



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

LENT 1
01 March 2020

On - Entering 'the Desert'

The Presence and Absence of God - Alessandro Pronzato writes:

The desert is an arid, scorching, frightening place where everything portends death. But at the same time it is also a place of rest, gentleness and life.

In the desert you find friendliness and hostility, anguish and joy, sorrow and exultation, trial and triumph. The desert is the land of malediction and the land of benediction. The desert can be hard and merciless. You might die of thirst there, but if it rains you could be drowned. In the desert nature manifests itself in its extremes: prodigal fertility and cruel barrenness. We wait for years and do not get even a drop of rain. Then, without warning, the rain comes down in torrents; and, with frightening speed, the wadis fill up and overflow, sweeping everything before them. You might come upon an oasis where there is life and vegetation. And a little farther on you could find yourself on a desolate patch where you fear for your sanity.

The desert can be tomb and cradle, wasteland and garden, death and resurrection, hell and heaven.

Thus in the desert you will find that God is simultaneously present and absent, proximate and remote, visible and invisible, manifest and hidden. God can receive you with great tenderness and then abandon you on the cross of loneliness. God consoles you and torments you at the same time. God heals you only to wound you again. God may speak to you today and ignore you tomorrow.

The desert does not delude and least of all does the desert delude those who accept it in its two-sided reality of life and death, presence and absence. Nor will they be deceived by God who calls them to the desert.

God never abandons us.

[*"The Desert"* © 1997 John Moses. Canterbury Press: UK]

Join us for Coffee at "Peppercorn Cafe" tomorrow! 9.00am



Prayer in the Parish
Week beginning 01st March

Please pray and give thanks for:

Those in need: Those who are hungry, thirsty and seek refuge from war, violence, oppression and injustice.

Events: Mission Luncheon generosity; our respective Lenten pilgrimages – that we may be open to God's Holy Spirit; WORLD Day of Prayer (formerly Women's Day of Prayer) at Baptist Church on Friday.

In the Parish & Beyond: +Garry; members of Parish Council; young people and new gathering in parish centre; Project REGENERATE: Renew People. Revive Projects. Restore Place.

Community: All fathers, all men of wisdom and valour; our neighbours; our friends.

Years Mind: Raymond Mann, Jean Westerland, Donald McKenzie

Service Times & Events – March/April 2020

Sunday 1st March – Lent 1

HC 9.30am Warracknabeal

HC 11.30am Areegra

TUESDAY Holy Communion in LENT – 5.00pm

Please note change of time.

Simple meal in Rectory and gentle discussion on faith and daily life will follow.

Sunday 8th March – Lent 2

HC 9.30am Warracknabeal

11-12pm Visioning & Imagining

Sunday 15th March – Lent 3

HC 9.30am Warracknabeal

HC 11.30am Areegra

Sunday 22nd March – Lent 4

9.30am Warracknabeal Cafe Church in Parish Centre

2.00pm Dunmunkle Lodge, Minyip

Sunday 29th March – Lent 5

HC 10.30am Warracknabeal

Sunday 5th April – PALM Sunday

HC 9.30am Warracknabeal

HC 11.30am Areegra

Sunday 12th April – EASTER Sunday

HC 9.30am Warracknabeal

And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. *Micah 6:8*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED PLEASE

1. Wood Raffle - Fri 20 & Sat 21 March.

Please see [Sandra Taylor](#) if you can spare some time selling tickets at IGA.

2. Meals on Wheels – Monday 23rd Mar

Please see [Jill Martin](#) if you can assist on this day! I think from 11.30-12.00/12.30

ROSTERS AT CHRIST CHURCH

8TH MARCH 2020

E.A: A. Golder
Reader: J. Taylor
Intercessor: F. Holland
Stewards: P. Hewitt & J. Martin
Flowers: Lent – No Flowers
Morning Tea: P. Hewitt & Tickners

Project REGENERATE.

Renew PEOPLE. Revive PROJECTS. Restore PLACE.

Rev James Wood: P: 5398 1251 M: 0438 233 630 E: warrackanglican@gmail.com

Tuesday Nights in LENT

There is a Lenten tradition that faithful people will 'give up' something for Lent to remind them of their need of God. I have never done this - as I tend to think that the *human being* focuses more on the *missing thing* than God's true nature which is extravagant and abundant to all who open their heart to God.

Therefore, one of my Lenten disciplines is to *take up something extra* - whether it be big or small, and some of the homily reflections during Lent may lean to this preference.



World Day of Prayer

March 2020

Pray for Zimbabwe

Date: **Friday March 6th**



Location of local service: **Warracknabeal Baptist Church**

Time of local service: **2 pm. Friday March 6th**

Everyone is welcome to attend.

worlddayofprayeraustralia.org

You are invited to the Rectory on Tuesday nights during LENT at 5.45-7.15pm - following the 5.00pm Eucharist in the church. Oh yeh - I've also changed the time to 5.00pm on the request of a couple of people (and as a trial to see whether this time suits more people) - and anyway - all those who normally attend Tuesdays are okay with this and it can't help to try something different once in a while.

We will share a simple meal together - I'll prepare something, but I've never turned away food ... the point is - **YOU DON'T HAVE TO BRING ANYTHING!**

It is a chance to deepen our relationship with God over fellowship and gentle discussion regarding the things that daily life throws at us. A formal Lenten study - doesn't seem to meet people's needs in the parish (I hope I've got that right) - anyway you're welcome to come to all or one or something in-between.

First : Tuesday 3rd March - 5.45-7.15pm(max 7.30pm). Bring a friend (if you want) Then: 10th, 17th, 21st & 31st March.

"Challenging violence & injustice: Working for peace & reconciliation."

TODAY'S READINGS

LENT 1

First Reading : Genesis 2:15 – 3:1-7

A reading from the book of Genesis

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.'³ Now the snake was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God really say, "You must not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the snake, 'We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, "You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die."' 'You will not certainly die,' the snake said to the woman. 'For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realised that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: 32:1-2, 5, 11

Response: *I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation*

1. Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
Blessed is the man to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. **(R)**
2. I acknowledge my sin to thee, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord"; then thou didst forgive the guilt of my sin **(R)**
3. Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart! **(R)**

Second Reading:

Romans 5:12-21

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned – To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come. But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one

man's sin: the judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ! Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

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

One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God

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

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

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting for forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.' Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." ' Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the highest point of the temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, 'It is also written: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'All this I will give you,' he said, 'if you will bow down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away from me, Satan! For it is written: "Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

The Propers

Sentence: We do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Collect: O Lord, who for our sake fasted forty days and forty nights: give us grace to use such abstinence, that, our flesh being subdued to the spirit, we may ever obey your godly will in righteousness and true holiness; to your honour and glory, who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

GOOD FRIDAY 2020

'Turning our faces toward Jerusalem'

On Good Friday last year - some of us were privileged enough to hear 7 personal stories of faith from congregational members - on facing fear, confronting darkness, and seeing hope where there was despair and desolation.

I am going to do the same this year!



On Good Friday (10th April) - I am looking for seven volunteers (even reluctant ones) to share an aspect of their faith story with us. To help us reflect on the 'Seven Last Words of Jesus.' Seven REAL stories of faith and resilience and hope and confidence and conviction and salvation and transformation ... (and if you spoke last year you may like to choose a different word?).

I am looking for seven simple reflections of 'how God has changed your life' - because of what Jesus has done for you. This means that you might like to share a poem, a picture, an event ... with a brief explanation; it might be a piece of music that helped you get through a difficult time; it might be a reflection on a person of faith who has inspired you to 'take the path less travelled' ... the possibilities are endless.

The 'Seven Last Words of Jesus' are based on seven Scriptural passages of Jesus' crucifixion.

1. **Forgiving:** Luke 23:33-34
2. **Hoping:** Luke 23:39-43
3. **Belonging:** John 19:25-27
4. **Protesting:** Matthew 27:45-46
5. **Wanting:** John 19:28-29
6. **Achieving:** John 19:30
7. **Giving:** Luke 23:46

I would really like you to consider participating. (I will happily spend whatever time required to help you prepare your 'offering') I am looking forward to celebrating our faith in this way as we prepare for our Easter Season together.

With Every Blessing, Rev

Rev James Wood: P: 5398 1251 M: 0438 233 630 E: warrackanglican@gmail.com

The Temptation of Jesus

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. Matthew 4:1 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Matthew 4:1-11 (NLT).



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

WORD	WORSHIP	LORD	MOUNTAIN	BOW
TEMPTED	ANGELS	HUNGRY	STONES	SERVE
WORLD	KINGDOMS	BREAD	DESERT	SPLENDOR
DEVIL	FASTING	SATAN	TEMPLE	JESUS