



# Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

**Pentecost 11**  
**21 August 2022**

## **Hello Everyone!**

I hope that I find you well and in good spirits.

It is always interesting for me what 'appears' on this page every Thursday morning as I compile the 'news, views and issues' of the pew sheet for you. I often wonder whether it is interesting to anyone else - should you choose to read it from week to week.

So, I am going to respond to +Garry's snippet in dNews regarding GAFCON.

I haven't seen recent news reports, but a couple of friends have texted me already wondering what my thoughts are. I hope these thoughts are coherent enough for I have, in all honesty, not wasted too much energy or time on understanding their motives or giving the members of GAFCON any kudos for their misguided (*in my opinion*) approach to our beloved Anglican Church of Australia. Bishop Garry will have much to say - and I know that he has reflected, debated and discerned over these issues for some time now. [*And, I think there could possibly be quite a lot of interesting writings emerging from people's passion and faith over the next few weeks and months.*]

The following is also a raw / gut response - which is probably unwise in a public publication, but here goes anyway. I am aware that many people in your workplace, social group, interest group, sporting club, neighbours, friends and family - may be wondering what is going on! I'm up for the conversation, and willing to help people have a considered response to questions, misunderstandings or truths (*perceived or otherwise*) - rather than burying our head in the sand and expecting it all to go away.

The creation of The Diocese of the Southern Cross - claiming that my faith (*speaking personally - maybe yours also?*) is not to be taken seriously or considered Biblically based because of their discomfort with human sexuality (*which Jesus never talked about*) and the current social laws that allow same-sex marriage - just flies in the face of an inclusive, mature, empathic faith community and church I represent. I am deeply offended!

Anyway, WE, the church, the people of God - need to grow up and stand up because we have a much bigger Biblical mission (*in my own opinion*) to address the need to feed the 50 million people around the world who face REAL (*not perceived*) and immediate malnutrition and starvation: to grow up and stand up for our own First Nations Peoples who (*in my opinion*) have been mistreated and misrepresented because of 'our' fear and disinterest for hundreds of years, and follow Jesus' Biblical mission to care, love and meet the needs of our 'neighbour': to grow and stand up in taking our Biblical mission (*in my opinion*) to care for our environment - acknowledging climate change and global warming and the imminent crisis for much of the world's ecosystems is very REAL and must be taken VERY seriously - even if it may already be too late!

Don't get me started on our western insatiable desire for chocolate - not understanding that we're contributing to the sustainability, motivation and exploitation of child trafficking and child abuse in order for those exploited children to pick the cocoa beans needed for this luxury we can buy for next to nothing - oblivious to the consequences for the families and communities from which these HUGE million dollar companies exploit - because we choose to remain silent - not to disturb our choices and rights as consumers - and well - it does taste DELICIOUS!

Okay - back on track ... our human sexuality (*in my opinion*) is something inherent within us. Genuine human sexuality is not a choice! Not to express, or, to HAVE TO REPRESS that /our /another's inherent sexuality - is just not on. It denies an aspect of our fundamental human being that I believe God rejoices in - "because God doesn't make junk!"

Yes - It can make us feel uncomfortable.

Yes - I/we may not fully understand a particular person's sexual orientation.

Yes - accepting and not just tolerating diversity - can be very difficult at times.

Who 'you' choose to create a loving, life-giving, long-term relationship with is not 'my' choice to make. We are encouraged through the Biblical good news to affirm, question, challenge and help each other grow to be the best people we can be - no matter where you were born; what football club you worship - sorry, follow; which religious practise helps you do this etc etc.

It is fair to say - that the Biblical understanding of 'Marriage' is between a man and a woman. It is hard to debate otherwise.

However, in the current social milieu (*I do like that word*) and our understanding of our human being and its complexity and the reality we face as a modern society - whether you are comfortable with it or not - 'Marriage' is no longer restricted

to that Biblical understanding. And, there is much more to say about this as we continue to wrestle with this reality and - not forget about the word 'marriage' but integrate its value and importance in our modern world - for the benefit of ALL, and not just a few. But neither does it mean - that anything goes!

Religious fundamentalism - in my opinion is founded on 'fear.' Fear is not Biblical 'good news' or Gospel. Fear is real - and must be confronted and transformed so that we do not 'transmit' it to others and our perceptions of who they need to be so I don't have to confront myself.

GAFCON stands for 'Global Anglican Future Conference' and began in 2008.

[<https://www.gafconaustralia.org/about/>]

It therefore is not a completely 'new' movement but could probably be considered a 'recent' movement - justifying their ethos and actions via their quote - "*GAFCON Australia is part of a worldwide movement of Anglicans promoting reform of the Anglican church by the biblical gospel, and providing fellowship for those committed to it.*"

For me (very basically), a few gut responses to the wording (which probably doesn't fully honour the intentions and aspirations of the movement) but I'll continue for the sake of debate and reflection:

'reform' translates to - *'we're right and YOU are WRONG.'*

'biblical gospel' translates to - 'our fundamental and narrow view of certain aspects of the Biblical account: especially what Paul says of human sexuality.'

'providing fellowship' translates to - 'you are welcome as long as you agree with our limited interpretation of certain aspects of the Biblical text': 'you are welcome as a woman so that you can become subservient wives to our leadership husbands': 'you are welcome if you identify as non-heterosexual as long as you repent of your sinful ways and realize that Jesus and a partner of the opposite sex to be your spouse is all you need for happiness and salvation': ...

... maybe I shouldn't go on ... I think I've made my views pretty clear.

The beloved church remains a human organization. I am NOT going to stand on the pedestal of religious self-righteousness and fundamentalism. I would like us all to be people of healthy and wholesome religious conviction - where actions and words bring transformation and healthy reform to our worship, our mission and our projects - and in our relationships with each other and our loved ones.

Get in touch if you want to talk.

*Every blessing, Rev James*



## Prayer in the Parish

### In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry;
- For our Diocesan family and all who dwell in her; for diversity and courage;
- For all facing the consequences of natural disaster and climate change;
- For all the people of Ukraine;
- For the people of Afghanistan – especially women and girls, those who are not allowed to work, for those going hungry;
- For the people of France, Spain, Italy – in the face of natural disaster;
- For all who seek justice and peace;
- For Christian Emergency Food Centre;
- For all those in hospital; for all facing surgery and recovery;
- For our Parish Council;
- For our friends, families, and our neighbours; for those who make our lives easier to bear;
- For those of other faiths; for those of none; for leaders in our communities;
- For the courage to walk in faith, hope and love – no matter our circumstances;
- For Benjamin Holland;

**Years Mind:** Charlie Harberger, Mick Moysey, Elsie Johnson, Thelma Dunkley, Janice May

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

## Services – Aug/Sept

### Pentecost 11 – 21 August

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

### Pentecost 12 – 28 August

9.30am Warracknabeal

5.00pm – Café Church

8.30-12.30pm Coffee Van

### Pentecost 13 – 04 September

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

11.00am Areegra

### Pentecost 14 – 11 September

10.30am Warracknabeal

12.00pm - Luncheon

### Other Events:

### Soup, Sandwich & Sweets Luncheon

11<sup>th</sup> September at 12.00pm

\$15 per person

### Anglican Treasures Auction

21<sup>st</sup> October 2022

### Synod

21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> October in Ballarat

### Parish Council Meeting

23<sup>rd</sup> August in the Rectory

7.00pm refreshments

7.30pm meeting

All parish members are welcome to our Parish Council meetings, but if you're not into meetings - pop in for a time of fellowship before for meeting begins.

This week's meeting includes election of Office Bearers, Project Regenerate events and other matters of consequence.

# TODAY'S READINGS

## PENTECOST 11

**First Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-10**

***A reading from the prophet Jeremiah***

The word of the Lord came to me, saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.' 'Alas, Sovereign Lord,' I said, 'I do not know how to speak; I am too young.' But the Lord said to me, 'Do not say, "I am too young." You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,' declares the Lord. Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, 'I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.'

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Psalm: 71**

**Response: *I will sing of your salvation***

1. In thee, O Lord, do I take refuge;  
let me never be put to shame!

In thy righteousness deliver me and  
rescue me; incline thy ear to me, and  
save me! **(R)**

2. Be thou to me a rock of refuge,  
a strong fortress, to save me,  
for thou art my rock and my fortress.  
Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of  
the wicked **(R)**

3. For thou, O Lord, art my hope,  
my trust, O Lord, from my youth.  
Upon thee I have leaned from my birth;  
thou art he who took me from my  
mother's womb. **(R)**

**Second Reading: Hebrews 12:18-29**

***A reading from the letter to the Hebrews***

You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, because they could not bear what was commanded: 'If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death.' The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, 'I am trembling with fear.' But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, 'Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.' The words 'once more' indicate the removing of what can be shaken – that is, created things – so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our 'God is a consuming fire.'

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, **alleluia!**

I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me.

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel:

Luke 13:10-17

### ***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke***

On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, 'Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.' Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God. Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue leader said to the people, 'There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath.' The Lord answered him, 'You hypocrites! Doesn't each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?' When he said this, all his opponents were humiliated, but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing.

This is the gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

## The Propers

**Sentence:** You, O Lord, are my hope, my trust from my youth. Upon you have I leaned since my birth.

**Collect:** O God, the Judge of all, through the saving blood of your Son you have brought us to the heavenly Jerusalem and given us a kingdom which cannot be shaken: fill us with reverence and awe in your presence, that in thanksgiving we and all your Church may offer you acceptable worship; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives to intercede for us, now and for ever. **Amen.**

It is not that hard to be kind. You just have to keep the mean stuff to yourself.



**The Walls of Jericho**

© Kay & Fred Blake

**“Right now, the world stands on the edge of a hunger crisis, the likes of which we have not seen in over a century.” Tearfund Australia**

*[Letter via email: 17 August 2022]*

Dear James,

Here in Australia, we’ve experienced the impact of the Ukraine crisis on both the cost of food and energy. But in communities where people were already struggling to find food as a result of climate shocks, conflicts, and COVID, this conflict has pushed them to breaking point.

In Somalia alone, an estimated 7 million people are likely to face acute food insecurity between June and September this year. Without immediate therapeutic food and care, almost 8 million children under 5 are at risk of death from malnutrition.

**As Christians, we can’t stand by and watch. We must act now.**

Tearfund’s partners are supporting communities where this hunger crisis is most severe, but they need your support. Your gift today can help people who are being hit hardest by this crisis.

*Matthew Maury*

*[tearfund: Chief Executive Officer]*

*Disclaimer:* I am a ‘Tearfund’ supporter – and I am not explicitly asking you to support this particular campaign – as you may have your own favourite charity to support or be willing to contribute to other appeals that come across your path. I have included the following as way of information and education. Regards, Rev James

From the website: <https://www.tearfund.org.au/stories>

The world is in the grip of an unprecedented global food crisis. Fifty million people are on the brink of famine. In communities and countries where people were already struggling to find food as a result of climate shocks, conflict and COVID, the war in Ukraine has pushed them to breaking point.

Here are five facts about world hunger you need to know:

### **1. This is a severe and worsening crisis**

Right now, fifty million people are on the brink of famine due to conflict and the changing climate. Without urgent action, this hunger crisis will kill more people annually than the entire COVID-19 pandemic. An estimated seven million people in Somalia alone are likely to face acute food insecurity between June and September this year. There have been 6.3 million COVID deaths recorded worldwide.

### **2. Children are suffering the most**

Almost eight million children under five are at risk of death from severe wasting unless they receive immediate therapeutic food and care, and that number is rising by the minute.

Entire classrooms are empty because students are too hungry to go to school, and girls are often the first to be taken out of school and the last to eat when food runs low. There have even been reports of families being forced into early and forced child marriage for their daughters for survival.

### **3. Conflict, global food supply and climate change are some of the main drivers for this world hunger**

Conflict is the most powerful driver of the food crisis globally, responsible for the largest share of people facing life-threatening hunger (65%). From Yemen to South Sudan, Mozambique and Afghanistan, protracted fighting has destroyed livelihoods and forced families to flee their homes.

The war in Ukraine has also led to prices skyrocketing, with the cost of basic food supplies like cooking oil and flour doubling in some countries. Places where Tearfund is working, including Afghanistan, Yemen, Somalia, Uganda, Ethiopia and Sudan, depend heavily on wheat imports from Ukraine and Russia, which account for 40-90% of supplies. In these countries, families rely on wheat to meet their daily needs.

The climate crisis has changed weather patterns in the region: the UN has warned that across the Horn of Africa, the rainy season of March to May 2022 is likely to have been the driest on record.

As one of Tearfund's partners shares: "There is not sufficient rain and communities have missed seasonal crops for at least the last four consecutive seasons. The most vulnerable groups like children under five years, pregnant and lactating women, the elderly and people with chronic illnesses are in a serious condition. Many of them have been malnourished."

### **4. Tearfund's partners are working in seven countries hardest hit by this hunger crisis**

Tearfund's partners are already actively supporting communities where this hunger crisis is most severe, including in Afghanistan, Yemen, Mozambique, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda and Ethiopia. Our long term focus on supporting climate resilient agriculture, food and livelihoods projects and an acute focus on food security is making a real and lasting impact.

Read [Caterina's story and learn more about our work with Sudan Evangelical Mission in South Sudan](#).

### **5. Here are five ways you can help end world hunger today**

It's hard not to feel overwhelmed and far removed from the issue of world hunger. But for each of us, there are some practical ways we can make a difference. Here we explore five ways (Learn, Pray, Give, Speak Out and Spread the Word) to respond that are accessible for most people and will make a real difference.

- **Learn**. Before we can even think about responding ourselves or inviting others to respond, we need to take time to learn more about this current hunger crisis and what the driving factors are.
- **Pray**. Praying for such a vast crisis can feel overwhelming, but prayer is powerful and can be part of the solution.
- **Speak out**. You can show your support by writing to your MP and asking them to #HelpFightFamine
- **Give**. Tearfund's partners are supporting communities where this hunger crisis is most severe, but they need your support to continue this work.
- **Spread the word**. Our Church Kit will provide you with all you need to spread the word and advocate for those most impacted around the world.