



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Project Regenerate: Explore. Rejoice. Give.

Sunday After Ascension

17 May 2026

Happy Easter Everybody!

*I hope that you've had a good week; confronting fears
- in the wake of resurrection morning. Rev James*



I really love what I do. From time to time I feel like I am good at what I do. I believe that we have created a 'niche' ministry in the parish - and 'niche' doesn't always spell safe or predictable or 'successful.' Often, my school gigs are a little chaotic depending on the mood and attitudes of the participants in my charge. As facilitator, I remind young people that I am not responsible for their behaviour (which isn't always 'bad' I must add - but 'youthfulness is wasted on the young' as the old adage goes), but alas, my role expects that I can find a way to bring cohesion or a sense of calm so that some learning can take place.

Every now and again - everything just falls into place. And, I am happy to say - I have no idea how it happens - and therefore it is just pure gift! This occurred on Monday at Horsham Special School. I am trying not to analyse it too much if I'm honest - however, the attitudes, positivity and engagement led us down the path of something I would call 'perfection' - participants seemed relaxed, connected to the activity and instruction, there was humour and generosity of spirit that just made it the best session EVER - and I've been going now for approx. 4 years.

The AP who was in the room - was almost 'speechless' - it was a good thing. If there was anything that I contributed to this experience - it was because I turned up 'again.' Ministry is that simple really - you and I have to keep turning up. We bring all our 'stuff' with us, we make plans, we 'sharpen the saw' from time to time, we practise, we make sure that we are prepared - and then - Jesus asks us to be there! Present. Expectant. Ready to confront or comfort; ready to receive and give; ready to embrace what is real and extraordinary and beautiful and

I hope that all your endeavours this week are fruitful. Every blessing, Rev James



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; for Fiona & family;
- For the Bishop 'Board of Electors' Committee as they prepare the process of electing our new Bishop;
- For all who are hungry, thirsty and seeking shelter around the globe;
- For the people of the Middle East;
- For the Leaders of all Nations;
- 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 those we know whom are unwell;
- For seasonal weather;
- For shelter, warmth and comfort;
- For our farmers and their families;
- For all who support our parish life;
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- For all those we love, near and far away;

Years Mind: Iris BUNDY (1993), Charles O'BRYAN (2003), John COWAN (2005), Benjamin ALLEN (1992), Lynette KAY (2018), Elizabeth (Bessie) GRINHAM (1997), Alfred MULLER (1994), Funny ROBINS (1997), Donald McDOUGALL (1999), Arthur TICKLE (1992), Carl ADLER (2007), Peter O'CALLAGHAN (2021), Douglas MAYNE (2022)

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

Services - 2026

Sunday After Ascension – 17 May

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Pentecost – 24 May

9.30am Warracknabeal

5.00pm Café Church

Trinity – 31 May

10.30am Warracknabeal

Lunch at the Creekside- 12.00pm

Pentecost 2 – 07 June

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Pentecost 3 – 14 June

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Saturday 20 June

11.00am – Fiona's Ordination

Pentecost 4 – 21 June

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Pentecost 5 – 28 June

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Lunch at Creekside - 31 May

I think it would make sense if I had some rough numbers for those wishing to attend. RSVP to Rev please.

A Prayer for a Bishop

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

SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION

First Reading:

Acts 1:11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Then they gathered round him and asked him, 'Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.'

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm:

47

Response: God mounts his throne to shouts of joy; a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. O clap your hands, all you peoples: and cry aloud to God with shouts of joy.
For the Lord Most High is to be feared: he is a great king over all the earth. **(R)**
2. God has gone up with the sound of rejoicing: and the Lord to the blast of the horn.
O sing praises, sing praises to God: O sing praises, sing praises to our king. **(R)**
3. For God is the king of all the earth: O praise him in a well-wrought psalm.
God has become the king of the nations: he has taken his seat upon his holy throne. **(R)**
4. The princes of the peoples are gathered together: with the people of the God of Abraham.
For the mighty ones of the earth are become the servants of God: and he is greatly exalted. **(R)**

Second Reading:

Ephesians 1:15-23

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you,

the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God



Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord. I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice.

Alleluia!

Gospel:

Matthew 28:16-20

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPERS

Sentence: 'Go and make disciples of all nations,' Jesus commands; 'I am with you always, to the close of the age.'

Collect: God of majesty, you led the Messiah through suffering into risen life, and took him up into the glory of heaven: clothe us with the power promised from on high, and send us forth to the ends of the earth as heralds of repentance and witnesses of Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead, who lives with you now and always in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

WHY YOU SHOULD
BE KIND TO PEOPLE

SOMEONE'S LIFE

WHAT YOU
KNOW ABOUT IT