



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Pentecost 2
14th June 2020

Hello everyone!

This week I thought I'd offer you some reflections from two of our own parishioners on how they have coped with the COVID-19 restrictions, and nurturing their faith at home. I have discerned through my conversations with you over the last few months - that we all need different things to sustain us and our faith journey. Technology has proved to be helpful through the ZOOM platform, but it doesn't offer all the answers.

It is my understanding that various people have kept in contact with neighbour and friend through phone or post - and I have realized the limitations of what is possible when a man (or a woman, if you are one) is restricted to the confines of our homes.

The CHURCH remains OPEN? Or does it? If church means YOU and I - how can we each open our hearts a little more in the manner of Jesus - to those in real need. What do we need to do as a faith community once the doors open again on 19th July. *Let me know, with every blessing, Rev James*

Church during Isolation from David Holland's Perspective

Our last attendance at Christ Church was Café Church on March 22 which was the night our Prime Minister announced National Cabinet had set new rules which meant places of worship had to close. Fiona and I discussed the need to have some sort of church while in isolation especially as we were in the weeks leading up to Easter. Before commencing our first Sunday service I really wasn't sure how we would or could do it.

The prayer of preparation was for me an important way to begin and set the scene. We also decided we wanted to start at 930am the same time we knew Rev would be in the church saying his prayers. We wanted to read the readings and share the task of doing that. The laptop computer was also put on the dining room table so we could listen to Rev James sermon on Youtube. The Youtube clip was then discussed and we moved into intercessions.

We also decided from week one that we wanted to try and sing a hymn. If I remember correctly Benjamin was very keen week one to play Amazing Grace on the keyboard (he's learning keyboard at school). Most of the time Fiona found something appropriate on Youtube that we usually sang a long to at the end. Fiona also wanted to ensure we had a candle and cloth in the middle of the table and early on she asked Rev to use his skills to make us a wooden cross which we put on the table.

On Palm Sunday I came across two large palm branches left in the shape of a cross at Anzac Park. During Easter we had a table service on Good Friday and I watched a service from Brisbane on ABC TV that afternoon after a family walk, Saturday night we were able to watch a Facebook screening of Mass from the Horsham Roman Catholic parish and then on Sunday we had our own table service again.

As the weeks have gone by the children have been more involved in the discussion and we have tweaked a few things. It became clear Benjamin liked leading the service and reading the Gospel. Amy liked reading the Psalm and I liked to discuss each reading briefly after we had finished each reading (the first two readings I often feel get overlooked a lot on Sundays through no fault of anyone). As the mornings got colder our start time crept back to 10.30 and beyond and while it was only 4 of us we were flexible to start services when it worked with the routine of what we were doing. Most mornings we were dressed and had had breakfast, at other times breakfast or a coffee were by our side when church began.

Over the last 3 weeks we've had one additional person join us which has meant we have moved into the lounge room and used the TV rather than the laptop to watch Rev's sermons and run Youtube, (sometimes we've had technical difficulties). We have often got a little sidetracked with discussion but most of the time our services have gone for at least 40 minutes, the last 3 have probably gone for more than an hour.

I was concerned about how it would actually work, whether our children would take it seriously and whether it would meet our spiritual needs.

Sometimes it actually lead to other more general family discussions about other topics not related to church. It won't replace church itself or communion but it has made us aware of alternative ways to do things.

Amy's Comment:

During remote Church I have enjoyed getting up later and having a smaller service, but I have missed the organisation and the atmosphere of the usual church. *[Thanks to the Holland family for being willing to share]*

Easter Season Quiz VIII:

1. Does 'suffering' produce 'hope', or hope suffering? Or neither?
2. How many oranges can you juggle?
3. How long was the 'Sermon on the Mount'?
4. What is one biblical insight that has been 'new for you' as part of the Bible Reading challenge?
5. Where am I?
 - I am the home of Lazarus, Mary & Martha, and Simon the Leper.
 - I am approx 2.4kms South-east of Jerusalem.
 - I was the 'name' of Rev's previous residence before Warracknabeal.

[Answers next week]

Last week's answers - Quiz VII: 1). Joseph of Arimathea. 2). Two (or more). 3). Mary Magdalene. Matthew 28:9. 4). Three. 5. Water ['The Second Book of General Ignorance' © 2010. John Lloyd & John Mitchinson]



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond: +Garry; our Diocesan brothers and sisters; Anglicare Victoria & breakfast program in Ballarat; warmth for those on street; people of influence acting for the common good.

Community: Front-line health care workers; those feeling isolated; those facing serious dis-ease in body, mind and spirit; those dealing with grief; gratitude for a great start to the seeding season; all gardeners.

Years Mind: Ernest Jonasson, David Potter, Mick McMaster, Ernest Mansfield, Richard Forsyth, Loena Hansberry

Pentecost 2 youTube from Rev:

"The Kingdom of Heaven has come near" - https://youtu.be/PFAI_FuU5Ts

Bishop Garry's youTube messages:

Trinity – 'Promenade Your Partner'

https://youtu.be/csE_Q6BDs8s

During the COVID-19 restrictions - Rev will be in Christ Church every Sunday for prayer and praise at 9.30am. Please join him in solidarity at home if you are able – covering the parish in prayer and thought.

THE PROPERS

Sentence: We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand.

Collect: All-powerful God, in Jesus Christ you turned death into life, and defeat into victory: increase our faith and trust in him, that we may triumph over evil, in the strength of the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

A Simple Service – for Pentecost 2

Hymn: Father in Heaven

Father in heaven
grant to your children
mercy and blessing,
songs never ceasing,
love to unite us,
grace to redeem us –
Father in heaven,
Father our God.

Jesus, Redeemer,
may we remember
your gracious passion,
your resurrection.
Worship we bring you,
praise we shall sing you –
Jesus, Redeemer,
Jesus our Lord.

Spirit descending
whose is the blessing,
strength for the weary,
help for the needy;
make us your temple,
born a new people –
Spirit descending,
Spirit adored.

Daniel Thambyrajah Niles

Reflection:

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

In a moment of silence – offer these thoughts to God - ask the Holy Spirit to deepen your relationship with God 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: *(I suggest one or two – the others can become the basis for your devotions throughout the week)*

Videos: +Garry and/or Rev

Reflection:

- a) What words would you use instead of Paul's in Romans 5:3-5 to describe the difference that faith makes in our lives?
- b) What gift would you accept if Jesus sent you into the 'den of wolves' to bring healing and peace?

Prayer:

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

Blessing:

The peace of the earth be with you,
The peace of the heavens too;
The peace of the rivers be with you,
The peace of the oceans too.
Deep peace – flowing in you.
God's peace growing in you. Amen.

Song: Ubi Carita

Ubi caritas et amor,
Ubi caritas Deus ibi est.

[Where charity and love are, God is there.
Taizé]



TODAY'S READINGS

PENTECOST 2

First Reading : Genesis 18:1-15

A reading from the Book of Genesis

The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground. He said, 'If I have found favour in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way – now that you have come to your servant.' 'Very well,' they answered, 'do as you say.' So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. 'Quick,' he said, 'get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread.' Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree. 'Where is your wife Sarah?' they asked him. 'There, in the tent,' he said. Then one of them said, 'I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.' Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, 'After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this

pleasure?' Then the Lord said to Abraham, 'Why did Sarah laugh and say, "Will I really have a child, now that I am old?" Is anything too hard for the Lord ? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son.' Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, 'I did not laugh.' But he said, 'Yes, you did laugh.' This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: 116:1-2,11-18

Response: *I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.*

1. I love the Lord, because he heard my voice: the voice of my supplication; Because he inclined his ear to me: in the day that I called to him. **(R)**
2. How shall I repay the Lord: for all his benefits to me? I will take up the cup of salvation: and call upon the name of the Lord. **(R)**
3. I will pay my vows to the Lord: in the presence of all his people. Grievous in the sight of the Lord: is the death of his faithful ones. **(R)**
4. Lord, I am your servant, your servant and the child of your handmaid: you have unloosed my bonds. I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving: and call upon the name of the Lord. **(R)**
5. I will pay my vows to the Lord: in the presence of all his people, In the courts of the house of the Lord: even in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord. **(R)**

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

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, **Alleluia**

Your words, Lord are spirit and life,
you have the words of everlasting life.

Alleluia

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

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and illness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.' Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and illness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, proclaim this message: "The kingdom of heaven has come near." Heal those who are ill, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

God Demonstrates His Love

Word Search



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



Find the underlined bold print words in the puzzle.

“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:6-8 (NIV)

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