

# Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

**Pentecost 24**  
**12 November 2023**

**Sunday Services: 9.30am & 5.00pm - Warracknabeal**  
**12.00am Lunch in Parish Centre (see notice)**



Sometimes you've gotta dance  
through the darkness  
Sing through the fire,  
praise when it don't make sense  
Sometimes you've gotta stare down  
the giant  
Worship from the lion's den  
Sometimes you've gotta shout it from  
the mountain  
Louder in the valley, trusting that  
He's gonna get you there  
Sometimes you've gotta welcome  
the wonder  
Wait for the answer, worship with  
your hands in the air  
I'll praise You anywhere  
Praise, give Him praise,  
give Him praise in the highest  
Praise, give Him praise,  
give Him praise in the highest  
He is worthy, yes,  
He is worthy of all of the praise  
Sometimes you've gotta praise in the  
prison  
Cry out to heaven,  
shout it 'til the doors swing wide  
Sometimes you've gotta stand on  
our shackles  
Brave in the battle,  
worship with your hands held high  
I'll praise You anywhere

**Hello Everyone.**

**I hope that you've had a good week!**

So much to say. In no particular order of importance a few thoughts for your consideration.

**Israel/Palestine:** I include in this pew sheet a 'blog' by my first Bishop, George Browning. George is Former President of Australia Palestine Advocacy Network - APAN, (and now Patron), and is also the Patron of Palestinian Christians in Australia. I find his writing sobering and thought provoking and I include them in the pew sheet to provide an opportunity for your own prayer and reflection - whether you agree with his view or not. I have included his writings with his permission. The current President of APAN I believe will be on Q&A on Monday night.

**Healing Service in Parish:** As I mentioned in the services last Sunday, I would like to provide an opportunity for parishioners to experience a 'Healing Service'.

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He is worthy of all of the  
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give Him praise in the highest  
He is worthy, yes,  
He is worthy of all of the praise

Faithful all my life,  
blessings day and night  
Countless reasons why  
I'll praise You anywhere  
Every promise kept,  
goodness every step  
Each and every breath,  
I'll praise You anywhere  
Faithful all my life,  
blessings day and night  
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He is worthy, yes,  
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Oh, I'll praise you anywhere  
Oh, mountain or valley,  
I know that You're with me there  
I'll praise You anywhere

[*"Praise You Anywhere"* Brandon Lake  
[Brandon Lake - Praise You Anywhere \(Official  
Lyric Video\) - YouTube](#)]

I've actually never run one myself, so I am personally intrigued by what may come from this endeavour.

There are a couple of points to make. I do not assume the title of 'healer' because of any particular 'gifting' (*I think the term is*) but rather to put in practise our call as Christians to be agents of change, consolation and transformation (*which you know I keep banging on about*).

There is NO MAGIC - in a healing service. GOD IS the HEALER through the power of God's Holy Spirit. All that is required is an openness to how God can bring a 'return to wholeness' to our sometimes wounded and/or broken mind, body and heart.

It will be a simple service - a time for song, a few words, and an opportunity for anointing. The wonderful thing is that God knows what we need, and if we take away all the distractions - amazing things can happen if we take that step of trust and receive God's unconditional love for us.

**Healing Service: 05 December 5.00pm.**

**Lunch on Sundays:** For a number of years now there has been a small group who have met for lunch every Sunday in a suitable establishment in town. For whatever reason - it is a time of good fellowship and opportunity to get to know people a bit better. With the closing of the Royal - lunches have become much more expensive in recent times which may inhibit some participants.

So, the plan is to offer lunch in the Parish Centre on a regular basis (*not every week*). It will be a simple meal ... and we

Will try and 'mix it up a little': for instance, it might be 'bring a sandwich', a sausage sizzle, or other ideas are welcome that don't burden anyone in particular.

**This Sunday: 12.00pm Soup and bread. Please bring a dish or a slice to share!**

**Prelude to Christmas:** It is the Anglican Church's turn to host Prelude to Christmas this year. It will take place on Sunday 03<sup>rd</sup> December at Lutheran Church at 6.00pm. We will need to provide some supper dishes and slices for the evening. So if you are willing and able please; a) think about coming to the event; b) making a plate for afters; and, c) Someone may have a secret psychological desire to read a passage of Scripture on the parish's behalf on the evening?

**TEARFUND Useful Gift Shop:** As has become my custom, I will be offering the Useful Gift Shop for Christmas Season once again. We are very fortunate and I feel this is one way to help share the resources for the good and benefit of others.

**You may ask - Why TEARFUND?** I support TEARFUND Australia, because they do not fund their own projects around the world where there is need. TEARFUND supports local people through training and education, and empowers communities to implement programs that directly have an impact. This means that TEARFUND does not have infrastructure or vehicles or staff that they have to support overseas - and for me, that means you get maximum 'bang for your buck'.

**Every Blessing for the week ahead.** *Rev James*

### **Prayer in the Parish**

#### **In the Parish & Beyond:**

- +Garry; South Coast Deanery;
- For the people of Ukraine;
- For the people of the Israel & Palestine;
- For those who hunger for food and thirst for water; for those seeking shelter;
- For those known to us in need of healing and a return to wholeness;
- Our friends and families – near and far;
- For the Emergency Food Centre;
- For genuine world peace; for the leaders of ALL Nations to act for common good;

**Years Mind:** Heather Schilling, Cathie Holland, Jack Willsher, Hazel Liersch, Hazel McDonald

### **Services – Nov/Dec**

#### **Pentecost 24 – 12 November**

9.30am & 5.00pm – Warracknabeal  
12.00pm lunch in Parish Centre

#### **Pentecost 25 – 19 November**

9.30am & 5.00pm – Warracknabeal

#### **Christ the King – 26 November**

9.30am Eucharist – Warracknabeal  
5.00pm Café Church - Warracknabeal

#### **Advent 1 – 03 December**

9.30am – Warracknabeal  
11.00am - St Mark's Areegra  
6.00pm - PRELUDE to Christmas

#### **Advent 2 – 10 December**

9.30am & 5.00pm – Warracknabeal

#### **Advent 3 – 17 December**

9.30am – Warracknabeal

# TODAY'S READINGS

## TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

First Reading : Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

### ***A reading from the book of Joshua***

Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Joshua said to all the people, 'This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: "Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the River Euphrates and worshipped other gods. But I took your father Abraham from the land beyond the Euphrates and led him throughout Canaan and gave him many descendants. I gave him Isaac, 'Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshipped beyond the River Euphrates and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.' Then the people answered, 'Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve other gods! It was the Lord our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we travelled. And the Lord drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the Lord, because he is our God.' Joshua said to the people, 'You are not able to serve the Lord. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion

and your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you.' But the people said to Joshua, 'No! We will serve the Lord.' Then Joshua said, 'You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the Lord.' 'Yes, we are witnesses,' they replied. 'Now then,' said Joshua, 'throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.' And the people said to Joshua, 'We will serve the Lord our God and obey him.' On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people, and there at Shechem he reaffirmed for them decrees and laws.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Psalm: 78:1-7

**Response: *My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.***

1. God, you are my God whom I seek; for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water. **(R)**
2. Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary to see your power and your glory, For your kindness is a greater good than life; my lips shall glorify you. **(R)**
3. Thus will I bless you while I live; lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name. As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied, and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you. **(R)**
4. I will remember you upon my couch, and through the night-watches I will meditate on you: You are my help, and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy. **(R)**



**A reading from the first letter to the Thessalonians**

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

Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. And in fact, you do love all of God’s family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more, and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: you should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody. Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

‘At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. ‘At midnight the cry rang out: “Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!” ‘Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, “Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.” “No,” they replied, “there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.” ‘But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. ‘Later the others also came. “Lord, Lord,” they said, “open the door for us!” ‘But he replied, “Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.” ‘Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

This is the word of the Lord

This is the gospel of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!**

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**THE PROPERS**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Sentence:** Watch and be ready, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

Be watchful and ready: you know not when the Son of Man is coming.

**Collect:** Blessed Lord, you have caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that, by patience and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Alleluia!**

**Amen.**

31 October 2023

### Netanyahu invokes Genocide.

*Prime Ministers Howard, Rudd, Gillard, Abbott, Turnbull, and Morrison have signed a statement drafted for them by the Zionist Federation of Australia in support of Israel. In doing so, were they aware that on Sunday, in launching the ground offensive into Gaza, Netanyahu invoked a genocidal precedent for his war on Gaza?*

In describing this stage of Israel's war, a "holy mission" he said: "You must remember what Amalek has done to you, says our Holy Bible". His words reference a text which goes on to read: **"Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass," (1 Samuel 15:3).**

This statement frighteningly tells you all you need to know about the mindset and intention of Israel's vengeful Prime Minister, and of the future that lies ahead for all Palestinians in the lands of their birth. What on earth possessed these six former prime ministers to lend support in terms drafted by the Zionist Federation of Australia. This is the political and nationalistic advocacy group that seeks possession of all these ancient lands. It is tragically consistent with their stated goals, not religiously, but politically and nationalistically driven. It is amongst the most aggressive and war like of all Hebrew sacred texts. They would do well to dwell on the writings of their ancient prophets who, in consistently condemning the words and actions of ancient Israel's political leaders, call for peace, justice, and mercy; but no, these modern-day political power players seek justification in historical behaviours that their prophets condemn.

A little more about the Amalekites. According to Hebrew scripture

and genealogy, they are descendants of Esau, the elder son of Isaac who had his birthright stolen by the younger, Jacob. So, they are genealogically related to Hebrews, to use contemporary language, they were Semites, like their Hebrew cousins. The similarities with today are obvious. Palestinians are also Semites. Language used by members of the Knesset who have referred to Palestinians as animals, dogs, less than human, is on the extreme end of 'antisemitism'. Palestinians suffer cruelly from 'antisemitic' language uttered by Israeli leadership, which in turn encourages violence against them by the wider Israeli population. Most particularly this violence emanates from Israeli zealots who occupy the illegal settlements on the West Bank. Many Palestinians on the West Bank have lost their lives since October 7. Let there be consistency in the West's condemnation of real antisemitism, not use it as a weapon to protect racist Israeli action from criticism.

There is another similarity. Amalekites appear not to have been a settled people such as the Edomites or even Canaanites, but nomads who grazed across lands, giving the impression the lands were not occupied. Although skirmishes with the Amalekites apparently occurred in the Negeb under Moses' leadership prior to the occupation of Canaan, major confrontation occurred following Israel's settlement. The catalyst would almost certainly have been loss of their grazing lands. You see the picture, in similar vein, Palestinian lands were never 'unoccupied' as the Israeli narrative claims; they were home to a living, thriving culture and people.

Amongst all Semitic peoples there is a strong sense of clean and unclean, what is permitted or not permitted. We understand these ideas through the words Kosher and Halal. In biblical Hebrew what is kosher, or clean, must be protected from what is unclean or foreign. Something unclean soils what is clean. What is unclean is not redeemed by what is clean. In the confrontation between Saul and the Amalekites, the Amalekites are declared 'haram' and must be destroyed, not simply as pay back for past incursions, but because their very presence is a threat. Saul is commanded to destroy them completely. On his return, he

is asked by Samuel if he has completed the task. He claimed he has. Samuel asks: "what then is the bleating of sheep I hear in my ears?" In other words, the spoils Saul brought back, have the capacity to despoil the Hebrew kingdom. The text suggests this oversight, in not completing the full extent of genocide, was the reason he lost the kingship.

Netanyahu has invoked this narrative to justify his 'mission'. But he is not alone in claiming authority from this and similar narratives. The settlers who in their hundreds of thousands illegally occupy Palestinian territories treat this 'historical' narrative as the foundation for their actions. The new speaker of the US congress, a right-wing evangelical, Christian gives unconditional support for Israel because he sees in this narrative the working of God. Does one group's sacred text override international law, and international compacts of acceptable behaviour? Does Israel have the right to occupy land, drive out those who have lived there for generations, keep 2.2 million Gazans in an open prison, many in view of the land and homes they used to occupy, and refuse to give Palestinians the same rights as other citizens, because of a 3000-year-old narrative?

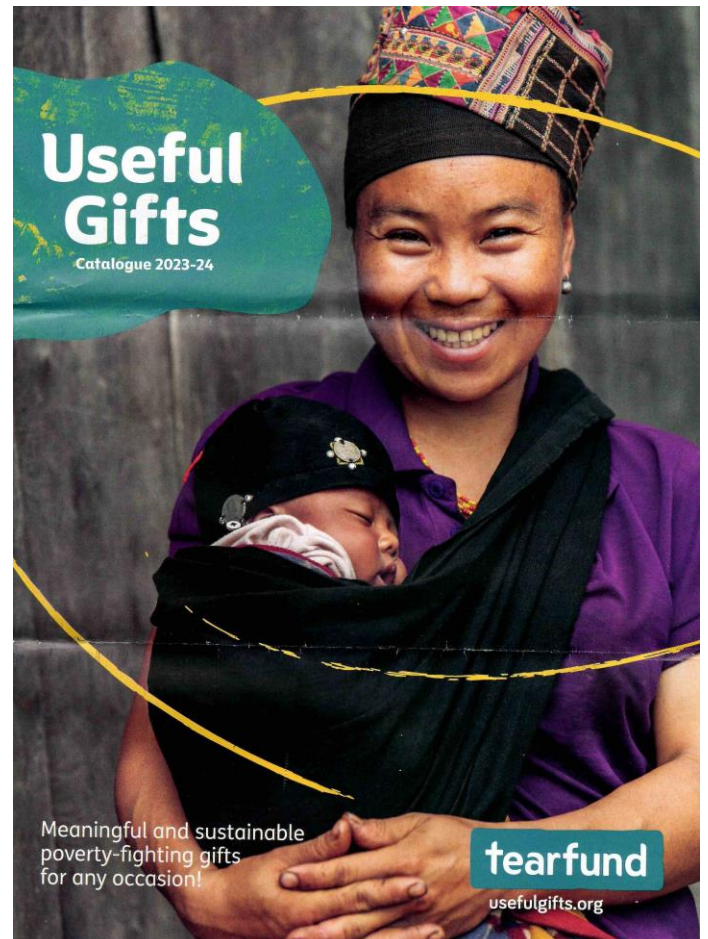
Christians also need to answer an equally important question. Do we believe 'biblical' text in its minutiae wields such power and authority, because it is biblical text, that it overrides contemporary understandings of truth and moral judgement.

Modern day Israel is not a continuation of the northern nation state of the same name that disappeared and was absorbed into the Assyrian Empire in 720 BC. Nor is it a continuation of the southern State called Judah which disappeared in 586 BC absorbed into the Babylonian Empire. On the other hand, it is true that Jewish people have cultural, religious, and ancestral ties, along with many other peoples, with this land for 3000 years.

Modern Day Israel was not created by fiat of the Divine. It was created through an act of partition by the United Nations in 1948. This partition was infamously preceded by the Balfour Declaration of 1917. That Palestinians were not jumping for joy in being told from afar they were about to lose 50% of their ancestral lands, is not surprising. In fact, they have lost 78%. Apparently, Israel considers 78% to be insufficient.

You six prime ministers who have signed a statement prepared for you by those who demand not 78% but 100%, will you issue another statement which clearly articulates the state of play which you believe should exist post the 'war', setting out your moral and legal arguments to support what you think should be the 'new normal'?

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[Blog \(georgebrowning.com.au\)](https://www.georgebrowning.com.au)



## TEARFUND Useful Gift Shop - **Christmas Season 2023**

Rev James will once again be running the Useful Gifts Shop this Christmas Season. In doing so, on behalf of the parish, we will be helping to bring hope, healing and new opportunities to people in some of the world's most vulnerable communities.

**Useful Gifts bring good news.** By creating new opportunities for health, education, safe water, food and stronger communities, every Useful Gift purchased helps to spread hope to a world in need.

You are able to purchase your Useful Gifts:

1. Personally through Rev James at anytime during the next two months. He will accept cash, cheque or credit card payments.
2. Through TEARFUND Useful Gifts directly: 1800 244 986 or [usefulgifts.org](http://usefulgifts.org)
3. Every transaction is securely processed online, and with every gift over \$2 you will receive a tax-deductable receipt.

***For more information = [usefulgifts.org](http://usefulgifts.org) or contact Rev directly***



### ***The Apostle's ACTION Creed***

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**Therefore;**

**This week I will give thanks for the land and region where I live ...**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**As a follower of Jesus I will bring honesty to ..... this week.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Guided by the Spirit I will seek to serve God by ..... this week.**

**So be it. (Amen)**