



# Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

## Pentecost 4

### 20 June 2021

**Church services will run as normal this Sunday!**

**9.30am - Christ Church**

**5.00pm - Parish Centre**

***We will need to adhere the 4m square rule and wear masks.***

**Greetings Everyone! I hope that I find you well.**

I am not a seafarer.

I have no secret psychological desire to be a seafarer.

No amount of extra cash would lure me onto a boat - to go anywhere, anytime.

However, I did end up on a boat on Lake Macquarie near Newcastle one holiday with L'Arche way back in the late 1990's - I think I may have told you this story - a simple 'mail run' on this 'small lake' which was very pleasant until the storm clouds appeared very quickly over the escarpment and proceeded to pass directly over this same small lake. The waters turned instantly turbulent. Even the skipper was a bit worried before we made it to shore in time to wait out the 20 minute 'storm'. No-one was harmed. No reputations were launched into doubt. There was no Jesus sleeping on a cushion in the boat. It made this week's Gospel very real and much more believable for me than ever before.

I can only imagine what it might have been like in the 'middle' of that small lake on this particular day I was there - and the real and tangible terror that the disciples must have felt on the Sea of Galilee - a seriously savage stretch of water from all accounts despite what the calm and beautiful pictures look like on the tourist postcards.



*The Sea of Galilee*

For people of faith in Jesus' time - the sea described in scripture came to symbolize the dark power of evil that threatened God's Creation, God's people and God's purpose for the world. In Mark's Gospel, unlike in the book of Jonah, Jesus is not thrown out of the boat to 'calm the waters' - but rather is the 'One Who exorcises' the threat of death and destruction and calms the sea with his WORD.

In and through Jesus - God's 'sovereign power' is being unleashed - the Kingdom is indeed at hand. Chaos is brought to order - see Genesis 1:1-3. The 'evil one' keen to destroy is confronted by 'the ONE' who comes to restore life - Mark 1:21-28; those excommunicated from their community because of disease - are restored to the centre of community life - Mark 1:40-45; those bound by physical disabilities and therefore de-valued by their own community - are released, rescued and offered true freedom - Mark 2:1-12.

We are living in a time of cultural trauma. This may be a little strong, however I feel as though COVID is posing a significant threat to community cohesion. The way we live and the things that we enjoy are posing a significant threat to the planet's wellbeing. Our consumerist society and the rhetoric of constant economical growth is posing a threat to a genuine contentment with 'enough'. It is my view that our society is messing with a consistent and coherent moral code divorced from responsibility and respect - despite the rhetoric for the opposite. I think there is genuine confusion and anxiety within the fabric of our daily life - chaos or crisis? Maybe it is all purely subjective.

Who is going to 'calm the storm'?

As representatives of Jesus - God's people here and now - what part can we play in bringing peace and trust and opportunity to confront 'the reality of evil' - in thought, word and deed to those around us in need of reassurance, comfort and empathy?

As we share this 'boat of life' with those around us I encourage each of us to proclaim - "*Be quiet! In Jesus' name.*" - whether aloud or under our breath. It's not weird. It's not blasphemous. It's what our faith requires. Or will Jesus ask us the same question he asked the disciples - "*Do you still have no faith?*"

Take courage.

With every blessing, Rev James

# SHINE

**Sunday – 6.00-8.00pm**

**A space for young people –  
high school age!**

**Faith or no faith or other  
faith!**

**Games. Food. Fellowship.**



## **Prayer in the Parish**

### **In the Parish & Beyond:**

- +Garry; Diocesan friends & families;
- For the rain that we asked for;
- Fr Charles Helms; Margaret Thompson; Margaret Dart; Peter & Dianne;
- Our Parish Councillors & Parish Council meeting on Tuesday night;
- Project Regenerate; Zmorph Project Preparations – “Storming the Castle”

### **Community:**

- For our neighbours;
- For our educational institutions and a good end to term 2;
- For all those feeling excited; energetic; inspired; hopeful; grateful;
- All COVID consequences;

**Years Mind:** Loena Hansberry, Jean Manning, Patsy Dempsey

## **Parish Council Meeting**

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at the Rectory.

7.00pm refreshments

7.30pm meeting

Join us for some or all.

Please pray for us as we pray for you.

## **Service Times June/July**

### **Pentecost 4 – 20 June**

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

**2.00 at Dunmunkle Lodge - Cancelled**

6.00pm SHINE

### **Pentecost 5 – 27 June**

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

8.30-12.30pm Coffee Van

### **Pentecost 6 – 04 July**

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

11.00 – Areegra

### **Pentecost 7 – 11 July**

10.30am Warracknabeal

*ONE SERVICE ONLY*

### **Pentecost 8 – 18 July**

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

2.00pm Dunmunkle Lodge, Minyip

6.00pm SHINE



**496.34 kms  
to go!**

**Pledged & Donated  
\$18,914.49**

Despite the lifting of restrictions and the constant worry of plans changing again, and again, and again ... it is still important for each of us to do a bit of wellbeing audit to make sure that we are able to cope with COVID consequences 'big' and 'small' –  
and check out your neighbour that they are okay too!

### A few hints to look after yourself:

#### Keep things in perspective

Government Health directives are for the benefit of the common good.

#### Take care of your body

Try to eat well, sleep soundly and exercise.

If you become unwell – take time to rest and recover.

#### Check your screen time

Engage with media that helps you feel connected and positive.

#### Look after your head ... and your heart

Be kind to yourself. Try and do something you enjoy every day.

#### Reach out to others

Support and kindness go a long way.

Talk, listen and offer help when you can.

#### Use this time

Do some things you've always wanted to do.

No matter how small the task – savour a sense of accomplishment.

#### Ask for help

You are not alone!

#### National Coronavirus Helpline

Call this line if you are seeking information on Coronavirus or Vaccines.

The line operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Telephone: [1800 020 080](tel:1800020080)

# TODAY'S READINGS

## PENTECOST 4

First Reading: 1 Samuel 17:1a, 4-11, 19-23, 32-49

### ***A reading from the first book of Samuel***

Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Sokoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Sokoh and Azekah. A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span. He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armour of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield-bearer went ahead of him. Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, 'Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us.' Then the Philistine said, 'This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other.' On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified. They are with Saul and all the men of Israel in the Valley of Elah, fighting against the Philistines.' Early in the morning David left the flock in the care of a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. He reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions, shouting the war cry. Israel and the Philistines were drawing up their lines facing each other. David left his things with the keeper of supplies, ran to the battle lines and asked his brothers how they

were. As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it. David said to Saul, 'Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.' Saul replied, 'You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth.' But David said to Saul, 'Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.' Saul said to David, 'Go, and the Lord be with you.' Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armour on him and a bronze helmet on his head. David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. 'I cannot go in these,' he said to Saul, 'because I am not used to them.' So he took them off. Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine. Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield-bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. He said to David,

‘Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?’ And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ‘Come here,’ he said, ‘and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!’ David said to the Philistine, ‘You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord’s, and he will give all of you into our hands.’ As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly towards the battle line to meet him. Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground. This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God**

Psalm: 130

**Response: *Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord.***

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. My soul waits for the Lord more than sentinels wait for the dawn. **(R)**
4. For with the Lord is kindness and with him is plenteous redemption; And he will redeem Israel from all their iniquities. **(R)**

***A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians***

As God’s fellow workers we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain. For he says, ‘In the time of my favour I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.’ I tell you, now is the time of God’s favour, now is the day of salvation. We put no stumbling-block in anyone’s path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; through glory and dishonour, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything. We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. As a fair exchange – I speak as to my children – open wide your hearts also. This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**  
 A great prophet has risen in our midst.  
 God has visited his people.  
**Alleluia!**

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

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, 'Let us go over to the other side.' Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, 'Teacher, don't you care if we drown?' He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, 'Quiet! Be still!' Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, 'Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?' They were terrified and asked each other, 'Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!'

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

**THE PROPERS**

**Sentence:** Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?

**Collect:** O God our defender, storms rage about us and cause us to be afraid: rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us from all unbelief; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Rev's youTube message**

**Pentecost 4**

'Storms and Stillness'

<https://youtu.be/aDAOcW5pOIE>

Bishop Garry's 59<sup>th</sup> Instalment  
youTube message - Pentecost 3

"The Nest"

<https://youtu.be/yYqp9dL9JMI>

You can argue all day about whether one person not using straws or going vegan makes a global difference.

The point is the *mindset*.

We need to change our thinking from this idea that the earth is a bottomless pit of resources and start acting like what we do matters.

Changing the philosophy of cultures and societies starts with individuals changing their own hearts and minds. That's the importance of grassroots action.

It's not that my composting will empty landfills of food waste but my changed mind and heart may influence others.

And *that* could spread  
and change the world.

*Olga Evans*