



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Pentecost 18
22 September 2024

Sunday Services: 9.30am Warracknabeal & 5.00pm Café Church



Hello Everyone - I hope that you've had a good week!

'The Three Goodnesses'

Father Richard Rohr writes of Jesus' teachings and lived example of forgiveness:

Among the most powerful of human experiences is to give or to receive forgiveness. I am told that two-thirds of the teaching of Jesus is directly or indirectly about this mystery of forgiveness: God's breaking of God's own rules. That's not surprising, because forgiveness is probably the only human action that reveals three goodnesses simultaneously! When we forgive, we choose the goodness of others over their faults, we experience God's goodness flowing through ourselves, and we also experience our own goodness in a way that surprises us. That is an awesome coming together of power, both human and divine.

Eventually, I believe, we will all forgive one another because we have been forgiven, but let's do it now and not wait until later. Let's ask for the grace to let go of those grudges and hurts to which we cling. How else will we ever be free?

If we don't "get" forgiveness, we're missing the whole mystery. We are still living in a world of meritocracy, of quid-pro-quo thinking, of performance and behaviour that earns an award. Forgiveness is the great thawing of all logic, reason, and worthiness. It is a melting into the mystery of God as unearned love, unmerited grace, the humility and powerlessness of a Divine Lover.

Without radical and rule-breaking forgiveness—received and given—there will be no reconstruction of anything. It alone breaks down our worldview of trying to buy and sell grace. Grace is certainly the one gift that must always be free, perfectly free, in order for it to work. Without forgiveness, there will be no future. We have hurt one another in too many historically documented and remembered ways. The only way out of the present justified hatreds of the world is grace.

An eagerness and readiness to love is the ultimate freedom and future. When we've been included in the spaciousness of divine love, there is just no room for human punishment, vengeance, rash judgment, or calls for retribution. *(Continued over the page)*

Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; Synod preparations;
- The Pain Revolution Outreach Tour; for openness and clarity during educational workshops and events; for safety;
- For the leaders of all Nations, those with influence to act for the Common Good;
- For the people on the continent of Antarctica;
- For all involved in scientific research;
- For our local farmers; for soaking rain; for the welfare of stock;
- For those who hunger for food; For those who thirst for water; For those seeking shelter from violence, exploitation, and injustice of any kind;
- For all who are grieving; for the ability to cope with life's little and big disappointments;
- For Peace in our world; for peace in our hearts; for peace in our homes;
- For all known to us in hospital; for those known to us who are unwell;
- For our Boys Shed Project, and a smooth transition to completion;
- For our school children, staff and all in educational support – for a refreshing holidays;
- For gratitude for those we love near and far away;
- For our gardens;

Years Mind: For all we love who have gone before us in faith, hope and love;

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

Service Times Sept/Oct

Pentecost 18 – 22 September

9.30am Warracknabeal

5.00pm Café Church

Pentecost 19 – 29 September

10.30am Warracknabeal

Pentecost 20 – 06 October

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

11.00am St Mark's Areegra

Tuesday 08 October

5.00pm Healing Eucharist

Pentecost 21 – 13 October

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Synod – 18-19 October

Pentecost 22 – 20 October

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Pentecost 23 – 27 October

9.30am Warracknabeal

5.00pm Café Church

(From page one)

We certainly see none of this small-mindedness in the Risen Christ after his own rejection, betrayal, and cruel death; we don't see it even from his inner circle, or in the whole New Testament. I really cannot imagine a larger and more spacious way to live. Jesus' death and resurrection event was a game changer for history.

The Crucified and Risen Christ uses the mistakes of the past to create a positive future, a future of redemption instead of retribution. He does not eliminate or punish mistakes. He uses them for transformative purposes.

People formed by such love are indestructible. Forgiveness might just be the very best description of what God's goodness engenders in humanity.

TODAY'S READINGS

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

First Reading: Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

A reading from the book of Proverbs

A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands. She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar. She gets up while it is still night; she provides food for her family and portions for her female servants. She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night. In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers. She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet. She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple. Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes. She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: 'Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.' Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Honour her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: 54

Response: *The Lord upholds my life:*

1. God, by your name save me,
and by your might defend my cause.
O God, hear my prayer; hearken to
the words of my mouth **(R)**
2. For the haughty have risen up against
me,
the ruthless seek my life; they set not
God before their eyes **(R)**
3. Behold, God is my helper;
the Lord sustains my life.
Freely will I offer you sacrifice.
I will praise your name,
O Lord, for its goodness **(R)**

Second Reading: James 3:1-12

A reading from the book of James

Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check. When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great

boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers and sisters, can a fig-tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia! God has called us through the gospel to possess the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Alleluia!**

Gospel:

Mark 9:30-37

A reading from the gospel according to Mark

They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, 'The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise.' But they did not understand what he meant

and were afraid to ask him about it. They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, 'Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.' He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.'

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPERS

Sentence: Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.

Collect: God and Father of all, you have taught us through your Son that the last shall be first, and have made a little child the measure of your kingdom: give us the wisdom from above, so that we may understand that in your sight the one who serves is the greatest of all. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Thank you once again to Fiona and David, who will be leading worship in our both services this weekend.

CAFÉ CHURCH THIS SUNDAY – 5.00PM PARISH CENTRE

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