

Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Advent 3

17 December 2023

Sunday Services: 9.30am - Warracknabeal



Hello Everyone.

I hope that you've had a good week!

"The beginning of the GOOD NEWS about what Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God has done in our lives..."

I would be interested in knowing what you would say.

I wonder if there would be a common theme? Or a specific time in our lives? Or particular circumstances that 'triggered' our belief - our trust in the One who was sent to Us and became Incarnate among us ... who took on flesh - AMAZING!

Do you know that Christianity is the ONLY religion that proclaims such a fact - that God took on flesh and *stooped* in beside us. This reality always blows me away, and I take it for granted more times than I would care to remember (if I'm honest). That the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; the God who flung stars into space; the God who unbound the 'strong man' (Gospel of Mark); the God who 'stilled the storms' and made the blind see and lame walk and lepers clean ... is the same God who wants to walk with us to Bethlehem this Christmas Season. Talk with us along 'the road' - about whatever you want to talk to God about.

Actually - seriously amazing. Life changing.

Sometimes people ask me - well if God made the Universe and everything in it - did God create evil? 'Darkness' is named because of the absence of LIGHT. 'Cold' is named to describe the absence of heat. Evil is the result of what happens when human beings do not have God's love present in their heart.

I would like to encourage the thought that our respective pilgrimages to Bethlehem this year is simply finding ways to ensure that the 'Presence of God' remains present in our lives and for those around us. This does not mean that it will necessarily be easy ALL the time. There are difficult things we must deal with. There are moments of honesty that may not always be easy to express or receive. But a heart of love will produce joy - God's joy and Presence. **Blessings, Rev James**

Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; Christmas preparations;
- 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 displaced from homes and homelands;
- For those hunger for peace; for those who thirst for justice;
- For those trafficked across a border for sex trade, cocoa picking or other exploitative pursuit;
- For those who hunger for healing; for those who thirst for compassion;
- For refugees and those seeking asylum;
- For those who hunger for companionship; for those who thirst for laughter;
- For all those known to us dealing with violence, difficult family members, disturbing neighbours; for the person in the mirror;
- Pam Hewitt – for her family & friends;
- For the Emergency Food Centre;
- For our respective Advent journey's and reflections; help us be 'aware' and 'awake,' and generous;
- For all those less fortunate than ourselves;

Years Mind: Kenneth Dempsey, Pearl Bibby

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

Community Christmas Festival at the Racecourse this Sunday night 17 December From 5.00pm / \$2 per person : music, food and more!

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

Services – Dec/Jan

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

5.00pm Café Church

Christian Emergency Food Centre - Hampers

Thank you to everyone who contributed **\$640.00** to the CEFC Hamper Appeal.

WOW – brilliant!

Food items continue to be received as per normal.

Thanks for your generosity.

TODAY'S READINGS

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading :

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion – to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendour. They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations. 'For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the Lord has blessed.' I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the soil makes the young plant come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm:

Song of Mary

Response: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, who has looked with favour on his lowly servant: From this day all generations will call me blessed. **(R)**

The Almighty has done great things for me: and holy is his Name.

God has mercy on those who fear him: from generation to generation. **(R)**

The Lord has shown strength with his arm: And scattered the proud in their conceit, casting down the mighty from their thrones: And lifting up the lowly. **(R)**

God has filled the hungry with good things: And sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel to remember the promise of mercy, The promise made to our forebears: To Abraham and his children forever. **(R)**

Second Reading:

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you

in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil. May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it. Brothers and sisters, pray for us. Greet all God's people with a holy kiss. I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers and sisters. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, **Alleluia!**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. **Alleluia!**

Gospel:

John 1:6-8, 19-28

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, 'I am not the Messiah.' They asked him, 'Then who are you? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Finally they said, 'Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, 'I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, "Make straight the way for the Lord."'

Now the Pharisees who had been sent questioned him, 'Why then do you baptise if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?' 'I baptise with water,' John replied, 'but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.' This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

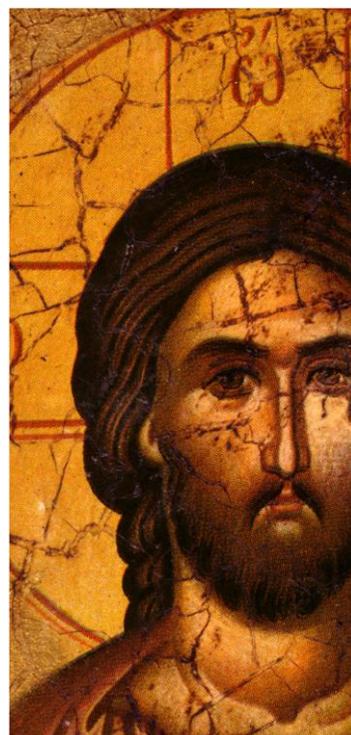
This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!

THE PROPERS

Sentence: Bind up the broken-hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, the day of vengeance of our God.

Collect: Eternal God, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of your Son: grant us wisdom to see your purpose and openness to hear your will, that we too may prepare the way for Christ who is coming in power and glory to establish his rule of peace of justice; through Jesus Christ our Judge and our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and 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