



# Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

**Pentecost 7**  
**19<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

Hello everyone!

I hope that I find you well.

We tried to 'OPEN' the church building this weekend, but alas - our hopes, our intentions, our desire to meet in fellowship once again have been delayed due to circumstances beyond our control!

Hopefully, everyone will have received a copy of the letter that I sent during the week - explaining the reason why we didn't do so, and we continue to discern what is the best way forward for our faith life together.

We can all talk about 'numbers' and interpret the restrictions placed upon our normal activity in various ways - at the end of the day - we want to meet as a faith community TOGETHER. Not just a few selected people, not just those who are organized to get to church well before time to escape the dreaded words of being told to try again next week when there might be room, not those on the 'roster' for this weekend or next, not just for the 'clerics' who seem to always get the 'best seats in the house' - I could go on!

Our desire to be an inclusive and welcoming community of faith, our responsibility to ensure safety and wellbeing of all congregational members and potential visitors to our beloved church building, and our emphasis on only opening ONCE - and therefore being able to remain 'open' for an extended period of time are all very worthy attributes. In my conversations with various people across our congregations, I am proud of people's honesty, patience and understanding in how we are trying to negotiate these unprecedented times and COVID-19 pandemic.

I continue to think of those around the world less fortunate than ourselves - people who do not have Government assistance through finances and health support, people who face authorities who do not take the threat of the COVID virus seriously, people who are not given the dignity and respect they deserve as a valued member of the human race, people who are eating less - because there is even less food than they had before (which was inadequate) ... while we seem to waste so much and want to continue to live as we have become accustomed to doing so.

In the chaos of the last few months, I think we tend to forget that Mosquito bites cause approximately 2.5 million deaths every year. The World Health Organization estimates that between 300 and 500 million cases of malaria occur each year and a child dies from malaria every 30 seconds. Malaria is endemic in 91 countries, with about 40% of the world's population at risk.

Recent reports from the African continent state that the Ebola crisis is back in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and has caused the death of several children. Lack of equality, malnutrition, a lack of access to proper sanitation and safe water sources, severe poverty, a lack of protection for the most vulnerable - across the globe, reminds us that our secure and safe COVID free environment of our town and region (I think) is something that we have much to be thankful for, not necessarily because we deserve it but simply because this is where we were born.

Black lives matter. Indigenous lives matter. ALL LIVES MATTER!

Maybe - instead of rushing to church this weekend, we can hold the people of the world in our hearts. Maybe we can reflect on what we can GENUINELY CHANGE in our lives to bring more equality across the globe.

Are you aware of the United Nations "17 sustainability development goals to transform the world"? Which one will you choose to reflect on this weekend?

Go to your favourite charity - check out their website or make a phone call - where do they need **most** assistance NOW? Will you give some of your hard earned cash? Will you write a letter to your local/Federal MP advocating for those less fortunate?

If you were to have lunch with Jesus sometime over the weekend - what do you think he would ask of you? Would you like to debate this with him or what will you ask of him to help complete the task he has given you?

We have been asked - maybe by God - through the circumstances of COVID-19 to really dig deep into our hearts - to be confronted by our fears and anxieties, to be more grateful with how lucky we are, to be challenged about how we can nurture our faith from our lounge chair or telephone and the 'silence' and isolation we have had to accept through no fault of our own.

You are not alone.

God has not abandoned us.

Let us not abandon the people around the globe who must feel as though there is no-where to go, no-one to help, no-one to value them and their life on this fragile planet we 'share' together.

With every blessing, Rev James

## Coffee at PEPPERCORN Café – change of day!

Coffee at the Peppercorn Cafe will resume every week at  
9.00-10.00am ON TUESDAYS.

This is to ensure that it doesn't clash with other ministry initiatives. Come and have a chat. Stay safe and stay connected.

## Rev's REVOLUTION – as part of Project REGENERATE

5000kms - 365 days - \$25,000 target - to build the Boys' Shed.  
Wheels start rolling - 01 August 2020

youTube Trailer #1: <https://youtu.be/O7UKfbS5rVA>

youTube Trailer #2: <https://youtu.be/pPivqS4blTM>

*More information in next week's pew sheet*

Pentecost Season Quiz X: Correction. Florence Nightingale was born in 1820, not 1890 as stated. Apologies to all involved. (And thanks to those who highlighted this oversight - people do read the pew sheet after all! Praise God!)



### Prayer in the Parish

**In the Parish & Beyond:** +Garry; our Diocesan brothers and sisters; our Parish Council; a return to church as soon is safe.

**Community:** Front-line health care workers; those feeling angry and agitated; those facing serious dis-ease in body, mind and spirit; those dealing with grief; all teachers.

**Years Mind:** Peter Boyle, Robert Oulton, Stephen Lewis, Clarence Edmonds, Terry Schulz, Edward Fish, Keith Johnston, Jean Clarke

**Parish Council meets – Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July**  
**in the Parish Centre.**

**7.00pm refreshments. 7.30pm meeting.**

Please pray for us as we do for you – in these trying and interesting times.

### Pentecost 7 youTube from Rev:

'Waiting' ... in the early morning

<https://youtu.be/7elnsPaDQMY>

### Bishop Garry's youTube message:

*Where is the Green Sheep?*

<https://youtu.be/2c7eg45qll4>

*(as last week – back to a week behind – Rev James)*

## PARISH AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal will take place on **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August at 11.00am following the Sunday service – HOPEFULLY.**

Please bring an open heart and open mind. More details soon.

Send questions and queries to Rev James in good time for a good answer.

# *A Simple Service – for Pentecost 7*

## **Hymn: The Great Love of God**

**The great love of God  
is revealed in the Son,  
who came to this earth  
to redeem everyone.**

**That love, like a stream  
flowing clear to the sea,  
makes clean every heart  
that from sin would be free.**

**It binds the whole world,  
every barrier it breaks,  
the hills it lays low,  
and the mountains it shakes.**

**It's yours, it is ours,  
O how lavishly giv'n!  
the pearl of great price,  
and the treasure of heav'n.**

Daniel Thambyrajah Niles

## **Reflection:**

- a) *What was your most enjoyable moment this week?*
- b) *What would you like to ask God for this week?*

## **Prayer of Preparation:**

Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Readings:**

**Videos:** +Garry and/or Rev

## **Reflection:**

What words or phrases give evidence to:  
Loving nature of God,  
Tricky nature of God,  
Extravagant nature of God,  
Creative nature of God,  
Challenging nature of God?

## **Prayer:**

Praise. Petition. Intercession. Thanksgiving.  
(*or follow your own discipline.*)  
The Lord's Prayer.  
Collect for the Day.

## **Blessing:**

May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warmly on your face.  
May the rain fall softly on your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you, and those you love,  
in the palm of God's hand. Amen.  
*[Old Irish Saying]*

## **Song: God of Mercy, God of Grace**

**God of mercy, God of grace,  
show the brightness of your face;  
shine on us, Saviour, shine,  
fill your church with light divine;  
and your saving health  
extend unto earth's remotest end.**

**Let the people praise you, Lord!  
Earth shall then her fruits afford;  
God to all his blessings give,  
All to God devoted live:  
and below, and all above,  
one in joy and light and love.**

Henry Francis Lyte

Text: APBA © 1985 Broughton Publishing.  
Music: © 1999. Together in Song. Harper Collins.  
CCL 610638

# TODAY'S READINGS

## PENTECOST 7

**First Reading :** Genesis 28:10-19a

### ***A reading from the Book of Genesis***

Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the Lord, and he said: 'I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, 'Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it.' He was afraid and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.' Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Psalm:** 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16

**Response: *Lord, you are good and forgiving.***

1. You, O LORD, are good and forgiving, abounding in kindness to all who call upon you. Hearken, O LORD, to my prayer and attend to the sound of my pleading. **(R)**
2. All the nations you have made shall come and worship you, O LORD, and glorify your name. For you are great, and you do wondrous deeds; you alone are God. **(R)**
3. You, O LORD, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in kindness and fidelity. Turn toward me, and have pity on me; give your strength to your servant. **(R)**

**Second Reading:**

**Romans 8:12-25**

### ***A reading from the letter to the Romans***

Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation – but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children

of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom **Alleluia!**

**Gospel:**

**Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

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

Jesus told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed ears, then the weeds also

appeared. 'The owner's servants came to him and said, "Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?" "An enemy did this," he replied. 'The servants asked him, "Do you want us to go and pull them up?" "No," he answered, "because while you are pulling up the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: first collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn."' Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.' He answered, 'The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. 'As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

This is the gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

### **THE PROPERS**

**Sentence:** You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

**Collect:** O God, You alone can order our unruly wills and affections: Teach us to love what you command, And desire what you promise, That among the changes and chances of this world, Our hearts may surely there be fixed Where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

# Stairway to Heaven

"I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Genesis 28:13b (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Genesis 28:10-19



I G E X J C U U O J G M Q O T  
 W A B K J F Q W Z W A I W D G  
 Z X C B P D M E D E Y C G W E  
 N X B A N G E L S R L O O J C  
 H O G Y H W Q U H G E N I B H  
 X L O R D M O P F Y J A A V L  
 P H E R H H W Y A K H D M M A  
 A W O K E E L W D G A S C F N  
 J E F X H E R B P E N L Q H D  
 G A W W D I G I H Z N E F I H  
 O R N E A P I K G Q R E D P E  
 J T L T Z P V G V Z Z P E N A  
 T H S H A F E A F O U R O S V  
 K H H U R C E T P H P T Y V E  
 H P X B K F R E C L S W W T N

GIVE	ANGELS	DREAM	STAIRWAY	LORD
STONE	LAND	EARTH	HEAVEN	HEAD
SLEEP	HOUSE	JACOB	AWOKE	GATE

**Indigenous lives matter!**  
**In Australia and around the world.**