



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Palm/Passion Sunday

02 April 2023

Sunday Services: 9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal
11.30am St Mark's Areegra



Hello Everyone - I hope that I find you well and in good spirits.

"The journey of a thousand miles begins with a broken fanbelt." Anon

Yep - not quite how Lau Tzu imagined this quote would turn out. The original in fact says, *"The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."*

In order to get anywhere - whatever the goal, the motivation, the compulsion - It takes a decision to 'move'. To BEGIN the journey. To act.

Most of the time - it's not the destination that is the most important as we all know - and you've probably heard it so many times that we forget - but what happens 'on the way.' We never truly know what we're being invited to whenever we make a decision. I think of the disciples constantly being taken 'out of their comfort zone' - time and time again by Jesus' seemingly 'senseless' forays into strange lands, encountering strange people, and strange social ways.

It can't have been ALL bad - they hung around. It also seems like they made quite an impression on the local communities in which they visited and wined and dined ... and of course healed and consoled and saw transformation in the lives of ordinary people like you and me.

I invite each of us - *"to turn our face to Jerusalem"* (Luke 9:51) this Easter season - with courage, with empathy, with the desire to expect God to turn up in your life. God wants to be there! In your life, in your heart - in the hearts and lives of those you love around you. Nothing is impossible for God!

No other religion on the planet is brave enough to acknowledge that God was crucified and ROSE AGAIN on this - our very own earthly planet! God's true self - faced our greatest fear - with forgiveness and arms outstretched. It was a HUGE price to pay for our disconnection and apathy toward God who has everything to give. Freely. Generously. Unconditionally. *Every blessing, Rev!*



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; the people in Parish of Stawell & Rev Heather; for Project Regenerate in our own parish; for the 'Walk of the Cross Pilgrimage';
- For Belinda – for rehab and a swift recovery;
- For the people of Ukraine; for all people faced with the oppressor, dictator and those consumed by war; for all facing natural disaster;
- For the people of Palestine; Türkiye; Syria; Malawi; our Pacific neighbours;
- For the people of Mississippi;
- For those experiencing grief;
- For those living with chronic pain;
- For Christian Emergency Food Centre;
- For those we dislike and find difficult to 'live with' or get along with;
- For all our Ecumenical brothers and sisters of other Christian traditions;
- For our Easter Celebration – that we will hear God call our name!;
- For YFest and 'all who sail in her';
- For those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries and milestones;

Years Mind: Heather Johnson, Thomas Gove

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

Services –April

EASTER Services

Palm / Passion – 02 April

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

11.30am St Mark's Areegra

Walk of the Cross – 04-06 April

Maundy Thursday – 06 April

Seder Meal in Parish Centre

6.00pm for 6.30pm

Good Friday – 07 April

9.30am – Reflections at Cross

EASTER SUNDAY – 09 April

6.00am Lighting of the New Fire
(and simple breakfast to follow)

9.30am HC - Warracknabeal

Easter 1 – 16 April

9.30am Warracknabeal

Easter 2 – 23 April

9.30am Warracknabeal

5.00pm Café Church

Easter 3 – 30 April

10.30am Warracknabeal

(One Service Only)

12.00pm Lunch at the Royal

Walk of the Cross Pilgrimage

This week in our liturgies – you will be encouraged to write a prayer on a piece of cloth that Rev will carry on the cross on the pilgrimage from Hopetoun to Warrack.

These offerings will be placed on the New Fire on Easter morning at 6.00am.

Registration for Walk:

For anyone wanting to join Rev on the walk – you are required to register via 'try booking' site with link below: Rego will cost \$5.00

<https://www.trybooking.com/CHANN>

TODAY'S READINGS

PALM / PASSION SUNDAY

First Reading :

Isaiah 50:4-9a

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed. The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears; I have not been rebellious, I have not turned away. I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! It is the Sovereign Lord who helps me. Who will condemn me? They will all wear out like a garment; the moths will eat them up.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm:

31:9-18

Response: *Father, into your hands I commend my spirit*

1. Have mercy upon me, O Lord, for I am in trouble: my eye wastes away for grief, my throat also and my inward parts. For my life wears out in sorrow, and my years with sighing: my strength fails me in my affliction, and my bones are consumed. **(R)**

2. I am become the scorn of all my enemies: and my neighbours wag their heads in derision. I am a thing of horror to my friends: and those that see me in the street shrink from me. I am forgotten like one dead and out of mind: I have become like a broken vessel. **(R)**

3. For I hear the whispering of many: and fear is on every side; While they plot together against me: and scheme to take away my life**(R)**

4. But in you, Lord, have I put my trust: I have said 'You are my God.' All my days are in your hand: O deliver me from the power of my enemies and from my persecutors. **(R)**

5. Make your face to shine upon your servant: and save me for your mercy's sake. **(R)**

Second Reading:

Philippians 2:5-11

A reading from the letter to the Philippians

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!**

Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.

*A reading from the Holy Gospel
according to Matthew*

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!**

Gospel:

Matthew 27:11-54

Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' 'You have said so,' Jesus replied. When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate asked him, 'Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?' But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge – to the great amazement of the governor. Now it was the governor's custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Jesus Barabbas. So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, 'Which one do you want me to release to you: Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?' For he knew it was out of self-interest that they had handed Jesus over to him. While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: 'Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him.' But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed. 'Which of the two do you want me to release to you?' asked the governor. 'Barabbas,' they answered. 'What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?' Pilate asked.

They all answered, 'Crucify him!' 'Why? What crime has he committed?' asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, 'Crucify him!' When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. 'I am innocent of this man's blood,' he said. 'It is your responsibility!' All the people answered, 'His blood is on us and on our children!' Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers round him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. 'Hail, king of the Jews!' they said. They spat on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. They came to a place called Golgotha (which means 'the place of the skull'). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: this is jesus, the king of the jews . Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, 'You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!'

In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. 'He saved others,' they said, 'but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, "I am the Son of God."' In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him. From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' (which means 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'). When some of those standing there heard this, they said, 'He's calling Elijah.' Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said, 'Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him.' And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people. When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, 'Surely he was the Son of God!'

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

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Sentence: At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, of your tender love towards us you sent your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all should follow the example of his great humility: mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Maundy Thursday - Christian Seder Meal

If you would like to attend the Christian Seder Meal in the Parish Centre on Thursday 6th April - please write your name on the list at the back of the church. This helps us to cater appropriately - as we celebrate the Israelite's freedom from Egypt, and our freedom to follow Jesus - in faith, hope & love.

Joan Chittister writes:

No one escapes suffering: Lent, the liturgical year shows us, is about the holiness that suffering can bring. It is about bringing good where evil has been, about bringing love where hate has been. It is about the transformation of the base to the beautiful.

But don't be fooled: Lent is not about masochism. It is about being willing to suffer for something worth suffering for, as Jesus did, without allowing ourselves to be destroyed by it. Suffering is a stepping-stone to maturity. It moves us beyond fantasy to facts. We know now that everything in life will not go our way. We will not simply get what we want or avoid what we do not. And we will know when the price is worth paying or not.

The point is that no one escapes suffering. It is part of the rhythm of life, part of the process of living. The question then is, for what are we willing to suffer? Because suffering is part of our mortality, it is important to spend it well. Jesus, contending with the leaders of the synagogue at the cost of his life, in order to bring the synagogue to the truth of its own tradition, we can see, is worth suffering for indeed. And many others, we know, have done the same thing for the sake of truth and justice. Martin Luther King, Jr. did. So did Francis of Assisi. So did Catherine of Siena and Joan of Arc. There are simply things worth dying for as well as worth living for.

To live for the lesser things of life is to risk not really living at all. Real life is pungent with risk, with the willingness to spend all the intensity we have for one great, lasting moment of creation—like childbearing, like human liberation, like being a witness to justice and truth and love and faith, the greater things of life. It is not what we are willing to die for with which the Gospels of Lent confront us. It is living in the way that Jesus lived—for the sake of the sick in Galilee, for the women in Israel and Samaria and Canaan, for the poor in the temple, for those burdened by taxes in Palestine, for sinners everywhere who knew themselves to be weak and did not pretend to be strong—that determines the holiness of our suffering. That is the crossover point between sanctity and a sickness that seeks masochism.

[from The Liturgical Year by Joan Chittister (Thomas Nelson)]



The Triumphal Entry

A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Matthew 21:8 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 21:1-11



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

RIDING	SPOKEN	JESUS	PROPHET	MOUNT
BRANCHES	BLESSED	JERUSALEM	HOSANNA	KING
CLOAKS	LORD	FULFILL	DONKEY	FOAL
VILLAGE	DISCIPLES	OLIVES	GENTLE	COLT