

Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Pentecost 8
31 July 2022

This Sunday: 10.30am - Christ Church
11.30am - Parish AGM



Hello Everyone!

I hope that I find you well and in good spirits.

I'm constantly grateful for the place and country in which we live. Sure we can have our gripes and discomforts - but essentially, we've got to be some of the luckiest people on the planet. I also sense however, that our complacent comfort (*I hope that isn't too judgemental*) is about to be challenged through forces, controls and 'stuff' I don't understand beyond our control.

The hype and rhetoric around inflation, rising interest rates and all the '*blah, blah, blah*' we hear on our media channels continues to make me feel nervous. The cynical part of me feels it's just part of the media game to distract us from things we should be taking more seriously - for instance the number of people starving in the world should make us weep into our cereal bowls in the morning. There is no doubt in my mind, that the world is facing a crisis that will have an impact on us in one way or another.

As Jesus said, "...you will always have the poor ..." - what will our response be? The reality is - as a faith community - how can you and I (*to borrow a phrase*): '*Think globally: Act locally.*'

If you have had a chance to read the AGM Reports - you will have read that I'm not proposing to make any major changes in the next 18 months - the fourth cycle that has just begun since my tenure began in the parish. However, I encourage you to '*gird your loins*' - for I am hoping that we will be able to develop a strategy or explore ways to address the increasing demands of current economic, emotional and spiritual necessity within our local region and communities and homes that will allow us to be resilient in the face of whatever reality the world throws at us in the next few years.

Have you been watching the TV show "Hunted" in recent weeks? I'm hooked!

I am still trying to work out why I find the show so captivating - but there is something about it which has got me 'engaged'. For those unfamiliar with it: 18 people from around Australia were 'released' in CBD Melbourne - and from that moment a group of experts: Police, Defence, Cyber etc have been trying to capture them. They have 21 days to elude capture - and the prize is \$100,000.

I have also been reading the book "Let Go" by Hugh Van Cuylenburg, the founder of 'The Resilience Project'. *"It is time for us to let go of shame, expectation and our addiction to social media."*

It has made me think about the 'things', the 'experiences', the 'circumstances' that 'hunt us' spiritually and emotionally - that create stumbling blocks to genuine happiness and FREEDOM - which I love to talk so much about. I know that I've quoted it many times: *"Healthy religion helps us to transform our pain!"* [Richard Rohr] Should we choose not to 'transform our pain' - the human being inevitably transmits it = hurts another. It is genuinely that simple.

How do we transform our pain?

First, we are invited to face it - HEAD ON! Name it, own it, accept that it is part of our reality. Secondly, we are invited to 'befriend it' (to use a counselling term) - get to know it better, understand why it has power over us or why it has a genuine place to dwell within our lives. Finally, we are to integrate it into NOW - not to champion it, not to give it kudos - but rather to learn from it, to see it from a different perspective, to 'transform' it into beauty and not more pain.

Easy right! NO WAY! Healthy religion - helps us to do this.

Through prayer, through honesty, through sharing with others. Our church has much to offer our community and society - what are we going to do about it? How are we going to help those people seeking healing within our midst?

Can you and I create safe places for people seeking to transform their pain - without making it more difficult than it already is; without placing 2000 years of liturgical expectation on them that leads to further confusion rather than liberation; without making a face-value judgement on whether they are worthy or not - because of their name, their history or their appearance; without taking the 'log out of our own eye' first; without being a 'neighbour' ...

There are no easy answers, strategies, visions, projects, budgets, reports, pew sheet exhortations, and whatever else you can think of ... to ease the pain of the world and the pain of our own hearts. What say you?

"Take courage. Do not be afraid!"

Every blessing, Rev James



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry;
- For all currently coping with COVID circumstances; for those not well;
- For all facing the consequences of natural disaster and climate change;
- For all the people of Ukraine;
- For the people of Sri Lanka;
- For the people of West Papua;
- For Christian Emergency Food Centre;
- For all those in hospital; for all facing surgery and recovery;
- For all grieving loved ones;
- For wonderful rain; for sunshine;
- For our AGM preparations;
- For those willing to serve on Parish Council for the following year;
- For our Anglican Catering Team;
- For our friends, families, and our neighbours; for those who make our lives uncomfortable and difficult;
- For our COFFEE VAN and all who volunteer in her;
- For Benjamin Holland – who is at Alpine School for whole of Term 3;

Years Mind: Inez Witney, Audrey Taylor, Dorothy Wood, Shirley Jones.

“Rest eternal grant to them O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.”

Services – July/August

Pentecost 8– 31 July

10.30am Warracknabeal

11.30 Soup & Sandwich AGM

Pentecost 9 – 07 August

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

11.00am St Mark’s Areegra

Pentecost 10 – 14 August

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

8.30-12.30pm – Coffee Van

Pentecost 11 – 21 August

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Pentecost 12 – 28 August

9.30am Warracknabeal

5.00pm – Café Church

8.30-12.30pm Coffee Van

There is nothing you can
do – nothing, nothing,
NOTHING –
to make God love you
more than God loves you
already.

More importantly, there is
nothing you can do –
nothing, nothing,
NOTHING –
you can do to make God
love you any less.

Richard Rohr

TODAY'S READINGS

PENTECOST 8

First Reading: Hosea 11:1-11

A reading from the prophet Hosea

'When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. But the more they were called, the more they went away from me. They sacrificed to the Baals and they burned incense to images. It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms; but they did not realise it was I who healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them. 'Will they not return to Egypt and will not Assyria rule over them because they refuse to repent? A sword will flash in their cities; it will devour their false prophets and put an end to their plans. My people are determined to turn from me. Even though they call me God Most High, I will by no means exalt them. 'How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I treat you like Admah? How can I make you like Zeboyim? My heart is changed within me; all my compassion is aroused. I will not carry out my fierce anger, nor will I devastate Ephraim again. For I am God, and not a man – the Holy One among you. I will not come against their cities. They will follow the Lord ; he will roar like a lion. When he roars, his children will come trembling from the west. They will come from Egypt, trembling like sparrows, from Assyria, fluttering like doves. I will settle them in their homes,' declares the Lord . This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: 107:2-9

Response: *Give thanks to the Lord, his love is everlasting*

1. Let the redeemed of the Lord give thanks, whom he has redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. **(R)**
2. Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in; hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. **(R)**
3. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress; he led them by straight way, till they reached a city to dwell in. **(R)**
4. Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to the sons of men! For he satisfies him who is thirsty and the hungry he fills with good things. **(R)**

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

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

Someone in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.' Jesus replied, 'Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?' Then he said to them, 'Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.' And he told them this parable: 'The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, "What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops." 'Then he said, "This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'" 'But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?" 'This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich towards God.'

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

The Propers

Sentence: If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

Collect: Living God, Judge of us all, you have placed in our hands that wealth we call our own: through your Spirit give us wisdom that our possessions may not be a curse, but a means of blessing in our lives. Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

This is the word of the Lord

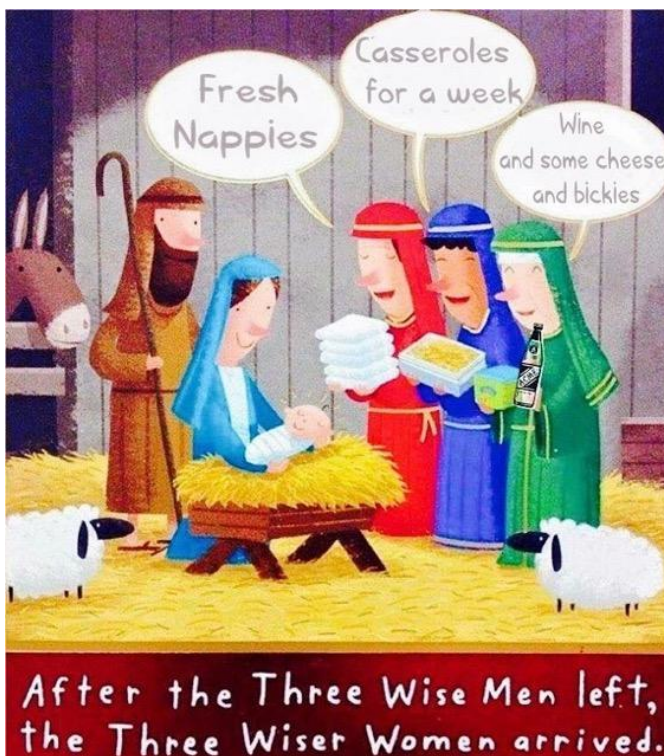
Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, **Alleluia!**

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Alleluia

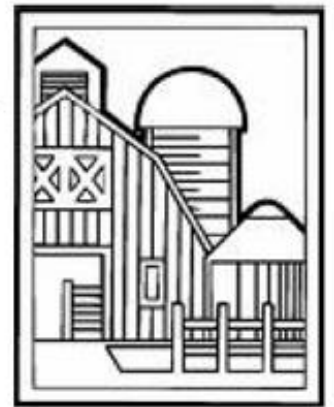


**After the Three Wise Men left,
the Three Wiser Women arrived.**

The Parable of the Rich Fool

Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own."
 Luke 12:15 (NLT)

Based on Luke 12:13-21



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

JUDGE	CROWD	THINGS	BARNS	GUARD
STORE	EAT	BIGGER	LIFE	GREED
RICH	FOOL	DIVIDE	GROUND	DRINK
GOOD	CROP	WATCH	GRAIN	MERRY

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A Heresy of the Times

Sr Joan Chittister writes:

Today prophets of pietism tell us to “pray for peace” and “pray that God’s will be done.” And this is certainly important. But they do not demand that we ourselves do something to ensure either. Instead, the professional pietist in us acts as if the Book of Genesis, with its emphasis on personal responsibility, had never been written. We fool ourselves into believing that we are supposed to live in this world as if we were living in the next. We create a devil’s den of complacency and call it the spiritual life. We make quietism the ideal of the age. Every era manufactures a heresy proper to the times. Quietism is ours. We call it “separation of church and state” now, but the effects are basically the same. Rather than defend the original meaning of the proposition that no single religion shall be our state religion, we misuse the concept to silence ourselves in the name of spirituality. We ignore the public arena and call ourselves “spiritual” for doing so. We silence ourselves in the name of spirituality. We remove ourselves from things that are “passing.” We aspire to “higher things” than civil justice or care for the oppressed. We forgive ourselves our disinterest in the questions of our age on the grounds that those things have nothing to do with being Christian. Only the laws and the customs have something to do with being Christian, we argue, not the gospel.

If there is a major problem in spirituality today, it may be that we do not do enough to form Christians for resistance to evil. We form them for patient endurance and for civil conformity. We form them to be “good” but not necessarily to be “holy.” In the doing of it, we make compliant Christians rather than courageous ones, as if bearing evil were more important than confronting it. We go on separating life into parts, one spiritual, one not.

This tension between what is profane and what is spiritual makes all the difference between a holy life and a pious life. The pious life seeks spiritual consolation, a kind of otherworldly disinterest in the secular city. The holy life, if Jesus is any model at all, understands that one without the other is bogus. To be holy on earth we must pursue spiritual fulfillment in the midst of the sacred secular. This awareness of the prophetic power of the spiritual brought me face-to-face with the need to come to grips with a spirituality of resistance. It is, I decided, the relationship between power and justice that makes all the difference between seeking the kingdom of God and seeking spiritual self-satisfaction.

[from *Called to Question: A Spiritual Memoir* by Joan Chittister (Sheed & Ward)]