



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Pentecost 20
06 October 2024

Sunday Services: 9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal
11.00am St Mark's Areegra



Fr Richard Rohr writes: 'Forgiveness creates opportunities for growth'

The Spirit within us creates an unrelenting desire toward forgiveness and reconciliation. The entire gospel reveals the unfolding mystery of forgiveness; it is the beginning, the middle, and the end of the gospel's transformative message. The energy of being forgiven—in our unworthiness of it—first breaks us out of our merit-badge mentality. The ongoing experience of being forgiven is necessary to renew our flagging spirit and keep us in the infinite ocean of grace. Toward the end of life, a *universal forgiveness of everything for being what it is* becomes the only way we can see and understand reality and finally live at peace.

Zechariah said that God would "give God's people knowledge of salvation through forgiveness of sin" (Luke 1:77). Forgiveness given and forgiveness received are always the pure work of uncreated grace. Such unearned and undeserved forgiveness is necessary to break down the quid pro quo world that I call meritocracy. Only when we experience undeserved love does this inward and outward flow begin to happen. Before that, we are dry, dead cisterns. Before that, we are into "religion" perhaps, but we don't really have any dynamic notion of God or even our self.

Grace re-creates all things; nothing new happens without forgiveness. We just keep repeating the same old patterns, illusions, and half-truths. Sometimes grace does not come immediately, but like Job we "sit in the ashes scraping our sores" (Job 2:8). Sometimes neither the desire nor the decision to forgive is present. Then we must grieve and wait. We must sit in our poverty, perhaps admitting our inability to forgive the offender. That is when we learn how to pray and how to "long and thirst for righteousness" (Matthew 5:6).

True Spirit-led forgiveness always frees and heals at least one of the parties involved, and hopefully both. If it only preserves my moral high ground—as a magnanimous "Christian" person—I doubt if it is true forgiveness at all. In forgiveness, we live up to our true and deepest dignity. We then operate by a power and a logic not our own.

[9 September 2024]

Every blessing, Rev James

Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; Synod representatives;
- For the Southern Deanery;
- For prison chaplains across the Diocese;
- For the leaders of all Nations, those with influence to act for the Common Good;
- For the people on the continent of Europe;
- For sunshine, rain and the fruits of the season;
- For those who hunger for food; For those who thirst for water; For those seeking shelter from violence, exploitation, and injustice of any kind;
- For all who are grieving;
- For Peace in our world; for peace in our hearts; for peace in our homes;
- For all known to us in hospital; for those known to us who are unwell;
- For our Boys Shed Project, and a smooth transition to completion;
- For all on school holidays – for renewal, refreshment and revival;
- For Project Regenerate – as we continue to proclaim the Gospel, offer pastoral care and insight; for all our parish activities and endeavours – seen and unseen;
- For gratitude for those we love near and far away;
- For our vegie patch & chickens;

Years Mind: Charles Mapstone, Las Garsed, George Lockwood

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

Service Times Oct

Pentecost 20 – 06 October

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal
11.00am St Mark's Areegra

Tuesday 08 October

5.00pm Healing Eucharist

Pentecost 21 – 13 October

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Synod – 18-19 October

Pentecost 22 – 20 October

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Pentecost 23 – 27 October

9.30am Warracknabeal

5.00pm Café Church

A heartfelt "THANK YOU" for all who contributed to the ongoing ministry, worship and pastoral care in the parish during my leave.

I do feel proud when away and people ask me who is looking after 'the place'? I can reply that it is the people of our church.

Many responses include initial surprise, but then realize how privileged I must be to be able to 'walk away' (as it were) and not worry about what is going on in my absence.

My Pain Revolution Outreach Tour bike ride was BRILLIANT!

So many stories and people and challenges and interactions with good people. The countryside was beautiful, and the weather was mostly kind.

It is always good to be back home.
See you around the traps.

TODAY'S READINGS

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

First Reading:

Job 1:1, 2:1-10

A reading from the book of Job

In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil. On another day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them to present himself before him. And the Lord said to Satan, 'Where have you come from?' Satan answered the Lord, 'From roaming throughout the earth, going to and fro on it.' Then the Lord said to Satan, 'Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason.' 'Skin for skin!' Satan replied. 'A man will give all he has for his own life. But now stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face.' The Lord said to Satan, 'Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life.' So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes. His wife said to him, 'Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!' He replied, 'You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?' In all this, Job did not sin in what he said. This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm:

128:1-6

Response: *May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives*

1. Blessed are you who fear the LORD, who walk in his ways! For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork; blessed shall you be, and favoured. **(R)**
2. Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the recesses of your home; your children like olive plants around your table. **(R)**
3. Behold, thus is the man blessed who fears the LORD. The LORD bless you from Zion: may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. **(R)**
4. May you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel! **(R)**

Second Reading:

Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Hebrews

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. But there is a place where someone has testified: 'What is mankind that you are mindful of them, a son of man

that you care for him? You made them a little lower than the angels; you crowned them with glory and honour and put everything under their feet.’ In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them. But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honour because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. He says, ‘I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises.’

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia! If we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us.
Alleluia!

Gospel:

Mark 10:2-16

A reading from the gospel according to Mark

Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, ‘Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?’ ‘What did Moses command you?’ he replied. They said, ‘Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away.’ ‘It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law,’ Jesus replied. ‘But at the beginning of

creation God “made them male and female.” “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.’ When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. He answered, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery.’ People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.’ And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPERS

Sentence: Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.

Collect: Loving God, you have made us in your own image, creating us male and female, and you have consecrated the covenant of marriage so that in it is signified the spiritual marriage between Christ and his Church: pour your grace upon all who are called to this holy state, that, keeping their promise of faithfulness to each other, they may reflect in their lives your love for us all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**