Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Project Regenerate: Explore. Rejoice. Give.

Advent 1

29 November 2026

Hello Everybody!

Sunday Services: 9.30am & 6.30pm 'Prelude' at Uniting Church

An invitation to ALL parishioners who would like to:

a) Read at our liturgy;
b) Lead intercessions;
c) Help the Sacristy team prepare the accoutrements for Sunday;
d) Liturgical dance.

Please let the Rev's know or have a chat to either of us about what may be involved. As the adage says, *"Many hands make light work."*

I think you will agree with me – we are so, so fortunate. Our freedom, our democracy, our privilege, our wealth, our education, our fridges, our transport, our ability to purchase goods and food without too much difficulty etc …

I highly commend the ABM GAZA Appeal explained in dNews. Of course there are other organisations that also support Al-Ahli hospital including Anglican Overseas Aid. There are Advent brochures available at the back of the church, and our parish has given through this organisation in the past.

I am still agog at our 'Church's' silence regarding the treatment of Palestinian people in GAZA, the West Bank and East Jerusalem by the State of Israel. It is outrageous! Unaccountability in breaking International Law and not fulfilling their obligation as the occupying power to enable shelter, collection of rubbish and humanitarian access to those now living in flood water, disease and malnutrition – I don't believe we would be comfortable letting this happen to ourselves or our families. Yes, give to the ABM GAZA Appeal absolutely – but the people of GAZA need more than our generosity. They need us to speak out! The war must stop! Human dignity is more important than political power-broking. It is a difficult topic to discuss. No question about that. However, for me personally, I cannot stay silent. I think we have to ask: *"What would Jesus do?"*

In the meantime – we all start to make our way to Bethlehem once again. May our hearts prepare for the wonder of God in vulnerability and in human form descending to earth to love us deeply and as we are. *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 GAZA & West Bank, East Jerusalem; Anglican Church in Jerusalem; Al-Ahli Hospital;
- For all State politicians; for sound policy and safety for all candidates;
- 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 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: Frederick (Leslie) DART (1984), Alexander WALDER (1996), William LARKE (2004), Lisa CURTIS (2001), Ada FAGAN (1989), Robert RIVETT (1998), Helen PATTERSON (2005), Christian (Allan) MAHNS (1990), Albert MANNING (1996), Herbert LIERSCH (1998), Clement (Jimmy) BISHOP (1986), Lindsay WESTERLAND (2009), Ephraim (Jack) SAUNDERS (1997), Kenneth NEWELL (2001), Clifford FERNANDES (2005),Anne TREACY (1989)

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

Services - 2026

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

Monday 30th November – Rev Fiona
At Café Peppercorn – 9.00-10.30am

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 4 – 20 December
9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Christmas Eve – 24 December
8.00pm Refreshments
10.00pm Celebrations and Carols

Christmas Day – 25 December
9.30am Celebration & HC

Christmas 1 – 27 December
9.30am Warracknabeal

Epiphany – 03 January
9.30am Warracknabeal
11.00am Areegra Home Church

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
Advent 1

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins. Yet you, Lord , are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be angry beyond measure, Lord ; do not remember our sins for ever. Oh, look upon us we pray, for we are all your people.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: 80

Response: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hearken, from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth. Rouse your power, and come to save us. **(R)**

2. Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted the son of man whom you yourself made strong **(R)**

3. May your help be with the man of your right hand, with the son of man whom you yourself made strong. Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your Name. **(R)**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ – their Lord and ours: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way – with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge – God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, **Alleluia**!
Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

'But in those days, following that distress, ' "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken." 'At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens. 'Now learn this lesson from the fig-tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. 'But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It's like a man going away: he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. 'Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back – whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: "Watch!"'

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

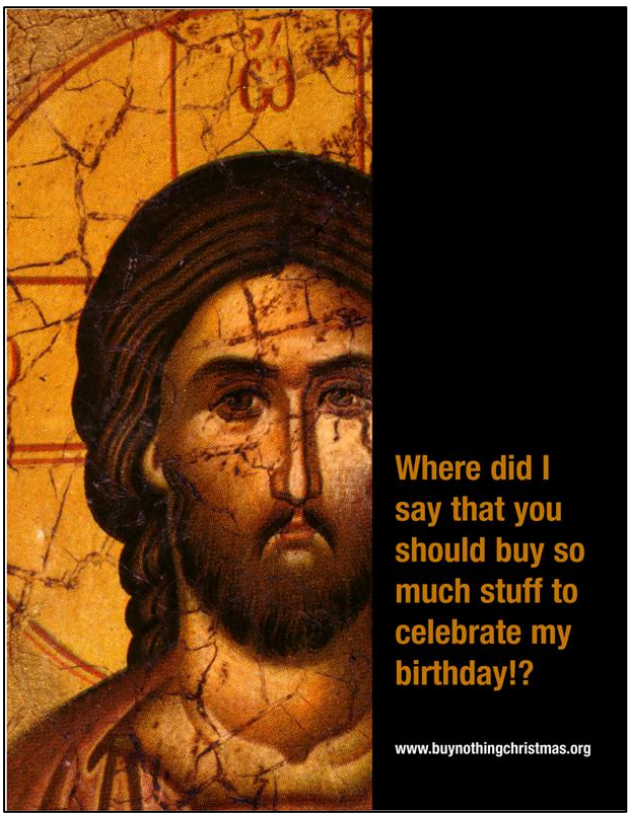
THE PROPERS

Sentence: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and the we may walk in his paths.

Collect: Faithful God, whose promises stand unshaken through all generations: renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our judge and saviour. who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**.



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



Advent Calander

Choose one or more of the following options as your 'Advent Christmas Calander' in the next four weeks until the end of the year.

29 Nov – 05 Dec

- ☐ Donate $5-$30 (or more) toward Christian Emergency Food Hamper
- ☐ Call an old friend and wish them well for the Christmas Season
- ☐ Write a simple Christmas note to someone who lives in your street
- ☐ Invite a friend or neighbour to one of Christmas celebrations

06 Dec – 12 Dec

- ☐ Tell another Parishioner what you appreciate about them
- ☐ Support a local stall at Warrack Market on Saturday 12th December
- ☐ Donate $1.00 for every tap in your house to ABM GAZA Appeal
- ☐ Write a simple Christmas note to someone who lives in your street

13 Dec – 19 Dec

- ☐ Donate $5.00 for every toilet in your house to ABM GAZA Appeal
- ☐ Write a simple Christmas note to someone who lives in your street
- ☐ Ring the church bell at a 'random' time to celebrate Christmas
- ☐ Surprise a friend with a special Christmas Greeting

20 Dec – 27 Dec

- ☐ Support a KIVA micro-loan somewhere in the world: www.kiva.org
- ☐ Choose a 'new' activity to try in 2027 – make plans to implement
- ☐ Write a special note to a favourite or difficult family member
- ☐ Donate $1.00 for every present you received to ABM GAZA Appeal

TEARFUND Useful Gift Shop - **Christmas Season 2026**

Rev James is 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

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 or contact Rev directly





There are a number of pamphlets at the back of the church for your edification, prayer and devotions.

Please feel free to take one or all for yourself or a friend.

Rev James Wood: M: 0438 233 630 Rev Fiona: M: 0400 332 529