



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Easter 4
08 May 2022

Hello Everyone!

This Sunday: 9.30am - Christ Church - Holy Communion
5.00pm - HC - Parish Centre



What a difference a few drops of rain makes. While I was at Hopetoun on Wednesday running the GLAD Programs - more than once selected children said how calming the rain felt. I didn't pursue it at the time, but reflecting afterwards, I wished I had asked for more information. It may have been nothing other than - "the rain makes me feel calm," but I sense there may be an underlying dis-ease with a *'whole lot of stuff.'* COVID. NAPLAN. The usual daily 'tests' we face.

How about you?

Do you feel like a duck on water - calm above: paddling like crazy below? The housekeeper has run away with the gardener - again! There is certainly a little 'chaos' all-be-it organized in my house at the moment.

The Resurrection should rattle us a little. Just when we knew what was going on - the whole situation changes. Just when we thought we knew how God operates in our lives - there is a new circumstance that makes us uneasy. Just when we thought God had 'forgotten us' - God calls us into something that we're not sure about ... one thing for sure - relying on God is both the easiest and the hardest thing to do! Trust and surrender. Trust and surrender. Trust and surrender: over and over again.

In contact with a friend during the week, he said (and I quote): *"God is talking to me daily. It might be to chide, guide, encourage, tell me I'm an idiot, but the creator of the universe is talking to me!"*

How WONDERFUL! 'The Creator of the universe is talking to me.' What a fantastic reality that you and I are invited to take seriously in this resurrection season. What a fantastic gift to encourage or try to explain to others - family, friend and neighbour - that we too can communicate with the God of the Heavens and the Earth - because God really cares for us: wants to 'talk' with us: desires to delve deeper into a loving relationship with us - because God first loved us. So be it!

I hope that you have a belter of a week! *Every blessing, Rev James*

Project REGENERATE. 140 years in 2026.



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; our Diocesan Parish Councils;
- For all the people of Ukraine;
- For all the European Union and all who lead her in troubled times;
- For the people of Russia;
- For humanitarian aid across the world – and for all in refugee camps;
- For Mothers – around the world; for our own Mothers; if you are a Mother;
- For all those displaced by war, violence, exploitation and all forms of injustice;
- For all those facing natural disasters;
- For all experiencing grief;
- For all our Antarctica neighbours;
- For Christian Emergency Food Centre;
- For those in hospital; those receiving home care and assistance;
- For all in our Aged Care facilities;
- For our neighbours – front, back and sides – for community harmony;

Years Mind: Margaret Kennedy, Jeffrey Kay, Phyllis Nuske, Dorothy Smith, Charles O'Bryan, John Cowan, Lynnette Kay

Next Sunday
10.30am Service
& 5.00pm service

Easter Services

Easter 4 – 08 May

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

8.30-12.30 – Coffee Van

Easter 5 – 15 May

10.30am Warracknabeal

12.00pm Parish Luncheon

5.00pm Parish Centre

6.00pm SHINE Youth Group

Easter 6 – 22 May

9.30am Warracknabeal

5.00pm – Cafe Church

8.30-12.30 – Coffee Van

Friday – 27 May

Church Treasure Auction

6.00pm for 6.30pm - Parish Centre

Ascension – 29 May

10.30am Warracknabeal

One Service only

Does anyone have a photo of
the front of the old hall?

Please contact Sandra:

0408 991 235

Parish Ukraine Refugee Appeal

Donated = \$9,124

Target = \$5,000

Thank you for all your generous contributions to this appeal. Let's continue to pray for effective aid and peaceful outcomes, and healing.

Parish Website for the latest: www.warrackanglican.org.au

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

TODAY'S READINGS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading:

Acts 9:36-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. About that time she became ill and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, 'Please come at once!' Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood round him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them. Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning towards the dead woman, he said, 'Tabitha, get up.' She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm:

23

Response: *The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want*

1. The Lord is my shepherd:
therefore can I lack nothing.
He will make me lie down in green
pastures:
and lead me beside still waters.
He will refresh my soul.

Second Reading:

Revelation 5:6-14

2. He guides me in right pathways for his name's sake. Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for you are with me, your rod and your staff comfort me.
3. You spread a table before me in the face of those who trouble me: you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.
4. Surely your goodness and loving-kindness will follow me all the days of my life: and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Second Reading:

Revelation 7:9-17

A reading from the book of Revelation

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.' All the angels were standing round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, saying: 'Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honour and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!' Then one of the elders asked me, 'These in white robes – who are they, and where did they come from?' I answered, 'Sir, you know.' And he said, 'These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, 'they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple;

and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. "Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them," nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd; "he will lead them to springs of living water." "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. **Alleluia!**

Gospel:

John 10:22-30

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

Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade. The Jews who were there gathered round him, saying, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one.'

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



The Propers

Sentence: The lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Collect: Gracious God, you sent Jesus, the good shepherd, to gather us together: may we not wander from his flock, but follow wherever he leads us, listening for his voice and staying near him, until we are safely in your fold, to live with you forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Root of Violence

In a conference with Trappist monk Thomas Keating, Father Richard Rohr considered how contemplation is an antidote to violence:

The root of violence is *the illusion of separation*—from God, from Being itself, and from being one with everyone and everything. When we don't know we are connected, we will invariably resort to some form of violence to get the dignity and power we lack. Contemplation of the gospel message gradually trains us not to make so much of differences, but to return to who we are—our True Selves in God—which is always beyond any nationality, religion, skin color, gender, sexuality, or any other possible labels. In fact, we finally can see that those are always and only commercial labels, covering the rich product underneath.

When we can become little enough, naked enough, and honest enough, then we will ironically find that we are more than enough. At this place of poverty and freedom, we have nothing to prove and nothing to protect. Here we can connect with everything and everyone. Everything belongs. This cuts violence at its very roots, before there is even a basis for fear or greed—the things that usually cause us to be angry, suspicious, and violent.

To be clear, it is inconceivable that a true Christian would be racist, anti-Semitic, xenophobic, homophobic, or bigoted toward any group or individual, especially toward the poor and vulnerable, which seems to be an acceptable American prejudice. To end the cycle of violence, our actions must flow from our authentic identity as Love.

One of the reasons I founded the Center for Action and Contemplation was to give activists some grounding in spirituality so they could continue working for social change, but *from a stance much different than vengeance, ideology, or willpower pressing against willpower*. Most activists I knew loved Gandhi's and Martin Luther King, Jr.'s teachings on nonviolence. But it became clear to me that many of them had only an intellectual appreciation rather than a participation in the much deeper mystery. The ego was still in charge, and I often saw people creating victims of others who were not like them. It was still a power game, not the science of love that Jesus taught us.

When we begin by connecting with our inner experience of communion rather than separation, our actions can become pure, clear, and firm. This kind of action, rooted in one's True Self, comes from a deeper knowing of what is real, good, true, and beautiful, beyond labels and dualistic judgments of right or wrong. From this place, our energy is positive and has the most potential to create change for the good. This stance is precisely what we mean by "being in prayer." We must pray "unceasingly" to maintain this posture. It is a lifelong process.

We wait in prayer, but we don't wait for absolutely perfect motivation or we will never act. Radical union with God and neighbor should be our starting place, not private perfection.

[Adapted from Richard Rohr and Thomas Keating, *Healing Our Violence through the Journey of Centering Prayer* (Cincinnati, OH: Saint Anthony Messenger Press, 2002), CD.]



Mother's Day

Second Sunday of May



APPRECIATION
BEAUTIFUL
BREAKFAST
CANDY
CHARMING
COMFORT
DEVOTED
FLOWERS
FORGIVING
GIFTS

GUIDANCE
HUGS
JEWELRY
JOY
KISSES
LAUGHTER
LOVE
MATERNAL
MOM
MOTHER

NURTURE
PERFUME
PROTECTIVE
SHARE
TELEPHONE
TENDER
THE BEST
WARM
WISE



Mothers Day Mandala



Mother's Day (funny) Quotes:

'Silence is golden. Unless you have kids. Then silence is just suspicious.'

"Setting a good example for your children takes all the fun out of middle age."

"I always say if you aren't yelling at your kids, you're not spending enough time with them."

"I'd like to be an ideal mother, but I'm too busy raising my children."

"Raising a child is part joy and part guerrilla warfare."