



## Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

### Pentecost 17 19 September 2021

#### The Sermon on the Mount    *Go Ahead, Do Something*

*Richard Rohr writes;*

My fellow Albuquerque resident Megan McKenna is an author, storyteller, and theologian who challenges us to imitate Jesus. She writes of the importance of translation when it comes to understanding the meaning of Jesus' words: The blessings and woes have so much depth and latitude, so many layers of meaning that are unveiled throughout the gospel of Luke, especially in the parables. Even the meaning of the word beatitude is rich and complex when seen from different perspectives. . . . [In Elias Chacour's book *We Belong to the Land*] there is a marvelous description of a beatitude that enhances our understanding of what Jesus means when he says "blessed are you."

Knowing Aramaic, the language of Jesus, has greatly enriched my understanding of Jesus' teaching. Because the Bible as we know it is a translation of a translation, we sometimes get a wrong impression. For example, we are accustomed to hearing the Beatitudes expressed passively:

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

"Blessed" is the translation of the word *makarioi*, used in the Greek New Testament. However, when I look further back to Jesus' Aramaic, I find that the original word was *ashray*, from the verb *yashar*. *Ashray* does not have this passive quality to it at all. Instead, it means "to set yourself on the right way for the right goal; to turn around, repent." . . .

How could I go to a persecuted young man in a Palestinian refugee camp, for instance, and say, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted," or "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of justice, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"? That man would revile me, saying neither I nor my God understood his plight and he would be right.

When I understand Jesus' words in Aramaic, I translate like this:

Get up, go ahead, do something, move, you who are hungry and thirsty for justice, for you shall be satisfied.

Get up, go ahead, do something, move, you peacemakers, for you shall be called children of God.

To me this reflects Jesus' words and teachings much more accurately. I can hear him saying: "Get your hands dirty to build a human society for human beings; otherwise, others will torture and murder the poor, the voiceless, and the powerless."

Christianity is not passive but active, energetic, alive, going beyond despair. . .

"Get up, go ahead, do something, move," Jesus said to his disciples. [1]

Megan McKenna concludes:

The beatitudes mean deeper mercy for those who experience more divisive misery, deeper blessings for those whose hope is dimmest. They give an ultimate authority to certain people and their plight in the world. They signify not just a religious attitude, but a social attitude toward realities that should not exist among humans.

#### *References:*

[1] Elias Chacour with Mary E. Jensen, *We Belong to the Land: The Story of a Palestinian Israeli Who Lives for Peace and Reconciliation* (HarperSanFrancisco: 1990), 143, 144.

Megan McKenna, *Blessings and Woes: The Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Plain in the Gospel of Luke* (Orbis Books: 1999), 22-23.      Wednesday, July 21, 2021





## Prayer in the Parish

### In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; Deanery of West Wimmera
- For the people of Afghanistan, Haiti, Guinea, all those in Refugee camps;
- Peter & Dianne; Nola Browell;
- Project Regenerate;
- Daily outreach to friend, family and neighbour;

### Community:

- For seasonal weather;
- For all our small business and hospitality industry;
- For all those feeling angry, frustrated, annoyed, dishevelled;
- All facing natural disaster and disease;
- All COVID consequences;

**Years Mind:** Fr. Peter Claridge, Lesley Mitchell, Barbara Kilpatrick, Albert Clarke

## Service Times Sept/Oct

### Pentecost 18 – 26 September

Home Church Service – Pew Sheet

8.30-12.30pm Coffee Van

### Pentecost 19 – 03 October

Morning Prayer – 9.30am Christ Church

### Pentecost 20 – 10 October

Morning Prayer – 9.30am Christ Church

8.30-12.30pm Coffee Van

### Pentecost 21 – 17 October

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

6.00pm SHINE

### I Dare You To Ask Rev That

The final chapter in the four-part series – released last Sunday:

Part IV – “The Bible, the Church and other stuff”

<https://youtu.be/bgS944zWetU>

Other episodes: warrackanglican.org.au

### Bishop Garry's YouTube message

Pentecost 16

Whodo you say that I am?

<https://youtu.be/zjcq5Iu08zw>

## *A Simple Service – for Pentecost 17*

### Hymn: The Great Love of God

The great love of God  
is revealed in the Son,  
who came to this earth  
to redeem everyone.

That love, like a stream  
flowing clear to the sea,  
makes clean every heart  
that from sin would be free.

It binds the whole world,  
every barrier it breaks,  
the hills it lays low,  
and the mountains it shakes.

It's yours, it is ours,  
O how lavishly giv'n!  
the pearl of great price,  
and the treasure of heav'n.

Daniel Thambyrajah Niles

### Reflection:

- a) What was your most enjoyable moment this week?
- b) What would you like to ask God for this week?

### Prayer of Preparation:

Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Readings:

Videos: +Garry and/or Rev

### Reflection:

What words or phrases give evidence to;

Loving nature of God,  
Tricky nature of God,  
Extravagant nature of God,  
Creative nature of God,  
Challenging nature of God?

### Prayer:

Praise. Petition. Intercession. Thanksgiving.  
(or follow your own discipline.)  
The Lord's Prayer.  
Collect for the Day.

### Blessing:

May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warmly on your face.  
May the rain fall softly on your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you, and those you love,  
in the palm of God's hand. Amen.  
*[Old Irish Saying]*

### Song: God of Mercy, God of Grace

God of mercy, God of grace,  
show the brightness of your face;  
shine on us, Saviour, shine,  
fill your church with light divine;  
and your saving health  
extend unto earth's remotest end.

Let the people praise you, Lord!  
Earth shall then her fruits afford;  
God to all his blessings give,  
All to God devoted live:  
and below, and all above,  
one in joy and light and love.

Henry Francis Lyte

Text: APBA © 1985 Broughton Publishing.  
Music: © 1999. Together in Song. Harper Collins.  
CCL 610638

## TODAY'S READINGS

### PENTECOST 17

First Reading: Proverbs 31:10-31

**A reading from the book of Proverbs**

A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands. She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar. She gets up while it is still night; she provides food for her family and portions for her female servants. She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night. In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers. She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet. She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple. Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes. She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: 'Many women do noble things,

fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Honour her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Psalm: 54

**Response: The Lord upholds my life.**

1. God, by your name save me,  
and by your might defend my cause.  
O God, hear my prayer;  
hearken to the words of my mouth.  
(R)
2. For the haughty men have risen up against me,  
the ruthless seek my life;  
they set not God before their eyes.  
(R)
3. Behold, God is my helper;  
the Lord sustains my life.  
Freely will I offer you sacrifice;  
I will praise your name, O LORD,  
for its goodness. (R)

Second Reading: James 3:1-12

**A reading from the letter of James**

Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check. When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot

wants to go. Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers and sisters, can a fig-tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! **Alleluia!**

God has called us through the Gospel to possess the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

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

They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, 'The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise.' But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him

about it. They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, 'Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.' He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.'

This is the gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

#### THE PROPERs

**Sentence:** Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.

**Collect:** God and Father of all, you have taught us through your Son that the last shall be first, and have made a little child the measure of your kingdom: give us the wisdom from above, so that we may understand that in your sight the one who serves is the greatest of all. **Amen.**

## GRATITUDE DIARY

Latest research suggests that 'Gratitude' is one of the best ways to tackle depression, dis-engagement and is a "pick me up" that we can all 'administer' to ourselves no matter who or where we are - or what we may be going through. Here's a simple little "Gratitude Diary" you might like to do every day this week.

Someone in my life I am grateful for:

Something material I am grateful for:

A situation in my life that I am grateful for:

An experience I had that I am grateful for:

Something about myself I am grateful for:

Something that went well for me: