



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Naming of Jesus 01 January 2023

Sunday Services: 10.30am Warracknabeal

Hello Everyone! Happy New Year! I hope that 2023 is fruitful and fulfilling for you and those you love.

On my walls at home - there are a few quotes that remind me every day (should I not take them for granted) of some value I am invited to fulfill to get the most out of life. One of my favourites: "*Vivir con miedo es como vivir a medias.*" A life lived in fear is a life half lived.

The New Year presents an opportunity for each of us to assess our fears. And, then develop a strategy, a plan, a commitment, a motivation to CONFRONT them. As one of my favourite mentors Richard Rohr writes;

"The word change normally refers to new beginnings. But transformation more often happens not when something new begins but when something old falls apart. The pain of something old falling apart—disruption and chaos—invites the soul to listen at a deeper level. It invites and sometimes forces the soul to go to a new place because the old place is not working anymore." He suggests that, "The mystics use many words to describe this chaos: fire, darkness, death, emptiness, abandonment, trial, the Evil One. Whatever it is, it does not feel good and it does not feel like God. We will do anything to keep the old thing from falling apart."

Fear in its many guises will often try and distract us from moving forward, saying something truthful, being courageous among other things. The fear of failure, the fear of the unknown, the fear of not being liked, the fear of 'stuffing it up'! All valid in their own right and context. This is where 'faith' makes a difference.

Rohr goes on to say, "*Transformation usually includes a disconcerting reorientation. Change can either help people to find a new meaning, or it can cause people to close down and turn bitter. The difference is determined by the quality of our inner life, or what we call 'spirituality.'*"

As the Christmas Season continues - I hope that you will treasure that Jesus - Emmanuel = GOD IS WITH US, stoops to be with us. Now. Forever.

Every Blessing, Rev!



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; all in our Diocese;
- 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 CFA Brigade & SES members;
- For all our Police Officers;
- For those continuing to deal with flood waters and other natural disasters;
- For those experiencing loneliness;
- For those experiencing grief;
- For all fighting mental illness;
- For Christian Emergency Food Centre;
- For those facing significant hardship in body and mind and soul;
- For all those travelling to see family and friends during the Christmas Season;
- For a renewing New Year;
- For those we love – near and far away;
- Thanks for our all God's blessings;

Years Mind: Robert Percy, Beverly Boyle, Mona Payne, Ian Robertson, Sheila Potter, John Wood, Desmond Tutu

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

Services – Jan

Naming of Jesus – 01 January 2023

10.30am – Carols & HC

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

Christmas Cracker Jokes:

What's a Kangaroo's favourite genre?
Hip-Hop

Which Australian animal can jump higher than a tree?
All of them, because a tree can't jump!

“Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”

Desmond Tutu

George Armstrong's funeral will be held on Tuesday 03rd January at 10.30am at Christ Church & Warracknabeal Lawn Cemetery. Refreshments in Parish Centre.

TODAY'S READINGS

NAMING OF JESUS

First Reading:

Numbers 6:22-27

A reading from the book of Numbers

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell Aaron and his sons, "This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: "'The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace.'" 'So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.'

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm:

8

Response: O Lord, Our God. How wonderful your name!

1. Lord our Governor: how glorious is your name in all the earth!

Your majesty above the heavens is yet recounted: by the mouths of babes and sucklings. You have founded a strong defence against your adversaries: to quell the enemy and the avenger. **(R)**

2. When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers: the moon and the stars which you have set in order, What are we, that you should be mindful of us: what are we, that you should care for us? Yet you have made us little less than gods: and have crowned us with glory and honour. **(R)**

3. You have given us dominion over your handiwork: and have put all things in subjection beneath our feet, All sheep and oxen: and all the creatures of the field, The birds of the air and the fish of the sea: and everything that moves in the pathways of the great waters. O Lord our Governor: how glorious is your name in all the earth! **(R)**

Second Reading:

Galatians 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.' So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, **Alleluia!**

Open our hearts O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. **Alleluia!**

Gospel:

Luke 2:15-21

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

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. On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child,

he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPERS

Sentence: God spoke of old by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son.

Collect: God our Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation: may every tongue confess that he, who for our sake became obedient to the law, is both Lord and Christ, to your eternal glory; for he now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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

New Year Reflections

For some people, this is an important time of year to 'let go' of 2022 - and embrace a vision for 2023: new hopes and dreams and goals - sometimes resolutions. What are the activities and who are the people who will be able to enhance your well-being for the year ahead.

Here are some questions to inspire your own journey with God and the World:

- 1. What went well for you in 2022?***
- 2. What are the three things that really made a difference to your life in 2022?***
- 3. What are three things you would like to achieve in 2023?***
- 4. What 'Fruit of the Holy Spirit' will help you grow as a person in 2023? (Galatians 5:22-23) What do you need to do to achieve this?***
- 5. Which Biblical character would you like to 'get to know better' in 2023?***
- 6. What characteristics of their life will help to develop your own spirituality in the year ahead?***
- 7. What 'verandah activity' would you like to see happen in our parish in the next year? (Then, talk with Rev about it!)***