



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Christmas
December 2020

On behalf of the clergy and Parish Council of the Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal we wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a fulfilling and fruitful 2021.

May the graciousness of God, and the gentleness of the Holy Spirit be born in your hearts and homes this Christmas Season as we welcome the divinity and humanity of Jesus in our lives once more.



Remember, Christmas isn't about how big the tree is, or what's under it.
It is about who is around it.



Hello everyone!

Christmas Greetings and best wishes!

A friend of mine has just moved to the USA on a posting for a couple of years with her family - and it has been more than 'just another move'. Tara's recent email/blog reads;

"The deep, lasting, special memories are not in the things.

I am sitting here currently waiting for the delivery truck to bring us all of our things sent via airfreight from Australia. It has me thinking about 'things' and the disproportionate weight of expectation we put on them. I can't help but feel that this house we've moved into will feel more like *home* when my things are here. But, the reality is that time, experiences and creating new memories are far more likely to infuse this building with a sense of home than a few well loved cushions and tea cups.

Project REGENERATE. Renew PEOPLE. Revive PROJECTS. Restore PLACE

Christmas is a bit the same. In our endeavour to create a special, memorable Christmas it is easy to focus on the gifts we give and receive. We believe the right gift will make the day. The perfect thing will result in the perfect Christmas. But - what if I asked you what you received for Christmas the year you turned 7? Could you recall? Or can you recall what your cousin gave you last year? Or what you gave your uncle 3 years ago? No- neither can I.

That's the thing. The magical moments are very rarely attached to the miscellaneous items wrapped in gaudy paper with ribbons on top. If you think back to some of your treasured Christmas memories, they're attached to the people, the sounds, the smells and the experiences. The memories of overcooked turkey and lumpy gravy that made your grandmother cringe, the time your aunt drank too many cocktails and needed a nap before lunch, the Michael Bublè Christmas album on repeat for days, the tangled fairy lights, the lame Christmas-cracker jokes, the warm hugs, the smell of gingerbread wafting through your home, the lovely awkwardness of bringing your significant other that first year, the epic water fight or snowball fight (depending in which hemisphere you reside), the laughing, the connecting, the togetherness.

As you turn your attention to creating a wonderful, memorable Christmas this year, I encourage you to put far less emphasis on the stuff under the tree and far more on the people around it. That's where the magical moments are found."

I have to confess that I have spent so little time on the 'things' this year for Christmas - probably embarrassingly so. Part of it is rebellion against the consumer pressure of the modern age and the 'buy, buy, buy' (for the good of the economy) culture that seems to focus so much people's attention and hard earned cash. Part of it is being lazy. Partly, I am feeling distracted by other seemingly more important aspects of my life such as Project Regenerate and Rev's Revolution goals and targets.

A major part for me is also trying to seek genuine transformation deep within my being - to be really affected by Jesus' ministry on earth, and in turn cast a vision as a faith community that is relevant and meaningful to the modern spiritual practitioner. This does not necessarily translate into a pious or 'holy' life because that would be pushing things too far (although at times that may help). However, I often have the sense that I could do things differently, or be more attentive to a number of aspects of my life in need of renewal and redemption.

That God became truly human - is so important to me and my faith journey. Am I ashamed of being 'that' human sometimes - with mistakes and foibles and other idiosyncrasies that must drive you all mad sometimes? Or will I rejoice?

Merry Christmas everyone!

Rev James



Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia

Christmas youTube from Rev

How good is it to be human!

<https://youtu.be/ww4Pr4eb9Ow>



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond: +Garry; for all our fellow Christian pilgrims in town & Diocese; for those living with disappointment and tragedy; for all travelling to loved ones over the next week; for gratitude for all we have.

Community: For those feeling lonely; for those feeling bereft at this time of year; for all enjoying a summer break; for safety in travel and our summer endeavours; for all dealing with sickness and dis-ease; for those experiencing injustice of any kind.

Years Mind: Myrtle Russell, Clive Castleman, Bessie Smith, Nancy Lewis, Keith Skelton, Robert Percy, Beverley Boyle

Service Times December

Christmas Eve – December 24th

9.00pm Drinks & refreshments

10.00pm Lessons and Carols & HC

Christmas Day – December 25th

9.30am HC & Celebration

Christmas 1 – December 27th

5.00pm – Parish Centre

Service Times January

Epiphany – 03 January 2021

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

11.00am Areegra

Epiphany 1 -10 January 2021

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Epiphany 2 – 17 January 2021

10.00am Warracknabeal

ONE Service only

Epiphany 3 – 24 January 2021

9.30 & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

2.00pm Dunmunkle, Minyip

Bishop Garry's Advent youTube message:

Advent Sermon Series – Week 4

The Four Last Things – Hell

<https://youtu.be/PFSTYrfTKuM>

The Bishop's Christmas message

<https://youtu.be/wKyF7EFzudE>



Kilometres travelled

2,476.95

~~~~~

Pledged & Donated

\$12,409.19

Project REGENERATE. Renew PEOPLE. Revive PROJECTS. Restore PLACE

TODAY'S READINGS

CHRISTMAS

First Reading:

Isaiah 9:2-7

A reading from the book of Isaiah

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and for ever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm:

96

Response: *Give the Lord Glory and Honour! Give the Lord Glory*

1. Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all you lands.

Tell his glory among the nations; among all peoples, his wondrous deeds. **(R)**

2. For great is the LORD and highly to be praised; awesome is he, beyond all gods. For all the gods of the nations are things of nought, but the LORD made the heavens. **(R)**

3. Give to the LORD, you families of nations,
give to the LORD glory and praise;
give to the LORD the glory due his name!

Bring gifts, and enter his courts.**(R)**

4. Worship the LORD, in holy attire;
tremble before him, all the earth;
say among the nations:

The LORD is king,
he governs the peoples with equity.**(R)**

Second Reading:

Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-8a

A reading from the book of Titus

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope – the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing

what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, **Alleluia!**

I proclaim to you good news of great joy: today a Saviour is born for us, Christ the Lord. **Alleluia!**

Gospel (Christmas):

Luke 2:1-20

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

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared

to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.' Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.' So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPERS

Sentence: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; for to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

Collect: Good and gracious God, who gave us your Son, the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, the Saviour of all, lying in a manger: on this holy night draw us into the mystery of your love. Join our voices with the heavenly host that we may sing your glory on high. Give us a place among the shepherds that we may find the one for whom we have waited, Jesus Christ, the Messiah and Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Incarnation - Birth Is Just the Beginning

Richard Rohr – 20 December 2020

We must move beyond a merely sentimental understanding of Christmas as “waiting for the baby Jesus” to an adult and communal appreciation of the message of the incarnation of God in Christ. We Franciscans have always believed that *the incarnation was already the redemption*, because in Jesus’ birth God was saying that *it was good to be human, and God was on our side*. Jesus identified his own mission with what he called the coming “reign of God.”

We have often settled instead for the sweet coming of a baby who asked little of us in terms of surrender, encounter, mutuality, or any assent to the actual teachings of Jesus. Too much sentimentality, or juicing up of our emotions, can be a substitute for an actual relationship, as we also see in our human relationships. When we are so infatuated with the “sweetness” or “perfection” of another, we easily “fall” out of love at the first sign of their humanity. Let’s not let that happen with the infinitely compelling person of Jesus!

The celebration of Christmas is not merely a sentimental waiting for a baby to be born. It is much more *an asking for history to be born!* Creation groans in its birth pains, waiting for our participation with God in its renewal (see Romans 8:20–23). We do the Gospel no favour when we make Jesus, the Eternal Christ, into a perpetual baby, who asks little or no adult response from us. One even wonders what kind of mind would want to keep Jesus a baby. Maybe only one that is content with “baby Christianity.”

Any spirituality that makes too much of the baby Jesus is perhaps not yet ready for “prime-time” life. God clearly wants friends and partners to be images of divinity, if we are to believe the biblical texts. God, it seems, wants mature religion and a thoughtful, free response from us. God loves us in partnership, with mutual give and take, and *we eventually become the God that we love*. The Christ we are asking and waiting for includes our own full birth and the further birth of history and creation. It is to this adult and Cosmic Christ that we can say, “Come, Lord Jesus” (Revelation 22:20) with a whole new understanding and a deliberate passion. This makes our entire lives, and the life of the church, one huge “advent.”

The Christ includes the whole sweep of creation and history joined with him—and each of us, too. This is the Universal (or Cosmic) Christ. We ourselves are members of the Body of Christ and the Universal Christ, even though we are not the historical Jesus. So we very rightly believe in “Jesus Christ,” and both words are essential.



"Don't you just love a red cordial at Christmas?"

Project REGENERATE

Renew PEOPLE. Revive PROJECTS. Restore PLACE.



Want to give a grain of wheat - to produce a harvest opportunity within our parish? Donations of grain - of any quantity can be made using the

Church's NGR number:

NGR 12439740

Coffee Van Project

Our young people and mentors will be taking a well earned break during January.

However, there will be a Coffee Van outside the Visitor's Centre in Warracknabeal every Sunday - please check the times in press etc - maybe from 8.00am?

MEGA CHRISTMAS

WORD-SEARCH



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

Christmas	Jesus	Saviour	Shepherds	Inn
Mary	Joseph	Bethlehem	Nazareth	Donkey
Census	Wisemen	Gold	Franciscence	Myrrh
Carols	Mother	Child	Swathling	Sheep
Straw	Star	Herod	Peace	Love
David	King	Stable	Angels	Joy
Present	Wrapping	Prayer	Candle	Thanksgiving