and violence and oppression;
- For all known to us in hospital and our Residential Care Facilities;
- For all our families & friends; our neighbours;
- For all those we love, near and far away;
- For our farmers and their families;

Years Mind: Thelma HOSE (2001), Mary RIDDOUTT (2011), Stanley (Jock) GRINHAM (1988), Betty LEWIS (1993), Olive GREGSON (2015), Lynette KAY (2018), Lindsay BUTLER (1989), Violet LAMBERT (1988), John (Taz) CLARK (2003), Walter NIKKELSON (1990), Brendan NIKKELSON (1990)

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

Service Times May-June

Easter 6 – 25 May

9.30am- Warracknabeal

5.00pm Café Church

Tuesday 27 May

7.00pm/7.30pm Parish Council

Easter 7 – 01 June

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

11.00am St Mark's Areegra

Tuesday – 03 June

5.00pm Eucharist

Pentecost – 08 June

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Trinity Sunday – 15 June

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Pentecost 2 – 22 June

9.30am Warracknabeal

5.00pm Café Church

Pentecost 3 – 29 June

10.30am Warracknabeal

One Service Only

Parish Council – Tuesday 27th May

Parish Council meets on Tuesday night in the Parish Centre, and you are welcome to join us if you want. Members of council are invited to refreshments at 7.00pm & the meeting begins at 7.30pm.

As always there are recurring business items on the agenda as you would expect. This month we will spend a bit of time discussing how we can respond to the 'Farms Not Mines' campaign, and working with Lions Club on having a 'Market Day' on the grounds of church for our 140th year.

Any questions – get in touch: with Rev.

TODAY'S READINGS

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading :

Acts 16:9-15

A reading from the book of Acts

During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day we went on to Neapolis. From there we travelled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days. On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshipper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. When she and the members of her household were baptised, she invited us to her home. 'If you consider me a believer in the Lord,' she said, 'come and stay at my house.' And she persuaded us.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Psalm:

67:2-3, 5, 6, 8

Response: O God, let all the nations praise you!

1. May God have pity on us and bless us; may he let his face shine upon us. So may your way be known upon earth; among all nations, your salvation. **(R)**

2. May the nations be glad and exult because you rule the peoples in equity; the nations on the earth you guide. **(R)**

3. May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you! May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear him!
(R)

Second Reading:

Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23

A reading from the revelation to John

The angel took me in spirit to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. It gleamed with the splendor of God. Its radiance was like that of a precious stone, like jasper, clear as crystal. It had a massive, high wall, with twelve gates where twelve angels were stationed and on which names were inscribed, the names of the twelve tribes of the Israelites. There were three gates facing east, three north, three south, and three west. The wall of the city had twelve courses of stones as its foundation, on which were inscribed the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

I saw no temple in the city for its temple is the Lord God almighty and the Lamb. The city had no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him and we will come to him.

Alleluia!

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

Jesus replied, 'Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. 'All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.



Creator God of love,

All time and every place is your gift.

We thank you that you have blessed our Diocese for the last 150 years, even when we have failed in our high calling to herald your kingdom.

Your forgiveness, love and peace sustained generations of our forebears,

And we rejoice that you still bless us and invite us to work with you to build justice, hope and love in Western Victoria.

Inspire us with a new vision and new energy as we face the future, and help us to trust and commit to the humble serving path of Jesus, guided by your Holy Spirit. Amen.

'You heard me say, "I am going away and I am coming back to you." If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE PROPER

Sentence: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you,' says the Lord. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

Collect: Great and loving God, your will for us in your Son Jesus is the peace which the world cannot give your abiding gift, the Advocate he promised. Calm all troubled hearts, dispel every fear, and keep us steadfast in love and faithful to your word. Grant this through Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead, who lives with you now and always in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

