



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Pentecost 21
13 October 2024

Sunday Services: 9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal



Sr Joan Chittister writes: Do We Earn Heaven?

A young woman, the newspaper tells us, who had been nothing but heartache and shame to her family all her life, walked away from an automobile crash that killed everybody else in the car. She didn't "merit" that rescue. I ran through the pane-glass front of a candy store when I was ten years old despite the fact that I was not to be in that particular store at that particular time. It was an expense that my parents could not really afford at the time. I sat on the living room floor all day long waiting for my father to come home and punish me. But all he said was, "Are you hurt? No? Then good, what did you learn from it?" I didn't "merit" that love. And I have an idea that someplace along the line, even you have managed to escape the just desserts of your actions. In fact, if we think about it, we'd all be somewhere else right now if God were a God of arithmetic. None of us have perfect scores. All of us have been saved from ourselves and through no merit of our own. It's just that most of us manage to keep those times secret.

And that's the problem: If we have to merit heaven, we're never going to get it. Because we can't. We aren't made to be perfect; we're made to be us. We're made to grow slowly. We're made to begin again and again and again. We're made to demonstrate God's justice and exercise God's mercy, both of which are clearly different from our own.

Michelangelo, on the other hand, gives us an insight into what perfection is really all about. He wrote, "The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it." If we're afraid to fail, it is very easy to be perfect enough to merit a small reward but it is very difficult to become human enough to realize that failure can be its own kind of spiritual director. In fact, God apparently intended it that way or perfection would be a given. [From the October 2024 issue of *The Monastic Way*, by Joan Chittister]

I hope that you have a blessed week! Rev James

Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry;
- For the Registry and all who sail in her;
- For Synod representatives; for honest and courageous debate at Synod; for sll who work to exercise good governance throughout the Diocese;
- For the leaders of all Nations, those with influence to act for the Common Good;
- 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; for our NEW Building Permit; for Onley's Holdings Builders;
- For all who make the Warracknabeal Show a success and important gathering for all in the region;
- 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 Spring wonder and delight;

Years Mind: Donald Johnson

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

Service Times Oct/Nov

Pentecost 21 – 13 October

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Synod – 18-19 October

Pentecost 22 – 20 October

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Parish Council Meeting – 22 October

7.00pm refreshments/7.30pm meeting

Pentecost 23 – 27 October

9.30am Warracknabeal

5.00pm Café Church

All Saints – 03 November

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

11.00am St Mark's Areegra

Pentecost 25 – 10 November

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Tuesday 12 October

5.00pm Eucharist

Pentecost 26 – 17 November

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Christ the King – 24 November

9.30am Warracknabeal

5.00pm Café Church

Parish Council Meeting – 26 November

7.00pm refreshments/7.30pm meeting

Boys' Shed Project - Update

I am pleased to announce that we were granted our new Building Permit for the Boys' Shed on Wednesday by Vic Central Building Surveyors.

HOORAAAAAAAAAY!

Onley's Holding Builders are now preparing the Building Contract and plans are under way for work to complete our Boys' Shed.

TODAY'S READINGS

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

First Reading:

Job 23:1-9,16-17

A reading from the book of Job

Job answered: ²“Today also my complaint is bitter; his hand is heavy despite my groaning. ³Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his dwelling! ⁴I would lay my case before him and fill my mouth with arguments. ⁵I would learn what he would answer me and understand what he would say to me. ⁶Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power? No, but he would give heed to me. ⁷There the upright could reason with him, and I should be acquitted forever by my judge. ⁸“If I go forward, he is not there; or backward, I cannot perceive him; ⁹on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him; I turn to the right, but I cannot see him. ¹⁶God has made my heart faint; the Almighty has terrified me. ¹⁷If only I could vanish in darkness, and thick darkness would cover my face!

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm:

22:1-15

Response: God, you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

1. My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night but find no rest.
2. Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. To you they cried and were saved; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.
3. But I am a worm and not human, scorned by others and despised by the people.

All who see me mock me; they sneer at me; they shake their heads; “Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver—let him rescue the one in whom he delights!
(R)

4. Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother's breast. On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my God. Do not be far from me, for trouble is near, and there is no one to help. **(R)**

5. Many bulls encircle me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me; they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; my mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death. **(R)**

Second Reading:

Hebrews 4:12-16

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Hebrews

¹²Indeed, the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. ¹⁴Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with

boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God. **Alleluia!**

Gospel:

Mark 10:17-31

A reading from the gospel according to Mark

¹⁷ As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸ Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. You shall not defraud. Honor your father and mother.’ ” ²⁰ He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” ²¹ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” ²² When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. ²³ Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” ²⁴ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵

It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁶ They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.” ²⁸ Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” ²⁹ Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the sake of the good news ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

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

THE PROPERS

Sentence: There is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for Jesus’ sake, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.

Collect: Merciful God, in your Son you call not the righteous but sinners to repentance: draw us away from the easy road that leads to destruction, and guide us into paths that lead to life abundant, that in seeking your truth, and obeying your will, we may know the joy of being a disciple of Jesus our Saviour; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**