



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Epiphany
08 January 2023

Sunday Service: 9.30am Warracknabeal

Hello Everyone! Hope you're enjoying the heat. Isn't it brilliant!

Rabindranath Tagore wrote: *"Let me not pray to be sheltered from dangers but to be fearless in facing them. Let me not beg for the stilling of my pain, but for the heart to conquer it."*

Jesus never promised to make life easier by following him. Jesus never gave his followers special dispensation from the dis-ease and difficulties that our human being is subjected to. Jesus never invited the weak and helpless to use his divine power as a crutch or substitute for facing the reality of life as we know it - throughout the many contexts since these early days in 'Bethlehem' or Egypt - or wherever the Magi visited Jesus.

Complete strangers - with most probably complete cultural differences and languages and blah blah blah - are invited to pay homage to God on Earth. No other religion can claim this 'homage' ... for the Divine is 'not meant' to mess with earthly dirt and blood and sweat and tears and travel restrictions and bad human behaviour and unpredictability of how human beings interact with each other on this planet.

This Epiphany, we too - are invited into the 'stable' once more to pay homage to Jesus in this season of Epiphany.

What does this look like for you?

Do you feel as though you have to travel to an exotic destination?

Or is there a special place in the back garden, or in your heart?

Do you know what 'gift' you will bring?

Will you copy the Magi - or do you have something else in mind?

Are you going to determine what God will look like once you're there?

Or are you open to the possibility that God may surprise you?

Epiphany = REVELATION. What will God reveal to you? Receive, and Treasure it.

Every Blessing, Rev!



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; all God's faithful people in our Deanery;
- For our Farmers and their families;
- For the people of Haiti; Ukraine; Indonesia; Myanmar; the women & children of Iran; the women & children of Afghanistan; the people of Peru; Syria; Yemen;
- For all our Police Officers;
- For those continuing to deal with flood waters and other natural disasters;
- For those experiencing depression and anxiety, or other mental illness;
- For those experiencing grief;
- For all on holiday and travelling to see family and friends;
- For Christian Emergency Food Centre;
- For those facing significant hardship in body and mind and soul;
- For a transforming New Year resolutions and goals;
- For those we love – near and far away;
- For our pets;
- Thanks for our all God's blessings;

Years Mind: Lorna Freeland, Janine Edwards,

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

Services – Jan

Epiphany – 08 Jan 2023

9.30am – HC

Baptism of Jesus – 15 Jan 2023

9.30am – HC

Epiphany 3 – 22 Jan 2023

9.30am – HC

Epiphany – 29 Jan 2023

10.30am – Café Church

WHEN THE POWER OF LOVE
OVERCOMES THE LOVE OF POWER –
THE WORLD WILL KNOW PEACE.

[JIMI HENDRIX]



*Remember happiness doesn't depend
upon who you are or what you have; it
depends solely on what you think.*

(Dale Carnegie)



He Qi - Epiphany

TODAY'S READINGS

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

First Reading:

Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

'Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. 'Lift up your eyes and look about you: all assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come.

Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the Lord .

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm:

72

Response: *Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.*

1. God, with your judgment endow the king, and with your justice, the king's son; He shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment. **(R)**

2. Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more. May he rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. **(R)**

3. The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts; the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute. All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him. **(R)**

4. For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save. **(R)**

Second Reading:

Ephesians 3:1-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles – Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, **alleluia!**

We have seen his star in the East:
and have come to adore the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel:

Matthew 2: 1-12

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

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.' When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they replied, 'for this is what the prophet has written: "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.

He sent them to Bethlehem and said, 'Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.'

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPERS

Sentence: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Collect: Everlasting God, who brought the nations to your light and kings to the brightness of your rising: fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the nations; through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God. now and for ever. **Amen.**

Giving a grain of wheat - to produce a harvest opportunity within our parish.

If you, or someone you know would like to donate to our church in this way - quote the NGR number below.



Donations of grain - of any quantity can be made using the

Church's NGR number:

NGR 12439740