

# Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

**Advent 2**  
**08 December 2024**

**Sunday Services:** 9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal  
11.00am St Mark's Areegra



*Sr Joan Chittister writes;*

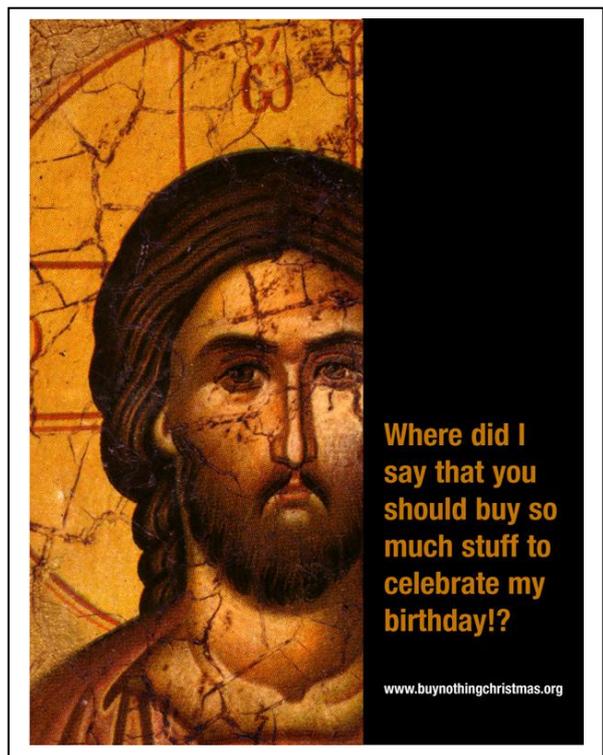
"Hope is a thin and slippery thing, sorely tested and hard to come by in this culture. Advent reminds us that Hope is not for easy times. Hope is not insane optimism in the face of palpable evil or dire circumstances. It is not the shallow attempt of well-meaning but facile friends to "cheer us up" in bad times. It's not the irritating effort of ill-at-ease counsellors who work to make us "reframe" our difficulties so that everyone around us will not have to deal with them, too. No, hope is not made of denial. Hope is made of memories.

Hope reminds us that there is nothing in life we have not faced that we did not, through God's gifts and graces—however unrecognized at the time—survive. Hope is the recall of good in the past, on which we base our expectation of good in the future, however bad the present. It digs in the rubble of the heart for memory of God's promise to bring good out of evil and joy out of sadness and, on the basis of those memories of the past, takes new hope for the future. Even in the face of death. Even in the fear of loss. As former Czech president Vaclav Havel put it: "Hope is definitely not the same thing as optimism. It is not the conviction that something will turn out well but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out."

Advent calls us to hope in the promise that God is calling us to greater things and will be with us as we live them.

[Joan Chittister, from "Unwrap the Gifts of Advent."]

Every blessing, Rev James



## Prayer in the Parish

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

- +Garry; for the Registry staff;
- For the West Wimmera Deanery;
- For the Episcopal Church of Sudan; St Peter's Ballarat;
- For those being ordained and all their families and friends on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec;
- For all facing Natural Disaster;
- For our Parish Luncheon;
- 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 Onleys Holdings, Maurie, Jayden, Fraser and Apprentices working on the Boys' Shed;
- For Christmas preparations across our region;
- For our farmers and their families;
- For the work and mission of ABM;

**Years Mind:** Annie Muller, Ellen Clarke, Gavin Bibby, Ronald Hooper, Jean Cowan, Frank Hewitt, Bea Emmett, Florence White, Kenneth Dempsey

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

## Service Times Dec/Jan

### ADVENT

#### Advent 2 – 08 December

9.30am & 5.00pm Warracknabeal  
11.00am St Mark's Areegra

#### 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

8.00pm 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*

### THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to all those who attended, donated salads or helped in any way with our Parish Luncheon on Sunday.

We raised \$1740.00 with half going to the Christian Emergency Food Centre and half to our own Parish. It was a great effort by all concerned.

On behalf of the Catering Group we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

*The Catering Team*

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

# TODAY'S READINGS

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading:

Malachi 3:1-4

### ***A reading from the prophet Malachi***

'I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,' says the Lord Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Psalm:

The Song of Zechariah

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel: who has come to his people and set them free.

**The Lord has raised up for us a mighty Saviour:  
born of the house of his servant David.**

Through the holy prophets, God promised of old:  
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,

**To show mercy to our forebears:  
and to remember his holy covenant.**

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**Free to worship him without fear:  
holy and righteous before him, all the days of our life.**

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High: for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

**To give his people knowledge of salvation: by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God: the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

**To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death:  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Second Reading:

Philippians 1:1-11

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

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,

filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia! Alleluia!** Prepare the way of the lord, make straight his paths: all flesh shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia!**

Gospel:

Luke 3:1-6

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

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar – when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias

tetrarch of Abilene – during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: ‘A voice of one calling in the wilderness, “Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all people will see God’s salvation.”’

This is the gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

### THE PROPERS

**Sentence:** By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**Collect:** God of our salvation, you straighten the winding ways of our hearts and smooth the paths made rough by sin: keep our hearts watchful in holiness, and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us. 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](http://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!**

Join us for our **Advent 'Retreat in Daily Life' 8<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Dec** - from home, the garden or wherever you choose.

Rev's put together some reflections and activities that you may find helpful this Christmas Season.



After many years of marital bliss, tension enters the Kent household.