



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Epiphany 2 16 January 2022

Hello Everyone! I hope that you've had a good week.

Richard Rohr writes:

When we try to understand Jesus outside the dynamism of the Trinity, we do not do him or ourselves any favours. Jesus never operated as an independent "I" but only as a "thou" in relationship to his Father and the Holy Spirit. He says this in a hundred different ways—the "Father" and the "Holy Spirit" are a relationship to Jesus. God is love, which means relationship itself (1 John 4:7-8).

Christianity lost its natural movement and momentum—flowing out from and returning to that relationship—when it pulled Jesus out of the Trinity. It killed that exciting inner experience and marginalized the mystics who really should be centre stage.

Jesus is the model and metaphor for all of creation being drawn into this infinite flow of love. Thus he says, "Follow me!" and "I shall return to take you with me, so that where I am, you may be also" (John 14:3). The concrete, historical body of Jesus represents the universal Body of Christ that "God has loved before the foundation of the world" (John 17:24). He is the stand-in for all of us. The Jesus story, in other words, is the universe story. He never doubts his union with God, and he hands on union with God to us through this fully participatory universe.

Many of the Fathers of the church believed in an ontological, metaphysical, objective union between humanity and God, which alone would allow Jesus to take us "back with him" into the life of the Trinity (John 17:23-24, 14:3, 12:26). This was how real "participation" was for many in the early church. It changed people and offered them their deepest identity and form ("trans-formation"). We had thought our form was merely human, but Jesus came to show us that our actual form is human-divine, just as he is. He was not much interested in proclaiming himself the exclusive son of God. Instead, he went out of his way to communicate an *inclusive* sonship and daughterhood to the crowds. Paul uses words like "adopted" (Galatians 4:5) and "co-heirs with Christ" (Romans 8:17) to make the same point.

(continued on back page)



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry;
- For all who are away from family;
- the people of Myanmar; Afghanistan; Kazakhstan; South Africa;
- For renewal and restoration of mind, heart and home in this season of Epiphany;
- For those in hospital;
- Max Young
- For those grieving loved ones;
- For those in pain – through isolation, dis-ease of any kind, or living with depression;
- For those holidaying; for safe travel;

Community:

- For all our community organizations;
- For Front line workers – in Australia and across the globe;
- For our local GP's and their staff;
- For all we know dealing with COVID;
- For Christian Emergency Food Centre;

Years Mind: Alissa Krause, Mary Gove, Verda Loats

If you were arrested for being a Christian this week – would there be enough evidence to convict you?

Service Times Jan/Feb

Epiphany 2 – 16 Jan 2022

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Epiphany 3 – 23 Jan 2022

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Epiphany 4 – 30 Jan 2022

10.30am Warracknabeal

ONE SERVICE ONLY

Epiphany 5 – 06 Feb 2022

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

6.00pm SHINE Youth Group

Epiphany 6 – 13 Feb 2022

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Epiphany 7 – 20 Feb 2022

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

6.00pm SHINE Youth Group

Transfiguration – 28 Feb 2022

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

Ash Wednesday – 02 March

Easter Day – 17 April

HORSHAM Emergency Food Centre

If you are willing and able – please consider offering some donations of non-perishable items for the **Christian Emergency Food Centre in Horsham.**

Food: toiletries: nappies: Long-life Milk – all gratefully received.

I enjoyed my tour of the centre this week – very professional and well organized with loads of support from across the local community and Food Bank (Melbourne).

There remains significant need in our community and the region for all demographics who are experiencing hardship!

The collection basket will be located at The Font. Thank you in advance!

TODAY'S READINGS

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

First Reading:

Isaiah 62:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her vindication shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch.

The nations will see your vindication, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow. You will be a crown of splendour in the Lord's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God. No longer will they call you Deserted, or name your land Desolate. But you will be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; for the Lord will take delight in you, and your land will be married. As a young man marries a young woman, so will your Builder marry you; as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm:

36:5-10

Response: How precious is your unfailing love, O God

1. Your unfailing kindness, O Lord, is in the heavens: and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

Your righteousness is like the strong mountains: and your justice as the great deep; you, O Lord, save both man and beast. **(R)**

2. How precious, O God, is your enduring kindness: the children of Adam shall take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

They shall be satisfied with the good things of your house:

and you will give them drink from the river of your delights. **(R)**

3. For with you is the well of life: and in your light shall we see light.

O continue your merciful kindness toward these who know you: and your righteous dealing to those that are true of heart. **(R)**

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to dumb idols.

Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, 'Jesus be cursed,' and no one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit.

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

God has called us through the Gospel to possess the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Alleluia!**

Gospel:

John 2:1-11

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, 'They have no more wine.' 'Woman, why do you involve me?' Jesus replied. 'My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from eighty to a hundred and twenty litres. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water'; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, 'Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.' They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realise where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, 'Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.' What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPER

Sentence: Jesus revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

Collect: Bountiful God, whose Son revealed his glory at Cana of Galilee: help us to believe and obey, so that, as our Saviour promised, we may be filled with the wine of new life and show forth his joy and love; who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

(From front page):

"Full and final participation" was learned from Jesus, who clearly believed that God does not so much promise us a distant heaven but invites us into the *Godself* as friends and co-participants.

Remember, I am not talking about a psychological or moral wholeness in human persons, which is never the case, and why most people dismiss this doctrine—or feel incapable of it.

I am talking about a divinely implanted "sharing in the divine nature," which is called the indwelling spirit or the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:16-17). This is the foundation on which we must and can build and rebuild a civilization of life and love. Our objective ground is good and totally given!

Adapted from Richard Rohr, *Immortal Diamond: The Search for Our True Self* (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2013), 98, 119-120