

Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Pentecost 23
08th November 2020

Hello everyone!

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

Our schedule for Indoor Services continues this week. I encourage people to join us for simple fellowship. There are many places available at both 9.30am & 12.00pm. Bookings are essential to guarantee a seat - so thank you to those who have been able to let me know of their attendance or absence. I know that meeting in the Parish Centre and/or not having communion at the moment doesn't suit everybody ...

... I take responsibility for this. I'm working on how we can get back into church as soon as possible. As you can imagine - to offer choice and service availability and comply with COVIDSafe requirements to ensure that more people than less can re-connect as a faith community within our beloved building is proving a little tricky. I have a meeting with our COVIDSafe Warden regarding all the above this weekend - and will 'have a plan' to share with you.

I think I will be offering communion sooner than I have previously foreshadowed. As our Scripture states: "For where two or three are gathered in my name - I am there among them." (Matt 18:20) As Matthew has been encouraging us this year - it is the attitude we bring to fellowship that is paramount and necessary for the survival of any faith community. What happens, and how it happens, and who does what is supposed to happen - are important and necessary, but essentially Salvation (a return to wholeness) and our relationship with God in fellowship with one another is where God meets us - in our vulnerability and humanity. In our willingness to bear each others' burdens and rejoice in another's joys - this is where God meets us. In our willingness to 'make the most' of a difficult situation and realize that we are not alone - this is where God meets us.

I feel that COVID has challenged that 'sense of community' which we all relied upon for our well-being in more ways than one. Our 'faith community' is being tested still - and I feel we are currently a little dis-jointed as we try to adapt to the circumstances before us. Is this a 'COVID-factor' alone? I hope so.

(Cont on back page)

Coffee ZOOM Tuesday!

Catch all the 'good news' and a bit more besides Tuesday at 9.30am via ZOOM. Link sent via email or ask Rev for details.



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond: +Garry; for all we love – near and far away; Sandra and Andy Taylor; Coffee Van Project this weekend; for our Indoor Services and transition to 'new normal'; for our farmers as they prepare for harvest – and those who live with them; Project REGENERATE.

Community: Front-line health care workers; for those suffering from anxiety, grief or other ailments; for all our pets – past & present; for perseverance.

Years Mind: Margaret Boschen, Jean Schilling, Cathie Holland

Pentecost 23 YouTube from Rev:

“Give me oil in my lamp...”
https://youtu.be/6d2go1Tk_OA

Bishop Garry's YouTube message:

'Blessing'
https://youtu.be/08qbBJ_SxIM



Kilometres travelled

1,616.57

Pledged & Donated

\$7,999.09

Another IGA Event will be coming your way very soon – watch this space!

Direct Debit to Parish Giving

There was a request from a few people in the last week to offer the details for Direct Debit giving in the pew sheet.

We know that this does not suit all people, however, it is an effective way as an alternative to envelopes etc to manage your giving in the parish.

Details as follows:

Commonwealth Bank of Australia

BSB: 063 544

Acc#: 10068567

Ref: 'Offertory' & your name

Mother's Union

Mother's Union diaries and Christmas Cards are available for collection and sale!

Please contact:

**Margaret Thompson
5398 2055**

Coffee Van Project

This Sunday - 08th November
Outside the Visitor's Centre
Warracknabeal - 9.00am-1.00pm

Good Coffee!

Good vibe!

Giving young people an opportunity to
gain skills and serve their community.



For your amusement:

We were dressed and ready to go out for a Dinner & Theatre that evening.

We turned on a 'night light', turned the answering machine on, covered our pet budgie and put the cat in the backyard.

We phoned the local Taxi company and requested a taxi.

The taxi arrived and we opened the front door to leave the house. As we walked out the door, the cat we had put out in the yard scooted back into the house.

We didn't want the cat shut in the house because she always tries to get at the budgie.

My wife walked on out to the taxi, while I went back inside to get the cat.

The cat ran upstairs, with me in hot pursuit.

Waiting in the cab, my wife didn't want the driver to know that the house will be empty for the night. So, she explained to the taxi driver that I would be out soon.

"He's just going upstairs to say Goodbye to my mother."

A few minutes later, I got into the cab.

"Sorry I took so long," I said, as we drove away.

"That stupid creature was hiding under the bed. I had to poke her bottom with a coat hanger to get her to come out! She tried to take off, so I grabbed her by the neck.

Then, I had to wrap her in a blanket to keep her from scratching me. But it worked! I hauled her large, angry frame downstairs and threw her out into the back yard!

.She'd better not go to the toilet in the vegetable garden again!"

The silence in the Taxi was deafening

TODAY'S READINGS

PENTECOST 23

First Reading : Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

A reading from the Book of Joshua

Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Joshua said to all the people, 'This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: "Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the River Euphrates and worshipped other gods. But I took your father Abraham from the land beyond the Euphrates and led him throughout Canaan and gave him many descendants. I gave him Isaac, 'Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshipped beyond the River Euphrates and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.' Then the people answered, 'Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve other gods! It was the Lord our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we travelled. And the Lord drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the Lord, because he is our God.' Joshua said to the people, 'You are not able to serve the Lord. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you.' But the people said to Joshua, 'No! We will serve the Lord.' Then Joshua said, 'You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the Lord.' 'Yes, we are witnesses,' they replied. 'Now then,' said Joshua, 'throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.' And the people said to Joshua, 'We will serve the Lord our God and obey him.' On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people, and there at Shechem he reaffirmed for them decrees and laws.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: 78:1-7

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)**
4. I will remember you upon my couch, and through the night-watches I will meditate on you: You are my help, and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy. **(R)**

A reading from the first letter to the Thessalonians

Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more, and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: you should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody. Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! **Alleluia!**

Be watchful and ready: you know not when the
Son of Man is coming. **Alleluia!**

Gospel:

Matthew 25:1-13

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

'At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. 'At midnight the cry rang out: "Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!" 'Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out." "No," they replied, "there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves." 'But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. 'Later the others also came. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us!" 'But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I don't know you." 'Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPERS

Sentence: Watch and be ready, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

Collect: Blessed Lord, you have caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that, by patience and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

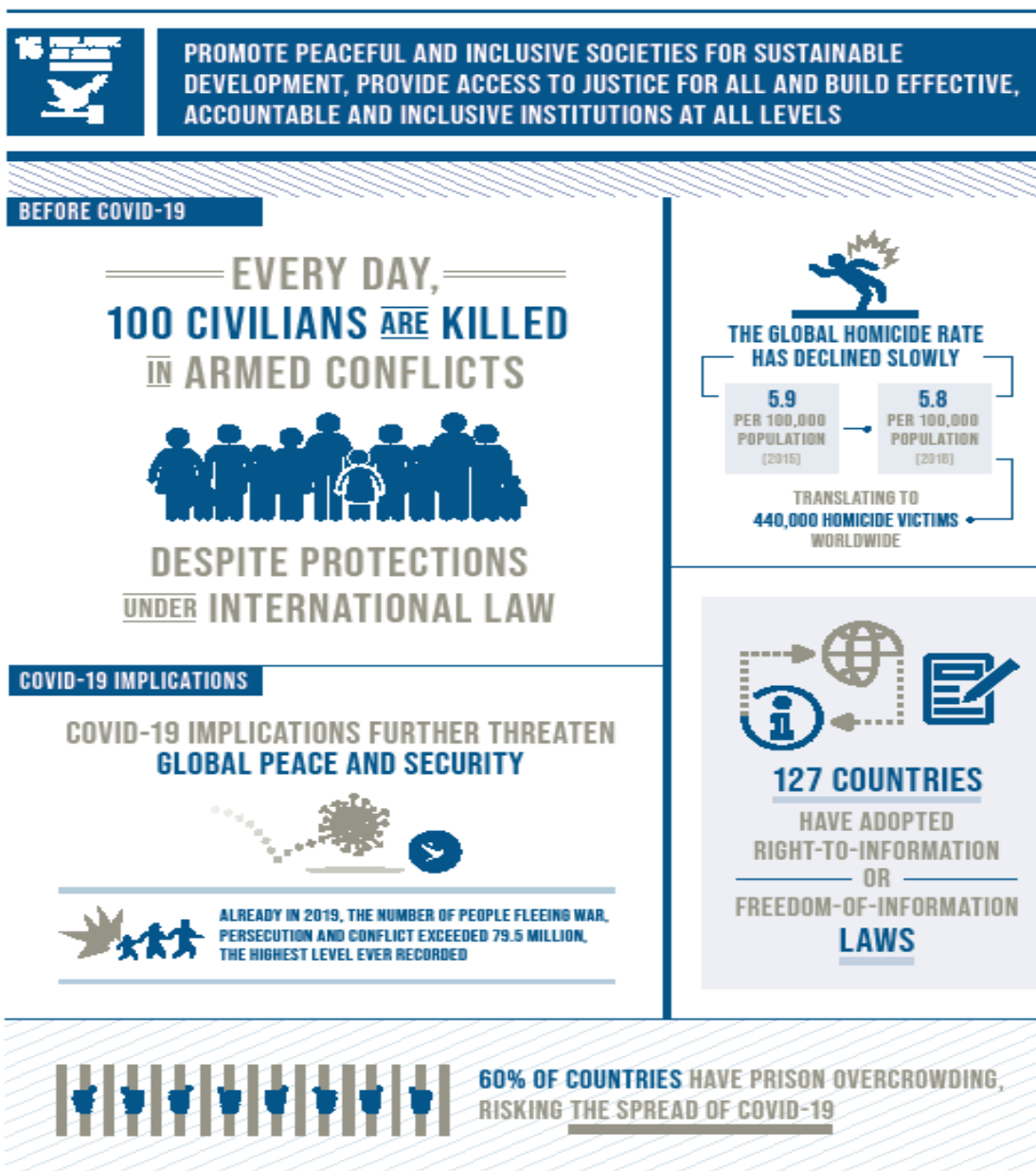
The Sustainable Development Goals – (for your information)

The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.

Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Conflict, insecurity, weak institutions and limited access to justice remain a great threat to sustainable development. The number of people fleeing war, persecution and conflict exceeded 70 million in 2018, the highest level recorded by the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) in almost 70 years.

In 2019, the United Nations tracked 357 killings and 30 enforced disappearances of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists in 47 countries. And the births of around one in four children under age 5 worldwide are never officially recorded, depriving them of a proof of legal identity crucial for the protection of their rights and for access to justice and social services.



ACCESS MORE DATA AND INFORMATION ON THE INDICATORS AT [HTTPS://UNSTATS.UN.ORG/SDGS/REPORT/2020/](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2020/)

Indoor Service Times November/December

November 08th

9.30am & 12.00pm – Christ Church Warracknabeal
Coffee Van – 9.00am-1.00pm

November 15th,

9.30am & 12.00pm – Christ Church Warracknabeal
10.30am - ZOOM Church
5.00pm – SHINE Youth Group

Christ the King - November 22nd

9.30am & 12.00pm – Christ Church Warracknabeal
Coffee Van – 9.00am–1.00pm

Advent 1 - November 29th

9.30am & 12.00pm – Christ Church Warracknabeal
10.30am – ZOOM Church
5.00pm SHINE Youth Group

Advent 2 - December 06th

9.30am & 4.00pm – Christ Church Warracknabeal
11.00am – Areegra
5.00pm - SHINE Youth Group

Indoor Services in Parish Centre

See service schedule in pew sheet

Registration is ESSENTIAL!

20 persons max – numbers are limited – it is a *‘first in, best dressed’* situation I am afraid. If you do not register there is a chance you will not be able to attend.

Please contact Rev immediately if you would like to participate.

P: 0438 233 630 or E: warrackanglican@gmail.com

Please leave a message if you get the answering machine!

Project REGENERATE

Renew PEOPLE. Revive PROJECTS. Restore PLACE.

Please continue to pray for God’s guidance, courage and protection as we seek to regenerate the parish through our 5 year vision in thought, word and action.

(cont from front)

As you will have read in dNews, I have been facilitating a conversation with a number of people across the Diocese who have participated voluntarily in a conversation about the relevance and sustainability of the future of the church. The Encounter Days have explored many issues related to our beloved institution and they have been honest, open and inspiring conversation as we have reflected on 'The Road to Emmaus' Gospel story in Luke 24.

In our church tradition on the whole, and particularly in my experience in Diocese of Ballarat so far, we have honoured the Holy WORD (Luke 24:19-27) - at least through proclamation in church but not necessarily through study or discussion. We have honoured the Holy Sacrament (Luke 24:28-31) - where Christ is made known to us as we share in broken bread and poured wine. It seems as though Holy Witness (Luke 24:32-35) - has been less obvious as part of our church tradition. Has 'Holy Witness' been forgotten? Have people been disempowered to tell others of what Christ has done for them? Have we succumbed to apathy or complacency and expected someone else to 'do our bit.' "I've done 'my bit' for the best of my life young man!" could well be your response.

If our churches are to be full again - what have we to offer those seeking spiritual wellbeing and insight?

If we are to maintain a healthy spiritual life in our Anglican Tradition - what can we do to inspire others to join our fellowship or meet a need or reach out and change someone's life? Can you hear the Holy Spirit calling your name - to act, to engage, to think laterally about being an effective witness? Do we remain a nice and pleasant 'social club'? Do we celebrate our liturgy in a way that most have absolutely no idea what is going on or why they should participate in the first place? Have we rendered our faith community 'dumb and lame' in the face of opposition and the inevitability of irrelevance?

Maybe we - the people of God, the church - need healing more than ever from the one who came and died and rose again for us - the Living God in the person of Jesus: the Christ? Do we need to hear Jesus say, "Your faith has made you well!"

This is the Holy Work of our faith community, and with God's Holy Spirit - forgive and redeem and transform and show this town that there is something 'they WANT' - in that place down the road ...

... that place of welcome and joy and hope and relevance and courage and service and youth and healthy tradition and Emmanuel - God with us!

With provocation, understanding, and loads of love. Rev James