



Anglican
Parish
of
WARRACKNAEAL

Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Easter 5
02 May 2021

Sr Joan Chittister writes:

50 Days of Celebration

Celebrations are the firework moments of life that bring with them a sense of what it means to have become another part of ourselves. Always, always, they deepen the very meaning of life for us as we go along. Most important of all, perhaps, there is as much a spiritual component to celebration as there may be a social one. Celebrations are what help us to realize, to recognize, who we really are and want to be. At our deepest moments in life, as part of our highest aspirations.

The very idea of "celebration" has, in the Western world, been a gift of the church to us.

In feudal times, the celebration of feast days—celebrations of the great moments of the faith and the great holy people who had once given light to our lives—punctuated all the great seasons of the year. They took us deeper and deeper into what it meant to talk about life as sacred and so to live a spiritually centered life.

Today, many of those same feasts have been secularized to the point of invisibility. Christmas has become Santa Claus to many; Easter is a bunny; All Saints Day is an orgy of ghosts and demons. The old ethnic feasts that celebrated heritage as well as sanctity have disappeared. So who are we and where have we come from and what matters now?

Without answers to these questions, our spirits go dry. The humdrum sets in. The ennui overtakes us. The future sinks to grey.

The celebration of life—of what it is to be alive, to be in love, to be on the right path as we go—is an art. It is an antidote to depression. It renews a sense of depth and gives life a more enduring measure of meaning. It is celebration that really teaches us what it means to be alive rather than simply living through it.

The celebration of Easter Sunday is followed by Paschal Time, 50 days of holy hilarity while the church points again and again to the empty tomb. Paschal Time is a season for celebrating the Christ who lives in us still.

Celebrate!



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; parishioners and leaders of the greater Wimmera Deanery;
- The people of Timor Leste; Myanmar; Papua New Guinea; Mozambique; Sudan; Niger; Yemen; Syria; India
- All those floating on the sea;
- Fr Charles Helms;
- All those exploring space and working to find the answers we're all intrigued to know about our Universe;
- SHINE – which resumes Sunday;

Community:

- For seasonal weather; all our farmers and those who support them;
- For all those grieving;
- for all those feeling anxious; those suffering depression;
- our sporting teams;

Years Mind: Dulcie Lang, Bill Harmer

Service Times May

Easter 5 – 02 May

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal
11.00am Areegra
6.00pm SHINE

Easter 6 – 09 May

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal
8.30-12.30pm Coffee Van

Easter 7 – 16 May

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal
6.00pm SHINE

Pentecost – 23 May

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal
8.30-12.30pm Coffee Van

Trinity – 30 May

10.30am Warracknabeal

ONE SERVICE ONLY



**Kilometres travelled
3,938.29**

**Pledged & Donated
\$17,579.49**

Sunday Service Roster - seeking volunteers

In our attempt to get back to our new COVID normal for Sunday Services - Rev is seeking willing volunteers for the following roles during Sunday services.

Readings - includes OT &/or Psalm &/or NT readings

Intercessions - leading our gathered in prayer etc

Flowers, (and anything else I have forgotten.)

[Welcomers not included at present]

Please get back to Rev with: a) Role you would like to volunteer for; b) Service time you would like to volunteer for; c) preferred dates you would like to claim for May, June & July. [I know this has taken some time to organize - please accept that we have tried to be responsible as part of our COVIDSafe Plan.]

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

TODAY'S READINGS

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading:

Acts 4:5-12

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Go south to the road – the desert road – that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means 'queen of the Ethiopians'). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, 'Go to that chariot and stay near it.' Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. 'Do you understand what you are reading?' Philip asked. 'How can I,' he said, 'unless someone explains it to me?' So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading: 'He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.' The eunuch asked Philip, 'Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?' Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptised?' [] And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptised him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. Philip, however,

appeared at Azotus and travelled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm:

Response: I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

1. I will fulfill my vows before those who fear the LORD.
The lowly shall eat their fill;
they who seek the LORD shall praise him: "May your hearts live forever!" (R)
2. All the ends of the earth
shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of the nations
shall bow down before him. (R)
3. To him alone shall bow down
all who sleep in the earth;
before him shall bend
all who go down into the dust. (R)
4. And to him my soul shall live;
my descendants shall serve him.
Let the coming generation be told of
the LORD that they may proclaim to a
people yet to be born
the justice he has shown. (R)

Second Reading:

1 John 4:7-21

A reading from the first letter of John

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: he sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since

God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: in this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Remain in me as I remain in you, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me will bear much fruit. **Alleluia!**

Gospel:

John 15:1-8

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so

that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.'

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPERs

Sentence: In this love, not that we loved God but that God loved us. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

Collect: O God, form the minds of your faithful people, that we may love what you command and desire what you promise, so that, amid the many changes of this world, our hearts may there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Rev's EASTER 5 YouTube message

"Take A Step Forward"

<https://youtu.be/bO7iDfLMxfU>