



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

All Saints
05 November 2023

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



I hope that you've had a good week!

Suffering:

This week I watched the news.

Is there no end to people's suffering?

What is the point of it all?

Is this God's will for the world?

First, there is no value in suffering - in and of itself.

No value at all. There is no need to spiritualize it. Rationalize it. Accept it.

Secondly, it seems that 'suffering' is a natural aspect of our human being.

Being born means that we WILL suffer in some way - if not before our death, it seems at the reality of death itself. We hurt. We get hurt. There are things that life throws at us: some we deserve (*which is debatable in itself - maybe?*) and most things we do not deserve. God is NOT TRYING to test us. However, it seems that we must find ways to confront and deal with our suffering in order to live well in the world and find peace in our own hearts.

Thirdly, God understands.

I do not believe suffering is God's will for us per se - but God (*as the Biblical account will remind us*) anticipates the need for human suffering to help us realize that there is a limit to what we can 'take' from the 'Tree of Knowledge': we have choice, and if we 'take what is not ours to take' in the first place (*Genesis 3*) - it will cost us. To see and feel your own Son so brutally treated via the Mystery of the Cross ... and respond with RESURRECTION. God understands.

Finally, where there is suffering - there is a chance for HEALING.

This is God's promise. This is God's desire for our human being. This is the true nature of God - no matter the circumstance, the reason, the situation: Light confronts darkness; Life confronts death; and, Love confronts evil. Cheers, Rev.

Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; Our Deanery - West Wimmera;
- For the people of Myanmar;
- For the people of Ukraine;
- For the people of the Middle East;
- For those who hunger for food and thirst for water; for those seeking shelter;
- For those experiencing tragedy & grief;
- For those known to us in need of healing and a return to wholeness;
- Our friends and families – near and far;
- For the Emergency Food Centre;
- For genuine world peace; for the leaders of ALL Nations to act for common good;

Years Mind: Henry Mercer, Thomas Fimmel, Margaret Boschen

Services – Nov/Dec

All Saints – 05 November

9.30am & 5.00pm – Warracknabeal
11.00am – Areegra

Pentecost 24 – 12 November

9.30am & 5.00pm – Warracknabeal

Pentecost 25 – 19 November

9.30am & 5.00pm – Warracknabeal

Christ the King – 26 November

9.30am Eucharist – Warracknabeal
5.00pm Café Church - Warracknabeal

Advent 1 – 03 December

9.30am – Warracknabeal
11.00am - St Mark's Areegra
6.00pm - PRELUDE to Christmas

Advent 2 – 10 December

9.30am & 5.00pm – Warracknabeal

The Apostle's ACTION Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Therefore;

This week I will give thanks for an aspect of our Creation ...

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

As a follower of Jesus I will bring courage to this week.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Guided by the Spirit I will seek to challenge myself by this week. So be it. (Amen)

TODAY'S READINGS

ALL SAINTS

First Reading : Revelation 7:9-17

A reading from the book of Revelation

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.' All the angels were standing round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, saying: 'Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honour and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!' Then one of the elders asked me, 'These in white robes – who are they, and where did they come from?' I answered, 'Sir, you know.' And he said, 'These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, 'they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. "Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them," nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd; "he will lead them to springs of living water." "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."'

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: 34:1-10.22

Response: *I will bless the Lord at all times*

1. I will bless the Lord continually:
his praise shall be always in my mouth.

Let my soul boast of the Lord: the humble shall hear it and rejoice **(R)**

2. O praise the Lord with me: let us exalt his name together. For I sought the Lord's help and he answered: and he freed me from all my fears. **(R)**
3. Look towards him and be bright with joy: your faces shall not be ashamed. Here is a wretch who cried, and the Lord heard me: and saved me from all my troubles. **(R)**
4. The angel of the Lord encamps round those who fear him: and delivers them in their need. O taste and see that the Lord is good: happy are they that hide in him! Fear the Lord, all you his holy ones: for those who fear him never lack. **(R)**
5. Lions may suffer want and go hungry: but those who seek the Lord lack nothing good. The Lord ransoms the lives of his servants: and none who hide in him will be destroyed. **(R)**

Second Reading:

1 John 3:1-3

A reading from the first letter of John

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, **Alleluia**

Come to me, all you that labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest, says the Lord. **Alleluia**

Gospel:

Matthew 5:1-12

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. The Beatitudes He said: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward 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!

Christmas is Coming

Rev will be running the Useful Gift Shop in the parish in the lead-up to Christmas again. More info in the pew sheet next week. If you would like a sneaky peek:
www.usefulgifts.org

THE PROPERS

Sentence: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Collect: We praise you, heavenly Father, that you have knit together your chosen ones in one communion and fellowship in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord: give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Saviour, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.
Amen.

From the Catering Team:

Sincere thanks to all those who attended our Mission Lunch last Sunday. Even though our numbers were down, those who attended enjoyed the day.

Our thanks to all those who helped in any way by donating salads, and donations for the raffle, to those who manned the BBQ, door, and Raffle. The church grounds looked great too.

We were thrilled that we were able to donate \$715 to the local Playgroup as our Local Mission.

Raffle winners were - Brian Clarke, Russell Dart, Helen Hose, Joy Hadley, Jen Ferguson, and Val Taylor.

PRELUDE to CHRISTMAS

*Hosted by the Anglican Church
Sunday 03rd December at 6.00pm
Lutheran Church Warracknabeal*