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St Mary's Parish Warracknabeal

Parish Priest Fr Neville Stanislaus.
11 Lyle Street Warracknabeal, 53941062
Parish Secretary,
Cath Bellis—stmpcw@gmail.com,
0434086534
St Mary's Primary School,
Principal, Joy Quarrell, 53982001
St Joseph's Hopetoun. P.O Box 141
Parish Secretary, Jacki Hogan 50833566
St Joseph's Primary School.
Principal, Cynthia Maiden, 50833296

St Patrick's Nhill, 33 Leahy Street, Nhill.
Contact Ann Munro—53929272
St Patrick's Primary School.
Principal, Kathryn Bendall, 53911575

St Mary's Rainbow
Contact Kath White, 53957261

St Augustine's Beulah
Contact Brendan Naylor, 50837242

St Patrick's Minyip
Contact Margaret Murphy, 53857479

Last Weekends Collections

Warrack:	
Planned Giving	\$ 3590.00
Presbytery	\$ 291.00
Minyip	
Planned Giving	\$32.00
Presbytery	\$55.00
Nhill	
Planned giving	\$142.00
Raffle	\$202.00
Presbytery	\$137.00

Weekend Mass Times

1st & 3rd weekend of the Month

1st Saturday: Warrack	6.30pm
3rd Saturday :Beulah	7.00pm
1st Sunday: Hopetoun	9.00am
Beulah	10.30am
3rd Sunday: Hopetoun	9.00am
Rainbow	11.00am

2nd & 4th weekend of the Month

Saturday Minyip	6.00pm
Sunday Warrack	8.30am
Nhill	10.30am

Lay Led Assemblies are held when no Mass is Scheduled

Hopetoun Sunday	9.00am
Rainbow Sunday	9.30am
Beulah Sunday	9.30am
Warrack Sunday	9.00am
Minyip Sunday	10.00am
Kaniva Sunday	9.00am
Nhill Sunday	10.30am

Next week's Readings

1st Reading: Num 6: 22-27
2nd Reading: Gal 4: 4-7
Gospel: Lk 2: 16-21

Next Weekend

Saturday, Warrack, 6.30pm
Sunday, Hopetoun, 9.00am
Sunday, Beulah, 10.30am

Pray for our Sick

Una Bartlett
Marj Parker
Pat Sonogo
Fred Webb

Christmas Day December 25



Christmas Message from Fr Neville

As we gather to celebrate Christmas, another year has passed with many events, public and private, toughing our lives in different ways. No doubt this year has brought joys and sadness in different measure to each person, all colouring our memories of 2016.

Traditionally, we see Christmas as a time of peace and joy, a time to celebrate with family, friends and loved ones. We do hope that our Christmas will have something of that peace and happiness in our celebration. Such joyful celebrations may not be possible for some. You may have lost a loved one since last Christmas, or you may be overburdened by money worries, family problems or for many other reasons. If you are, we hope and pray that, the feast of Christmas which brought peace and happiness to the world would bless your home with which peace and happiness and everything else deserve.

The mystery of incarnation, which we celebrate in Christmas has a message for us. God who took the form of human which is subjected to time and space, pain and suffering. This was clearly stated in St Paul's letter to Philippians Chapter 2, where it says: " Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross". While celebrating this mystery on the Christmas Day, let us reflect upon this mystery and see is there any message that we get to our personal life. So upon reflecting on this, we come to know that we have to humble ourselves to serve people. Whatever glory that we get in response to our service, we must not pride ourselves on it. If we do, that would deviate our goal. That is, we are doing this for Christ and this is our Christian vocation and responsibility. We may involve in bringing about these initiatives and give our time, talents and knowledge generously in witnessing Jesus in an energetic, faith-filled community.

Perhaps, this years Christmas message is a challenge for all of us to become more involved. It is not so much a question of giving more; it is a question of giving more of ourselves for the service the others. After all, that's what God was doing when he got involved with us and our world at the first Christmas through the mystery of incarnation. The Christmas blessing finds it's home, to those who are prepared to humble and empty themselves for the service of others like Jesus, who reconcile us to one another and to the Father. This is why he came to dwell among us. God will fill us with his peace and joy if we have the good will to witness Jesus in our lives. May the Lord bless you and your family during this festive and throughout the New Year.

Fr Neville

Christmas Prayer for Peace

Lord, in a Christmas season when every heart should be happy and graceful, many of us are struggling with life burdens that steal the joy right out of our Christmas celebrations. Natural disasters strike at unsuspecting areas, destroying peaceful homes and interrupting the lives of residents. Tragedy arrives as innocent victims suffer, an inner voice whispers, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace to people of good will".

Lord, we still believe that the wonderful message, which was delivered by the Angel at your birth would be fulfilled and realised in the world. Yet we confess that our hearts are too often filled with wonder of a different kind: wondering when the bills will be paid, when the terror will stop, when rest will come. Is the message still true in a world where worry prevails? This Christmas blessing would make it real in our hearts. We need to change our way of life and our priorities. The change has to come from within, a radical change is needed. Lord, we need your joy and peace more than ever now.

Thank you for the gift of Jesus, our Immanuel. Forgive us for forgetting your love and never abandoning the purpose for which you came; to save us, and to give the joy and peace to those who welcome you. We pray for those whose hearts are battered by sorrow or broken relationships, for those whose lives know only conflict and confusion, draw them close to you Lord. Let them know that, you are the Messiah, was born of the Virgin Mary, and the One sent by a heavenly Father. Lord we need your peace and joy. You have promised the weary, peace for the anxious and acceptance for the broken hearted, not just at Christmas, but every day of every year.

Lord, release the happiness in us that has been crushed by our pride, selfishness, wrong priorities or world events. Tear down the strongholds that have held us captive far too long, so that we may be able illuminate your happiness, peace and love among the people who live in around us in or community.

Holiday & Christmas wishes for the School Staff and Children

On behalf of the Parish Community, I wish you all a safe, happy and blessed Christmas. I hope you all get the chance to relax and enjoy the true meaning of the Christmas season with lots of fun with your family and have a prosperous New Year.

Parish & St Patrick's School Christmas Raffle.

Thank you for your support towards our fundraiser. 1st Prize was Mark Davis, 2nd Deanne & Graeme Jago, 3rd to John Gurry and 4th to Ann Munro. The Parish raised \$202.00 and the school \$248.00

Christmas Card and Columban Calendars : These items are available for sale at the back of the church

St Vincent de Paul Annual Christmas Collection:

There will be a box at the back of the church, as of today, if you would like to make a contribution to this appeal. As in past years, we will forward any money collected to Warracknabeal group.

Wishing Everyone a Very Happy and Holy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

NHILL	Reader & Prayers	Lay Leaders	Eucharistic Minister	Offertory Procession	Monthly Collector	Counter	Cleaner
Roster for Dec 24	M Millington	_____	L Grayling	_____	Robert Picone	D & A Munro	M Millington
Roster for Jan 1	I Dart	M Millington &	N Grayling	_____	John Millington	R Weir	J Gurry



Christmas Appeal 2016

Our Christmas Appeal is one way by which the diocese can respond to the many communities from near and far who turn to us for assistance. Often these requests come through people who have bonds with the diocese of Ballarat.

I commend the Christmas Appeal to you and to your Parishioners. I am aware that there are many times throughout the year when you are invited to respond to appeals for the very worthy causes, but I hope the Ballarat diocese can continue to support this particular appeal.

I thank the people of the diocese for their support of last years appeal.

Paul Bird CSsR
Bishop of Ballarat