



# Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

**Epiphany 4**  
**31 January 2021**

## *Hello Everyone*

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

This time last week (*as I am writing this*) I was wading through the calm waters of St Vincent Gulf - I have never felt that I need to live by the ocean, but when I am there I feel it has a healing effect on me. The sea-strand is one of those 'liminal spaces' for me - I still feel the solid of the earth (*as a friend says: "The more firma the less terra."*) and yet I start to become part of the 'chaos' of the ocean and everything that lives beneath the surface. On a couple of days, a lone dolphin would eat and play and quietly go about its natural habitat - I think it is one of the great wonders of the world!

As I watch the news, Joe Biden reminds me the role that politicians *CAN* play in bringing calm to a Nation's heart - I don't know his story and I'm sure the situation is much more complex and imperfect than I am portraying here, however, it seems that his years and years and years of experience representing his nation's people provides a certain 'relief' for want of a better term of what we had become used to through his predecessor.

On Australia Day this week, I heard impassioned voices calling for our own Nation to listen - to listen deeply to our first people's story of land and culture; to listen to the injustice of those who experience sexual violence and abuse; to listen to each other - profoundly and with empathy as we all seek to make a contribution to the land we share and to our local community in whatever capacity we can manage. What a privilege. What opportunities lie before us all.

Jesus rebukes 'evil' to "Be quiet!" in our Gospel reading this week, and throughout the Gospel of Mark - 'casts out all that does not lead to freedom.' As we brace ourselves for another year and a pending Lent and Easter Passion - it is time to gird our loins and discern where Jesus is calling us to think differently; to act with courage and compassion; and to help transform that which could destroy us into something that can give us life!

Lord have mercy.

With every blessing,                      Rev James

## Claim the Date – MU Lady Day - Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March

The Annual Mother's Union Lady Day Service and Lunch will be held Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March. Rev James has been asked as Guest speaker to talk about Project REGENERATE and particularly the Boys' Shed Project.

Rev is seeking 'expressions of interest' in attending. Please contact him: 0438 233 630

**Parish Council will be gathering for an Extra Ordinary Meeting on Tuesday night (2<sup>nd</sup> February) with a couple of significant parish matters to discuss. Please pray for us – as we pray for you.**

**Refreshments at 7.00pm: meeting kick-off 7.30pm**



### **Prayer in the Parish**

#### **In the Parish & Beyond:**

- +Garry; South-West Deanery;
- Teachers, LSO's & all students;
- for people Pacific Islands & NZ;
- Parish Council meeting on Tuesday evening (extra ordinary meeting);
- Give thanks for Fr Michael & Kerryn O'Brian at St Peter's, Ballarat.

#### **Community:**

- For those who became Australian citizens last week;
- For our local heroes & Australia Day Award recipients;
- for all those feeling isolated, awaiting diagnosis, or coping with pain;
- for seasonable weather;
- All affected by COVID.

**Years Mind:** Kim Chong, Lorna Grant, Florence Kenyon, Leslie Sherwell, Jack Pickering, Vi Vallance, Gwynne Pickering, Gordon Liersch.

## Service Times Jan/Feb

### Epiphany 4 – 31 January 2021

10.30am - Warracknabeal

*ONE Service only*

### Epiphany 4 -07 February

9.30 & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

11.00am St Mark's Areegra

6.00-8.00pm SHINE Youth Group

### Transfiguration – 14 February

8.30-12.30 – Coffee Van

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Ash Wednesday – 17 February

### Ash Wednesday – 17 February

5.00pm Warracknabeal

Followed by a 'Soup & Bread' supper at Rectory (*please RSVP*)

### Lent 1 – 21 February

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

6.00-8.00pm SHINE Youth Group



**Kilometres travelled**

**2,875.53**

**Pledged & Donated**

**\$13,979.19**

# TODAY'S READINGS

## FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

### ***A reading from the book of Deuteronomy***

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. For this is what you asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, 'Let us not hear the voice of the Lord our God nor see this great fire any more, or we will die.' The Lord said to me: 'What they say is good. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name. But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death.'

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Psalm: 111

### ***Response: The Lord will remember his covenant for ever***

1. O praise the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart:  
in the company of the upright and  
among the congregation.

The works of the Lord are great: and  
studied by all who take delight in them.  
**(R)**

2. His deeds are majestic and glorious:  
and his righteousness stands for ever.

His marvellous acts have won him a name to be remembered: the Lord is gracious and merciful.

He gives food to those that fear him: he remembers his covenant for ever. **(R)**

3. He showed his people the power of his acts: in giving them the heritage of the heathen.

The works of his hands are faithful and just: and all his commandments are sure;

They stand firm for ever and ever: they are done in faithfulness and in truth. **(R)**

4. He sent redemption to his people, he ordained his covenant for ever: holy is his name and worthy to be feared.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and of good understanding are those that keep his commandments: his praise shall endure for ever. **(R)**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

### ***A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians***

Now about food sacrificed to idols: we know that 'We all possess knowledge.' But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. But whoever loves God is known by God. So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: we know that 'An idol is nothing at all in the world' and that 'There is no God but one.' For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many 'gods' and many 'lords'), yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we

live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. But not everyone possesses this knowledge. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat sacrificial food they think of it as having been sacrificed to a god, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do. Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling-block to the weak. For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol's temple, won't that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols? So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, **Alleluia!**

People in darkness have seen a great light; radiant dawn shines on those lost in death. **Alleluia!**

**[Rev's youTube - Epiphany 4](#)**

**'The Human Bridge'**

**<https://youtu.be/5ipBAukqD1s>**

**Gospel:**

**Mark 1:21-28**

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

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God!' 'Be quiet!' said Jesus sternly. 'Come out of him!' The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, 'What is this? A new teaching – and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him.' News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

This is the gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

**THE PROPERS**

**Sentence:** Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness.

**Collect:** God of compassion, you have shown us in Christ that your love is never ending: enable us both to love you with all our heart and to love one another as Christ loved us. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**