



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Advent 4

22 December 2024

Sunday Services: 9.30am Warracknabeal
 6.00pm Café Carols at Areegra



Hello Everyone! I hope that I find you well and in good spirits.

I wonder whether you may remember this image of a crib in Bethlehem that was circulating last year. If anything, it remains too tame - considering the state of the Middle East and region at the moment. So much destruction.

SO LITTLE PEACE!

What can we do?

Is there 'rubble' in our own lives?
Is there 'warring' and a lack of peace? Is there discontent and aggravation and despair? Is there prejudice and racism and misunderstanding and abuse of power and disempowerment in various aspects of our own lives?



We are not separated from the violence and hurt that people experience around our globe. We can start to understand the anguish and hurt of others when we recognise the stumbling blocks and issues of our own lives that cause pain and dis-connection. We can begin to aide the 'salvation of the world' - or a 'return to wholeness' when we sort our own hearts and homes and verandas out ... aided by the One who came to earth to live as one of us: Jesus - Emmanuel - *GOD WITH US!*

God has not abandoned US. God has not abandoned the people of the world - even though it looks like it or feels like it from time to time. What grieves me most is that there are certain ethnic groups around the world that are not valued for their culture, their creeds or their contribution to the diversity, colour and rich tapestry of our world - locally or globally. Weep, pray and hope!

Every blessing, Rev James

Project REGENERATE: Explore. Rejoice. Give.

Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond:

- +Garry; for all our Diocesan sisters and brother in faith;
- For the Cathedral, Fr Michael and Team;
- For the Church of the Province of Uganda; the Diocese of Willochra; Parish of Stawell; Diocesan Vocations;
- For all the people of Vanuatu;
- For the leaders of all Nations, those with influence to act for the Common Good;
- For those who hunger for food;
- For those who thirst for water;
- For those seeking refuge and asylum;
- For all who are grieving;
- For Peace for all in the face of war;
- For justice for all who face persecution;
- For courage, for all who face exploitation;
- For all known to us in hospital and Aged Care Facilities; for those known to us who are unwell;
- For the successful applications to Leith Charitable Trust;
- For Christmas preparations across our region;
- For seasonal weather and our farmers and their families;
- For the work and mission of ABM;
- For those we love, near and far away;

Years Mind: For all who hold a place in our hearts; for all who have departed this earthly life this year;

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

Service Times Dec/Jan

ADVENT

Advent 4 – 22 December

9.30am Warracknabeal

6.00pm Café Carols – Areegra

Christmas Eve – 24 December

8.30pm Refreshments

10.00pm Carols and HC

Christmas Day

9.30am Warracknabeal

Christmas 1 – 29 December

9.30am Warracknabeal

Epiphany – 05 January 2025

9.30am Warracknabeal

11.00am St Mark’s Areegra

Baptism of Our Lord – 12 January 2025

9.30am Warracknabeal

All January Services at 9.30am Only



Donations of grain – of any quantity can be made using the Church's NGR number: NGR 12439740

TODAY'S READINGS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

A reading from the prophet Micah

'But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.' Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labour bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be our peace when the Assyrians invade our land and march through our fortresses. We will raise against them seven shepherds, even eight commanders,

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: The song of Mary

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord: my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

Who has looked with favour on his lowly servant: from this day all generations will call me blessed.

The Almighty has done great things for me: and holy is his name.

God has mercy on those who fear him: from generation to generation.

The Lord has shown strength with his arm: and scattered the proud in their conceit,

**Casting down the mighty from their thrones:
and lifting up the lowly.**

God has filled the hungry with good things:

and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel: to remember the promise of mercy,
**The promise made to our forebears:
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: 'Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, "Here I am – it is written about me in the scroll – I have come to do your will, my God."' First he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them' – though they were offered in accordance with the law. Then he said, 'Here I am, I have come to do your will.' He sets aside the first to establish the second. And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia! Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your will. **Alleluia!**

A reading from the gospel according to Luke

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

In a loud voice she exclaimed: 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfil his promises to her!' This is the gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPER

Sentence: Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.

Collect: Gracious God, you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son: as we prepare to celebrate his birth, make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word, and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose Day draws near, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

TEARFUND Useful Gift Shop

For the gift that gives twice.

Contact Rev directly or via TEARFUND
 website: **usefulgifts.org**

for your alternative Christmas presents that help less advantaged around the world. Heaps of gifts to choose from!

See the poster in the church foyer!

As was announced in last weeks dNews, Fr Scott Lowrey (Warrnambool) has been appointed as an Assistant Bishop in the Diocese - consecrated in Feb 2025. I have been asked to seek donations as a gift for Fr Scott.

There is no obligation on your part, however, if you would like to make a contribution in the next couple of weeks, you can do so by:

1. Clearly marked envelope for 'Fr Scott Gift' in offertory, or
2. I can give you direct debit details by request.

Thanks, Rev James