



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Epiphany 5
05 February 2023

Sunday Services: 9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal
11.00am St Mark's Areegra



***"There is only ONE race. The human race."
Robert Sobukwe***

There is a phrase used in cycling circles - when you are riding and there is more than one bike - it's a RACE! We human beings are competitive by nature - mostly. Would you agree? Looking over the fence; climbing the 'ladder' of responsibility and power; keeping up with 'the Jones' whoever the 'jones' were ... (some people I have no desire to keep up with). Our great sporting culture doesn't quite satisfy the rush of blood when defending country or town, but I guess it can get close. There are many opportunities for people to go faster, higher and be stronger - and there is great reward for excellence and achievement.

Jesus offers an alternative. "Don't be boring." (my paraphrase) "Don't be full of darkness." Bring something to the world that will 'preserve' the good nature of God and an expression of our faith - BE SALT! Be tasty, flavoursome, add that extra ingredient that will change the world around you.

It does not mean that we deny or avoid the difficulties of life and the grief and disappointment that we experience every day through the small and sometimes HUGE moments in our lives or the lives of others - especially our friends and neighbours. Our Gospel message gives us a 'path to walk' and a relationship with the ONE who created it ALL!

How awesome is that! But if we just read it - what good is that? Better than nothing I guess. We are invited to read (which is quite the modern approach) - cos in the good old days it was all oral and we needed 'ears to listen' - more importantly we are invited to act! We are invited to help others explore the mystery of God ... we are invited to transformation. Hard sell I know! Rev.



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; the people in Parish of Ararat;
- For Nola Browell; Belinda – undergoing surgery & for a swift recovery;
- For the oldest continuous culture on the planet and all her people;
- For refugees & those who seek asylum;
- For our Local, State and Federal leaders in their capacity to instigate change;
- For all people dealing with violence, war, injustice and exploitation;
- For the people of Ukraine;
- For the people of Auckland;
- For those experiencing grief; for those dealing with tragedy;
- For our neighbours;
- For Christian Emergency Food Centre;
- For those facing significant hardship in body and mind and soul;
- For our region's schools – their Principals, Teachers & support staff;
- For those we love – near and far away;
- For those celebrating birthday's and anniversaries and milestones;
- Thanks for our all God's blessings;

Years Mind: Leslie Jonasson, Lois Crawford, Lance Dunkley, Phyllis Walker, Gordon Jonasson, Gary Tong.

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

Services – Feb

Epiphany 5 – 05 February

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal
11.00am Areegra

Epiphany 6 – 12 February

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Transfiguration – 19 February

10.30am – *Baptism Service*
5.00pm Warracknabeal

Ash Wednesday – 22 February

5.30pm Warracknabeal
Followed by simple Rectory meal

Lent 1 – 26 February

10.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal
12.00pm Parish Luncheon

Lent 2 – 05 March

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal
11.00am Areegra

Special Morning Tea

19th February in the Parish Centre
following our 10.30am Baptism
service for Molly & Posie.

Please bring a plate and join the
celebration!

Parish Luncheon Returns!

26th February in the Parish Centre
at 12.00pm following our 10.30am
morning service.

Salads will be needed.

More details soon!

TODAY'S READINGS

EPIPHANY 5

First Reading :

Isaiah 58:1-9a

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

'Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their rebellion and to the descendants of Jacob their sins. For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways, as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God. They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them. "Why have we fasted," they say, "and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?" 'Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. Your fasting ends in quarrelling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for people to humble themselves? Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord ? 'Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter – when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: here am I. 'If you do away with

the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm:

112

Response: *The just man and woman is a light in darkness to the upright.*

1. Light shines through the darkness for the upright; they are gracious and merciful and just. Well for the man or woman who is gracious and lends, who conducts their affairs with justice. **(R)**
2. He shall never be moved; the just one shall be in everlasting remembrance. An evil report they shall not fear; their heart is firm, trusting in the LORD. **(R)**
3. Their heart is steadfast; they shall not fear. Lavishly they give to the poor; their justice shall endure forever; their horn shall be exalted in glory **(R)**

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 2:1-13

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power. We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written: 'What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived' – the things God has prepared for those who love him – these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, **Alleluia!**

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Alleluia!

Gospel:

Matthew 5:13-20

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

'You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. 'You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl.

Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practises and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

The Propers

Sentence: Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Collect: Faithful God, you have appointed us your witnesses, to be a light that shines in the world: let us not hide the bright hope you have given us, but tell everyone your love, revealed in Jesus Christ the Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Task Within the Task

Father Richard Rohr writes:

There is much evidence on several levels that there are at least two major tasks to human life. The first task is to build a strong “container” or identity; the second is to find the contents that the container was meant to hold. The first task we take for granted as the very purpose of life, which does not mean we do it well. The second task, I am told, is more encountered than sought; few arrive at it with much preplanning, purpose, or passion.

We are a “first-half-of-life culture,” largely concerned about *surviving successfully*. Probably most cultures and individuals across history have been situated in the first half of their own development up to now, because it is all they had time for. We all try to do what seems like the task that life first hands us: establishing an identity, a home, relationships, friends, community, security, and building a proper platform for our only life.

But it takes us much longer to discover “the task within the task,” as I like to call it: *what we are really doing when we are doing what we are doing....*

Problematically, the first task invests so much of our blood, sweat, tears, and years that we often cannot imagine there is a second task, or that anything more could be expected of us. “The old wineskins are good enough,” we say, even though according to Jesus they often cannot hold the new wine. According to him, if we do not get some new wineskins, “the wine and the wineskin will both be lost” (Luke 5:37–39). The second half of life can hold some new wine because by then there should be some strong wineskins, some tested ways of holding our lives together. But that normally means that the container itself has to stretch, die in its present form, or even replace itself with something better.

Various traditions have used many metaphors to make this differentiation clear: beginner and proficient, novices and initiated, milk and meat, letter and spirit, juniors and seniors, baptized and confirmed, apprentice and master, morning and evening, “Peter when you were young ... Peter when you are old” (John 21:18). Only when we have begun to live in the second half of life can we see the difference between the two. Yet the two halves are *cumulative and sequential, and both are very necessary*. We cannot do a nonstop flight to the second half of life by reading lots of books about it. Grace must and will edge us forward. “God has no grandchildren. God only has children,” as some have said. Each generation has to make its own discoveries of Spirit for itself.

No pope, Bible quote, psychological technique, religious formula, book, or guru can do the journey for us. If we try to skip the first journey, we will never receive its real fruits or understand its limitations.

[Adapted from Richard Rohr, *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*: San Francisco, CA]

Priest's Log:
01 February 2023

Amazing!

Especially when nine men, one woman (making morning and afternoon tea) and one boy get together. It wasn't quite 'an Amish barn raising' but it certainly felt like it.

I am feeling incredibly grateful.

Honoured.

Thank you to everyone!



Plugged In and Turned On

"You are the light of the world." Matthew 5:14 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)



X V F O K U L Y B D S M M O I
M J M B Y D T G Y Q E S X Z A
M Z V M L I E O S L R E L Z R
L P A R C S N O L H L P D I O
I Z V K I C Y D F W I H B S I
G L D A A V S F L Y P N B R F
H B R D K N A W O R L D E Z B
T P I O O H I D D E N E R H L
B C V B O W L T M B S K V C A
O N H P U L A M P U O S X U C
T Y F I J T X R O F P L C V J
P R J D L J I H A Y B C F W R
E I Q L X L E F A T H E R E V
C F M E N S N M U V Z W O B A
X I L R M D R J L I S T A N D

LAMP	LIGHT	BOWL	GOOD	DEEDS
WORLD	CITY	MEN	HIDDEN	SHINE
PRAISE	HOUSE	FATHER	HILL	STAND