



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Pentecost 19
29 September 2024

Sunday Services: 10.30am Warracknabeal



Hello Everyone - I hope that you've had a good week!

**"Life is short.
Break the rules.
Forgive quickly.
Kiss slowly.
Love truly.
Laugh uncontrollably.
And never regret ANYTHING that makes you smile."
[Mark Twain]**

Increasingly, I am reminded that the life we have is so precious. It is fleeting in so many ways. Some of us are able to live a good and long-ish life full of wonder and delight. Why do so many not get this chance? A youngish family friend has just received a terminal diagnosis. It is nothing new and won't make the front of the local paper. We must all try and wrestle and accept - if we can - that which life throws at us.

Why do I (maybe we) spend so much of our life trying to conform to the 'status quo' - not to upset the 'old apple cart.' Is it our English heritage? Is it just easier to comply and not upset people? I'm not advocating for chaos - because nobody can grow through chaos - genuinely. Apparently, the root word of 'crisis' is something similar to 'opportunity'.

When we're 'in whatever circumstance we find ourselves in' - it is difficult to see the 'wood for the trees' as they say: and calmly and methodically sift through all the options that will initiate some form of healing process - again whatever that may look like. I sometimes talk to Jesus about this life quandary - what is good and proper and right? And what is it that I should DO - to fulfill God's promise for me? Am I actually 'allowed' to 'break out' from time to time - or do I need to find controlled and 'safe' ways to remonstrate with life's difficulties, people and circumstances? Hmmm ... more questions than answers I'm afraid. Good job that Jesus doesn't abandon us! That's FAITH!

Project REGENERATE. Renew PEOPLE. Revive PROJECTS. Restore PLACE

Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; Synod representatives;
- For the Greater West Wimmera Deanery;
- For prison chaplains across the Diocese;
- For the leaders of all Nations, those with influence to act for the Common Good;
- For the people on the continent of South America;
- For sunshine, rain and the fruits of the season;
- 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, and a smooth transition to completion;
- For all on school holidays – for renewal, refreshment and revival;
- 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 pets;

Years Mind: For all we love who have gone before us in faith, hope and love;

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

Service Times Sept/Oct

Pentecost 19 – 29 September

10.30am Warracknabeal

Pentecost 20 – 06 October

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

11.00am St Mark's Areegra

Tuesday 08 October

5.00pm Healing Eucharist

Pentecost 21 – 13 October

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Synod – 18-19 October

Pentecost 22 – 20 October

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Pentecost 23 – 27 October

9.30am Warracknabeal

5.00pm Café Church

O Loving God,
the beyond who is among us,
the thirst and the quenching,
the hunger and the satisfaction,
help us to live out our own prayers,
trusting you more lovingly,
listening more carefully,
and obeying more faithfully.

Then will our thirsty desert
blossom like a rose;
in our wilderness we will eat manna;
in our seeking
we shall be surely found.
The glory of the Lord
shall possess us,
the splendour of our God revealed,
and we shall truly rest.

[Bruce Prewer]

TODAY'S READINGS

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

First Reading: Esther 7:1-7, 9-10, 20-22

A reading from the book of Esther

So the king and Haman went to Queen Esther's banquet, and as they were drinking wine on the second day, the king again asked, 'Queen Esther, what is your petition? It will be given you. What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted.' Then Queen Esther answered, 'If I have found favour with you, Your Majesty, and if it pleases you, grant me my life – this is my petition. And spare my people – this is my request. For I and my people have been sold to be destroyed, killed and annihilated. If we had merely been sold as male and female slaves, I would have kept quiet, because no such distress would justify disturbing the king.' King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, 'Who is he? Where is he – the man who has dared to do such a thing?' Esther said, 'An adversary and enemy! This vile Haman!' Then Haman was terrified before the king and queen. Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs attending the king, said, 'A pole reaching to a height of fifty cubits stands by Haman's house. He had it set up for Mordecai, who spoke up to help the king.' The king said, 'Impale him on it!' So they impaled Haman on the pole he had set up for Mordecai. Then the king's fury subsided. Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews throughout the provinces of King Xerxes, near and far, that they should celebrate annually the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar as the time when the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month when their sorrow was turned into joy and their mourning into a day of celebration.

He wrote to them to observe the days as days of feasting and joy and giving presents of food to one another and gifts to the poor.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm:

124

Response: *Our soul has been rescued from the fowler's snare:*

1. Had not the LORD been with us—
When men rose up against us,
then would they have swallowed us
alive, When their fury was inflamed
against us. **(R)**
2. Then would the waters have
overwhelmed us;
The torrent would have swept over
us; over us then would have swept
the raging waters. **(R)**
3. Broken was the snare, and we were
freed.
Our help is in the name of the
LORD, who made heaven and
earth. **(R)**

Second Reading:

James 5:12-20

A reading from the book of James

Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear – not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple 'Yes' or 'No'. Otherwise you will be condemned. Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you ill? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the ill person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be

forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia! Your word, O Lord, is truth: make us holy in the truth. **Alleluia!**

Gospel:

Mark 9:38-50

A reading from the gospel according to Mark

Teacher,' said John, 'we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.' 'Do not stop him,' Jesus said. 'For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, for whoever is not against us is for us. Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward. 'If anyone causes one of these little ones – those who believe in me – to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung round their neck and they were thrown into the

sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where "the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched." Everyone will be salted with fire. 'Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with each other.'

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPERS

Sentence: Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can it be seasoned? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.

Collect: God and Father of all, you have taught us through your Son that the last shall be first, and have made a little child the measure of your kingdom: give us the wisdom from above, so that we may understand that in your sight the one who serves is the greatest of all. 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.**