

Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Advent 2
10 December 2023

Sunday Services: 9.30am & 5.00pm - Warracknabeal



Hello Everyone.

I hope that you've had a good week!

"The beginning of the GOOD NEWS about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God..."

And so Mark's Gospel bursts onto the scene - a brand new genre and in the rough Greek style it was written could be read in approx. 45mins (so they tell me). In English - it takes about 1 ½ hours. I invite you some time in the next few weeks to sit either in one sitting or maybe over two - to read the full Gospel - and get a flavour of what is important to Mark.

You will notice that there is no 'Nativity' and no waffling on. In the first chapter - the announcement of the "good news" (*Evangelion means simply "good news." The Greek comes from aggelion which simply means "message or news." (Note that two gammas together in Greek are pronounced as "ng.")* The word in question has an "eu-" prefix which simple means "good." Thus, it is "good news."); then the Baptism of Jesus; temptation in the dessert; calling the first disciples; healings; more healings; preaching tour in Galilee; and, then another healing - of a leper.

Exhausted yet? Mark was the first Gospel written. Essentially, Mark's Gospel is a Resurrection story with a solid 'preamble' to set the scene for the awesome nature of God and the new way that God was appearing to the world - who was sent to save and heal and challenge the 'status quo' of the time.

Are you and I living a 'Resurrection Story'? Or is it a story of 'status quo' and mediocracy? No judgement implied! However, the Gospels challenge our perception of ourselves, our generosity, our prejudices, our 'areas for growth' (as compared to weaknesses), our shortcomings, our established idea of 'how things should be'.

Is there room for the 'stranger at the inn'? Is there room for strangers in our heart or our church? Maybe people won't visit us on a Sunday. Maybe we are all on our way to Bethlehem once again. Who will you offer hospitality to - or be gracious to receive hospitality from - whatever that may look like? **Blessings, Rev James**

Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; Parish Councillors;
- For the people of Ukraine;
- For the people of the Israel & Palestine;
- For those who hunger for food; for those who thirst for water;
- For those hunger for peace; for those who thirst for justice;
- For those who hunger for healing; for those who thirst for compassion;
- For those who hunger for companionship; for those who thirst for laughter;
- Pam Hewitt – her family & friends;
- For the Emergency Food Centre;
- For our respective Advent journey's and reflections; help us be 'aware' and 'awake.'

Years Mind: Annie Muller, Gavin Bibby, Ronald Hooper, Jean Cowan, Frank Hewitt, Bea Emmett

Services – Dec/Jan

Advent 2 – 10 December

9.30am & 5.00pm – Warracknabeal

12.00pm – Simple Lunch in PC

Advent 3 - 17 Dec

9.30am – Warracknabeal

Community Carols from 5.00pm at the Racecourse

Advent 4 – 24 December

10.30am – Areegra

Christmas Eve – 24 December

8.30pm - Refreshments

10.00pm – HC Warracknabeal

Christmas Day – 25 December

9.30am – HC Warracknabeal

New Years Eve – 31 December

10.30am Warracknabeal

Epiphany – 07 January 2024

9.30am – Warracknabeal

11.00am Areegra

Epiphany 2 – 14 January

9.30am – HC Warracknabeal

Epiphany 3 – 21 January

9.30am – MP Warracknabeal

Epiphany 4 – 28 January

9.30am – HC Warracknabeal

Donations of grain - of any quantity can be made using the Church's NGR number: **NGR 12439740**

A HUGE 'Thank you' to everyone who made a contribution to PRELUDE to Christmas last Sunday evening. Lots of positive feedback and good energy on the night.

The Ministers' Assoc donated \$1091.30 to RFDS Warrack Office. **BRILLIANT!**

Christian Emergency Food Centre

This is the last week to donate to the Christian Emergency Food Centre Hamper Appeal. Each hamper costs approximately \$30.00.

Place your financial contribution in an envelope clearly marked CEFC or Christian Emergency Food Centre in the offertory – and we'll forward to them.

Food items continue to be received as per normal. Thanks for your generosity.

TODAY'S READINGS

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading :

Isaiah 40:1-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord 's hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling: 'In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord ; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' A voice says, 'Cry out.' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' 'All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures for ever.' You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: he gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm:

85:9-14

Response: *Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.*

1. I will hear what God proclaims;
the LORD – for he proclaims peace to his people. Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land. **(R)**
2. Kindness and truth shall meet;
justice and peace shall kiss.
Truth shall spring out of the earth,
and justice shall look down from heaven. **(R)**
3. The LORD himself will give his benefits;
our land shall yield its increase.
Justice shall walk before him, and
prepare the way of his steps. **(R)**

Second Reading:

2 Peter 3:8-15a

A reading from the second letter of Peter

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: with the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. So then, dear friends, since you

are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom that God gave him.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, **Alleluia!**

Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight his paths: all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel:

Mark 1:1-8

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way' – 'a voice of one calling in the wilderness, "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the River Jordan. John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt round his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: 'After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

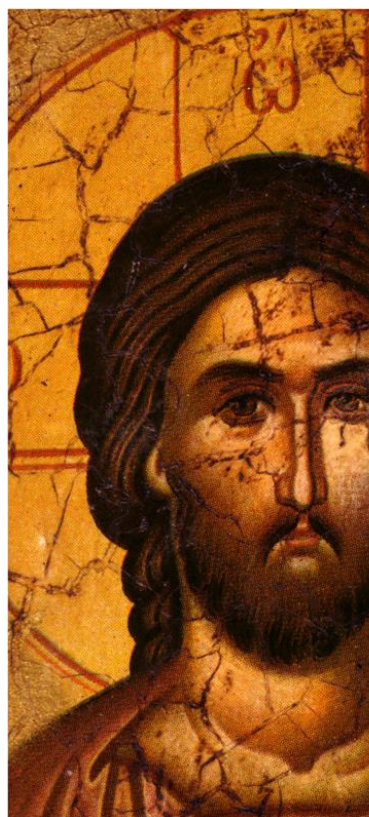
This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!

THE PROPERS

Sentence: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and the we may walk in his paths.

Collect: Faithful God, whose promises stand unshaken through all generations: renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our judge and saviour, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**



Where did I say that you should buy so much stuff to celebrate my birthday!?

www.buynothingchristmas.org

TEARFUND Useful Gift Shop

For the gift that gives twice.

Contact Rev directly or via TEARFUND website: usefulgifts.org

for your alternative Christmas presents that help less advantaged around the world. Heaps of gifts to choose from!

Christmas reflection from TEARFUND CEO – Matthew Maury:

[A 2023 Christmas Message from Tearfund CEO... | Tearfund Australia](#)