

# Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

## Pentecost 12

### 28 August 2022

#### **Hello Everyone!**

I hope you've had a good week!

*[A few words from Richard Rohr - Centre for Action and Contemplation]  
Father Richard shares about an important time of discernment in his life:*

There are two spiritual disciplines that keep me honest and growing: contemplative prayer and the perspective from the bottom. In 1985, I was freed for a year to pursue the contemplative part of my vocation. It was a major turning point. Father William McNamara's definition of contemplation—"a long loving look at the real"—became transformative. [1] The world, my own issues and hurts, all goals and desires gradually dissolved into proper perspective. God became obvious and everywhere.

Ultimately, we do not earn or find God. We just get ourselves out of the way. We let go of illusions and the preoccupations of our smaller selves. As the cheap scaffolding falls away, the soul stands revealed. The soul, or True Self, cannot be created or achieved by our work. It just is, and it is already. The soul is God's "I AM" continued in me. That part of me already knows, desires, and truly seeks God. Discernment of God's will comes naturally to the True Self because here "I" and God seem to be one "I."

*Richard reflects on how this extended time of contemplation brought him to a point of decisive action:*

After my sabbatical year, I found my way to the conviction that I should open the Center for Action and Contemplation in New Mexico. I wanted to help people get thoroughly involved in the issues and goals of social justice, to help people work in solidarity with those on the margins, but from the right point of departure. It is possible to do the right thing for the wrong reasons!

Contemplation is a way to hear with the Spirit and not just with the head. Contemplation is the search for a wide-open space, a space broad enough for the head, the heart, the feelings, the gut, the subconscious, our memories, our intuitions, our whole body. We need a holistic place for discerning wisdom.

The effect of contemplation is authentic action; if contemplation doesn't lead to genuine action, then it remains only navel-gazing and self-preoccupation.

I'm convinced that if we stick with it, if we practice contemplation regularly, then we will come to an inner place of compassion—for ourselves and for others. In this place, we notice how much *the suffering of the world is our suffering*. We become committed to this world, not cerebrally, but from the much deeper perspective of our soul. At this point, we're indestructible, because in that place we find the peace that the world cannot give. We don't need to win anymore; *we just need to do what we have to do*, as naive and simplistic as that might sound. That's why Augustine could make such an outrageous statement as "Love [God] and do what you will"! [2] People who are living from a truly God-centered place instead of a self-centered place are dangerously free precisely because they are tethered at the center.

[1] William McNamara as quoted by Walter J. Burghardt, "Contemplation: A Long, Loving Look at the Real," in *An Ignatian Spirituality Reader*, ed. George W. Traub (Chicago: Loyola Press, 2008), 91.

[2] Augustine, *Ten Homilies on the First Epistle of John to the Parthians*, tractate 7.8.

Adapted from Richard Rohr, *Essential Teachings on Love*, selected by Joelle Chase and Judy Traeger (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2018), 133, 141-142.

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Do you ever remember a time when you were in a place of exquisite history and circumstance - but didn't really know it? Even if you 'wanted' to be the guest of honour - it was beyond your comprehension. I have had this experience too many times - however, with the gift of hindsight and maturity etc - I am able to recall moments of great-ness!

One such occasion, in 1988, I travelled with my mother to a Summer School - in Christ Church Oxford (UK) for two weeks. Every night, we'd dress-up: yep - suit and tie stuff, have a couple of drinks in the bar - and then head into the great dining hall with ALL the knives and forks and glasses ... I've never had it so good! I loved those evenings, but the history and the occasion were a bit lost on me - I was too young and too uninformed (probably the best way I can describe it). People such as Lewis Carroll, King Edward VII, William Penn, Joseph Banks, Charles Wesley, W.H. Auden and several other notable characters all dined and wined and laughed and sobbed in that Hall.

It is a little humbling to reflect now and see how ignorant I was. I am grateful though - this trip also set me on a path of travel and discovery and courage and adventure that I will try to never forget ...

Let's toast how extra-ordinary life is!

*Every blessing, Rev James*



## **Prayer in the Parish**

### **In the Parish & Beyond:**

- +Garry;
- For our Diocesan Registry Team;
- For all our Pacific neighbours and friends;
- For all the people of Ukraine;
- For the people of Sudan;
- For the people of Taiwan;
- For the people of Pakistan;
- For all who seek justice and peace;
- For Christian Emergency Food Centre;
- For all those in hospital; for all facing surgery and recovery;
- For our Coffee Van volunteers & mentors; for the Red Caboose;
- For our friends, families, and our neighbours; for those who make us smile and laugh;
- For those of other faiths; for those of none; for leaders in our communities;
- For those grieving;
- For all construction workers;
- For the courage to walk in faith, hope and love – no matter our circumstances;
- For Benjamin Holland;

**Years Mind:** Elizabeth Morris, William Gleeson, Bradley Tree, Rona Young, Dr. Jim Watts

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

## **Services – Aug/Sept/Oct**

### **Pentecost 12 – 28 August**

9.30am Warracknabeal

5.00pm – Café Church

8.30-12.30pm Coffee Van

### **Pentecost 13 – 04 September**

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

11.00am Areegra

### **Pentecost 14 – 11 September**

10.30am Warracknabeal

12.00pm – Luncheon

### **Pentecost 15 – 18 September**

9.30am HC Warracknabeal

### **Pentecost 16 – 25 September**

10.30am Cafe Church Warracknabeal

### **Pentecost 17 – 02 October**

9.30am Morning Prayer Warracknabeal

11.30am Morning Prayer Areegra

### **Pentecost 18 – 09 October**

9.30 HC Warracknabeal

8.30-12.30pm COFFEE Van –  
2<sup>nd</sup> Year Birthday Party

### **Other Events:**

### **Soup, Sandwich & Sweets Luncheon**

11<sup>th</sup> September at 12.00pm

\$15 per person

### **Anglican Treasures Auction**

21<sup>st</sup> October 2022

### **Synod**

21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> October in Ballarat

# TODAY'S READINGS

## PENTECOST 12

**First Reading: Jeremiah 2:4-13**

***A reading from the prophet Jeremiah***  
Hear the word of the Lord, you descendants of Jacob, all you clans of Israel. This is what the Lord says: 'What fault did your ancestors find in me, that they strayed so far from me? They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves. They did not ask, "Where is the Lord, who brought us up out of Egypt and led us through the barren wilderness, through a land of deserts and ravines, a land of drought and utter darkness, a land where no one travels and no one lives?" I brought you into a fertile land to eat its fruit and rich produce. But you came and defiled my land and made my inheritance detestable. The priests did not ask, "Where is the Lord?" Those who deal with the law did not know me; the leaders rebelled against me. The prophets prophesied by Baal, following worthless idols. 'Therefore I bring charges against you again,' declares the Lord. 'And I will bring charges against your children's children. Cross over to the coasts of Cyprus and look, send to Kedar and observe closely; see if there has ever been anything like this: has a nation ever changed its gods? (Yet they are not gods at all.) But my people have exchanged their glorious God for worthless idols. Be appalled at this, you heavens, and shudder with great horror,' declares the Lord. 'My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Psalm: 68:4-7, 10-11**

**Response: God, in your goodness,  
You have made a home for the poor.**

1. The just rejoice and exult before God; they are glad and rejoice.  
Sing to God, chant praise to his name; whose name is the LORD. **(R)**
2. The father of orphans and the defender of widows is God in his holy dwelling.  
God gives a home to the forsaken; he leads forth prisoners to prosperity. **(R)**
3. A bountiful rain you showered down, O God, upon your inheritance; you restored the land when it languished; your flock settled in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided it for the needy. **(R)**

**Second Reading: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16**

***A reading from the letter to the Hebrews***

Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are ill-treated as if you yourselves were suffering. Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.' So we say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?' Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you.

Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, **alleluia!**

Take my yoke upon you, says the Lord, and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart.

**Alleluia!**

### Gospel:

Luke 14:1, 7-14

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

One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched. When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honour at the table, he told them this parable: ‘When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honour, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, “Give this person your seat.” Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, “Friend, move up to a better place.” Then you will be honoured in the presence of all the other guests. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.’ Then Jesus said to his host, ‘When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbours;

if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.’

This is the gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

### The Propers

**Sentence:** All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

**Collect:** O God, you invite the humble and the sinful to take their place in the festive assembly of the new covenant: teach your Church always to honour the presence of the Lord in the poor and the outcast, so that we may learn to recognise each other as brothers and sisters gathered together around your table. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The world is a book,  
and those who do not  
travel  
read only a page.

St Augustine

## **Genuinely holy people know...**

*Sr Joan Chittister writes:*

The Rule of Benedict, on which the lives of many religious women and men have been based for over 1500 years, was written by an Italian in sixth century Italy. I have always been secretly happy about that.

In that era, the commonplace image of a monk was still the recluse in a dry and barren desert. Benedict, however, created another kind of monasticism, of spirituality, of holiness. He presented the spiritual world with the concept of "community" as sanctifier, of "family" as a spiritual discipline. Rather than isolation from the components of life, his spirituality was about singleminded search for God, not singleness for its own sake.

To this day, Benedict wants those who follow his very moderate, very profound spiritual counsel to learn to live an ordinary life extraordinarily well. Chapter 40 of the Rule of Benedict, on "The Proper Amount of Drink," demonstrates that core value with overwhelming simplicity. "We believe," he writes, "that a hemina of wine is sufficient for each." The hemina is an ancient liquid measure variously defined as between six and eight ounces. Wine, the fruit of the vine, was basic to the Italian diet—and still is.

One thing that Italians understand better than many that there is a difference between a spiritual life and an ascetical life. Lots of people are highly spiritual but not necessarily known for their asceticism or self-denial. St. Nicholas, the model for the modern Santa Claus, for instance, gave gifts to everyone. Jesus, too, was not averse to parties and moments of relaxation. He went to the marriage feast at Cana and multiplied the wine. He celebrated the Passover meal even at the brink of death. He used a good many dinner parties as images of life in his parables. He was criticized for it, but ignored the religious pressure to suck the joy out of life. And so, you see, to this day, in Italy, there is always wine served at mealtimes. And it is also served in monasteries, as well as in public restaurants and at family meals.

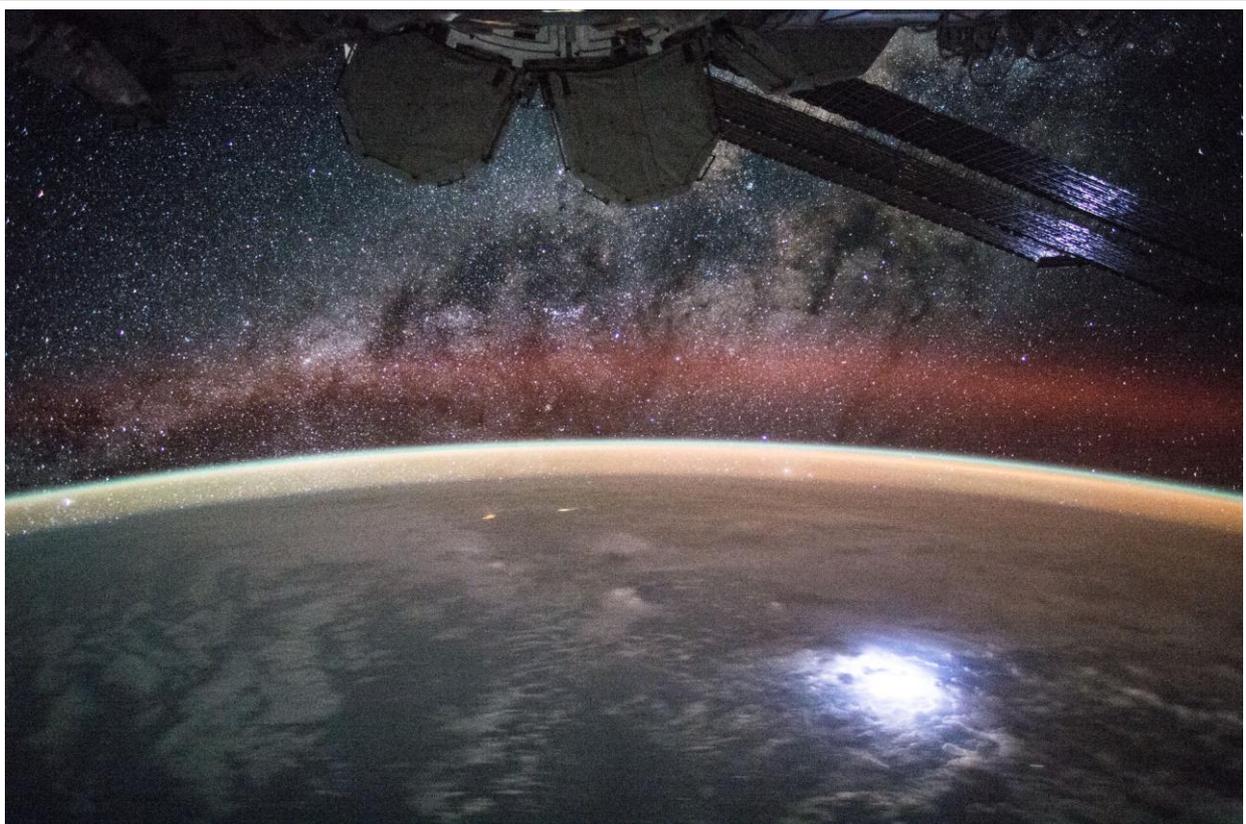
There are simply some things in life that are meant to be enjoyed. There is something about joy, this monastic rule affirms, that is as holy as suffering can ever be. There is an asceticism that leads to sourness of attitudes, to negative judgments of normal and healthy things, as in, "You mean she's going to take a day off when she could get paid for working overtime?" Or, better yet, "You mean that priests golf and sisters swim and religious communities do yoga?"

Genuinely holy people know that life is to be enjoyed as well as disciplined, happy as well as controlled, full of the juice of life as well as stripped down in the name of holiness. Why? Because joy is hardwired into the human condition. More, we are meant to be joyful because life itself is good and also meant to be enjoyed.

The wholesale attack on enjoyment of any kind came out of a period of time when avid extremists taught that the body was bad, humor was decadent, friends were a frivolous distraction, and partaking of the fruit of the vine was against sanctity. The body, that group insisted, was evil, bad, the site of sin. And that kind of holiness the church declared to be heresy.

Good for us. The philosophy of "extremism in nothing; moderation in all things," claimed the day. And it should. Because if truth were known, moderation is far more difficult to achieve and follow than extremism in either direction.

[from *Grace-Filled Moments with Sister Joan*, by Joan Chittister (Twenty-Third Publications)]



### **‘The Milky Way & Lightning’**

This time lapse of the Milky Way Galaxy taken from the International Space Station (ISS) also captured a lightning strike on Earth so bright that it lit up the space station’s solar panels.

Astronaut Kjell Lindgren posted this on Twitter and Instagram on Sept. 2, 2015, saying, "Large lightning strike on Earth lights up or solar panels."