



# Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

**Epiphany 4**  
**29 January 2023**

**Sunday Service: 10.30am Café Church**  
**Bring a plate and a friend!**



***"There is only ONE race. The human race."***  
***Robert Sobukwe***

The structure of the body of man (*sic*) provides evidence to prove the biological unity of the human species. All scientists agree that there is no "race" that is superior to another, and there is no "race" that is inferior to others.

The Africanists take the view that there is only one race to which we all belong, and that is the human race. In our vocabulary therefore, the word "race", as applied to man, has no plural form.

[Robert Sobukwe: 'There is only one race. The human race.' - South Africa Gateway ([southafrica-info.com](http://southafrica-info.com))]

## Australia Day:

It has to be said that the 'birth' of modern Australia had a difficult beginning. History is clear. Our society is starting to talk more openly than ever before about the reality that despite the best intentions of many 'learned men' - members of our own human race were disenfranchised of their land and culture. People like you and me - were killed because of fear. People like you and me - tried to protect their women and children. People like you and me - experienced so much pain.

Genocide. Abuse. Arrogance. Survival. Power. Culture...

As a society - this is now OUR pain to heal. As a society - this is OUR opportunity to forge a more equitable future for all members of the human race that call Australia home. As a society - we have much to learn from each other, much to understand on the road to acknowledging pain and seeking healing, and much to do so that no matter what our heritage or culture - we create an Australia is free from racism and prejudice because of the colour of our skin.



***Being kind is really not hard.  
You just got to keep the mean  
stuff to yourself.***

Around the world:

It seems we have another 'dictator' back in power in Israel - to join the others wreaking havoc around the globe: Afghanistan, Russia, Belarus, Syria, Peru, Venezuela, Burkina Faso, North Korea, and I've probably left a few out. It is hard not to think that the human race is a 'fighting race' - at least from some reading I've done recently, we are a 'warrior race' deep within our being. It is how we control that inherent aspect of our nature - that determines growth or destruction: acceptance or abuse: or whether we build a bigger fence or a bigger table.

It grieves me. Does it grieve you too?

As a faith community in our well protected and fortunate location of Warracknabeal and its region - what can we do to help make the world a better place? If you have any ideas - I'd like to know.

Preparing for Lent & Easter:

Working backwards, I will be 'Walking with the Cross' from Hopetoun to Warracknabeal during Holy Week this year - 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> April. I would invite you to consider either: joining me for 10 metres or more somewhere along the way; being part of the 'support crew' - whether catering, prayer support, or practical things; or thinking about what might be useful for me/us to do along the way. Get in touch.

I have purchased 10 x ABM "The Imaginary Doorway" study booklets for Lent. I am hoping to provide some simple hospitality and a chance to discuss the contents in the Rectory during Lent. Please register your interest with me ASAP.

I hope to conduct a 'Retreat in Daily Life' in the parish: 19-26 March.

In the first three Sundays of Feb as we brace ourselves for Ash Wednesday - I will reflect on 'Assertiveness and Attitude' as we read and reflect on Matthew's Sermon on the Mount. I would particularly like to focus on this topic at 5.00pm service, but I am sure it will 'spill over' into our other worship times as well. So if you're looking for something with a bit of spice before we don hessian and sack cloth and fast our way to the foot of the cross - come and join us in the Parish Centre at 5.00pm on Sunday evenings. *"Take courage. Do not be afraid."* *Every Blessing, Rev!*



## Prayer in the Parish

### In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; the people in Parish of Ararat;
- For ALL Australian Citizens;
- For the oldest continuous culture on the planet and all her people;
- For refugees & those who seek asylum;
- For our Local, State and Federal leaders in their capacity to instigate change;
- For respectful conversations regarding culture and identity within our society;
- For all people dealing with violence, war, injustice and exploitation;
- For the people of Ukraine;
- For those displaced by war, prejudice, circumstance and creed;
- For those experiencing grief;
- For our neighbours;
- For Christian Emergency Food Centre;
- For those facing significant hardship in body and mind and soul;
- For our region's business owners and employers;
- For opportunity and privilege;
- For those we love – near and far away;
- Thanks for our all God's blessings;

**Years Mind:** All those on our hearts at this time of year.

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

## Services – Jan/Feb

### Epiphany 4 – 29 Jan 2023

10.30am – Café Church

### Epiphany 5 – 05 February

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

11.00am Areegra

### Epiphany 6 – 12 February

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

### Transfiguration – 19 February

10.30am – *Baptism Service*

5.00pm Warracknabeal

### Ash Wednesday – 22 February

5.30pm Warracknabeal

Followed by simple Rectory meal

### Lent 1 – 26 February

10.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

12.00pm Parish Luncheon

### Lent 2 – 05 March

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

11.00am Areegra

## Special Morning Tea

19th February in the Parish Centre  
following our 10.30am Baptism  
service for Molly & Posie.

Please bring a plate and join the  
celebration!

## Parish Luncheon Returns!

26<sup>th</sup> February in the Parish Centre  
at 12.00pm following our 10.30am  
morning service.

Salads will be needed.

More details soon!

# TODAY'S READINGS

## EPIPHANY 4

First Reading :

Micah 6:1-8

### ***A reading from the prophet Micah***

<sup>1</sup> Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. <sup>2</sup> Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. <sup>3</sup> 'O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! <sup>4</sup> For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. <sup>5</sup> O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.' <sup>6</sup> 'With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? <sup>7</sup> Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?' <sup>8</sup> He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Psalm:

15

**Response: *Lord, who may abide in your tabernacle: or who may dwell upon your holy hill?***

<sup>1</sup> Lord, who may abide in your tabernacle: or who may dwell upon your holy hill?

Whoever leads an uncorrupt life and does the thing which is right: who speaks the truth from the heart, and has not slandered with the tongue; **R**

<sup>2</sup> Who has done no evil to a friend: nor vented abuse against a neighbour; In whose eyes the worthless have no honour: but who makes much of those that fear the Lord; **R**

<sup>3</sup> Whoever has sworn to a neighbour: and will not go back on that oath; Who has not put money to usury: nor taken a bribe against the innocent. Whoever does these things: shall never be overthrown. **R**

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

### ***A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians***

<sup>18</sup> For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.' <sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's



weakness is stronger than human strength. <sup>26</sup> Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> in order that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

#### Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, **Alleluia!**

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom, and healed those who were sick.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel:**

**Matthew 5:1-12**

#### ***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew***

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: <sup>3</sup> 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. <sup>5</sup> 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup> 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. <sup>7</sup> 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. <sup>8</sup> 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see

God. <sup>9</sup> 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. <sup>10</sup> 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

This is the gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

#### **The Propers**

**Sentence:** Now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. (1 Corinthians 13.14)

**Collect:** Righteous God, you confound the world's wisdom by giving your blessing to the lowly and pure in heart: give us such a hunger and thirst for justice and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the promise of your kingdom, which has been revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **Commitment to what makes life worthwhile**

Sr Joan Chittister writes;

Everyone is defeated sometime. Many then simply quit the fray. But the really strong, the really committed, do not. They decide whether or not the mountain is worth the climb. And if it is, no amount of wind can force them from the face of it. They live to finish what they began.

Endurance is not about being too stubborn to give up on the impossible. Endurance is about having heart enough to keep on trying to do the possible, even if it is unattainable. We nurse the dying through years of disability. We begin projects for the poor even when they don't begin to make a dent in the problem of poverty. We hold on against opposition for the sake of the principle of a thing. Those endure who seek to do what is deeply important to them, no matter how difficult it may be.

The problem is that it is often hard to tell the difference between endurance and denial. It is a distinction that is necessary to the authenticity of the exercise. We are in denial when we fail to accept the fact that what we want to have happen depends on more than what we have to offer. If we do not have the basic musical abilities it takes to play the piano, no amount of music lessons will make up for a lack of natural rhythm or the size of our hands. Then, to set our sights on concertizing is denial. When we do not have the agreement of others that are needed to see a thing through, but cling to the idea anyway, that is denial. I cannot save a marriage, for instance, once the other person has already left it. Endurance, then, does not mean "success." It means being willing to cope with what is until something else begins. It means being open to the possibility that things will stay the way they are, perhaps indefinitely. It means that I must be open to becoming something new. Then endurance demands that I bear what I must and be what I can.

The notion of endurance takes on negative overtones when I fail to realize that it is meant to bring out the best in me, not the worst. Endurance is not misery, not martyrdom, not spiritual masochism. Endurance means that I intend to survive the worst, singing as I go.

The person who endures does not have life taken away by forces devoted to their destruction. They devote their lives in tribute only to those things that make a life worth living. When my young widowed mother refused to allow other members of the family to raise her child so that "she could begin again," she was not martyring herself. She was simply intent on enduring the struggle it would take to keep alive and vital the part of her life that meant something to her: raising me. Endurance is not negation of life; it is commitment to whatever makes life worthwhile.

We do what we do, not because we are sure to succeed at it, but because it brings out something good in us that nothing else can touch. We can endure anything for the sake of things we love. We can endure years at a bedside, years of study, a lifetime of practice, a career of service, the loss of good things

we consider less worthy than the things we really care about. Endurance is the sacrament of commitment.

The gift of endurance is not to be wasted on trivia, on denial, on stubbornness, on posturing. We are given the gift of endurance for the sake of the great things of life. Endurance has as much to do with the kind of person we are as it has to do with the kind of situation we're in. In the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson,

***What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.***

—from *Scarred By Struggle, Transformed by Hope*, by Joan Chittister (Eerdmans)



The COEXIST symbol draws upon peace as the central and uniting theme present in the world's great spiritual traditions. Promoting harmony over discord, these seven symbols united into one reflect a much larger philosophy of human interconnectedness and respect.

Centered around a giant peace sign, the symbols are (artistic variations may occur between different representations):

- C** – The half-moon and star from Islam, symbolizing humanity and the universe.
- O** – The peace sign, (secular peace symbol)
- E** – The Hindu Om, representing the sound of life present throughout the universe.
- X** – The Star of David, symbolic of Jewish identity and spiritual strength.
- I** – The Humanist symbol of the individual indicating peace through self-knowledge.
- S** – The Yin Yang of Taoism, representing the balance that exists between all things.
- T** – The Cross of Christianity, symbolic of forgiveness and divine love.

United in art, these symbols echo the wisdom that resides beneath the various layers of different cultures, showing that without the borders we create, life can be lived in harmonious existence with one another.

Genuine dialogue with other faith traditions – I believe – helps keep us all accountable. It does not mean that we have to believe or accept every aspect of different faith traditions. The key is 'understanding' and being able to articulate your (our Christian) beliefs about what it means to follow Jesus and the consequences of the Resurrection, which is unique in all of the spiritual traditions. Something to embrace or reject – and reflect upon!

# The Beatitudes

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me."

Matthew 5:11 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 5:1-12 (NIV)



S T H I R S T G V H M Q B U S  
 T O D O Y R G P R E E O A F L  
 K T T Q O M Y L B Z J A U M K  
 X D A O M H U N G E R W V R Z  
 P L P N F U R W Y I D T X E N  
 E U E J M E R C Y A I M E M N  
 G B R W S P U L E R I S E N B  
 N C H E P B W D E I E D D U K  
 K H E E I T K H V G Q E R N I  
 T Q A R R Y N O F Y S E Y C N  
 E N R Y I I H H N S V N K W G  
 M A T S T J P L E S E C N A D  
 E U R P F I L L E D D I X N O  
 E Z F T H S B P X R I P L Q M  
 K Z H U H U C J L H O H C M R

KINGDOM  
HUNGER  
THIRST

MERCY  
HEART  
MEEK

EARTH  
SPIRIT  
PURE

FILLED  
BLESSED  
POOR

MOURN  
INHERIT  
HEAVEN