

Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Sunday After Ascension

29 May 2022

**This Sunday: 10.30am - Christ Church - Holy Communion
ONE SERVICE ONLY**



Hello Everyone!

Another week in paradise!

I hope that you've had an opportunity to come alongside some good people this week - inspired by *God's Advocate (the Paraclete: 'para' - alongside & 'kalein' - to call (Greek) ie: the one who hears the call and comes alongside us - my paraphrase!)* or more commonly known as 'The Holy Spirit.' (from last week's Gospel)

Words said? Silence? Transforming actions of gentle (or not so gentle) love?

I feel as though I am one of the luckiest men on the earth. To be able legitimately to wander around the 'countryside' coming alongside young and old - some who have chosen and others who have been sent. I have a few stories to tell this week ...

I feel especially privileged to sometimes be at the intersection of human vulnerability and strength - unplanned and unscripted moments - where it shows in subtle signs of emotion on a person's face or in their body language. We are incredible beings - as we negotiate with courage our way through the complexities of life ... never a dull moment eh! What do we do with all this 'stuff' and experience?

In true human fashion I want to 'hold on' to these moments - not quite like a trophy, but something similar where I can justify my existence and actions depending on what's happening around me. The puritan in the face of religious practise would encourage a man (or a woman if you are one) - to "Let Go!" and not hold on to such moments. Easier said than done.

It depends on the 'hold' I think. Fingers clenched around it for fear of 'the moment/experience' escaping: OR, an open palm - in a manner of offering or receiving, such that we can dwell with our 'moment' or 'experience' for a time before it can journey onward. Hmmm ... thanks God! *Every blessing, Rev James*



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry;
- For all the people of Ukraine;
- For the people of Middle East;
- For the people of Syria, Yemen, Liberia;
- For people seeking asylum;
- For seasonal weather; safety on our farms; for livestock;
- For genuine peace – in our hearts, in our homes, around the world;
- For all who are hungry for food, thirsty for water, seeking shelter;
- For all experiencing anxiety and depression;
- For all suffering COVID & Flu;
- For Max; Margaret Thompson;
- For Christian Emergency Food Centre;
- For those in hospital; those receiving home care and assistance;
- For all grieving loved ones;

Years Mind: Lucy Couzner, Timothy Sallman, Betty Allen, William Thompson, Daphne Thompson, Edna Crocker, Lorna Bartlett

Wood Raffle

Next Wood Raffle - 3&4 June.

If you can help out - please contact Sandra Taylor immediately.

Mission!

Start small!! Start here! Start now!

Services – May/June

Ascension – 29 May

10.30am Warracknabeal

One Service only

PENTECOST – 05 June

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

11.00am St Mark's Areegra

6.00pm SHINE Youth Group

Trinity – 12 June

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Pentecost 2 – 19 June

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

6.00pm SHINE Youth Group

Pentecost 3 – 26 June

9.30am Warracknabeal

5.00pm – Cafe Church

Parish AGM – 31 July -11.30am

Join us for a Parish AGM & Soup and sandwich Lunch on Sunday 31st July following the 10.30am Service.

ALL Parish reports due = 26 June

AGM Reports = distributed to parish members on 10 July (*I hope*)

Nominations for Parish Council will be sought soon. Please think about who you would like to nominate.

Corrections:

Rev's Admin Ass - has made a few mistakes in the pew sheet recently: especially dates for wood raffle and some other details ...

Wood Raffle: Fri & Sat 3&4 June

The 'Admin Ass' is 'enduring' a stint on a bed of nails.

For your amusement:

An Irish Ghost Story

This story happened a while ago in Dublin, and even though it sounds like an Alfred Hitchcock tale, it's true.

John Bradford, a Dublin University student, was on the side of the road hitch-hiking on a very dark night and in the midst of a big storm. The storm was so strong he could hardly see a few feet ahead of him.

Suddenly he saw a car slowly coming towards him and then stop.

John, desperate for shelter and without thinking about it, got in the car and closed the door ... only to realise there was nobody behind the wheel and the engine wasn't on.

Then the car started moving slowly ... John looked at the road ahead and saw a curve approaching.

Terrified, he started to pray, begging for his life. Then, just before the car hit the curve, a hand appeared out of nowhere through the window, and turned the wheel, away from the curve. John, paralysed with terror, watched the hand come through the window, guiding him to safety.

Shortly, thereafter, John saw the lights of a pub appear down the road, so, gathering strength, he jumped out of the moving car and ran to it.

Wet and out of breath, he rushed inside and started telling everybody about the horrible experience he had just had.

A silence enveloped the pub when everybody realised he was crying ... and he wasn't drunk.

Suddenly, the door opened and two other people walked in from the dark and stormy night. They, like John, were also soaked and out of breath. Looking around, and seeing John Bradford sobbing at the bar, one said to the other ...

"Look Paddy ... there's the idiot that got in the car whilst we were pushing it!"

(Thanks to Bev)

Fun Facts

Over \$1,400

= raised at recent Parish Luncheon

\$558

= donated by Rotary Club from proceeds at Curry Night on Weds

6.6mm

= rain that fell on Wednesday night

0

= people hurt in GLAD Program this week

10

= people at Parish Council meeting on Tuesday night

115

= weeks since COVID first closed the doors of our church for a time.

52%

= People of this church want to give attention to "building a sense of community" (NCLS 2021)

52%

= People of this church attend church weekly or more (NCLS 2021)

100%

= People agree that all ages are encouraged to get involved in this local church (NCLS 2021)

41%

= number of attendees said that they had experienced much growth in faith in the previous 12 months (NCLS 2021)

90%

= attendees agree their faith influences decisions and actions in daily life (NCLS 2021)

TODAY'S READINGS

SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION

First Reading:

Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Then they gathered round him and asked him, 'Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.'

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm:

110

Response: You are a priest forever in the line of Melchizedek

1. The Lord said to my lord:
'Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.' **(R)**
2. The Lord commits to you the sceptre of your power:
reign from Zion in the midst of your enemies. **(R)**
3. Noble are you, from the day of your birth upon the holy hill:
radiant are you, even from the womb, in the morning dew of your youth. **(R)**
4. The Lord has sworn and will not turn back: 'You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.' **(R)**
5. The king shall stand at your right hand, O Lord: and shatter kings in the day of his wrath. **(R)**
6. Glorious in majesty, he shall judge among the nations: and shatter heads over a wide land. **(R)**
7. He shall slake his thirst from the brook beside the way: therefore shall he lift up his head. **(R)**

Second Reading:

Ephesians 1:15-23

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and

revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, **Alleluia!**

Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. **Alleluia!**

Gospel:

Luke 24:44-53

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

He said to them, 'This is what I told you while I was still with you: everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.' Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, 'This is what is written: the Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.' When he had led them out to the vicinity of

Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

This is the gospel of the Lord

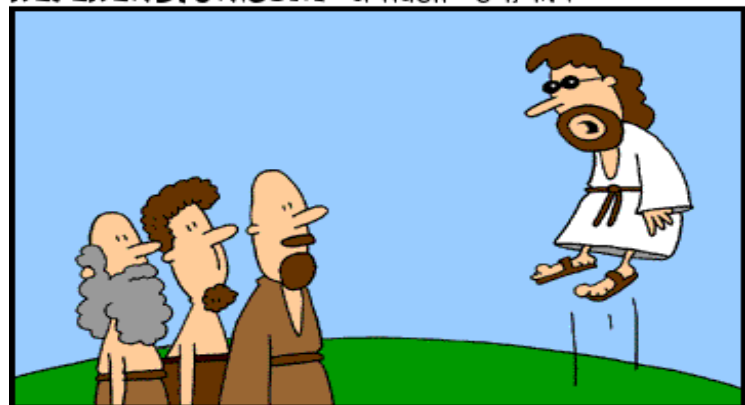
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

The Propers

Sentence: Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.

Collect: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that as we believe your only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to have ascended into the heavens, so we may also in heart and mind thither ascend, and with him continually dwell; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

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Thanks to Kent Kocher (See Acts 1:10-11)

I'LL BE BACK

04-06-1999

Violence Begins with the Personal - Fr Richard Rohr

The basic I-You can be spoken only with one's whole being. . . . I require a You to become; becoming I, I say You. All actual life is encounter.

[Martin Buber, *I and Thou*]

Theologian Pamela Cooper-White has thought deeply about gender and sexual violence, and believes that at its heart, violence is a failure to see the other person as a person.

Violence against women is connected to all other forms of violence, just as all living beings are, in reality and in spite of our forgetfulness or callous indifference, interconnected. We are confronted daily with the many forms of violence in our world. We often end up feeling that our powers are fragmented, as one worthy cause after another is lifted up. . . . What is needed is a way for understanding how, from a personal and holistic perspective, all violence is one.

All violence begins with the personal, with the I, and with a point of decision, a crossing of a line, where each of us chooses momentarily to view another living being as an It rather than a Thou. The ultimate purpose of each act of violence, each reduction of another person from a Thou to an It, is to control the other. . . . Our choices matter, even on what seems like a small scale. They have resonance in the universe. When we truly see another person or living being as a Thou, we cannot dominate or control them. We then must enter into a different kind of covenant, where power is shared. This is the "universal reciprocity" that Buber recognized as mysterious, connected with the divine. . . .

The I-Thou relationship is not simply an attitude of love toward others—although it is that—but also actions of making connections and actively working for justice. . . . The gospel message that is the great ethic of our faith is that we do reach out across borders and across cultures, both within the United States and abroad, and we honor (sic) the millions of Thous of every race and creed whom we recognize as our brothers and sisters throughout our neighborhoods (sic) and throughout the world. [1]

For Father Richard, Jesus becomes a person so that we, too, can receive and pass on the divine gaze of love:

The intimacy of what Martin Buber called an "I-Thou" relationship is a deep and loving "yes" to God, to others, and to the life that is inherent within each of us. When the face of the other (especially the suffering face) is received and empathized with, it leads to transformation of our whole being. It creates a moral demand on our heart that is far more compelling than laws. Just giving people commandments doesn't change the heart. It may steel the will, but it doesn't soften the heart like an I-Thou encounter can. Many of the Christian mystics talk about seeing the divine face or falling in love with the face of Jesus. Love is the gaze that does us in! [2]

Notes:

[1] Pamela Cooper-White, *The Cry of Tamar: Violence against Women and the Church's Response*, 2nd ed. (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2012), 42-43, 45.

[2] Adapted from Richard Rohr, *Franciscan Mysticism: I AM That Which I Am Seeking* (Albuquerque, NM: Center for Action and Contemplation, 2012). Available as [CD](#) and [MP3 download](#).

Jesus Prays for All Believers



THAT ALL
MAY BE
ONE

"May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." John 17:23 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 17:20-23 (NIV).

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

know	glory	all	message	them
alone	complete	believe	sent	unity
loved	prayer	one	also	world