



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Epiphany 5
04 February 2024

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



Hello everyone!

Last week, I visited the Halls Gap Zoo - for the first time. I know, don't know why it took me so long, but anyway - what a fantastic place to go. I have this love/hate relationship with zoo's - however, there is always a story! A story of resilience and survival like the crocodile who was kept in a bath by some - it has to be said 'idiots' - who took him as a small croc up north and thought it would be a good idea to raise a wild animal in a bath! I mean - who thought that was a good idea? It actually makes me sad. However, in dramatic style he swallowed a whole chicken - feathers and all - one every fortnight, because they don't want him to get too fat. 7 years later, the zoo is still trying to work out whether his arm muscles are developing as they should and he has his 'rehab' routine to help him keep fit.

Hilariously, 'Kingston' the rhino - loves balancing things on his head ... while I was there he discovered the chaff in a large box, and then he paraded around his enclosure with it balanced on his horn - comical. Apparently, they started him on tyres, but they kept getting caught around his neck ... and the keeper said he loves to try and balance logs, and gets really frustrated when it doesn't work.

What would be your particular character traits - should you be on show for all the world to see? Would you make people laugh? Would you make people think? Would you be compliant or recalcitrant (*just a little bit!*)? What would you need to be yourself?

God never intended our 'faith' to be an enclosure - but rather the launching pad for freedom and liberation: for us to have confidence to grow and learn and engage the world in brave and bold ways - that sought to bring healing and a return to wholeness to our world, and to our own lives. May it be so for you this week.

Every blessing, Rev James

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Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; for Greater Wimmera Deanery;
- For all returning to school – staff, education support and students;
- For Sherry Barber (Suzy Callaghan's sister) – battling cancer;
- For Costa & Del – Covenant Ceremony;
- For a STOP to war around the globe;
- For the people of Ukraine;
- For the people of Peru; Colombia;
- For the people of the Israel & Palestine;
- For all brokering peace around the globe;
- For those who hunger for food; for those who thirst for water;
- For those hunger for justice; for those who thirst for right relationship; for those who seek equity for all;
- For those who are grieving;
- For those in discomfort in heart, mind or body; for those facing depression; for those being dragged behind a camel passing too much wind;
- For all those less fortunate than ourselves;
- For all mechanics;
- For genuine reconciliation and healing in our Great Southern Land;
- For the Christian Emergency Food Centre in Horsham; for Bev and all the volunteers;
- For all our new year endeavours;
- For those we love – near and far away;

Years Mind: Ronald Bryant, Leslie Smith, Roma Willsher, Leslie Jonasson, Lois O'Callaghan, Lance Dunkley, Phyllis Walker, Gordan Jonasson, Gary Tong

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

Service Times Feb

Epiphany 5 – 04 February 2024

9.30am & 5.00pm – Warracknabeal
11.00am Areegra

Eucharist – Tuesday 06 February 2024

5.00pm - Warracknabeal

Transfiguration – 11 February 2024

9.30am & 5.00pm – Warracknabeal
12.00pm Lunch in Rectory

Phase Two Conversation – Tues 13 February

5.15-6.00pm in the Rectory

Lent 1 – 18 February 2024

9.30am – Warracknabeal

Lent 2 – 25 February 2024

10.30am – Warracknabeal
(+Garry to visit)

12.00 – Mission Lunch

5.00pm Café Church

Thank you for your continued support for the Christian Emergency Food Centre in Horsham. Bev and the team remain very grateful.

Next Mission Lunch

Sunday 25th February at 12.00pm following the 10.30am service.

\$25 - please place your name on the list at the back of the church or contact:

Sandra Taylor: 0408 991 235

Jill Bibby: 0438 909 202

We need donations of salads please!

Bring a friend.

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

TODAY'S READINGS

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

First Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded? He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in. He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing. No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground, than he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff. 'To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?' says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing. Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, 'My way is hidden from the Lord ; my cause is disregarded by my God'? Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm: 147:1-6

Response: Praise the Lord, who heals the broken hearted.

1. Praise the LORD, for he is good; sing praise to our God, for he is gracious; it is fitting to praise him. The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; the dispersed of Israel he gathers. **(R)**
2. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. He tells the number of the stars; he calls each by name. **(R)**
3. Great is our Lord and mighty in power; to his wisdom there is no limit. The LORD sustains the lowly; the wicked he casts to the ground. **(R)**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me. What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not make full use of my rights as a preacher of the gospel. Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save

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some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, **Alleluia!**

He bore our sickness, And endured our suffering. **Alleluia!**

Gospel:

Mark 1:29-39

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

As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them. That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all who were ill and demon-possessed. The whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was. Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: 'Everyone is looking for you!' Jesus replied, 'Let us go somewhere else – to the nearby villages – so that I can preach there also. That is why I have come.' So he travelled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPERS

Sentence: Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles.

Collect: Father of all, who gave your only-begotten Son to take upon himself the form of a servant and to be obedient even to death on a cross: give us the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, that, sharing in his humility we may come to be with him in his glory; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



*If you are planning for one year –
plant rice.*

*If you are planning for 10 years –
plant trees.*

*If you are planning for a hundred
years – plant people.*

Indian proverb.