# Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

**Project Regenerate: Explore. Rejoice. Give.**

## Pentecost 24

## 08 November 2026

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

I wonder if you would change parts of your story if you could? I know that I would.

Maybe once upon a time – the story of human beings was pretty straight forward. We had to find something to eat. We had to find somewhere to sleep. We had to escape any predators. And we had to sit with our 'clan/tribe/mob/family/community' in order to understand the happenings of the day, and what was needed for tomorrow.



"Which is more important," asked Big Panda, "the journey or the destination?"

"The company." said Tiny Dragon.

Has life got really complicated? Or do we just not 'survive' as simply as we once did long ago? Climate change, renewables, interest rates, housing prices, the price of oil in the Middle East, the price of tea in China, the mid-terms in the USA, our own State political elections looming, violence in our towns and cities, mental health and all its complications … I am sure you can add much much more.

What do you and I need to do to help make 'our story' something we are proud of? What do you and I need to do to help encourage or influence for good the story of another? Does our community need a better story to reflect the hopes, dreams and future of our lives together?

What particular gift do you bring to your story? Is it the same or another gift that helps enhance our neighbours' story? What do you think our community needs to be able to 'tell' a story of hope, belonging and progress? We have a powerful Christian story – but it isn't perfect. Maybe our genuine story is 'imperfection' itself – an ability to try, to make mistakes, to find healing, and to be perseverant!

*Blessings, Rev James*



## Prayer in the Parish

**In the Parish & Beyond:**

- +Scott as Administrator; for the 'Board of Electors' Committee as they prepare the process of electing our new Bishop;
- For all the people of Ukraine;
- For the people of Sudan & South Sudan;
- For all State politicians; for sound policy and safety for all candidates;
- For seasonable weather;
- For all who serve in our parish in a variety of ways – seen and unseen;
- For all who are hungry, thirsty and seeking shelter around the globe;
- For those of leadership and influence to act for the common good;
- For all facing natural disaster: flood, fire, earthquake, cyclone, famine;
- For our neighbours;
- For those in our Aged Care Facilities;
- For our farmers and their families;
- 
- For all those we love, near and far away;

**Years Mind:** Maurice HALL (2008), Bruce KENNEDY (2017), Malcolm SCOTT (1985), Rilda POHLNER (1992), Jean SPICER (1996), Henry (Alvis) MERCER (2003), Thomas FIMMEL (2003), Erica SHALDERS (1966), Nancy HUMPREYS (2003), Glayds ISON (2006), Margaret (Joan) BOSCHEN (2007), Alexander FERGUSON (1973)

"*Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.*"

# *Services - 2026*

**Pentecost 24 – 08 November**
9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

**Monday 09th November – Rev Fiona**
At Café Peppercorn – 9.00-10.30am

**Pentecost 25 – 15 November**
9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

**Christ the King – 22 November**
10.30am and Parish Pot-luck Lunch Warracknabeal

**Advent 1 – 29 November**
9.30am Warracknabeal
6.30pm Prelude to Christmas at The Uniting Church, Warracknabeal

**Advent 2 – 06 December**
9.30am Warracknabeal
11.00am Areegra Home Church
5.00pm-7.00pm Rectory Sundowner

**Advent 3 – 13 December**
9.30am Warracknabeal
from ~5.00pm WAG Christmas Festival

**Advent 3 – 20 December**
9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

## A Prayer for a Bishop

*+Scott is now Administrator*
*(+Garry retired on 03 Oct 2026)*

Eternal God, shepherd and guide, in your mercy give your Church in this diocese of Ballarat, a shepherd after your own heart who will walk in your ways, and with loving care watch over your people. Give us a leader of vision and a teacher of your truth. So may your Church be built up and your name glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

# 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)**

## Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:9-18

***A reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians***

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.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## Gospel Acclamation:

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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

**Alleluia**!

## Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

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

'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 gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

## THE PROPERS

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

*A Prayer for the Middle East via TEARFUND*

Dear God,

We cry out to you on behalf of the people seriously affected by the conflict in Gaza and the Middle East. Our hearts break at the devastation and suffering that we see, and we know it breaks yours, too.

We ask that you stretch out your mighty hand to bring lasting peace.

We cry out for people who have been injured or traumatised, who have lost loved ones or their homes. Please provide everything they need and be their comfort, their hope, their healer, and their safe refuge.

We pray for your peace to reign. We look to you as our Saviour and the hope of the world.

Amen.

## Christmas is Coming

**Rev will be running the Useful Gift Shop in the parish in the lead-up to Christmas again. More info at the back of the pew sheet.**
**If you would like a sneaky peek:**
www.usefulgifts.org



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

## *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)**

# WHY USEFUL GIFTS FROM TEARFUND AUSTRALIA?



### Easy

Make gift-giving simple! With inspiring gifts and easy purchasing, Useful Gifts remove the fuss so you can focus on what's important.

### Meaningful

Support lasting change for communities facing poverty. Every gift connects you with real real stories of transformation to celebrate and share.





### Sustainable

Live out your passion for conscious, waste-free giving. Useful Gifts are gifts that last and help create a better world for everyone.

## Poverty-Fighting Gifts To Suit Any Budget!

More than just your average charity card, Tearfund's Useful Gifts contribute to long-term sustainable development projects. When you buy a goat or other useful gift - like a chicken or a toilet - your gift is contributing to sustainable, long-term development projects run by Tearfund and our local partners.

### Gifts Under $20

- Chickens - $5.00
- Lifesaving Nutrition - $5.00
- Train a Teacher - $10.00
- Farming Starter Kit - $15.00
- Keep a Girl Learning - $15.00

### Gifts - $20 to $59

- Support a First Nations Leader - $20.00
- Good Food - $25.00
- Safe Water - $25.00
- Back to School For All - $30.00
- Disability Inclusion - $30.00
- Buy a Goat - $50.00
- Healthy Mums & Babies - $50.00
- Women's Empowerment - $50.00

### Gifts - $60 to $200

- Business Kick-Starter - $60.00
- Good News Bundle (set of 4) - $60.00
- Toilet - $70.00
- Train a Health Worker - $75.00
- Local School - $100.00
- Food for a Family - $150.00

### Gifts - $200 or more

- Restoring Creation - $250.00
- Hope for Communities in Crisis - $490.00
- Humanitarian Response in Afghanistan - $1,000.00
- Well - $1,900.00
- Village Package - $5,000.00

**For more information:** Useful Gifts | Buy a Goat and other Charity Gifts from $5 | Tearfund