



# Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

**LENT 5**  
**29 March 2020**

*Mark Twain was attributed to saying:*

*"If it is your job is to eat a frog, then it is best to do it first thing in the morning. If it is your job is to eat two frogs, then it is better to eat the big one first."*

*If this was your lot, I reckon a good relish wouldn't go astray either. If I am honest I am still adjusting to our new 'normal' with some difficulty, but not with as much difficulty as some I imagine. I continue to hold many of our front line healthcare workers before God - for their protection and fortitude in very stressful and dangerous situations.*

*As I was talking with someone during the week, I was able to articulate that my heart was in a good place. In another part of my brain - I have struggled to find 'peace' ... and I still can't really figure out what it is all about. Good job it's Lent - as these are the things we are invited to wrestle with in our faith and as we seek God's consolation and guidance.*

*I have also found recent graphics on our news bulletins (I'm an ABC man) about the importance of staying home very helpful - in limiting the spread of COVID-19. This IS OUR BEST CHANCE to defeat this virus and its rapid contagion.*

*It's all about flattening the curve! The three-word mantra that we're almost tired of hearing about. Jesus is not 'flattening the curve' as he continues to journey toward Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover - and on our behalf die on the Cross. Death is real and brutal and confusing and shocking. BUT, death is not God's last word! LIFE in THE REALITY OF Jesus' Resurrection gives us much to contemplate in these next few weeks.*

*In recent weeks our Gospel has illustrated that not only does a 'teacher of the Law' in Nicodemus come to Jesus at night to be told to be 'reborn, and a woman isolated by her community is offered deep and lasting healing through her encounter with Jesus at the well - and a whole community is transformed. This week - a man is brought back to life! "Unbind him, and let him go!"*

*This is our call - to unbind ourselves from 'death', from everything that distracts us from God's love and light and love, from selfish ambition and hardship, from panic and anxiety, from judgment and racism and bigotry (and much, much more).*

*"Take away the stone."*

*If you need anything to help you live these days ahead with confidence or would like assistance in any way - please make contact. Thank you for your understanding!*

Rev James Wood M: 0438 233 630 E: [warrackanglican@gmail.com](mailto:warrackanglican@gmail.com)

**Love isn't cancelled**  
**Music isn't cancelled**  
**Dancing isn't cancelled**  
**Progress isn't cancelled**  
**Meditating isn't cancelled**  
**Dreaming isn't cancelled**  
**Self-care isn't cancelled**  
**Reading isn't cancelled**  
**Having fun isn't cancelled**

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!!



**When reading the Scriptures in the following weeks, you may like to try this method to enter deeper into the text, and hear God 'call your name.'**

- *Read the text calmly and slowly aloud.*
- *Read the same text again.*
- **Note:** *What was new to you? Was there something that surprised you? Was there a phrase or word that made you wonder afresh?*
- *Read the text again.*
- **Write** *down any questions you have regarding the text (without trying to answer them immediately). List them as if Jesus/God was sitting with you.*
- *Choose one or two of your questions that you'd like to explore deeper - search the passage for possible answers and or points for prayer, and/or how this may affect your daily life TODAY.*
- **ACT:** *What is one action I can conduct as a result of my time with God and God's Word? Is it a particular prayer? Is it making contact with someone? Is it getting in touch with a friend or Rev - and sharing your question/s as a way to nourish your spiritual journey during this unprecedented time?*

**ENJOY! Take Courage!**

Rev James Wood: P: 5398 1251 M: 0438 233 630 E: [warrackanglican@gmail.com](mailto:warrackanglican@gmail.com)

# TODAY'S READINGS

## LENT 5

First Reading :

Ezekiel 37:1-14

### ***A reading from the prophet Ezekiel***

The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me to and fro among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?' I said, 'Sovereign Lord, you alone know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones and say to them, "Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord."' So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, "This is what the Sovereign Lord says: come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet – a vast army. Then he said to me: 'Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.'" Therefore prophesy and say to them: "This is what the

Sovereign Lord says: my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord."

This is the word of the Lord

### **Thanks be to God**

Psalm:

130:1-8

**Response: *With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.***

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;  
LORD, hear my voice!  
Let your ears be attentive  
to my voice in supplication. **(R)**
2. If you, O LORD, mark iniquities,  
LORD, who can stand?  
But with you is forgiveness,  
that you may be revered. **(R)**
3. I trust in the LORD;  
my soul trusts in his word.  
More than sentinels wait for the  
dawn,  
let Israel wait for the LORD. **(R)**
4. For with the LORD is kindness  
and with him is plenteous  
redemption;  
And he will redeem Israel  
from all their iniquities **(R)**

Second Reading:

Romans 8:6-11

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

The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to

God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Acclamation:**

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

I am the resurrection and the life,  
says the Lord; whoever believes in  
me, even if he dies, will never die.

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

**Gospel:**

**John 11:1-45**

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

Now a man named Lazarus was ill. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay ill, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) So the sisters sent word to Jesus, 'Lord, the one you love is ill.' When he heard this, Jesus said, 'This illness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it.' Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed

where he was two more days, and then he said to his disciples, 'Let us go back to Judea.' 'But Rabbi,' they said, 'a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the day-time will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.' After he had said this, he went on to tell them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.' His disciples replied, 'Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.' Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. So then he told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.' On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. 'Lord,' Martha said to Jesus, 'if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha answered, 'I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though

they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she replied, 'I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.' After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. 'The Teacher is here,' she said, 'and is asking for you.' When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there. When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. 'Where have you laid him?' he asked. 'Come and see, Lord,' they replied. Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?' Jesus, once more deeply

moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 'Take away the stone,' he said. 'But, Lord,' said Martha, the sister of the dead man, 'by this time there is a bad odour, for he has been there four days.' Then Jesus said, 'Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Take off the grave clothes and let him go.' Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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

### THE PROPERS

**Sentence:** 'I am the resurrection and the life,' says the Lord; 'whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.'

**Collect:** We thank you, heavenly Father, that you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: we pray that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his presence abiding in us he may raise us to joys eternal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

If anyone would like a  
[Diocesan Prayer Cycle for April](#) -  
please let Rev know  
and he'll get a copy to you.

Bishop Garry has produced the first of a  
YouTube sermon series 'Called to Life' :  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oWSUJBC-bw>

# Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."  
John 11:25 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 11:1-45 (NIV).



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

MARY	WAKE	SICK	LAZARUS	BROTHER
JESUS	STONE	DISCIPLES	LIFE	BELIEVE
PRAYED	WEeping	GLORY	MARTHA	RISE
ENTRANCE	LOVE	DEATH	TOMB	SLEEP