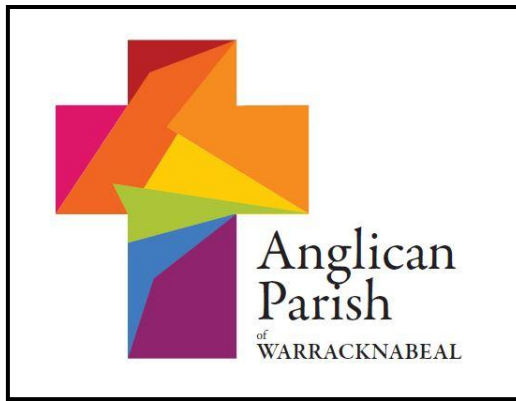




Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Project Regenerate: Explore. Rejoice. Give.

Pentecost 13

23 August 2026

Hello Everybody! I hope that you've had a good week!



Thank you for welcoming Ben so warmly last week. He seemed to enjoy his visit very much and I trust that you felt encouraged in what he had to say. TEARFUND is a great example of how we - as the people of God can be effective Christian witness to the healing and empowering mission of Jesus in the world.

I'm not very patriotic when it comes to our Australian Cricket Team (for reasons I won't explain here) who were well beaten in last week's test match against Bangladesh. It just goes to show that discipline and confidence can overcome what can only be described as one of the best cricket teams in the world (on paper) - but tenacity and belief are fantastic attributes to display when up against it all. I suggest that we can all try this in our daily lives - as we face whatever comes our way. It'll be interesting to see how the next test match unfolds.

Who do you say that the 'Son of Man is? It is an interesting question to pose should someone randomly ask you for your opinion or thoughts. I've often played with the '10 word game' in my mind when travelling or waiting for an appointment - can you explain your faith in 10 words that someone would understand if randomly asked in the street or at the checkout or waiting for the doctor. You may be surprised at how eloquent you can become when forced to subscribe to the 10 word (max) challenge. See how you go.

Every blessing, Rev James

Parish Annual General Meeting

Sunday 30th August at 11.45pm
(following the 10.30am service)
for a Soup & Sandwich Lunch.

Soup - will be provided.

Please bring sandwiches to share.

Reports are available!

Nomination forms are also available:

12 Parish Council positions

3 Synod positions (plus reserve)

Safe Church Officer

Get in touch with Rev James or Rev Fiona if you have an issue or clarification for the meeting.



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; for the 'Board of Electors' Committee as they prepare the process of electing our new Bishop (the prayer for a bishop will reappear next week);
- For our Parish AGM;
- For all who serve in our parish in a variety of ways – seen and unseen;
- For all who seek Justice, Mercy and right relationship with God;
- For all who are hungry, thirsty and seeking shelter around the globe;
- For the people of Japan, Colombia;
- For the Leaders of all Nations;
- For those of leadership and influence to act for the common good;
- For all facing natural disaster: flood, fire, earthquake, cyclone, famine;
- For our neighbours;
- For those in our Aged Care Facilities;
- For those we know whom are unwell;
- For our farmers and their families;
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- For all those we love, near and far away;

Years Mind: Lavinia SULLIVAN (1986), Peter SHANNON (1989), Martha LIERSCH (1988), Winifred SHALDERS (2011), Charles HARBERGER (2016), Ian PETRI (2025), Elsie PREUSS (1990), James MILL (1988), Edward WELCH (1988), Claude MOYSEY (2011), Elsie JOHNSON (2012)

“Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.”

Services - 2026

Pentecost 13 – 23 August

9.30am Warracknabeal / 5.00pm Café Church

Monday 24th August – Rev Fiona

At Café Peppercorn – 9.00-10.30am

Pentecost 14 – 30 August

10.30am Warracknabeal

11.45am AGM with simple lunch

Pentecost 15 – 06 September

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

11.00 House Church Areegra

Pentecost 16 – 13 September

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal - HC

Pentecost 17 – 20 September

9.30am Warracknabeal - HC

Pentecost 18 – 27 September

9.30am Warracknabeal – Morning Prayer

Pentecost 19 – 04 October

9.30am Warracknabeal - HC

Pentecost 20 – 11 October

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

11.00 House Church Areegra

Pentecost 21 – 18 October

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Pentecost 22 – 25 October

9.30am / 5.00pm Café Church Warracknabeal

A Prayer for a Bishop

+Garry retires on 03 Oct 2026

Eternal God, shepherd and guide, in your mercy give your Church in this diocese of Ballarat, a shepherd after your own heart who will walk in your ways, and with loving care watch over your people. Give us a leader of vision and a teacher of your truth. So may your Church be built up and your name glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

TODAY'S READINGS

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

First Reading: Exodus 1:8-2:10

A reading from the Book of Exodus

Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. 'Look,' he said to his people, 'the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country.' So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labour, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites and worked them ruthlessly. They made their lives bitter with harsh labour in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labour, the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly. The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, 'When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.' The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, 'Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?' The midwives answered Pharaoh, 'Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive.' So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own. Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: 'Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl

live.' Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the river-bank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. 'This is one of the Hebrew babies,' she said. Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?' 'Yes, go,' she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you.' So the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, 'I drew him out of the water.'

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm:

124

Response: *Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.*

1. I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with all my heart, for you have heard the words of my mouth; in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise; I will worship at your holy temple. **(R)**
2. I will give thanks to your name, because of your kindness and your truth: when I called, you answered me; you built up strength within me. **(R)**

3. The LORD is exalted, yet the lowly he sees, and the proud he knows from afar. Your kindness, O LORD, endures forever; forsake not the work of your hands. (R)

Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

Second Reading:

Romans 12:1-8

A reading from the letter to the Romans

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will. For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Sentence:

Martha said, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.

Alleluia!

Gospel:

Matthew 16:13-20

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' They replied, 'Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But what about you?' he asked. 'Who do you say I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPER

Collect: O God, fount of all wisdom, in the humble witness of the apostle Peter you have shown the foundation of our faith: give us the light of your Spirit, that, recognizing in Jesus of Nazareth the Son of the living God, we may be living stones for the building up of your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**