

Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Project Regenerate: Explore. Rejoice. Give.

Advent 4
21 December 2025

Sunday Services: 9.30am - Warracknabeal

6.00pm - Café Carols at St Mark's Areegra



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

It would be fair to say that human beings are quite violent.

Whether this 'violence' is something inherent within our being as part of an innate 'survival instinct' or 'defender of territory default mode' - we are reminded constantly of its reality through our news feeds and media outlets on a daily basis. There is almost a 'fascination' about it and how it manifests itself within our community. "*Violence begets violence.*" [Matt 26:52; Martin Luther King Jr.]

This is one of the only ways I can explain or rationalise the events at Bondi Beach during the week. I don't want to 'spiritualize' what happened. This violent behaviour is disgusting and unacceptable. It is too close to home isn't it - and that's what rattles us the most ... that 'what is happening elsewhere in the world' - is NOW happening here. It is disturbing. Traumatic. Political and media commentary during the week would begin to suggest an acknowledgement of 'spiritual consequences' to these events in the phrase: '*attacking the soul of our country.*' I would suggest that our Nation's history has been trying to reconcile this reality - let alone dealing with 'global influences' on our 'Great Southern Land.'

Jesus comes to earth - to help us deal with that 'violence' within us, within our society, and within institutional oppression and control on various levels.

Are we ready to be confronted by this 'mirror' - to choose to be different, to choose to be compassionate, to choose to deliver justice - genuine justice to those who are hungry because of greed, those who are displaced because of war and genocide, and those who seek shelter and refuge because of fear and control.

The Christmas Story is a powerful story! There is much light. There is also much shadow and darkness. Right there in the text. You and I are called to share the 'light' that Christ promises when we follow on the way, when we pray for peace in the 'manger of our own hearts', when we act for those less fortunate. *Peace, Rev.*



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; our Parish 140yr celebrations; Christmas preparations;
- For our community, our neighbours, our friends, those we find difficult, and those whose company we enjoy;
- For all people of faith – for the freedom and right to worship;
- For God's Spirit to infuse our community and hearts; that light overcomes darkness, that life overcomes death, that love will overcome hatred and discord;
- For the people of Haiti, Central African Republic, South Sudan, Eritrea;
- For sustainable peace in Middle East;
- For our farmers and their families;
- For the people of Palestine;
- For the people of Ukraine;
- For all who are hungry, thirsty and seeking shelter around the globe;
- For all facing natural disaster: flood, fire, earthquake, cyclone, famine;
- For all known to us in hospital and our Residential Care facilities;
- For all those we love, near and far away;

Years Mind: Kenneth DEMPSEY (2009), Irene TURNER (1989), Alfred HALL (1995), Raymond BUNDY (1995), Leslie THOMPSON (1980), Pearl BIBBY (2007), Janine EDWARDS (2021)

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

Christmas Services

Advent 4 – 21 December

9.30am Warracknabeal

6.00pm Areegra – Café Carols

(Bring a plate & drink and a friend)

Christmas Eve – 24 December

8.30pm refreshments / 10.00pm Celebration

Christmas Day – 25 December

9.30am Celebration

Christmas 1 – 28 December

9.30am Warracknabeal

Epiphany – 04 January 2026

9.30am Warracknabeal

11.00am Areegra (tbc)

Baptism of our Lord – 11 January 2026

9.30am Warracknabeal

Epiphany 2 – 18 January 2026

9.30am Warracknabeal

Epiphany 3 – 25 January 2026

10.30am Warracknabeal

12.00 Simple Parish Lunch

Epiphany 4 – 01 February 2026

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

11.00am St Mark's Areegra

Market Day at Christ Church – 21 February

140year High Tea – 21 March

140year Liturgical Celebration – 22 March

TEARFUND Useful Gift Shop

For the gift that gives twice.

Contact Rev directly or via TEARFUND

website: usefulgifts.org

for your alternative Christmas presents that help less advantaged around the world. Heaps of gifts to choose from!

**Choose a gift, send a card,
fight poverty!**

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:

80:1-7,17-19

Response: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

1. Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. **(R)**
2. Stir up your might, and come to save us! Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. **(R)**
3. O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure. **(R)**
4. You make us the scorn of our neighbours; our enemies laugh among themselves. Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved. **(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.

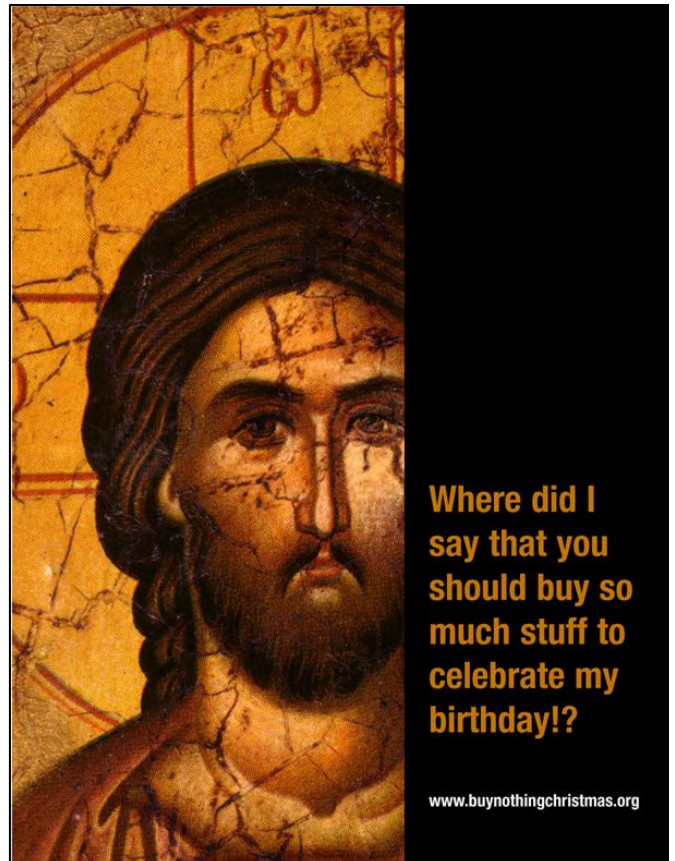
But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he 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.**



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 of 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.



Church's NGR number:

NGR 12439740