



# Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Project Regenerate: Explore. Rejoice. Give.

## Pentecost 4

### 21 June 2026

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



This is an exciting week in the life of our parish.

And, I think it would not be too outrageous to suggest - that an Ordination in a parish/any parish is a significant confirmation of the Holy Spirit's prompting, encouragement and enabling. Without pre-empting anything that will take place on Saturday - I'll speak of it in next week's pew sheet - I invite us all to continue to pray for Fiona and her family and the profound movement of the Spirit's Grace throughout our town and region, and of course for our celebration!

I remember my own ordination in Canberra-Goulburn in November 2002 ... there had been a drought in the region for almost a year. I think we'd forgotten what rain looked like to be fair. On the afternoon before the ceremony, one of the candidates for priesting Tom Slookee - prayed in our last gathering and really gave God a serve - full of his usual passion for all things necessary and important - his main theme was God HAD TO SEND SOME RAIN! Now!

I hadn't looked or heard of the weather forecast for the day - suffice to say during the service the rain came down in bucket loads, a real 'cat-and-dog' event and there was palpable relief for many that it could rain again (always does after a dry spell they tell me), and, complete awe at our colleague who seemed to have God in the palm of his hand. We all felt 'blessed' that night.

Not all are called to don an alb & stole and take 'Holy Orders' as spiritual leaders in our community. However, as followers of Jesus - we all are called to witness and proclaim the 'good news' that Jesus spoke of in his life lived among those chosen disciples so long ago. Quiet acts of conviction and compassion, more obvious deeds of care and consolation, speaking truth to power, righting wrongs, urging for the courage to forgive and heal from the deepest wounds we can imagine ... loving one another! It is as simple and as complicated as that! *Every blessing, Rev James*



## Prayer in the Parish

### **In the Parish & Beyond:**

- +Garry; for Fiona & family;
- 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 Socceroots;
- 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;
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- For all those we love, near and far away;

**Years Mind:** Ernest MANSFIELD (2002), Robert ASHFIELD (1990), Lawrence POULTON (1990), Jennifer POULTON (1990), Simon POULTON (1990), Megan POULTON (1990), Corey POULTON (1990), Richard FORSYTH, Inez KELLY (1991), Lorna HANSBERRY (2001), Leslie MARSHALL (1988), Albert PICKERING (1945), Jacob KOVACEVIC (1988), Gordon GREEN (1990), Eric CROSER (1995), Jean MANNING (2000)

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

## Services - 2026

### Saturday 20 June

11.00am – Fiona's Ordination

### Pentecost 4 – 21 June

9.30am Warracknabeal

No 5.00pm

*Tuesday 23 June – Parish Council 7.00/7.30pm*

### Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June

1.00pm Fr Charles' Funeral

### 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

*A Zen monk was once quoted as saying:*

*"Before enlightenment:*

*I chop wood and cart water.*

*After enlightenment:*

*I chop wood and cart water."*

### 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

## FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**First Reading: Genesis 21:8-21**

***A reading from the book of Genesis***

The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, and she said to Abraham, 'Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac.' The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. But God said to him, 'Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. I will make the son of the slave into a nation also, because he is your offspring.' Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba. When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. Then she went off and sat down about a bow-shot away, for she thought, 'I cannot watch the boy die.' And as she sat there, she began to sob. God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, 'What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation.' Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer. While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt. *This is the word of the Lord.*

***Thanks be to God!***

**Psalm: 86:1-10, 16-17**

***Response: Lord, you are good and forgiving.***

1. Incline your ear to me, O God, and answer me: for I am poor and in misery. Preserve my life, for I am faithful: My God, save your servant who trusts in you. **(R)**
2. Be merciful to me, O Lord: for I call to you all the day long. O make glad the soul of your servant: for I put my hope in you, O Lord. For you, Lord, are good and forgiving: of great and continuing kindness to all who call upon you. **(R)**
3. Hear my prayer, O Lord: and give heed to the voice of my supplication. In the day of my trouble I call upon you: for you will surely answer. Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord: nor are there any deeds like yours. **(R)**
4. All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you: O Lord, they shall glorify your name. For you are great and do marvellous things: and you alone are God. **(R)**
5. Turn to me and be merciful, give your strength to your servant: and save the child of your handmaid. Show me some token of your goodness: that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed, because you, Lord, are my helper and my comforter. **(R)**

**Second Reading: Romans 6:1-11**

***A reading from the letter to the Romans***

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning, so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised

into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin – because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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 10:24-39**

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

‘The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household ! ‘So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. Do not be

afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. ‘Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven. ‘Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn “a man against his father , a daughter against her mother , a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law – a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.” ‘Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

This is the gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

**THE PROPERS**

**Sentence:** Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for Jesus’ sake will find it.

**Collect:** Gracious God, we who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death: we pray that, as you raised him from death, so by the power of the Holy Spirit we may live the new life to your glory, knowing ourselves to be dead in sin but alive for you in Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**