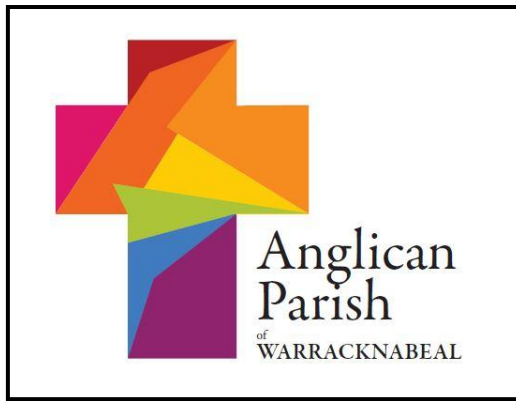




Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Project Regenerate: Explore. Rejoice. Give.

Pentecost 5

28 June 2026

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



Dear Parishioners,

I write to sincerely thank you for the support and love shown upon my ordination. I appreciate all the cards, gifts, well wishes and help I received both leading up to Saturday, on the day and following Saturday.

Thank you to all those who played a part in making last Saturday very special, from doing dishes, serving soup, cleaning up, playing a role in the service and being a member of the congregation. I really appreciate your assistance. Quite a few said to me they were honoured to help out and be part of my day, but that goes both ways. There are only so many things that people could have been a participant in but believe me, your presence and/or messages of support were just as important.

In the lead up to my ordination, I spent some time reflecting on significant ordination moments and the stations of the cross. One of these was the following ordination moment: The Community's Affirmation - You are not alone. You are formed, held, and sent by others.

The linking Diaconal thread: You are not self-made; your ministry is relationally held.

The Reflection: The Church is not your audience - it is your origin.

The community surrounds you - not as spectators, but as those who will sustain and challenge you. You do not walk alone. "Faith is nurtured in community before it is claimed in courage." [Brueggemann]

Q: Do I recognise the people and community that sustain my vocation?

"We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love. And that love comes from community." [Doris Day]

The community, not just our church community but the wider community, play an important role. Simply put, no community = no deacon role. There is no way I could do this alone and no way I could do this without backup, not only God's backup, but the backup and support of a faithful community, whether it's 1, 10, 50 or 100 people. I am very grateful to Rev. James who has put much time and effort into both preparation and "training" since I first floated the idea with him, and Parish Council who have been behind me as well. Of course, the danger of naming people is forgetting someone, so please accept my thanks for any role you have had in my ordination, whether it's large or small. I really do appreciate it.

I'd also like to publicly thank my family who are an important support. I feel so blessed to have a family willing to walk the Christian way and participate in services.

I am excited for the future and am looking forward to serving you all and our community as a local deacon - warts and all!!

For the very first signing off as,

Your (newly minted) deacon, Reverend Fiona





Project REGENERATE. 140 years in 2026.



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; for Rev Fiona & family;
- For the memory of Charles H. Helms;
- For the 'Board of Electors' Committee as they prepare the process of electing our new Bishop;
- For all who are hungry, thirsty and seeking shelter around the globe;
- For the Socceroos; for unity and the abolishment of racism;
- For the people of the Middle East;
- For the Leaders of all Nations;
- 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 those we know whom are unwell;
- For our farmers and their families;
-
- For all those we love, near and far away;

Years Mind: James LIVINGSTONE (1988), Patsy DEMPSEY (2003), Edward LIERSCH (1994), George GREGSON (1992), Kenneth RENALSON (1996), Janice McCREDDEN (1999), Ellis EMMETT (2005), Cyril McROSS (2013), Beverley PENDERGAST (2023), Allan ROBINS (1990), Melissa SALLMAN (infant), Rex SCHULZ (2008), Phyllis LYNCH (2017)

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

Services - 2026

Pentecost 5 – 28 June

9.30am Warracknabeal
5.00pm Café Church

Pentecost 6 – 05 July

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal
11.00am Areegra - tbc

Pentecost 7 – 12 July

9.30am MP - Warracknabeal

Pentecost 8 – 19 July

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Pentecost 9 – 26 July

9.30am Warracknabeal
5.00pm Café Church

"Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain."

1 Timothy 3:8

"They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience."

1 Timothy 3:9

A Prayer for a Bishop

+Garry retires 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

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

First Reading:

Genesis 22:1-14

A reading from the book of Genesis

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ² He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." ⁶ Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. And the two of them walked on together. ⁷ Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." And the two of them walked on together. ⁹ When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill^[a] his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ¹² He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, since you have

not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³ And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place "The LORD will provide,"^[b] as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Psalm:

13

Response: *I will sing to the LORD because he has dealt bountifully with me.*

¹ How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? **(R)**

² How long must I bear pain^[a] in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all day long? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? **(R)**

³ Consider and answer me, LORD my God! Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death, ⁴ and my enemy will say, "I have prevailed"; my foes will rejoice because I am shaken. **(R)**

⁵ But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

⁶ I will sing to the LORD because he has dealt bountifully with me. **(R)**

Second Reading:

Romans 6:12-23

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies, so that you obey their desires. ¹³ No longer present your members to sin as instruments^[a] of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your

members to God as instruments^[b] of righteousness. ¹⁴For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. ¹⁵What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Do you not know that, if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God that you who were slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted ¹⁸and that you, having been set free from sin, have become enslaved to righteousness. ¹⁹I am speaking in human terms because of your limitations.^[c] For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness, leading to even more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification.

²⁰When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹So what fruit did you then gain from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²²But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the fruit you have leads to sanctification, and the end is eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, **Alleluia**

I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord; No one comes to the Father, except through me. **Alleluia**

Gospel:

Matthew 10:40-42

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

⁴⁰“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, ⁴²and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPERS

Sentence: The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Collect: O God, your Son has taught us that those who give a cup of water in his name will not lose their reward: open our hearts to the needs of your children, and in all things make us obedient to your will, so that in faith we may receive your gracious gift, eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Bishops will govern the church;
the priests will do all the work; and,
the deacons will have all the fun.*

Richard Cushing