

# Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

**Pentecost 25**  
**19 November 2023**

**Sunday Services: 9.30am & 5.00pm - Warracknabeal**



**Hello Everyone.**

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

Please pray for whoever is on the roster for Sunday morning's Old Testament Reading. They're gonna have to have their tongue in the right place and probably be able to stand on one leg with either hand in the air. We'll be RIGHT BEHIND you! (A long way behind you - ha ha!) No pressure either by the way (ha ha).

I have included in the pew sheet another piece by +George. I wanted to put in last week's edition, but felt that the two 'essays' flowed one from the other. George prefaced his email regarding the blog with: "*I have done my best to state what needs to be stated.*" As you will appreciate, two weeks is a long time on one level - and while not 'hot news' I still think his views and thoughts are worth considering and debating with others depending on how brave you feel. I have also noticed a marked increase in pro-Palestinian reporting in the media - maybe just confirming the complexity and the injustice faced by so many who literally have no power, control or ability to affect change where it matters most. We continue to pray.

I feel as though I have one of the best jobs in the world. It isn't very glamorous at times - I will admit; and while the challenges of 'modern times' and 'attitudes' to the church often leave me confounded - my association with various institutions throughout the region bring a quiet joy to a man's heart. I especially relish the opportunity to work in the schools ... I've had a couple of interactions with some 'special kids' in the last week or two. Especially at the WSDS - there are no masks! Life is raw and it is real and no matter who you are - certain things just need to be dealt with there and then. My programs are designed to 'take people out of their comfort zone' - which of course I do - in a loving and caring manner of course. But dis-comfort is DISCOMFORT! There is no other way around it but THROUGH IT.

That's the mystery and the method. Gotta face it! In faith, hope and love ...

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

## Prayer in the Parish

### In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; Ballarat Deanery;
- For the people of Haiti; Peru; Yemen & Syria; Jordan;
- 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;
- For all who are lonely & isolated;
- For those Year12's who have finished their schooling;
- 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:** Bill Hand, Lois Crawford, Michael Verber, Beverly Kaal, Donald Merritt, William Clarke, Lisa Curtis

## Services – Nov/Dec

### 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

### Healing Service – 05 December

Tuesday at 5.00pm Warracknabeal

### Advent 2 – 10 & Advent 3 - 17 Dec

9.30am & 5.00pm? – Warracknabeal

*It depends when the Community Carols are on regarding 5.00pm*

### Advent 4 – 24 December

10.30am – Areegra

### Christmas Eve – 24 December

8.30pm - Refreshments  
10.00pm – HC Warracknabeal

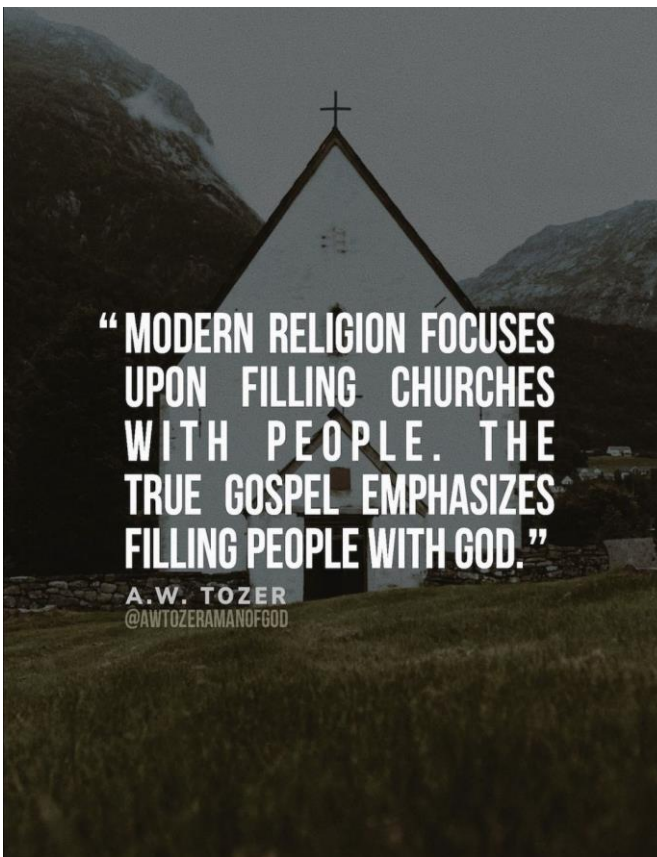
### Christmas Day – 25 December

9.30am – HC Warracknabeal

## ABM & ADI Five Marks of Mission

1. Witness to Christ's saving, forgiving and reconciling love for all people;
2. Build welcoming, transforming communities of faith;
3. Stand in solidarity with the poor and needy;
4. Challenge violence, injustice and oppression, and work for peace and reconciliation;
5. Protect, care for and renew life on our planet.

*Which one will you choose this week?*



# TODAY'S READINGS

## TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

First Reading :

Judges 4:1-10

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

Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, now that Ehud was dead. So the Lord sold them into the hands of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. Sisera, the commander of his army, was based in Harosheth Haggoyim. Because he had nine hundred chariots fitted with iron and had cruelly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years, they cried to the Lord for help. Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time. She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided. She sent for Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, 'The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you: "Go, take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali and Zebulun and lead them up to Mount Tabor. I will lead Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his troops to the River Kishon and give him into your hands.'" Barak said to her, 'If you go with me, I will go; but if you don't go with me, I won't go.' 'Certainly I will go with you,' said Deborah. 'But because of the course you are taking, the honour will not be yours, for the Lord will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman.' So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh. There Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali, and ten thousand men went up under his command. Deborah also went up with him.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Psalm:

123

### **Response:**

***To you, O Lord, I lift up my eyes***

1. To you I lift up my eyes: you who are enthroned in the heavens. As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master: or as the eyes of a maid toward the hand of her mistress, So our eyes look to the Lord our God: until he show us his mercy. **(R)**
2. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have had our fill of derision. Our souls overflow with the mockery of those at ease: and with the contempt of the proud. **(R)**

Second Reading:

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

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

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, 'Peace and safety', destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we

are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia! **Alleluia!**

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit.

**Alleluia**

**Gospel:**

**Matthew 25:14-30**

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

'Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 'After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more." 'His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" 'The man with two bags of gold also came. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with two bags of gold: see, I have gained two more." 'His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful

with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" 'Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. "Master," he said, "I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you." 'His master replied, "You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. "So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

This is the gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!**

**THE PROPERS**

**Sentence:** God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvations through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other

**Collect:** Ever-living God, before the earth was formed, and even after it shall cease to be, you are God. Break into our short span of life and show us those things that are eternal, that we may serve your purpose in all we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## In Service of the Common Good

By Bishop George Browning

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

06 November 2023

### Massacre of the Innocents

*The UN is calling the Israel-Hamas war a 'graveyard of children'.... an adult conflict, in which the young are suffering most. What we see on our TV screens every night is impossible to watch. Did Netanyahu see the young lad who had just carried the decapitated body of his friend from the rubble. If so, what did he think? He almost certainly thought the same as Natali Bennet the former Israeli prime minister who said to a reporter on Sky News: "Are you seriously asking me about Palestinian civilians? What is wrong with you? We're fighting Nazis".*

In other words, there are no civilians, there are no innocents, all Palestinians, including children, are the antithesis of us, all deserve and need to be exterminated. In fact, in this logic, there is no entity that can be called Palestine, there are no peoples to be called Palestinians. This is not just the slaughter of innocents, it is the annihilation of innocence, it is the breeding ground of the next generation of retributive violence and of lives lived out of pure hatred.

It is past time that truths were stated with utmost clarity.

1. **Violence accomplishes nothing other than cementing hatred and vengeance for another generation.** The children who have not been slaughtered will have been unbearably traumatised. Their anger and hatred will fester until it breaks forth again. Israel is in the process of training another generation capable of October 7 atrocities. The late Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks penned *Not in God's Name*. He argued violence can and should never be perpetrated in the name of religion. Using sacred text as motivation for the slaughter in Gaza is exactly what Israeli leadership and their rightwing Christian supporters are doing.
2. Boris Johnston and Scott Morrison, you are wrong, you are so wrong, **this ghastly suffering and violence did not start on October 7, 2023.** Its context began with the

Balfour declaration of 1917, while the wheels of dislocation and forced removal were set in concrete with the UN partition of 1948. Half the partition was delivered, after 70 years, the Palestinian half still awaits delivery. Since then, Palestinians have lost 78% of their land, those forced out have become refugees, many of them living in forced isolation in Gaza. These refugees, and children of refugees, are now being mercilessly bombed in Gaza City. If you are forced to live as a refugee (for many in view of their ancestral home on the other side of the fence) in an overpopulated open prison, with no capacity to care for yourself, and no hope for the future, would you not be angry?

3. **Hamas does not control Gaza, Israel does.** Israel determines who can move and who must stay. Israel determines what provisions are allowed in, or out. Israel controls energy and telecommunications. Israel controls the water. Israel determines fishing rights, etc. Within these impossibly restricted circumstances Hamas is the body citizens rely on for medicine, education, and other humanitarian needs. Do citizens of Gaza support Hamas? They probably do, why would they not? Who else is going to speak for them or act for them? The media and western politics are too lazy, or too beholden to Zionist interests, to distinguish between Hamas' military and civilian wings.
4. **Israel does not have the right to defend itself in lands it illegally occupies** or in relation to people it illegally controls through siege. In the last few days, a member of the Knesset has suggested that illegal Settlers, together with the Israeli military disrupt or destroy the Palestinian olive harvest, while another member of the Knesset suggests Netanyahu 'nuk' Gaza. Should it not be the other way around? Palestinians have every right to defend themselves against forced removal from their land and livelihoods. Remember, Palestinians are defending their right to remain on 22% of original Palestine. They are not threatening one inch of the 78% now called 'Israel'. Yes, Netanyahu, Natali Benett, and your erstwhile supporters, the land's name was Palestine, the Jerusalem Post was originally called the Palestine Post and before that the Palestine Bulletin.

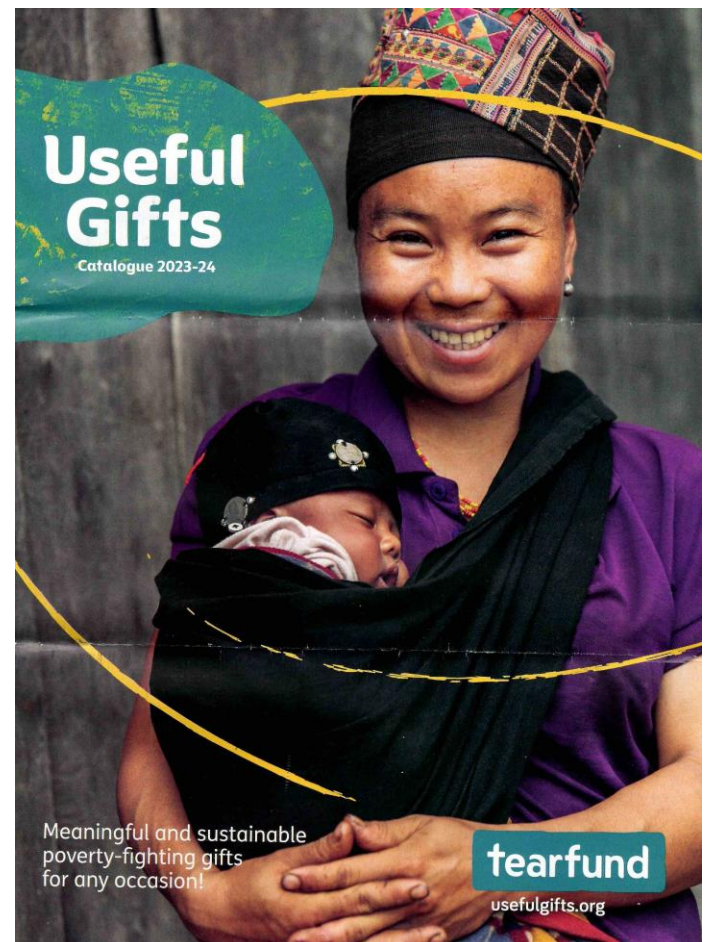
5. **“Terrorist” has become an anti-Palestinian racial slur.** Its use deserves the same condemnation as antisemitic slurs. I know members of Australian Federal and State parliaments who have spoken in support of Palestinian rights have been accused of being terrorist supporters by fellow parliamentarians. This is outrageous. Palestinians are not terrorists for objecting to their homes being bulldozed and their lands confiscated, or to being generationally traumatised in an open gaol.
6. **Antisemitism is weaponised,** while discrimination and diminution of Palestinians is ignored, even applauded.
7. Boris Johnson, **Palestinian supporters have fallen into foggy morality.** Morality was never your strong suit, nor indeed was it yours Scott Morrison. No, we have not forgotten the unspeakable horrors of the holocaust. However, we insist it is morally reprehensible to relieve collective European guilt, by expecting Palestinians to pay the full cost.
8. **Netanyahu must go.**
9. He must go because he has sought to control his own judiciary, ignore democratic separation of powers, and has put any remaining semblance of democratic identity in question.
10. He must go because the loss of intelligence and security on October 7 happened on his watch.
11. He must go because of his callous attitude to the lives of Israeli hostages.
12. He must go because he apparently lacks any semblance of genuine humanity.
13. And above all else he must go because his mindset will block any chance of an acceptable future for Palestinians and Israelis alike.

The inescapable truth is that Israel cannot extinguish Palestinian resistance by violence, any more than the Palestinians can win an Algerian-style liberation war: Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arabs are stuck with each other.

The only thing that can save the people of Israel and Palestine is a political solution that recognises both as equal citizens, and allows them to live in peace and freedom, whether in a single democratic state, two states, or a federation. So long as this solution is avoided, a continuing degradation, and an even greater catastrophe, are all but guaranteed.

It is this solution that the US, Australia and all Israel’s ‘friends’ must insist on, and if refused, must activate all economic and diplomatic levers at their disposal to achieve.

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[Blog \(georgebrowning.com.au\)](http://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 appreciate something in God's living Creation .....**

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 reach out 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 pay another person a compliment .....  
this week.**

**So be it. (Amen)**