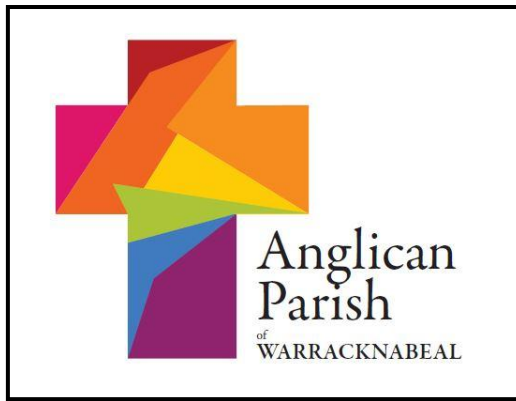




Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Project Regenerate: Explore. Rejoice. Give.

Pentecost 14

30 August 2026

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



I invite us to take some time to think of the people of Nepal this week ... it just doesn't seem fair at ALL that such beautiful people who almost live day to day, with so little and so much dedication to their communities - that they should suffer so much and I would suggest disproportionately to many in the world who are so privileged. As Bono said in one of his songs, "Where you are born should not determine whether you live or die."

I know I shouldn't say it - because it is potentially non-Gospel like - why don't the people in Warracknabeal who steal from our back gardens or our neighbours' place suffer? Why do drug dealers seem to get away with ruining people's lives with no consequence? Why don't the people who cheat on their partners or broker dodgy business deals, or those who scam or who are violent and violate people's personal lives with no regard for the outcomes receive their 'just reward.' Maybe they do suffer. Maybe there ARE consequences that I am unaware of. Maybe it is not my choice to determine their fate - which is a good thing!

I try and be patient. I try to agree with God that they also deserve a second or fourteenth chance (or seventy-seventh) - but do they really? Why do natural disasters punish the people of Nepal, or the lack of leadership and integrity punish the hard working people of Haiti or Venezuela? Why are there starving millions living in plastic tents around the world - displaced by war, violence, injustice - when so many of us complain about the weather or lack of internet connection or throw away so much food.

I am afraid I have few answers to my own questions.

I feel so privileged and safe. I don't think I feel ashamed, but it goes pretty close. Is GRATITUDE the simple answer? It's a good step forward I think. Maybe you and I can be more fervent in our prayer. Is there something our parish can do to bring healing and a return to wholeness - to our fragile world? I hope so.

Every blessing, Rev James



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; for the 'Board of Electors' Committee as they prepare the process of electing our new Bishop (the prayer for a bishop will reappear next week);
- For our Parish AGM;
- For all who serve in our parish in a variety of ways – seen and unseen;
- For all who are hungry, thirsty and seeking shelter around the globe;
- For the people of Japan, Colombia;
- For the Leaders of all Nations;
- For those of leadership and influence to act for the common good;
- For all facing natural disaster: flood, fire, earthquake, cyclone, famine;
- For our neighbours;
- For those in our Aged Care Facilities;
- For those we know whom are unwell;
- For our farmers and their families;
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- For all those we love, near and far away;

Years Mind: Thelma DUNKLEY (2006), Janice MAY (2010), Elizabeth MORRIS (2003), William GLEESON (2003), Bradley TREE (2007), Robert EMMETT (1990), Marjorie ROSE (1994), Malcolm SCOTT (1985), Betty GOLDER (2014), Olive JOHNSON (1989), Rona YOUNG (2016), Dudley WITNEY (1986), Hilda COSGRAVE (1980)

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

Services - 2026

Pentecost 14 – 30 August

10.30am Warracknabeal

11.45am AGM with simple lunch

Monday 31st August – Rev Fiona

At Café Peppercorn – 9.00-10.30am

Pentecost 15 – 06 September

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

11.00 House Church Areegra

Pentecost 16 – 13 September

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal - HC

Pentecost 17 – 20 September

9.30am Warracknabeal - HC

Pentecost 18 – 27 September

9.30am Warracknabeal – Morning Prayer

Pentecost 19 – 04 October

9.30am Warracknabeal - HC

Pentecost 20 – 11 October

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

11.00 House Church Areegra

Pentecost 21 – 18 October

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Pentecost 22 – 25 October

9.30am / 5.00pm Café Church Warracknabeal

A Prayer for a Bishop

+Garry retires on 03 Oct 2026

Eternal God, shepherd and guide, in your mercy give your Church in this diocese of Ballarat, a shepherd after your own heart who will walk in your ways, and with loving care watch over your people. Give us a leader of vision and a teacher of your truth. So may your Church be built up and your name glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

TODAY'S READINGS

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

First Reading:

Exodus 3:1-15

A reading from the Book of Exodus

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, 'I will go over and see this strange sight – why the bush does not burn up.' When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, 'Moses! Moses!' And Moses said, 'Here I am.' 'Do not come any closer,' God said. 'Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.' Then he said, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. The Lord said, 'I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey – the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.' But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' And God said, 'I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will

worship God on this mountain.' Moses said to God, 'Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you," and they ask me, "What is his name?" Then what shall I tell them?' God said to Moses, 'I am who I am'. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: "I am has sent me to you." God also said to Moses, 'Say to the Israelites, "The Lord, the God of your fathers – the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob – has sent me to you." 'This is my name for ever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm:

105:1-6,23-26

Response: *My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.*

1. God, you are my God whom I seek; for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water. **(R)**
2. Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary to see your power and your glory, for your kindness is a greater good than life; my lips shall glorify you. **(R)**
3. Thus will I bless you while I live; lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name. As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied, and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you. **(R)**

Second Reading:

Romans 12:9-21

A reading from the letter to the Romans

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction,

faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practise hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. On the contrary: 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, enlighten the eyes of our hearts, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

Alleluia!

Gospel:

Matthew 16:21-28

***A reading from the Holy Gospel
according to Matthew***

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 'Never, Lord!' he said. 'This shall never happen to you!' Jesus turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; you do

not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.' Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done. 'Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPERS

Sentence: If you want to become a disciple of Jesus, deny yourself take up your cross and follow him

Collect: O God, whose Son has shown the way of the cross to be the way of life; transform and renew our minds that we may not be conformed to this world but may offer ourselves wholly to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Saviour; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

From the Catering Team

Sincere thanks to all who attended our Casserole Luncheon and to those who kindly donated casseroles. Thanks to your generosity we were able to raise \$1,588.00. Raffle winners were Carol Wilson, Heather Huebner, Katrina Spicer, Avril Hein, and Val Wardle.