

Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Pentecost 21
25th October 2020

Hello everyone!

I hope that I find you well and in good spirits!

We began Outdoor Services last week - and everyone was most grateful! It was really good to see a few people again, and I want to thank everyone for their participation in the survey. As you will be aware, the Premier has lifted restrictions further to allow 20 people max at an Outdoor Service. This certainly takes the pressure off us - as we transition to a 'new normal.'

Therefore - some of you may like to change your mind about whether you would like to attend or not - which is absolutely fine and fantastic! In this pew bulletin I am going to suggest a rhythm over the next month that allows for some flexibility around attendance, and provide a number of options for you and your family members to participate in our faith gatherings.

A few things to note:

1. I am choosing not to offer communion at this stage - for a variety of reasons.
2. ZOOM Church will still be offered on a regular basis, but not every Sunday! This means that we can conduct a service at Areegra that is not too late in the day, AND I can attend the COFFEE VAN Project for a good hour or so on a regular basis. It also allows for those 'afar' to participate in regular worship.
3. I would like people to still 'book a place' - for our Outdoor Services. This makes it much easier for me to keep track of where there are spaces for participation, and means that we can comply with COVID expectations etc.

As you can imagine - this requires a considerable amount of organization, and it is a little 'clunky' for people to 'book'. I think a natural rhythm will emerge and so I'm not panicking - however, I will ask for your continued patience as we negotiate the changing nature of all of the above!

4. The Outdoor Service - is quite different to our normal Sunday routine. This is deliberate, and while it may not meet your own spiritual needs during this time, I feel it is important that the focus for our gathering is on PEOPLE, and hearing GOD'S WORD in a fresh way. (...continued on back page)

Coffee ZOOM returns!

Catch all the 'good news' and a bit more besides Tuesday at 9.30am via ZOOM. Link sent via email or ask Rev for details.



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond: +Garry; for all who grieve loved ones - through death or tyranny of distance; Sandra and Andy Taylor; for COFFEE VAN Project (*this Sunday*); for our Parish Council – Tues meeting; for our Outdoor Services and transition to 'new normal'; for seasonal weather.

Community: Front-line health care workers; for those suffering from anxiety; all who are working from home; for patience.

Years Mind: Kelvin Radford, Ivy Hall, Sally Chapman, Stanley Peters

Pentecost 21 YouTube from Rev:

Love Is Bigger!

<https://youtu.be/tDyxZRMvp2E>

Bishop Garry's YouTube message:

'Amazed and Astounded'

<https://youtu.be/s2AEmt-OnIs>



Kilometres travelled

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THE PROPERS

Sentence: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Collect: O God, whose Son has taught us that love is the fulfilment of your law: stir up within us the fire of your Holy Spirit, and pour into our hearts your greatest gift of love, so that we may love you with our whole being, and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Do more than belong:
participate.

Do more than care: help.

Do more than believe: practise.

Do more than be fair: be kind.

Do more than forgive: forget.

Do more than dream: work.

William Arthur Ward

Parish Council

Next meeting – Tues 27th October

Pray for us as we pray for you – and as we discuss 'matters of consequence' etc...

A Simple Service – for Pentecost 21

Hymn: Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Hail to the Lord's anointed,
great David's greater Son;
hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to let the captive free,
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.

He comes with succour speedy
to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong,
to give them songs for sighing
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls condemned and dying
were precious in his sight.

He shall come down, like showers
upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth;
before him on the mountains
shall peace the herald go,
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.

Kings shall fall down before him,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him,
his praise all people sing;
to him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.

O'er every foe victorious,
he on his throne shall rest,
from age to age more glorious,
all-blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand for ever,
that name to us is Love.

James Montgomery

Reflection:

- a) *What made you think differently about the world this week?*
- b) *What virtue or characteristic is God calling us to this week?*

Prayer of Preparation:

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings:

Videos: +Garry and/or Rev

Reflection:

What words or phrases give evidence to:
Loving nature of God; Tricky nature of God;
Extravagant nature of God; Creative nature
of God; Challenging nature of God?

Prayer:

Praise. Petition. Intercession. Thanksgiving.
(or follow your own discipline.)
The Lord's Prayer.
Collect for the Day.

Blessing:

"The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
The LORD lift up His countenance upon
you, And give you peace;
this day and always" Amen.
[Numbers 6:24-26]

Text: APBA © 1985 Broughton Publishing. Music: © 1999. Together in Song.
Harper Collins; © 2002 One Is the Body: Wild Goose. CCL 610638

TODAY'S READINGS

PENTECOST 20

First Reading : Deuteronomy 34:1-12

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy

Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, opposite Jericho. There the Lord showed him the whole land – from Gilead to Dan, all of Naphtali, the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Mediterranean Sea, the Negev and the whole region from the Valley of Jericho, the City of Palms, as far as Zoar. Then the Lord said to him, 'This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, "I will give it to your descendants." I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it.' And Moses the servant of the Lord died there in Moab, as the Lord had said. He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is. Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone. The Israelites grieved for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days, until the time of weeping and mourning was over. Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the Lord had commanded Moses. Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, who did all those signs and wonders the Lord sent him to do in Egypt – to Pharaoh and to all his officials and to his whole land. For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel. *This is the word of the Lord;*

Thanks be to God!

Psalm: 90:1-6,13-17

Response: In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge

1. Lord, you have been our refuge: from one generation to another. Before the mountains were born or the earth and the world were brought to be: from eternity to eternity you are God. **(R)**
2. You turn us back into dust: saying 'Return to dust, O children of Adam.' For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday passing: or like one watch of the night. **(R)**
3. You cut them short like a dream: like the fresh grass of the morning; In the morning it is green and flourishes: at evening it is withered and dried up. **(R)**
4. Relent, O Lord; how long will you be angry?: take pity on your servants. O satisfy us early with your mercy: that all our days we may rejoice and sing. **(R)**
5. Give us joy for all the days you have afflicted us: for the years we have suffered adversity. Show your servants your work: and let their children see your glory. **(R)**
6. May the gracious favour of the Lord our God be upon us: prosper the work of our hands, O prosper the work of our hands! **(R)**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-13

A reading from the first letter to the Thessalonians

You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. We had previously suffered

and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed – God is our witness. We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. Instead, we were like young children among you. Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is

indeed at work in you who believe.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! **Alleluia!**

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. **Alleluia!**

Gospel:

Matthew 22:34-46

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: 'Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?' Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbour as yourself." All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.' While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 'What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?' 'The son of David,' they replied. He said to them, 'How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him "Lord"? For he says , "The Lord said to my Lord : "Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet."' If then David calls him "Lord", how can he be his son?' No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

This is the gospel of the Lord

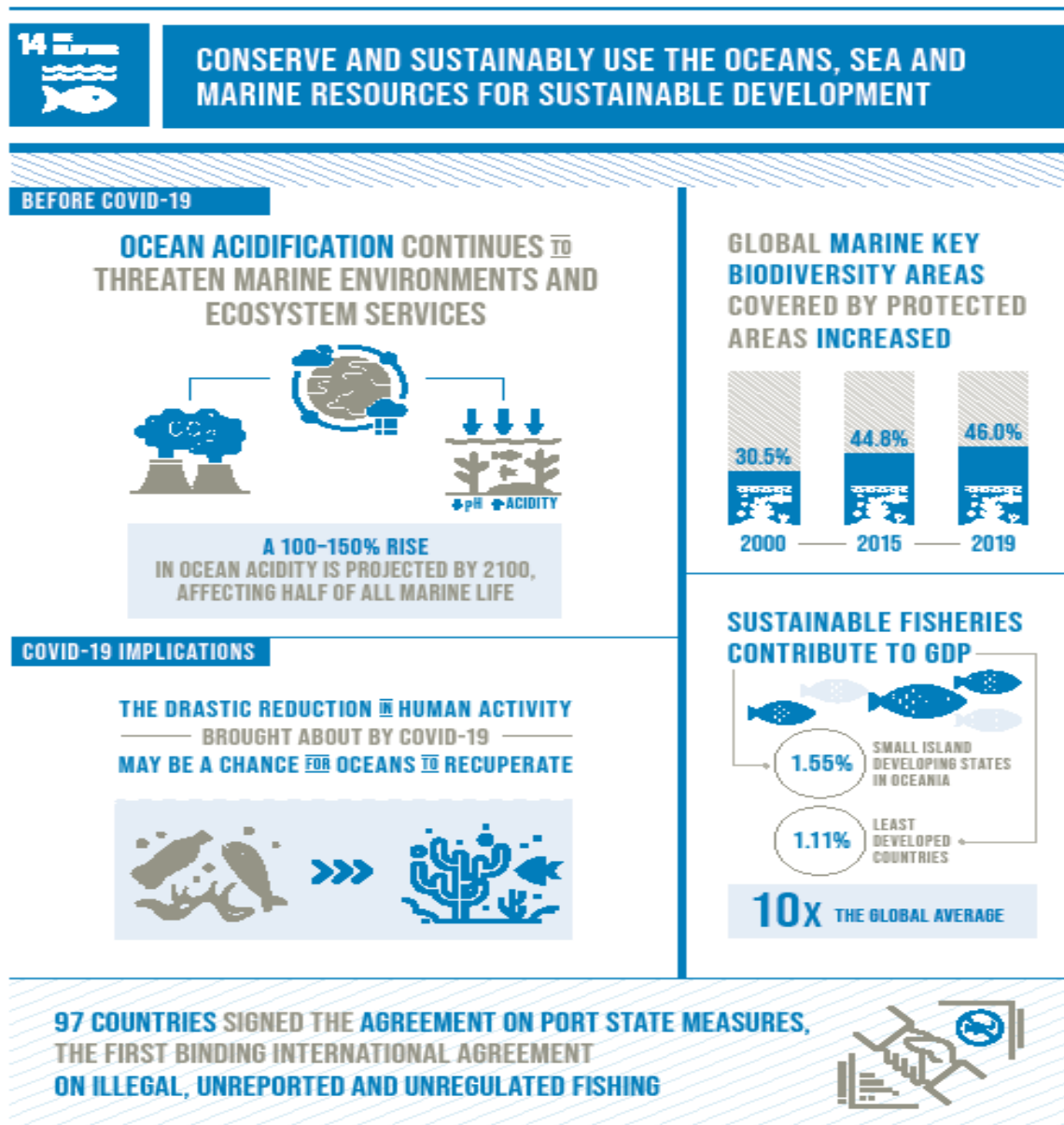
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

The Sustainable Development Goals – (for your information)

The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.

Goal 14: Life Below Water

The ocean drives global systems that make the Earth habitable for humankind. Our rainwater, drinking water, weather, climate, coastlines, much of our food, and even the oxygen in the air we breathe, are all ultimately provided and regulated by the sea. Careful management of this essential global resource is a key feature of a sustainable future. However, at the current time, there is a continuous deterioration of coastal waters owing to pollution, and ocean acidification is having an adversarial effect on the functioning of ecosystems and biodiversity. This is also negatively impacting small scale fisheries. Saving our ocean must remain a priority. Marine biodiversity is critical to the health of people and our planet. Marine protected areas need to be effectively managed and well-resourced and regulations need to be put in place to reduce overfishing, marine pollution and ocean acidification.



ACCESS MORE DATA AND INFORMATION ON THE INDICATORS AT [HTTPS://UNSTATS.UN.ORG/SDGS/REPORT/2020/](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2020/)

Outdoor Service Times October & November

October 25th

9.30am & 12.00pm – Christ Church Warracknabeal
Coffee Van – 9.00am-1.00pm

November 01st

9.30am & 4.00pm – Christ Church Warracknabeal
11.00am – Areegra
5.00pm SHINE Youth Group

November 08th

9.30am & 12.00pm – Christ Church Warracknabeal
Coffee Van – 9.00am-1.00pm

November 15th

9.30am & 12.00pm – Christ Church Warracknabeal
10.30am - ZOOM Church
5.00pm – SHINE Youth Group

November 22nd

9.30am & 12.00pm – Christ Church Warracknabeal
Coffee Van – 9.00am–1.00pm

November 29th

9.30am & 12.00pm – Christ Church Warracknabeal
10.30am – ZOOM Church

December 06th

9.30am & 4.00pm – Christ Church Warracknabeal
11.00am – Areegra [5.00pm - SHINE Youth Group]

Coffee Van Project

This Sunday - 25th October
Outside the Visitor's Centre
Warracknabeal - 9.00am-1.00pm

Good Coffee!

Good vibe!

**Giving young people an opportunity to
gain skills and serve their community.**



For better or for worse, COVID has offered an opportunity to try new ways of engaging our community and our faith community - which we are still trying to work out. Our 'new normal' is a radical change to how we were - but I have a feeling it takes us back to the days when Jesus walked the roads and the byways of Galilee and Judea - meeting people, talking about the Scriptures, finding out what people are really thinking and what is really going on in their lives.

It is an opportunity to be a church that is RELEVANT and RESPONSIVE to our communities needs - before our own sometimes - in the manner of Jesus and the Gospel accounts. The building may indeed be closed, BUT THE CHURCH IS OPEN! Yes?

5. The church toilets are being cleaned on a regular basis for people's convenience. NO access to other parts of our church property are permitted.
6. The most important part for me - is that parishioners may like to invite family or friends to join them at our Outdoor Services. This has always been a passion of mine! We have much to 'debrief' around our respective COVID experiences, and this is an opportunity to accompany each other with genuine engagement and grace. I won't always get it right, but I'm going to make the most of this opportunity to see where God's Spirit is leading us. I hope that you are willing to join me.
7. If you don't like any of the above - talk to me! I want the best for ALL, but I won't be able to adapt or meet people's needs if I don't know whether there is discontent or dis-ease. I know that many are not used to 'challenging' the cleric, but I hope that you have gathered by now that I want to be real, and honest, and genuine - and that we are building a life-giving community of resilience and flexibility.

I think that's all for the moment.

I've probably forgotten something important. The Bishop has also written in dNEws this week about current dialogue in media - regarding the opening of churches. I think his explanation is clear. Let's do what we can, and not what we can't - as we all negotiate this crazy time together.

With every good wish and blessing,
Rev James