

As a Christian community, meeting together to worship God, we affirm our commitment to ensuring the safety of each child who interacts with our community.

Our statement of commitment for Child Safety is available on our website or in the Narthex of each Parish Centre.

Mission Statement: To live as disciples of Christ embracing his teaching of love and service to all.

Vision Statement: To be known as God's people of prayer, to be welcoming of all our sisters and brothers by being inclusive and sensitive to diversity, open to change and growing as a community by the love and grace of Christ.

STEWARDSHIP GIVING

Please consider using Direct Deposit for your Stewardship giving.

Bank account details - BSB 703122, Indue Ltd. Account no. 05004414

The account is in the name of - St. Matthew's Glenroy/Hadfield with St. Linus' Merlynston

DIARY THIS WEEK

Monday 18th. December 10.30 am. Reserved Sacrament at Craiggcare P.V. Aged Care Facility

Wednesday 20th. December 10.00 am. Morning Prayer at St. Matthew's

Thursday 21st. December
Thomas, apostle and martyr

Friday 22nd. December 10.30 am. Holy Communion at Colton Close Aged Care Facility

Saturday 23rd. December 12 to 2.00 pm. 'Pay what you can' Christmas Lunch in Wiseman House & Foodbank Pantry open

Sunday 24th. December 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'
ADVENT 4 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's,
CHRISTMAS EVE 11.30 pm. Midnight Mass at St. Matthew's

Monday 25th. December 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'
CHRISTMAS DAY 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's

PINK CANDLE

There is one Pink candle in the Advent Wreath.
It is lit on the Third Sunday in Advent. Pink represents JOY.
This Sunday is sometimes called 'Gaudete' Sunday.
'Gaudete' means Rejoice.
We rejoice that our waiting for Jesus is more than half over.

Connect: Meditation will be in recess during January.

Next Meditation group will be on the 3rd. Monday of February, the 19th. February, 1.30 pm. at St. Matthew's

Pew Leaflet Notices:
please email gonana7@bigpond.com
by 4.00 pm. Wednesday

Third Sunday of Advent 17-12-2023



WELCOME

The services within our parish can be seen on the screens during the service.
Please see one of our welcomers if you would like to use the complete prayer book.
Morning tea will follow the service.
Please join in our fellowship time.



The Anglican Parish of Glenroy / Hadfield with Merlynston
St Matthew's Church - 30 Widford St Glenroy 3046
St Linus' Church - 21 Glyndon Ave Merlynston 3058

Where you find yourself in Christ

PARISH PRIEST: The Reverend Robert Koren
Email: priest@matthewlinus.org.au
Parish Mobile: 0493 384 108
Parish Phone: 9306 9528

This Week,

Rev Rob can be found at:
St. Linus' - Mon. & Thurs. 9 am. to 3 pm: St. Matthew's - Wed. & Fri. 9 am. to 3 pm.
NOT available Tuesday.

PARISH WEBSITE - www.matthewlinus.org.au
PARISH FACEBOOK - www.facebook.com/matthewlinus
PARISH PODCAST - www.buzzsprout.com/1974085

Assistant Priest
The Reverend Prashant Bhonsle 0457 876 622

This Week,

Rev. Prashant can be found at: St. Linus' Thurs. 9 am. to 3 pm., St. Matthew's Friday 9 am. to 3 pm.

Authorised Honorary Lay Minister
Glenda Owen 0448 821 218

Authorised Honorary Parish Reader
Kerryn Pratchett 0409 306 818



Love. Grow. Serve.

Acknowledgement of Country

From time immemorial the Wurundjeri people have cared for this land, nurtured it, depended on it and given honour and thanks to the Creator.

As we acknowledge their faithful custodianship of the land, and the sacred stories they have told; as we offer our respect to their elders, past, present and emerging, guide us Lord in caring for them, this land, and each other with the help of the Holy Spirit of Dreaming.

Sentence: Bind up the broken-hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners, proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, the day of vengeance of our God. *Isaiah 61. 1-2;*

Collect: Eternal God, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of your Son; grant us wisdom to see your purpose and openness to hear your will, that we too may prepare the way for Christ who is coming in power and glory to establish his rule of peace and justice; through Jesus Christ our Judge and our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

Readings

The first reading is from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah 61. 1-4, 8-11;

The servant of the LORD said: The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Hear the Word of the Lord Thanks be to God

Psalm 126 said by alternate verses:

- 1 When the Lord turned again the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those restored to life.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with singing.
- 3 Then they said among the heathen;
'The Lord has done great things for them.'
- 4 Truly the Lord has done great things for us,
and therefore we rejoiced.
 - 5 Turn again our fortunes, O Lord
as the streams return to the dry south.
 - 6 Those who sowed in tears
shall reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed,
shall come again in gladness, bringing their sheaves with them.

The second reading is from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians 5. 12–28;

But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labour among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil with evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. Beloved, pray for us. Greet all the brothers and sisters with a holy kiss, I solemnly command you by the Lord that this letter be read to all of them. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Hear the Word of the Lord Thanks be to God

The Lord be with you; and also with you

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 1. 6–8, 19–28: Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord,"' as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Faith Matters!! Today we light the third candle, the candle of Joy. St. Paul explains us: 'To live life in the spirit is to live life with joy, prayer, thanksgiving, goodness, prophetic guidance and the will of God, which is life giving'. We as a faithful community are to witness the truth in the life affirming story of Jesus our Lord who came into this world as light of the world.

St. John testifies to that light and witnesses Christ who is to come from amongst those who are into this world but who did not recognise him. They, being learned of the scriptures surely expected him in the form of a Messiah - a promised saviour of the Jewish nation, Elijah who was taken up into heaven or one who would resemble a prophet as that of Moses (Deuteronomy 18;15).

The knowledge of their scriptures had clouded their understanding. They could never imagine God could ever come in their own midst, being like one of them and being at work within and around them, offering hope and light, joy, and peace to Humankind on earth. Their personal projects of life were only to fortify their own self pride of mastery in the scriptures and boundaries of status-quo.

John confesses that he came to witness and to testify to the light but confessed even more emphatically that he is not the Messiah. His witness is not just for all to bring to faith, but also has a validity to stand as evidence in the law court. For those who had come to enquire of him were sent by the Jewish religious establishment, the Pharisees, who continued to oppose Jesus during His life time.

The witness of Jesus is well foretold also in the scriptures, as we read in Isaiah, that He will bring good news to the Oppressed, bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour... across nations and to all generations.

May we reckon the hidden mysteries of the light that shines in the darkens and brings good tidings of joy to the world. Amen. Blessings! Rev. Prashant.