Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

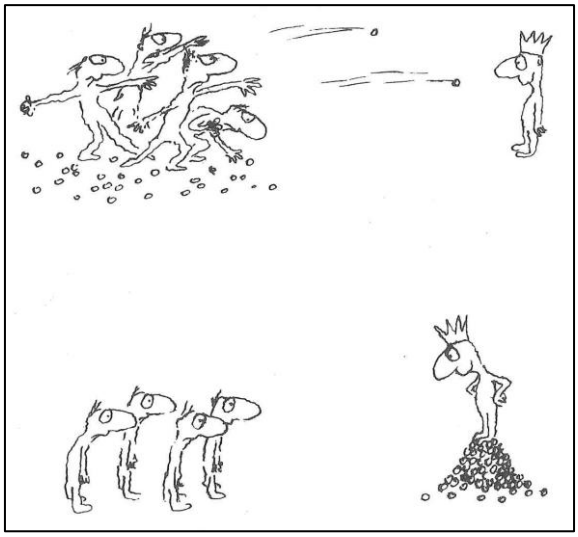
Project Regenerate: Explore. Rejoice. Give.

All Saints

01 November 2026

Hello Everybody! *I hope that you've had a good week!*

I wonder who is your favourite saint?



I recall Claire Jones some years ago – gave me a St Christopher medallion – the Patron Saint of Travellers. Another I came across in my theological studies was Symeon the Stylite *(c. 390 – 2 September 459)* was a Syrian Christian ascetic who achieved notability by living 36 years on top of a pillar near Aleppo *(in modern Syria).*

My favourite though is a Russian saint - **Seraphim of Sarov** (19 July 1754 or 1759 – 14 January 1833), and is venerated in the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Anglican Communion. He is generally considered the greatest of the 18th-century *startsy (elders).* Seraphim extended the monastic teachings of contemplation, theoria and self-denial to the layperson. He taught that the purpose of the Christian life was to receive the Holy Spirit. Perhaps his most popular quotation amongst his devotees is, *"Acquire the Spirit of Peace, and thousands around you will be saved."*

As we celebrate the saints above and below this weekend – maybe you can find the saint that motivates you and has the capacity to guide you through the daily joys and sorrows on our earthly pilgrimage in this life *(as we prepare for the next).*

Sometimes we think we have to do something extra-ordinary to be considered for 'veneration'. It helps if you're dead – but I wouldn't wish that on any of you at the moment. Better to be in 'right relationship' with God, and then with your neighbour, and finally with yourself. Look in the mirror – and rejoice! For there is the living temple where God can dwell and have God's being.

Blessings, Rev James



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Scott as Administrator; for the 'Board of Electors' Committee as they prepare the process of electing our new Bishop;
- For all the people of Ukraine;
- For our Parish Council;
- For seasonable weather;
- For all who serve in our parish in a variety of ways – seen and unseen;
- For all who are hungry, thirsty and seeking shelter around the globe;
- For those of leadership and influence to act for the common good;
- For all facing natural disaster: flood, fire, earthquake, cyclone, famine;
- For our neighbours;
- For those in our Aged Care Facilities;
- For our farmers and their families;
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- For all those we love, near and far away;

Years Mind: Ivy HALL (2005), James LISTON (2024), Rita MERRITT (1997), Kenneth STREETER (1985), Edwin NUSKE (199), Stanley PETERS (2009), Pauline LITTLE (1986), Catherine WALKER (1963) Adelaide HALLAM (1984), Ivy MACPHAIL (2002), (Mavis) June HARDINGHAM (2016), Claire JONES (2021), Ilma GOVE (1998), Peggy BOURKE (2008)

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

Services - 2026

All Saints – 01 November
9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal
11.00am Areegra

Monday 02nd November – Rev Fiona
At Café Peppercorn – 9.00-10.30am

Pentecost 24 – 08 November
9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Pentecost 25 – 15 November
9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Christ the King – 22 November
10.30am and Parish Pot-luck Lunch
Warracknabeal

Advent 1 – 29 November
9.30am Warracknabeal
6.30pm Prelude to Christmas at The Uniting Church, Warracknabeal

Advent 2 – 06 December
9.30am Warracknabeal
5.00pm-7.00pm Rectory Sundowner

Advent 3 – 13 December
9.30am Warracknabeal
from ~5.00pm WAG Christmas Festival

Advent 3 – 20 December
9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

A Prayer for a Bishop

+Scott is now Administrator
(+Garry retired on 03 Oct 2026)

Eternal God, shepherd and guide, in your mercy give your Church in this diocese of Ballarat, a shepherd after your own heart who will walk in your ways, and with loving care watch over your people. Give us a leader of vision and a teacher of your truth. So may your Church be built up and your name glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

TODAY'S READINGS
ALL SAINTS

First 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

Psalm: 34:1-10.22

Response: *I will bless the Lord at all times*

1. I will bless the Lord continually:
   his praise shall be always in my mouth.
   Let my soul boast of the Lord: the humble shall hear it and rejoice **(R)**
2. O praise the Lord with me: let us exalt his name together. For I sought the Lord's help and he answered: and he freed me from all my fears. **(R)**
3. Look towards him and be bright with joy: your faces shall not be ashamed. Here is a wretch who cried, and the Lord heard me: and saved me from all my troubles. **(R)**
4. The angel of the Lord encamps round those who fear him: and delivers them in their need. O taste and see that the Lord is good: happy are they that hide in him! Fear the Lord, all you his holy ones: for those who fear him never lack. **(R)**
5. Lions may suffer want and go hungry: but those who seek the Lord lack nothing good. The Lord ransoms the lives of his servants: and none who hide in him will be destroyed. **(R)**

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-3

A reading from the first letter of John

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, **Alleluia**
Come to me, all you that labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest, says the Lord. **Alleluia**

Gospel: **Matthew 5:1-12**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. The Beatitudes He said: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit , for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn , for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek , for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness , for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful , for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart , for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers , for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness , for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

This is the gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Christmas is Coming

Rev will be running the Useful Gift Shop in the parish in the lead-up to Christmas again. More info at the back of the pew sheet.
If you would like a sneaky peek:
www.usefulgifts.org

THE PROPERS

Sentence: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Collect: We praise you, heavenly Father, that you have knit together your chosen ones in one communion and fellowship in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord: give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Saviour, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

A Prayer for the Middle East via TEARFUND

Dear God,

We cry out to you on behalf of the people seriously affected by the conflict in Gaza and the Middle East. Our hearts break at the devastation and suffering that we see, and we know it breaks yours, too.

We ask that you stretch out your mighty hand to bring lasting peace.

We cry out for people who have been injured or traumatised, who have lost loved ones or their homes. Please provide everything they need and be their comfort, their hope, their healer, and their safe refuge.

We pray for your peace to reign. We look to you as our Saviour and the hope of the world.

Amen.

Report to Parish Council and for publication in the Pew Sheet by David Holland

- It had been 28 years since I had attended Synod and I was dreading it!
- I now feel satisfied that I have a better understanding of the diocese and it was very nice to connect and reconnect with many good and faithful people both clergy and laity.
- Sarah-Jayne Holland not only represented our parish but was again elected as lay secretary and teller. Sarah-Jayne is also one of 12 on the current Board of Electors.
- Alice Knight provided an update from the Board of Electors. They are currently establishing selection criteria and have met 6 times since May. They have until May 27 to announce a new Bishop before a new board takes over. Currently there are vacancies in Riverina and Bendigo (it's a competitive environment). The process is that 4 of the 6 clergy must vote in favour and 4 of the 6 laity must agree before offering the position.
- The late Rev Charles Helms was mentioned in Bishop Scott's Administrators address.
- Local recently ordained deacon Fiona was asked to participate in the Eucharist on Friday evening and acquitted herself well particularly as it was her first time with the thurifer and in the cathedral.
- There were a number of reports, all of which were interesting. However, they took up a very high proportion of Synod business (not concluding till after 2pm on Saturday). I hope time limits for such reports are implemented before next Synod. (Especially for the Grammer School!!)
- Acting Registrar Mike Robins provided a concise and articulate analysis of diocesan finance. Mike reported the Diocese had run at a profit this last financial year, but this was only due to sale of church properties to resolve civil claims and redress.
- Uncertainty about ongoing sexual abuse claims makes budgeting very difficult. It is my present intention to table in advance a financial question and a staffing question next year when we may have a permanent Registrar/ Business manager and a new Bishop.
- Kate Schnering reported on the ongoing progress of Church Safe compliance. She emphasized the importance of now taking the next step to improve church culture in this area.
- Dr Helen Haines MP, the people of Wangaratta and Indi were remembered in prayer, by motion and the lighting of a candle on Friday night at 8pm - same time as a local vigil in Wangaratta.
- Rev James motions about the treatment of the Palestine people in the Middle East instigated passionate debate, the end result was a "watered down" amendment being passed.
- Other motions such as "The Manosphere", "Bush Church Aid" and recognizing the retiring of the Reverend Canon David Oulton were passed without debate.
- The Administrator Bishop Scott had a busy job and despite a few Freudian slips was for the most part procedurally fair. I hope all questions and motions are followed up!!
- The organ and voices of the cathedral choir (including Sheena Johnson) were great.
- John Ruseell (Deputy Registrar) was mentioned ss being overworked, but highly valued.
- Overall. There is a lot to digest and it's hard to summarize. I would encourage anyone with any questions to ask or call either myself, Sarah-Jayne, Rev Fiona or Rev James. Overall, I found that it was interesting, frustrating, challenging and encouraging.

David Holland

Parish Synod Representative

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