

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

Sunday 24th. December 11.30 pm. Midnight Mass at St. Matthew's
CHRISTMAS EVE

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

Tuesday 26th. December *Boxing Day Public holiday*
Stephen, first deacon and martyr

Wednesday 27th. December 10.00 am. Morning Prayer at St. Matthew's
John, Apostle and Evangelist

Thursday 28th. December
HOLY INNOCENTS

Friday 29th. December
Thomas Becket, archbishop of Canterbury, martyr (d. 1170)

Sunday 31st. December 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'
Epiphany of our Lord 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's
Blessed chalk and prayer for the dedication of homes will be available to all who come.



Fourth Sunday of Advent 24-12-2023

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' - Thurs. 9 am. To 3 pm. St. Matthew's - 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: This child will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. Luke 1. 32-33;

Collect: Gracious God, whose eternal Word took flesh among us, when Mary placed her life at the service of your will; prepare our hearts for his coming again, and keep us steadfast in hope, that we may be ready for the coming of his kingdom; for his sake, who lives and reigns with you, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings

The first reading is from the second Book of Samuel 7: 1-11, 16;

Now when David, the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.' But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

Hear the Word of the Lord Thanks be to God

Song of Mary - Luke 1:46b-55 said by alternate verses;

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.

For you, Lord, have looked with favour on your lowly servant,

From this day all generations will call me blessed.

You, the Almighty, have done great things for me;
and holy is his name.

You have mercy on those who fear you;
from generation to generation.

You have shown the strength with your arm;
and scattered the proud in their conceit.
Casting down the mighty from their thrones;
and lifting up the lowly.

You have filled the hungry with good things;
and sent the rich away empty.

You have come to the aid of your servant Israel;
to remember the promise of mercy.

The promise made to our forebears:
to Abraham and his children for ever.

The second reading is from the letter of Paul to the Romans 16:25-27;

To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

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 Luke 1:26-38; Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth, in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

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

Faith Matters!! Can you recollect when was the last time you took a step, and moved by God's compelling presence to be in service for others—may be in prayer or in offering support or in simply being generous to others while doing our bit, may be at home or supermarket or even in the work place? When was the last time you were confident that it was God who intervened in the situation that you were able to cross the hurdles or had breakthrough's that you could never on your own would have been able to overcome??? How hard or easy it is to really accept God's hand in our lives and life experiences???

Like us, Mary too had her own personal struggles in accepting the good news of angle Gabriel. The presence of an angel with a lofty promise that 'she will bear a son of the most high in her womb, who will reign over the people and the whole of creation eternally and will be called the Son of God' was certainly scary. She was naturally terribly afraid. However, on enquiry she was assured of the impossible already happening in the life of her relative Elizabeth. And then, Mary made up her mind and stood strong, in her faith. She offered herself in service to God the creator.

St. Paul too witnesses, 'what was not previously been disclosed is now made known for all — The revelation of God in the person of Jesus Christ!' Further, we are made to understand that the mysteries of God are now unveiled and made known thorough the work and ministry of all those who believed in Jesus. Even the gentiles have now experienced the grace and truth in Jesus the Son of God through the writings of the prophets and the reaching out of the apostles.

To the people, in our generation who go with a rational, secular mind set, and to confess-even me, we are challenged to know and understand that, God revelation is not fathomable to cognitive and rational mind but God's revelation in Christ Jesus brings about an 'obedience of faith'. And this living in faith in Christ brings about in us a life changing power to show God's love for others.

We therefore give thanks to God, for his revelation in scriptures, in nature, and most of all in the person of Jesus. When the world pushes us to rush, go after, hurry, and win, the advent calls us to wait in patience. In that it calls forth to practice within us a culture, where care for others, rest, peace, solemnity, and anticipation are valued and practiced. This evening when we are going to sing 'Glory to God in the highest...' together, let us proclaim the Goodnews of new life in Christ!

Blessings! Rev. Prashant.