

# Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

**Advent 3**  
**15 December 2024**

**Sunday Services: 9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal**



*Sr Joan Chittister writes:* **What star are you following now?**

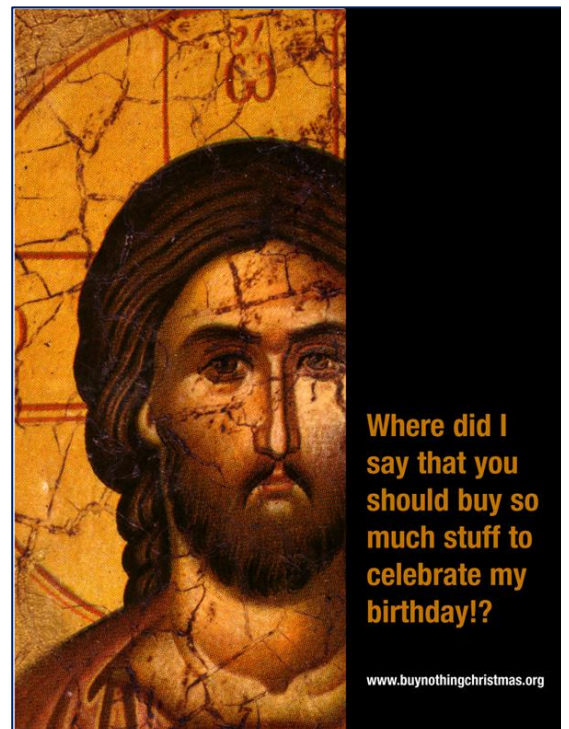
The function of Advent is to remind us what we're waiting for as we go through life too busy with things that do not matter to remember the things that do. When year after year we hear the same scriptures and the same hymns of longing for the life to come, of which this one is only its shadow, it becomes impossible to forget the refrains of the soul. Advent relieves us of our commitment to the frenetic in a fast-paced world. It slows us down. It makes us think. It makes us look beyond today to the "great tomorrow" of life. Without Advent, moved only by the race to nowhere that exhausts the world around us, we could be so frantic with trying to consume and control this life that we fail to develop within ourselves a taste for the spirit that does not die and will not slip through our fingers like melted snow.

It is while waiting for the coming of the reign of God, Advent after Advent, that we come to realize that its coming depends on us. What we do will either hasten or slow, sharpen or dim our own commitment to do our part to bring it.

Waiting—that cold period of life when nothing seems to be enough and something else beckons within us—is the grace that Advent comes to bring. It stands before us, within us, pointing to the star for which the wise ones from the East are only icons of ourselves.

We all want something more. Advent asks the question, what is it for which you are spending your life? What is the star you are following now? And where is that star in its present radiance in your life leading you? Is it a place that is really comprehensive enough to equal the breadth of the human soul? *[The Liturgical Year by Joan Chittister.]*

Every blessing, Rev James



## Prayer in the Parish

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

- +Garry; for Fr Scott & Felicity;
- For the Cathedral, Fr Michael and Team;
- For the Anglican Church of Tanzania; the Diocese of the Riverina; Parish of Camperdown and Holy Apostles;
- For those ordained last Saturday; for the places where they will serve;
- For all facing Natural Disaster;
- For the Retreat in Daily Life;
- 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 shelter and 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 continuing work on The Boys' Shed; for Leith Trust Applications;
- For Christmas preparations across our region;
- For seasonal weather and our farmers and their families;
- For the work and mission of ABM;

**Years Mind:** Pearl Bibby, Amy Jamieson, Thomas White

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

## Service Times Dec/Jan

### ADVENT

#### Advent 3 – 15 December

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal

#### Advent 4 – 22 December

9.30am Warracknabeal

6.00pm Café Carols – Areegra

#### Christmas Eve – 24 December

8.30pm Refreshments

10.00pm Carols and

#### 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

*All January Services at 9.30am Only*

### Community Christmas Festival at Warracknabeal Racecourse

**this Sunday night**

**15 December From 5.00pm**

**Carols from 6.30pm**

**\$2 per person**

**Food and beverages**

**Warrack Wonderland Activity  
Centre**

*We will still have our 5.00pm service.  
I'll try and keep it tight, so that we  
can make it to the Carols in good  
time to enjoy the festivities!*

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

# TODAY'S READINGS

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**First Reading:** Zephaniah 3:14-20

### ***A reading from the book of Zephaniah***

Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. On that day they will say to Jerusalem, 'Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.' 'I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals, which is a burden and reproach for you. At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you. I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles. I will give them praise and honour in every land where they have suffered shame. At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honour and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes,' says the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Psalm:** The song of Isaiah

'Behold, God is my salvation:  
I will trust and will not be afraid;  
**'For the Lord God is my strength  
and my song:  
and has become my salvation.'**

With joy you will draw water:  
from the wells of salvation.

**On that day you will say:  
'Give thanks to the Lord, call upon  
his name;**

'Make known his deeds among the nations:

proclaim that his name is exalted.

**'Sing God's praises, who has  
triumphed gloriously:**

**let this be known in all the world.**

'Shout and sing for joy, you that dwell in Zion:

**for great in your midst is the Holy  
One of Israel.'**

**Second Reading:** Philippians 4:4-7

### ***A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Philippians***

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!** The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. **Alleluia!**

**Gospel:** Luke 3:7-18

### ***A reading from the gospel according to Luke***

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptised by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father." For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The axe has been laid to the



root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.' 'What should we do then?' the crowd asked. John answered, 'Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.' Even tax collectors came to be baptised. 'Teacher,' they asked, 'what should we do?' 'Don't collect any more than you are required to,' he told them. Then some soldiers asked him, 'And what should we do?' He replied, 'Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely – be content with your pay.' The people were waiting expectantly and were all

wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. John answered them all, 'I baptise you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.' And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

This is the gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

#### THE PROPERS

**Sentence:** Do not fear. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love.

**Collect:** Almighty God, you sent your Son into a world where the wheat must be winnowed from the chaff and evil clings even to what is good: let the fire of your Spirit purge us of all corruption, so that, purified, we may wait eagerly for 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.**

I hope that you have been enjoying the **Advent 'Retreat in Daily Life'** this week.

The church will be open every day, and the Labyrinth will be accessible in the Parish Centre until Sunday night.

#### **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!**

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12-14-2012

I THINK YOUR LIGHTS MIGHT BE TOO BRIGHT THIS YEAR