



# Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

## Transfiguration 14 February 2021

*Hello Everyone - Greetings!*

I was going to give you a brief and pithy reflection this week on the meaning and progress of Project Regenerate. It has become a small essay I am afraid - so it might be best to sit down while you're reading this! As I foreshadowed last week - not everyone may understand Project Regenerate's main objectives and rationale. I think of it ALL the time, so I take for granted the thinking and concepts and some of its practical realities.

So, I felt it was important to explain a few things in detail (*and this is the condensed version*) - to give you something to inspire you and form the basis for conversations we may have together in the immediate or distant future.

### PROJECT REGENERATE UPDATE

**Project REGENERATE 2020-2025 - is an ambitious five year plan.**

As stated in our Parish Business Plan (endorsed last year by the AGM), it's vision is to regenerate our faith community by continuing to create a community that is inclusive and purposeful, to re-imagine our role as a church in the wider community and to raise \$250,000 over next 5 years to help ensure a healthy future that: **Renew PEOPLE. Revive PROJECTS. Restore PLACE.**

Current society has challenged and forced us to reflect on our relevance and praxis as a faith community - with changes in various legislation and community expectations of the role the 'traditional' church. We have no choice but to either 'fight' or 'adapt.' I don't have enough energy to 'fight!'

However, I do have enough energy to explore ways - within my influence - to re-imagine that we may redeem some respectability as a spiritual 'institution' (using that word lightly) in our current social milieu; to endeavour to show our community & region that the church (that's you and I) can be agents of change and healing and foresight in confronting inequity and brokenness; that we can be courageous in taking bold steps to be 'on the street' - and meet people where they are at and attempt to show them God's LIGHT, LIFE, and LOVE as we are called by Jesus to

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*Project REGENERATE. Renew PEOPLE. Revive PROJECTS. Restore PLACE*

do - with a human touch, imperfect or as perfect as we perceive ourselves to be, and as part of our faith - that elusive and mysterious step to trust the Divine.

Here are a few thoughts responding to our main focus areas extracted from the Parish Business Plan.

**Renew PEOPLE:** It has been a challenging year in facing and dealing with circumstances beyond our control with COVID-19. Despite isolation and various lockdown guises, it seems that everyone has been able to keep in touch with one or more parish members in appropriate and pastorally sensitive ways.

ZOOM became our norm for a while, and although not perfect, was an opportunity to reach out and be nourished through fellowship and church services. My weekly YouTube videos continue to be produced and include a brief reflection on the Gospel for the weekend - that enabled people to get a little dose of God's Word in the comfort and convenience of their own home. +Garry also continues to provide a weekly video for reflection and devotions.

I am also (slowly) exploring liturgical options that meet the needs of ALL (which is a little tricky at times) - but that at the end of the day will satisfy those looking for more traditional liturgical expression, and also provide more contemporary options for people not used to the centuries of church practise and worship.

Offering a 9.30am and a 5.00pm Service option on Sundays seem to be suiting many people. The plan is to offer a more traditional prayer book service at 9.30am. At 5.00pm - I hope to be able to offer opportunities for various styles of worship (not all of them less traditional) that meet the needs of those wanting to explore a more contemporary expression. Diversity (I personally believe) is one of the keys to future growth.

#### **ACTION:**

As a result of current parish activity, Parish Council (at our last meeting) have formally approached Bishop Garry to request the possibility of 'providing' a curate/assistant priest to help with our missional, pastoral and liturgical rhythm within the parish.

#### **Please pray for:**

- a) a favourable outcome to this request;
- b) the appropriate 'candidate' for such a position;
- c) potential accommodation for this person & their family.

**Revive PROJECTS:** The Boys' Shed is about to begin another season: with a primary age weekly session on Monday afternoons, and a high school age session

every fortnight on Thursdays. Fundraising to build a Boys' Shed is going well through Rev's Revolution and 'Grain for Growth' - as well as other generous donations from community members and interested donors around the world.

The Coffee Van is about to start a fortnightly commitment beginning this Sunday as part of addressing a need in the community. First, it provides an amazing opportunity for young people to gain social, business and barista skills; and secondly, shows that our church is prepared to be 'on the street' - supported by WAG (Warracknabeal Action Group) and other community organizations.

SHINE - an ecumenical youth group co-ordinated by Sarah-Jayne & myself which began last Sunday and continues every fortnight during Term - providing a safe and engaging opportunity for fun, fellowship and exploring what a relationship with God looks like. We had 11 young people join us last Sunday, and at our next meeting we are expecting that several more will attend.

The ZMorph Project: Is our newest project! With funding from the Leith Charitable Trust, we are slowly creating a space for young people (high school age - girls and boys) to test their skill and intellect through CAD (Computer Aided Design) and other technological skills with a 3D Printer - called the "ZMorph VX." Fiona Holland is co-ordinating with collaboration with several members of the community to make this project happen in the parish centre - adding another important layer to our outreach goals as a church community.

The GLAD Project - is essentially allowing me to work a fifth day a week in the parish via my own business 'Wild Echidna Enterprises' in collaboration with the Parish Council. Through grant funding from Leith Trust, it allows me to run developmental programs through schools in the region. Currently I am facilitating 3 separate programs at WSDS, with 2 programs starting at WSC by the end of term for Yr8. I also have bookings with Hopetoun P-12 in Term 2 & 4.

Chaplaincy at WPS - as I explained last week this role began two weeks ago. Not directly related to our business plan, this opportunity to help assist young people and their teachers in GROW@WPS is a significant step in the 'church' (as I represent you indirectly) meeting the community 'on its own patch' - and I feel some of my skills and experience are well used in this particular setting.

You have probably noted that many of the above projects are focussed on younger people. Correct! (And, how 'traditional') One of the things I discerned when I arrived was the lack of opportunities for young people (other than sport) ... and hopefully at some level small or profound, we can also interest their parents, grandparents and carers in engaging in our church community and its activities.

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## World Day of Prayer – Vanuatu

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March – 2.00pm**

at Lutheran Church.

Contact Bev Schultz 5398 1950

**Women & Men welcome!**

**We need a volunteer to read the Anglican contribution please – (although this may already be organized.)**



### **Prayer in the Parish**

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

- +Garry; Fr Michael & Kerry O'Brien;
- All Diocesan committees;
- for people in Myanmar;
- Coffee Van – this Sunday 14th;
- Boys' Shed started Thursday (HS) & starting Monday (Primary)
- Project REGENERATE – for understanding and implementation of our projects and vision.
- The GLAD Program – WSDS & WSC

#### **Community:**

- All those affected by unemployment, irregular work;
- All experiencing financial pressures;
- for all those feeling unsettled, confused, frustrated;
- all affected by Natural disasters;
- All affected by COVID.

**Years Mind:** Alice Marshall, Joyce Witney, Leslie Seipolt, Sasha Overall.

**Worship will return to the church for Lent – at 9.30am only.**

**The 5.00pm service will occur in the Parish Centre.**

### **Service Times Feb/March**

#### **Transfiguration – 14 February**

8.30-12.30 – Coffee Van

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

#### **Ash Wednesday – 17 February**

5.00pm Warracknabeal

Followed by a 'Soup & Bread' supper at Rectory (*please RSVP*)

#### **Lent 1 – 21 February**

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

6.00-8.00pm SHINE Youth Group

#### **Lent 2 – 28 February**

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

8.30-12.30 – Coffee Van

#### **Lent 3 – 07 March**

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal



**Kilometres travelled**

**3,058.06**

**Pledged & Donated**

**\$14,279.19**

#### **Latest Rev's Rev Video:**

**Rev's Revolution 3,000kms**

<https://youtu.be/P5hJnQ-ZQKc>

#### **Rev's YouTube – Transfiguration**

**'The Messiah's Mission'**

[https://youtu.be/0T\\_6IsgayF4](https://youtu.be/0T_6IsgayF4)

# TODAY'S READINGS

## THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

First Reading:

2 Kings 2:1-12

### *A reading from the second book of Kings*

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; the Lord has sent me to Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel. The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, 'Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from you today?' 'Yes, I know,' Elisha replied, 'so be quiet.' Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here, Elisha; the Lord has sent me to Jericho.' And he replied, 'As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.' So they went to Jericho. The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, 'Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from you today?' 'Yes, I know,' he replied, 'so be quiet.' Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.' And he replied, 'As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them walked on. Fifty men from the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?' 'Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,' Elisha replied. 'You have asked a difficult thing,' Elijah said, 'yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be

yours – otherwise, it will not.' As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw this and cried out, 'My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!' And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Psalm:

### *Response: To the upright will show the saving power of God*

1. The Lord our God, the Mighty One, has spoken:  
and summoned the earth,  
from the rising of the sun to its setting  
in the west.  
From Zion, perfect in beauty:  
God has shone out in glory. **(R)**
2. Our God is coming, he will not keep silent:  
before him is devouring fire,  
and tempest whirls about him.  
He calls to the heavens above:  
and to the earth, so he may judge his  
people. **(R)**
3. 'Gather to me my faithful ones:  
those who by sacrifice made a  
covenant with me.'  
The heavens shall proclaim) his  
righteousness:  
for God himself is judge. **(R)**

***A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians***

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, **alleluia!**

A great prophet has arisen in our midst,  
God has visited his people, And endured  
our suffering. **Alleluia!**

**Bishop Garry's youTube message**

**God Plays in a Thousand Places**

*(Epiphany 5)*

<https://youtu.be/9gB1jVPOC5E>

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

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters – one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: 'This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!' Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

This is the gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

**THE PROPERS**

**Sentence:** It is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**Collect:** Almighty God, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us faith to perceive his glory, that being strengthened by his grace we may be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Restore PLACE:** Our church needs considerable repair and restoration. Its footings, roof, ceiling and moving walls all need considerable attention. In an ideal world we would raise the \$500,0000 (or more) to do this! For instance: a couple of years ago we sought a quote to fix the foundations - which came in at \$142,000. Eye-boggling and eye-watering figures.

It is my understanding that our parish kitchen facilities do not meet current OH&S requirements, and due to the compassion and understanding of Shire officials we have been able to continue our hospitality outreach co-ordinated by the Catering Team over the last few years. We also are in breach of modern expectations and standards by not being able to provide a disabled toilet on site.

**On these two points alone - Parish Council are committed to revamping the Parish Centre as a 'high priority' - before any restoration is attempted on our church building.**

Late last year Parish Council engaged the services of Jeff Armstrong Architect to help us draft some concept plans for the church site (with a considerable discount!). He and parish council are in the process of finalizing some drawings that we will present and display for consultation and comment in March. I hope that every parish member will feel confident to engage the consultation process with respect as we seek to 'moving forward together' to help realize our dreams and meet the modern needs of our parish centre facility.

We will be presenting and proposing three development phases:

Phase One = New Boys' Shed.

Phase Two = Kitchen & Toilet facility revamp.

Phase Three = Parish Centre as a worship space for future consideration.

### **ACTION:**

Parish Council have agreed to prepare a submission to the Diocesan Property and Finance Committee to ask for funding towards Phase Two of development.

We have much work to do, and a few more decisions to make before it is fair to 'reveal all.' However, these are significant steps toward a sustainable future.

### **Please pray for:**

- a) Parish Council - as they prepare a detailed submission for the Diocesan Property and Finance Committee regarding Phase Two.
- b) Jeff Armstrong Architect - as he develops concept drawings.
- c) An effective consultation process where all voices are heard.
- d) That God's Spirit lead us boldly - with courage, through doubt, with love.
- e) God's will be done.

With every blessing, Rev James

*Project REGENERATE. Renew PEOPLE. Revive PROJECTS. Restore PLACE*

## Morning Tea after Church

There have been several (reasonable) requests to have morning tea after church. In principle, myself and the COVIDSafe Warden have no objection to making this happen.

However, every Sunday morning until Easter, a community group is offering refreshments in the community - including our Coffee Van that provides essential skills and opportunities for our young people.

Coupled with the strict restrictions around how we are supposed to serve beverages & food, and the cleaning requirements associated with serving morning tea in the parish centre - **I am going to encourage congregational members to plan to support our local community organizations and meet for morning coffee/tea at the designated locations as advertised in community papers and media.**

I recognise that many of us just 'crave the normality' of how it was. In reality, 'how it was'- IS NO LONGER. We now have a new normal - as hard as it is to accept. But it is not all bad! A barista made coffee tastes a bit better than "International Roast" (in my opinion), so I invite us all to embrace the opportunities we are lucky enough to have - invite a friend and meet them on the street!

Thanks, Rev James

## **Project REGENERATE**

**Renew PEOPLE.**

**Revive PROJECTS.**

**Restore PLACE.**

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**"Warracknabeal Snapshot"  
2021 – youTube video straight  
off the cutting room floor!**

<https://youtu.be/axQIppqspB4k>

### **Coffee Van Project is back!**

**This Sunday - 14<sup>th</sup> February**  
Outside the Visitor's Centre  
Warracknabeal - 8.30am-12.30pm



Good Coffee!

Good vibe!

Giving young people an  
opportunity to gain  
skills and serve their  
community.