

Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Christ the King 21 November 2021

Hello Everyone! I hope that I find you in good spirits.

A very special welcome to Ven Michael & Kerry O'Brien this Sunday and Monday. Michael is our Diocesan Archdeacon, who has direct responsibility with the Bishop for our greater Wimmera Deanery. We are most grateful for your effort to come and visit us, and provide several opportunities for us to get to know you in fellowship and discuss matters of consequence within the parish with you both. We trust you will enjoy a simple sojourn in our midst.

We are very proud of the vision and mission of Project Regenerate (2020-2025) and will be happy to answer any questions you may have in this regard.

You can meet Michael & Kerry:

5.00pm - Service in Parish Centre (Sunday)

6.30pm - Dinner at Creekside Hotel (RSVP appreciated)

9.00am - Cuppa and chat in the Rectory

The inclement weather really *hammered* the Coffee Van last weekend, but it didn't deter the die-hards who continue to support us. Along with our amazing volunteers and mentors, I am sure we - with the Girls Guides BBQ - brought some warmth and hospitality to the Warrack Shopping Spree participants as we experienced 9 seasons in one day.

I am also delighted to mention that the Anglican Catering Hospitality Team had approx 30 attendees for our Soup & Sandwich Luncheon last Sunday. A fantastic effort to the team - who have not lost their 'touch' in providing a healthy and wholesome lunch with all the trimmings associated with our Mission lunches of the past. There were some lucky winners in our raffle - whose names I have forgotten; and I can say that many of those who supported this event have told me that they are so glad that 'we're back!' Many thanks to all involved, Rev James

"The only way Jesus can be our King is if we allow him to be our servant."

Stuart Greaves



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; Deacons & chaplains;
- Synod preparations – 11 December;
- For the people of South America;
- Project Regenerate – Renew People. Revive Projects, Restore Place;
- For the Archdeacon's visit – healthy conversation and joyful fellowship;
- Doreen Taylor;
- For those grieving loved ones;

Community:

- For Business owners in region;
- For all agricultural industries; for all our farmers and those who support them;
- For all those feeling vulnerable, isolated, alienated, and anxious;
- All facing natural disaster and disease;
- All COVID consequences;

Years Mind: Lois Crawford, Michael Verber, Beverley Kaal, Donald Merritt, William Clarke, Lisa Curtis, Helen Patterson

Please RSVP to Rev immediately if you are planning to join us at The Creekside Hotel on Sunday night at 6.30pm to meet Ven Michael & Kerry.

This will allow us to make room for all who would like to attend with the least amount of inconvenience.

All welcome!

Service Times Nov/Dec

Saturday 20 November

4.00pm - Youth Group Activity

Christ the King – 21 November

9.30am - Christ Church (Full Vacc)

5.00pm – Parish Centre (non-Vacc status)

Visit of Archdeacon Michael & Kerry

6.00pm Creekside Hotel

9.00am – Mon 22nd - Rectory

Advent 1 – 28 November

9.30am - Christ Church (Full Vacc)

5.00pm – Parish Centre (non-Vacc status)

8.30am-12.30pm Coffee Van

Advent 2 – 05 December

9.30am - Christ Church (Full Vacc)

11.00am Areegra

5.00pm – Parish Centre (non-Vacc status)

6.00pm SHINE Youth Group

Advent 3 – 12 November

9.30am - Christ Church (Full Vacc)

5.00pm – Parish Centre (non-Vacc status)

8.30am-12.30pm Coffee Van

**Want to give a grain of wheat -
to produce a harvest
opportunity within our parish?**



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

NGR 12439740

TODAY'S READINGS

CHRIST THE KING

First Reading: 2 Samuel 23:1-7

A reading from the second book of Samuel

These are the last words of David: 'The inspired utterance of David son of Jesse, the utterance of the man exalted by the Most High, the man anointed by the God of Jacob, the hero of Israel's songs: 'The Spirit of the Lord spoke through me; his word was on my tongue. The God of Israel spoke, the Rock of Israel said to me: "When one rules over people in righteousness, when he rules in the fear of God, he is like the light of morning at sunrise on a cloudless morning, like the brightness after rain that brings grass from the earth." 'If my house were not right with God, surely he would not have made with me an everlasting covenant, arranged and secured in every part; surely he would not bring to fruition my salvation and grant me my every desire. But evil men are all to be cast aside like thorns, which are not gathered with the hand. Whoever touches thorns uses a tool of iron or the shaft of a spear; they are burned up where they lie.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: 93

Response: *The LORD is king; he is robed in majesty.*

1. The LORD is king, in splendour robed; robed is the LORD and girt about with strength. **(R).**
2. And he has made the world firm, not to be moved. Your throne stands firm from of old; from everlasting you are, O LORD **(R).**
3. Your decrees are worthy of trust indeed; holiness befits your house, O LORD, for length of days. **(R).**

Second Reading: Revelation 1:4b-8

A reading from the book of Revelation

John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father – to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. 'Look, he is coming with the clouds,' and 'every eye will see him, even those who pierced him'; and all peoples on earth 'will mourn because of him.' So shall it be! Amen. 'I am the Alpha and the Omega,' says the Lord God, 'who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, **alleluia!**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come!

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 18:33-37

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' 'Is that your own idea,' Jesus asked, 'or did others talk to you about me?' 'Am I a Jew?' Pilate replied.

'Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?' Jesus said, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.' 'You are a king, then!' said Pilate. Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.'

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



THE PROPER

Sentence: Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing.

Collect: Everlasting God, whose will is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, our Lord and King: grant that the people of earth, now divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his gentle and loving rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Parish website has a lot of information on it - service times, dates and events, past pew sheets and Rev's youtube messages. Don't be shy - give it a try!

warrackanglican.org.au

USEFUL GIFTS SHOP – Christmas Season 2021 **(Tearfund Australia)**

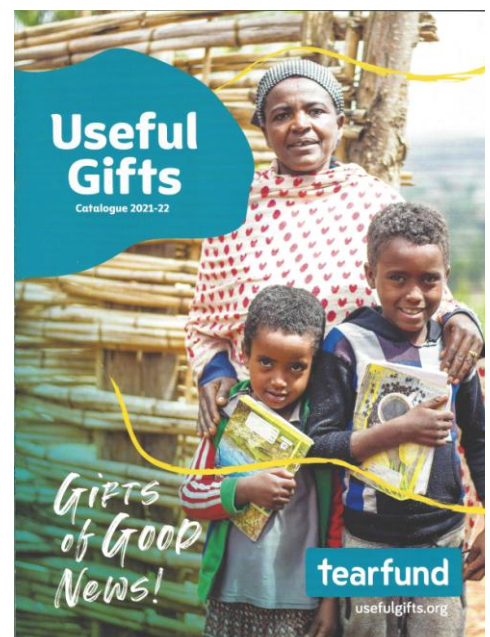
Our world is facing great challenges at this time, and it is crying out for good news. **Useful Gifts bring good news.** By creating new opportunities for health, education, safe water, food and stronger communities, every Useful Gift purchased helps to spread hope to a world in need.

Rev James will once again be running the Useful Gifts Shop this Christmas Season.

You are able to purchase your Useful Gifts:

1. Personally through Rev James at anytime during the next two months. He will accept cash, cheque or credit card payments.
2. Through the Christ Church Anglican Fundraiser page: <http://useful.gifts/4ahn2> - where you can securely purchase you gifts from the Useful Gifts menu.

Please contact Rev James for more information.



Rev James Wood: P: 5398 1251 M: 0438 233 630 E: warrackanglican@gmail.com

“101 in 2021”

Celebration of heritage and worship of St Mark's Areegra for 101 years



David Holland writes;

St Marks Anglican Church at Areegra celebrated 101 years of faithful worship recently. Late last year Peter Schulz drew Reverend James Wood attention to the fact Areegra had celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1970. It was then decided that it would be appropriate to consider a celebration in 2021. Rev James lead the service which saw long term congregation member Peter Wyllie return to read the gospel.

Part of the service was dedicated to story telling. Bill Powell recalled coming to the church as a child. At the time there were various churches scattered throughout the district. People would come to church on a horse and buggy and there was a dam where horses could be watered while families attended church services. In those days Friday was the day for shopping in town, Saturday was set aside for sport and Sunday was devoted to church. Bill recalled how his grandfather played the organ and later his mother and how the stain glass windows were donated by his family.

Margaret Dart spoke about coming out to Areegra for an evening service at the time when she turned 40, only to return home find a surprise party had been organized. Glen Liersch spoke about one of his aunts who found herself in an awkward position after the presiding pastor had been invited home for lunch after a service when the family barely had enough food in the house to feed themselves. On the way home they noticed a vehicle approaching and it hit one of the notorious potholes on the Borung Highway which saw a full bag of groceries end up on the road. They tried to stop the car but were unable to do so, but it gave them the ingredients to ensure they had lunch organized.

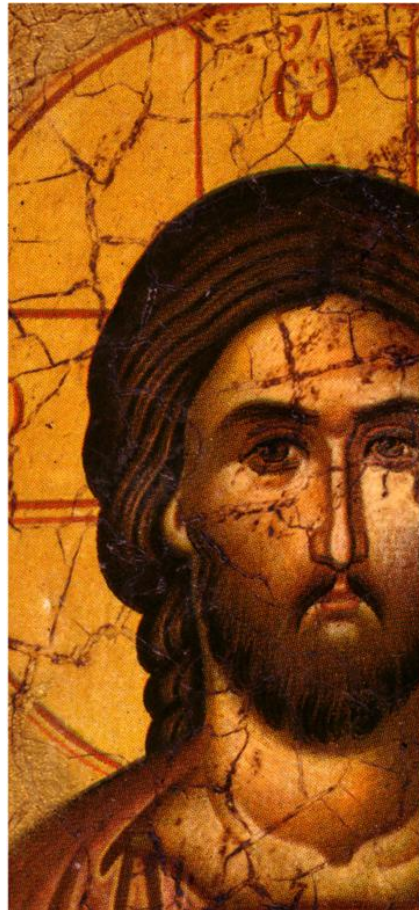
Gwen Holland recalled how many years ago a guild function was held at Areegra where a colorful argument occurred but was later resolved amiably. Gwen and husband Boyce have appreciated being warmly welcomed by the Areegra congregation after St Paul's Brim closed a few years ago.

A plaque organized by Fiona Holland and donated by Liersch family was installed both inside the church and on the narrow church gate which recognizes the heritage of 101 years of faithful worship.

Project REGENERATE. Renew PEOPLE. Revive PROJECTS. Restore PLACE

**"I would rather die
and come to Jesus
Christ than be king
over the entire
earth. Him I seek
who died for us; Him
I love who rose again
because of us."**

Ignatius of Antioch



**Where did I
say that you
should buy so
much stuff to
celebrate my
birthday!?**

www.buynothingchristmas.org

Samuel Cruz - Commentary on John 18:33-37

[<https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/revised-common-lectionary/christ-the-king-2/commentary-on-john-1833-37-5>]

What kind of king was Jesus?

Some commentators have opined that the writer of John presents Jesus as one who ultimately exercises authority. I have a different view of this passage as I simply see Jesus responding to a person with societal power, from the perspective of the underside of history, which has a very different set of values than that of the dominant society.

Perhaps the view that Jesus is the one who exercises ultimate authority is a view that emanates from this worldly kingdom in which we live, a society in which success is associated with “winning” at all costs. Despite that it is widely embraced, this perspective has proven to fail in every sector of society.

Even when considering “military might,” we can see that despite all the military power held by the U.S., this country has not been able to secure most of its political objectives, as has been demonstrated in the recent example of the withdrawal of armed forces from Afghanistan.

This passage, in which Jesus speaks to power, shows how the powerful do not like it when they do not control the discourse. The powerful elites of Jesus’ day were accustomed to controlling the ideology and the discourse, just as the powerful elites are accustomed to determining/controlling the ideology and the discourse in our day. Does Jesus respond to Pilate with “authority” or does he just respond with honesty based on his experience as a marginalized individual? Why would Pilate ask Jesus a question he already knew the answer to?

Jesus posed the questions: Are you asking me sincerely or are you prejudiced because of what people have told you? Did you already make up your mind? In other words, Jesus called out Pilate for his feigned neutrality in their conversation. Pilate's question is one that he was asking for others—a question that was full of biases.

A modern-day example would be one where police officers ask a group of young black and brown men on a street corner, “What are you doing?” That question is neither neutral nor innocent. The racist ideas about black and brown people come into play. When Jesus questions Pilate's motive for asking him if he was king, Pilate said, “I am not a Jew, am I?” This is akin to the police who question young men of color (*sic*) and then defend their questions, saying, “I am not a racist!”

Pilate wants to act as though he is innocent of his prejudiced notions about Jesus, while playing along with the lies and corruption of his constituents. Jesus does not fall for that; he instead unmasks the demonic forces of his society that engage in such egregious abuse of power.

Jesus tells Pilate, “My kingdom is not of this world!” Many have interpreted this to mean that Jesus' kingdom is somewhere in heaven and not relevant to this world. To me, Jesus is saying that the values of his kingdom are different from those of the current system. In other words, Jesus does not have to exercise the type of authority that seeks to be on top, which results in oppression, corruption of the judicial system, and precisely the kind of hypocrisy that Pilate exhibited in the interaction between him and Jesus. Jesus tells him: “If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.”

The values of Jesus' kingdom are so vastly different from those of this world that often we Christians fail to understand them. The church, which purports to—and should—represent Jesus' kingdom, is here to serve in humility rather than to seek earthly power. Jesus is the king,¹ yet he does not arrive in a chariot, but on a donkey! Jesus is a king who is killed by those with societal power, not a king who is victorious over his enemies by defeating them in war.

However, in allowing himself to be killed and physically defeated for the sake of truth, he engages in the ultimate demonstration of the power of love. This gospel lesson that leads us toward the cross should remind us that, in the words of Jürgen Moltmann, our Christian faith has a God that was crucified.²

Let us take this opportunity to remind ourselves and our congregations that we serve a king like no other—a king who is not seeking power and glory, but humble service to others.

Consequently, we who identify as the Church should seek to engage in humble service to others. Everyone interested in seeking the truth will embrace the values of this other kingdom, which contrasts sharply with a society that attempts to win at all costs. Those who seek power and prestige at the expense of others will reject the true kingdom represented by Jesus.

Christ the King Sunday offers an opportunity for the church to assess its values and evaluate how it operates in our society. This can lead to a clarification of mission and point us in the direction Jesus intends for us, so that we may truly be the real church that our world so desperately needs.

Notes:

1. For sake of brevity I use the term “king,” which connotes ideas very contrary to what Jesus represented.
2. Jürgen Moltmann, *The Crucified God: 40th Anniversary Edition* (Fortress Press, 2015).

GRATITUDE DIARY

Latest research suggests that 'Gratitude' is one of the best ways to tackle depression, dis-engagement and is a "pick me up" that we can all 'administer' to ourselves no matter who or where we are - or what we may be going through. Here's a simple little "Gratitude Diary" you might like to do every day this week.

Someone in my life I am grateful for:

Something material I am grateful for:

A situation in my life that I am grateful for:

An experience I had that I am grateful for:

Something about myself I am grateful for:

Something that went well for me: