



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Pentecost 4
28th June 2020

Hello everyone!

I hope that I find you well.

In my conversations in recent weeks, there seems to be an emerging 'fragility' - within the heart of our community life together. The COVID restrictions are starting to 'drag on' and the whole system within the State seems destabilized by recent rise in numbers of infections and community transmissions. We are relatively lucky in the country ... so far ... but we are reminded how precarious everything is and how quickly this particular virus can spread.

Our planned opening of the church remains slightly precarious itself - through no fault of our own. It is my intention to 'fling wide the doors' on the 19th July - as I have advertised.

HOWEVER, if we do so, the church will NOT feel the same. There is also a strong possibility that we will have to conduct our service with people in the church and the parish centre. I have no intention of running a 'roster' but this also - depending on whether someone is willing to co-ordinate it - may be a possibility.

The need to resume our liturgical / faith life together seems important for many, many reasons - and I will do everything in my power to make it a meaningful (if not altogether perfect or recognizable as we have been accustomed) experience to nurture our relationship with God, and walk with each other as Jesus would ask us to. Ultimately, we are 'called into our cell' as the Desert Father's coined it - with the Holy Spirit as our guide and comforter still.

We will not be able to make any certain decisions until the Premier's announcement on 12th July - so I ask you to be patient, remain kind to one another - make those phone calls! to check that your neighbour is okay; and hopefully, we will be able to find a way to 'prize apart' the bolted front doors of our church.

My idea of setting up small house groups - has stalled a little, and has been much harder work to 'follow up' than I imagined. This idea remains 'active' and I am not giving up - whether the church will open or not. There are also quite considerable mission ideas being explored at Parish Council - which we will share with you once there is more detail!

Rev's REVOLUTION will begin 01August - so keep your ear close to the ground, as we will need you to invite friends and neighbour to participate in some capacity.

Please find below another 'Home church' reflection from Fiona Holland:

"Home Church has been a great learning experience in many ways. We have not sat down as a family around the table or in the lounge room to conduct a bible study, to pray or anything so at first, conducting church as a whole family was an interesting feeling. In the beginning, I led using our liturgy before Communion as a guide. We chose hymns that were appropriate to the readings and thanks to YouTube, we were able to access the lyrics as well as the music to a wide variety of hymns and songs. As the weeks wore on, our service was benefited by a simple liturgy outline with reflection questions. This enabled others to lead the service and the discussion although Benjamin more often than not asked to lead the service. The bell has become a regular feature each week, indicating when church starts and announcing the Gospel. I felt nervous opening up our home to others so they could join our service but as the weeks have progressed, I have not been as nervous. I have enjoyed the different conversations and reflections that other people bring to our service.

I have learnt a lot about the deep faith and understandings of our children over the past 10 -12 weeks. They have provided insightful commentary on the readings and their understanding of how the readings relate to our lives today. Both Benjamin and Amy have, at times, made comments, observations and reflections that indicate a far deeper understanding of their faith than I would have thought, simply because there has been a forum for them to have a voice and express their own reflections.

Benjamin says he has enjoyed the home church experience. He has enjoyed leading the service and ringing the bell, along with the later start time of 10:30am. He thought the experience was a good exercise, particularly having just the 4 family members, but still prefers regular church.

I would hope that in some way our family can continue a family worship time - whether that is in a bible study, reading and discussing the weekly readings or having a worship service of our home."

With every blessing, Rev James

**The Anglican Church of Warracknabeal
will reopen on
19th July at 10.30am**

**A simple parish lunch will follow this service
in the parish centre.**

I encourage everyone within the parish to join us as we readjust to a 'better normal' and launch church as we know it into the rest of the liturgical year and re-establish our goals and faith life together as best we can.

Due to COVID, all food will be provided and you will be invited to offer a donation if you are able. The important thing is to meet together and create an environment of inclusion and fellowship appropriate for our times - for you and your loved ones.

If you are able to reply (for catering purposes) this would be great - however - there will be enough for ALL!

Contact: Sarah-Jayne Holland 0438 341 577 or send an email - warrackanglican@gmail.com

Coffee at PEPPERCORN Café

Next coffee table available on 13th July. 9.00am See you then.

Rev's REVOLUTION – as part of Project REGENERATE

5000kms - 365 days - \$25,000 target - to build the Boys' Shed.
Wheels start rolling - 01 August 2020

Pentecost Season Quiz X:

Who am I?

1. I was born 12 May 1890 - in Florence, Italy.
2. I lived in the UK.
3. I am the pioneer and founder of modern nursing.
4. When I was 16 years old, I heard a voice from God calling me to **carry out important work to help those suffering**. From that moment I wanted to be a nurse.
5. One of my quotes reads: "How very little can be done under the spirit of fear."
6. By 1853 I was running a women's hospital in London.

[Answers next week]

Last week's answers - Quiz IX:

- 1). I have no idea ... I thought you might know? 2). Fire. 3). A Grandfather, A Father and Son. 4). A Fence. 5). Noon.



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond: +Garry; our Diocesan brothers and sisters; those suffering from racial vilification; those trafficked across a border today; those experiencing injustice; Parish Council.

Community: Front-line health care workers; those feeling lonely and isolated; those facing serious dis-ease in body, mind and spirit; those dealing with grief; all carpenters.

Years Mind: Ellis Emmett, Mary Thomas, Leonard Phillips

During the COVID-19 restrictions - Rev will be in Christ Church every Sunday for prayer and praise at 9.30am. Please join him in solidarity at home if you are able – covering the parish in prayer and thought.

Pentecost 4 youTube from Rev:

"A Sacramental Life" -
https://youtu.be/bcurLSP_BYo

Bishop Garry's youTube message:

What is the plan?
<https://youtu.be/DDb8Art9LQ>

PARISH AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal will take place on **Sunday 23rd August at 11.00am following the Sunday service.**

Please start preparing your reports for distribution and claim the date in your diary. Let's create a fun atmosphere as we conduct our parish business and look ahead to promote Project REGENERATE and associated mission and ministry objectives.

A Simple Service – for Pentecost 4

Hymn: When I Needed a Neighbour

When I needed a neighbour, were you there, were you there?

When I needed a neighbour, were you there?

And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter, were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty, were you there, were you there...

And the creed and the colour ...

I was cold, I was naked, were you there, were you there...

And the creed and the colour ...

When I needed a shelter, were you there, were you there...

And the creed and the colour ...

Wherever you travel, I'll be there, I'll be there...

And the creed and the colour ...

Sydney Carter

Reflection:

a) *What was your most favourite moment this week?*

b) *What would you like to give thanks to God for this week?*

Prayer of Preparation:

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings:

Videos: +Garry and/or Rev

Reflection:

What words or phrases give evidence to:

Loving nature of God,
Tricky nature of God,
Extravagant nature of God,
Creative nature of God,
Challenging nature of God?

Prayer:

Praise. Petition. Intercession. Thanksgiving.
(or follow your own discipline.)

The Lord's Prayer.

Collect for the Day.

Blessing:

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warmly on your face.
May the rain fall softly on your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you, and those you love,
in the palm of God's hand. Amen.

[Old Irish Saying]

Song: Christ Is Alive!

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring;
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift and war,
where colour, scorn or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy,
with justice, love, and praise.

Brian Arthur Wren. © 1999. Together in Song. Harper Collins.
CCL 610638

TODAY'S READINGS

PENTECOST 4

First Reading : Genesis 22:1-14

A reading from the Book of Genesis

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, 'Abraham!' 'Here I am,' he replied. Then God said, 'Take your son, your only son, whom you love – Isaac – and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain that I will show you.' Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. He said to his servants, 'Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.' Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, 'Father?' 'Yes, my son?' Abraham replied. 'The fire and wood are here,' Isaac said, 'but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?' Abraham answered, 'God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.' And the two of them went on together. When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, 'Abraham! Abraham!' 'Here I

am,' he replied. 'Do not lay a hand on the boy,' he said. 'Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.' Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, 'On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.'

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm:

13

Response: *Grant my heart joy in your salvation*

1. How long, O Lord, will you so utterly forget me:
how long will you hide your face from me? **(R)**
2. How long must I suffer anguish in my soul, and be so grieved in my heart day and night:
how long shall my enemy triumph over me? **(R)**
3. Look upon me, O Lord my God, and answer me: lighten my eyes, lest I sleep in death;
Lest my enemy say 'I have prevailed': lest my foes exult at my overthrow. **(R)**
4. Yet I put my trust in your unfailing love: O let my heart rejoice in your salvation.
And I will make my song to the Lord: because he deals so bountifully with me. **(R)**

A reading from the letter to the Romans

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey – whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness. When you were slaves to

sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the 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**

Your word is a lamp for my feet, and a light on my path

Alleluia

Gospel:

Matthew 10:40-42

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not 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.**

Abraham Is Tested

Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." Genesis 22:8a (NIV)

Based on Genesis 22:1-14 (NIV)



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

RAM	THICKET	SERVANTS	ALTAR	BURNT
ISAAC	OFFERING	KNIFE	LOVE	SON
HORNS	HAND	WOOD	FEAR	LAMB
SACRIFICE	ABRAHAM	WORSHIP	FIRE	DONKEY

Indigenous lives matter!
In Australia and around the world.