



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Passion Sunday
5th April 2020

Kitty O'Meara writes:

"And the people stayed home.

"And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and grew gardens full of fresh food, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.

"And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

"And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed."

[A Poem that went viral on social media a couple of weeks ago]



I remembered writing last week - that there was a part of my brain that "struggled to find 'peace' - and I still can't really figure out what it is all about". Sitting with a cuppa in my 'green chair' last Saturday afternoon - it dawned on me that 'grief' was what I was feeling, and wrestling with.

I mentioned this to a friend in a conversation later in the day - and suddenly it started a chain reaction of exchanges that I have had with people who began articulating the very same feeling.

Through my interactions with therapists over many years (which is part of my normal self-care discipline in my role) - there are several things I have learned about 'grief.'

The first is - when we feel it, 'grief' just wants to be heard. It wants to be named. It can be personalized in a way - like a child who calls from another room or how we respond to a knock at the front door. '

Secondly, when 'grief' has come to visit us, if we try to ignore it - IT WILL FOLLOW US! If we are too busy to notice - IT WILL DISTRACT US. If we think it is some other feeling and try to deal with it - IT HANGS AROUND until we notice it.

Thirdly, 'grief' is not malicious. It might be insidious because it doesn't have a concept of time of day or night, and doesn't recognize whether it is an appropriate time to 'pop in for a chat'. It arrives. It waits. It has something to tell us.

Finally, the best thing to do is listen to it. However, it can be bargained with - like an understanding friend who wants the best for you in every possible way. It might be - "Let's do this!" Look 'grief' in the eye - and get on with understanding what grief has to reveal to you. Tell it how important it is to you (it IS YOUR feeling after all, and therefore an integral part of your human being and nature).

OR, you can negotiate; "I know you are important to me, but I'm in the middle of my children's homework / have to get dinner ready / need to read the newspaper (whatever you may have to do!) ... I'll sit down at 5.00pm with a G&T and we'll chat." Or: "give me half an hour - I'll be free to talk then."

You choose the time! You take control of your feeling! You are not going 'mad' - it is all part of being human! As people of faith, letting God into our situation and helping us with 'our conversation' is all part of integrating all that life throws at us.

The PASSION Sunday readings are full of moments of grief: Passover feast with disciples - confusion, anger, denial; Judas' betrayal; sleeping in the garden of Gethsemane; Religious leaders acting from fear not compassion; Pilate's impotence in front of genuine power; Simon of Cyrene's unplanned detour in Jerusalem; the women ... weeping in the background when all others had fled. Even the earth shook with grief - as rocks split and tombs were opened.

A wise person long ago said to me - "Honour your grief."

This PASSION Sunday - I invite you to bring before God your grief/s ... all of it, some of it, and hold it ... let the Spirit breathe on it ...

... and honour it.

Take courage.

With every blessing to you, and those you love; this day and always.

Rev James Wood M: 0438 233 630 E: warrackanglican@gmail.com

Important message

There is NO SHAME in asking for HELP

Please stay at home as directed by Government and Health Care Agencies.

During this time of isolation and social distancing - if you need food, personal items or any other form of assistance – there are people in our community who can help and keep everyone safe.

Please contact Rev at any time.

**The building may be closed.
The CHURCH is still OPEN.**

**Project REGENERATE.
Renew PEOPLE. Revive PROJECTS. Restore PLACE.**

Project REGENERATE Update:

- Sarah-Jayne and Rev had a chat with the Bishop & Registrar on Thursday to begin a conversation on a number of elements of our vision and mission.
- The Parish Council will continue to develop a "Business Plan:" as we clarify our objectives and start to work out in more detail what needs to happen next, and relevant time frames for our activities.
- Revs REVOLUTION - has been postponed ... but he's still riding!
- During these unique times - we have a chance to "Sharpen the Saw" and hone our strategic skills as we adjust to our new found reality in the world.
- There has been some electrical work done in the church: we've tidied up the mass of electrical cords near the pulpit - inserting new power points and making it safer to run the various devices, pianos and speakers. We also have a light switch and new light at the Vestry steps. These costs has been covered by a bequest.

I think that's all for now. Get in touch with Rev for any more details.

Rev will be in church on the following days and times.

Please join him in spirit if you are able.

PASSION Sunday	9.30-10.30am	Warracknabeal
	11.00-11.30am	Areegra
Good Friday	9.30-10.30am	Warracknabeal
Easter Sunday	9.30-10.30am	Warracknabeal

Please check your letterboxes later in the week - as Rev may have prepared some resources and /or pew sheet for next weeks' 'liturgies' ... (I actually don't know yet, but you never know!)

YouTube Videos for your devotion and enjoyment:

Bishop Garry's Sermon series:

Lent 5: "Called to Life" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-oWSUJbc-bw>

Passion Sunday: "Living with Ambiguity" <https://youtu.be/LPoWOLueJbQ>

Rev has also produced a couple of videos:

Lent 5: "Take Away the Stone" <https://youtu.be/wNx-Ji-xgyc>

Passion Sunday: "Honouring Our Grief" <https://youtu.be/Nz4uHb9S5hA>

Holy Week: "An Offering..." <https://youtu.be/cc4lePN737I>



Prayer in the Parish

Please pray and give thanks for:

Those in need: Those feeling lonely, confused, angry and despondent.

In the Parish & Beyond: +Garry; our own prayer disciplines in times of adversity; trust in God's Word.

Community: Those we love – both near and far away; those most vulnerable.

Years Mind: (*This week*) Heather Johnson; (*Last week – my sincere apologies*) Ivan Walscott, Catherine Smith, John Fyfield, Lily Wood, Coral Smith, Robert Walker, Pamela Day, Lindsay Taylor

You can get **ePray Daily** for free:

1. Download the ePray DAILY app **FREE** from your app store



2. Log in to the app with your four-digit parish access code – **9999** ; set your default bible, and you're ready to go!!

TODAY'S READINGS

PASSION SUNDAY

First Reading :

Isaiah 50:4-9a

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed. The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears; I have not been rebellious, I have not turned away. I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! It is the Sovereign Lord who helps me. Who will condemn me? They will all wear out like a garment; the moths will eat them up.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm:

31:9-18

Response: *Father, into your hands I commend my spirit*

1. Have mercy upon me, O Lord, for I am in trouble: my eye wastes away for grief, my throat also and my inward parts.
For my life wears out in sorrow, and my years with sighing:
my strength fails me in my affliction, and my bones are consumed. **(R)**
2. I am become the scorn of all my enemies:

and my neighbours wag their heads in derision.

I am a thing of horror to my friends: and those that see me in the street shrink from me.

I am forgotten like one dead and out of mind: I have become like a broken vessel. **(R)**

3. For I hear the whispering of many: and fear is on every side;
While they plot together against me: and scheme to take away my life **(R)**
4. But in you, Lord, have I put my trust: I have said 'You are my God.'
All my days are in your hand:
O deliver me from the power of my enemies and from my persecutors. **(R)**
5. Make your face to shine upon your servant:
and save me for your mercy's sake. **(R)**

Second Reading:

Philippians 2:5-11

A reading from the letter to the Philippians

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee

should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

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

Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.

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

Gospel:

Matthew 27:11-54

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

Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' 'You have said so,' Jesus replied. When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate asked him, 'Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?' But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge – to the great amazement of the governor. Now it was the governor's custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Jesus Barabbas. So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, 'Which one do you want me to release to you: Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?' For he knew it was out of self-interest that they had handed Jesus over to him. While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: 'Don't have

anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him.' But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed. 'Which of the two do you want me to release to you?' asked the governor. 'Barabbas,' they answered. 'What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?' Pilate asked. They all answered, 'Crucify him!' 'Why? What crime has he committed?' asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, 'Crucify him!' When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. 'I am innocent of this man's blood,' he said. 'It is your responsibility!' All the people answered, 'His blood is on us and on our children!' Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers round him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. 'Hail, king of the Jews!' they said. They spat on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. They came to a place called Golgotha (which means 'the

place of the skull'). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: this is Jesus, the king of the Jews. Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, 'You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!' In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. 'He saved others,' they said, 'but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, "I am the Son of God."' In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him. From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' (which means 'My



God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'). When some of those standing there heard this, they said, 'He's calling Elijah.' Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said, 'Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him.' And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people. When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, 'Surely he was the Son of God!'

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

THE PROPERS

Sentence: At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, of your tender love towards us you sent your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all should follow the example of his great humility: mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Triumphal Entry

A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Matthew 21:8 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 21:1-11



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

RIDING	SPOKEN	JESUS	PROPHET	MOUNT
BRANCHES	BLESSED	JERUSALEM	HOSANNA	KING
CLOAKS	LORD	FULFILL	DONKEY	FOAL
VILLAGE	DISCIPLES	OLIVES	GENTLE	COLT

Clocks go back this Sunday morning!
Embrace the change and you won't be early.