



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Easter 3
23 April 2023

Sunday Service: 9.30am - Warracknabeal & 5.00pm - Café Church



What Easter is Really About (Sr Joan Chittister writes)

"The true division of humanity," Victor Hugo wrote in *Les Miserables*, "is between those who live in light and those who live in darkness." Victor Hugo, it seems, understood Easter. We love to think of Easter as the feast of dazzling light. We get up on Easter Sunday morning knowing that the sorrow of Good Friday is finally ended, that the pain of the cross has been compensated for by a burst of brilliant victory from the gates of the grave, that Jesus is vindicated, that the faith of the disciples is confirmed for all to see, and that everyone lived happily ever after. We love fairy tales. Unfortunately, Easter is not one of them.

On the contrary, Easter is raw reality. Easter stands in stark witness, not to the meaning of death, but to the meaning of what it is to go on despite death, in the face of death—because of death. To celebrate Easter means to stand in the light of the empty tomb and decide what to do next. Until we come to realize that, we stand to misread the meaning not simply of the Easter gospel but of our own lives. We miss the point. We make Easter an historical event rather than a life-changing commitment. We fail to realize that Easter demands as much of us now as it did of the apostles then. Most of all we miss the very meaning of the Easters that we are dealing with in our own lives, in our own time.

Easter is the feast that gives meaning to life. It is the feast that never ends. After Easter, the tomb stands open for all of us to enter. If Jesus is risen, then you and I have no choice but to go into the tomb, put on the leftover garments ourselves, and follow Jesus back to Galilee where the poor cry for food and the sick beg to be taken to the pool and the blind wait for the spittle on their eyes to dry. All the fidelity in the world will not substitute for leaving the tomb and beginning the journey all over again. Today. Every day. Always.

That's what Easter is really about. It is the "division of humanity" to which Hugo refers in his dramatic rendering of the struggle between light and dark. Yes, Easter is about dazzling light—but only if it shines through us.

[In the Light of the Messengers: Lenten reflections by Joan Chittister, OSB]

Every blessing, Rev!

Project REGENERATE. 140 years in 2026.



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; our Diocesan sisters & brothers;
- For those who face war, violence, exploitation or injustice of any kind;
- For those who hunger for food and thirst for water; for those who seek peace;
- For the people of Ukraine;
- For the people of Palestine;
- For all facing natural disaster;
- For all facing injustice – through Creed, colour, gender, ethnicity or regime;
- For those experiencing grief;
- For Christian Emergency Food Centre;
- For our farmers and their families as the next phase of the season gets under way;
- For all who work in our medical facilities – for their expertise & wisdom;
- For those we know who are unwell – in mind, body or heart;
- For our hearts to be open to God's healing Spirit;
- For our Christian witness in our daily lives; for conviction and compassion;
- For those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries and milestones;

Years Mind: June Robinson, Isabel Milner, Gladys Martin, Nola Ross, Douglas Coates, Bill Coates

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

Services –April/May

EASTER Services

Easter 3 – 23 April

9.30am Warracknabeal

5.00pm Café Church

Easter 4 – 30 April

10.30am Warracknabeal

(One Service Only)

12.00pm Lunch at the Royal

Easter 5 – 07 May

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

11.00am St Mark's Areegra

Easter 6 – 14 May

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Easter 7 – 21 May

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

PENTECOST – 28 May

9.30am Warracknabeal

5.00pm Café Church



If you made a mistake, apologise.

If you're thankful, show it.

If you're confused, ask questions.

If you learn something, teach others.

If you're stuck, ask for help.

If you're wrong, fess up.

If you love someone, tell them.

If you trip, get back up.

If someone needs help, help them.

If you see wrong, take a stance.

If you're not sure of any of the above:

Be kind.

TODAY'S READINGS

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading : Acts 2:14a, 2:36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: 'Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. 'Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.' When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?' Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.' With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: 116:1-4, 11-18

Response: To you, Lord, I will offer a sacrifice of praise

1. I love the Lord, because he heard my voice: the voice of my supplication;

Because he inclined his ear to me:
in the day that I called to him. (R)

2. The cords of death encompassed me, the snares of the grave took hold on me: I was in anguish and sorrow. (R)

3. Then I called upon the name of the Lord: 'O Lord, I beseech you, deliver me!' How shall I repay the Lord: for all his benefits to me? (R)

4. I will take up the cup of salvation: and call upon the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord: in the presence of all his people. (R)

5. Grievous in the sight of the Lord: is the death of his faithful ones. O Lord, I am your servant, your servant and the child of your handmaid: you have unloosed my bonds. (R)

6. I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving: and call upon the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord: in the presence of all his people, In the courts of the house of the Lord: even in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord. (R)

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:13-25

A reading from the first letter of Peter

Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.' Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the

heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For, 'All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures for ever.' And this is the word that was preached to you. This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, **Alleluia**

Lord Jesus, make your plain to us, make our hearts burn with love when you speak. **Alleluia**

Gospel:

Luke 24:13-35

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognising him. He asked them, 'What are you discussing together as you walk along?' They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, 'Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?' 'What things?' he asked. 'About Jesus of Nazareth,' they replied. 'He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early

this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.' He said to them, 'How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?' And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going further. But they urged him strongly, 'Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?' They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, 'It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognised by them when he broke the bread. This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPERS

Sentence: Repent, and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Collect: Gracious Father, who in your great mercy made glad the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such awareness of his presence with us that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life, and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**