

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 **1st. January 2024** *New Year's Day holiday*  
NAMING AND CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD

Tuesday 2nd. January  
*Basil of Ceasarea (d.379) Gregory of Nazianzus (d.389) bishops and teachers*

Wednesday 3rd. January 10.00 am. Morning Prayer at St. Matthew's

Saturday 6th. January  
EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Sunday 7th. January 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'  
*Baptism of our Lord* 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's

### LOOKING AHEAD

**Pay what you can Haircuts are back:** Back to school haircuts - 3rd February 2024  
10.00am to 12pm.

**Forum for parish name change:** 11th February after service at St Matthew's. At the APM it was noted that we will be looking to rename the parish so that we are seen as part of the community rather than an exclusive gathering. Please come along to share your thoughts.

**Shrove Tuesday** 7.00pm Tuesday 13th February. We will be gathering at St Linus' to share pancakes and fellowship.

**ASH WEDNESDAY** 14th. February. Services for the imposition of Ashes:

- 7.00pm St Linus'
- 10.00am and 7.00pm St Matthew's.

**Forum for parish name change:** 18th February after service at St Linus'. At the APM it was noted that we will be looking to rename the parish so that we are seen as part of the community rather than an exclusive gathering. Please come along to share your thoughts.

**Monday 19th. February** - Connect Meditation:  
Guided Spiritual Meditation, 1.30 pm. at St. Matthew's.

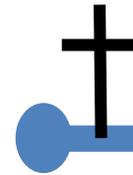
All are welcome to participate in a time of quiet reflection and refreshment.  
Please bring a cushion or rug, or both. Enquiries: Glenda 0448 821 218

## The Epiphany of our Lord 31-12-2023

### 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.

*Happy New Year*



**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](mailto:priest@matthewlinus.org.au)

Parish Mobile: 0493 384 108

Parish Phone: 9306 9528

*This Week,*

Rev Rob can be found at:

St. Linus' Mon. 9am to 3pm

St. Matthew's Fri. 9 am. to 3 pm.

Available at other times by appointment only.

PARISH WEBSITE - [www.matthewlinus.org.au](http://www.matthewlinus.org.au)

PARISH FACEBOOK - [www.facebook.com/matthewlinus](http://www.facebook.com/matthewlinus)

PARISH PODCAST - [www.buzzsprout.com/1974085](http://www.buzzsprout.com/1974085)

Assistant Priest

The Reverend Prashant Bhonsle 0457 876 622

*This Week,*

Rev. Prashant on leave

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:** Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

*Isaiah 60:1;*

**Collect:** Lord God of the nations, we have seen the star of your glory rising in splendour; may the brightness of your incarnate Word, pierce the night that covers the earth, signal the dawn of justice and peace, and beckon all nations to walk as one in your light. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, in the splendour of eternal light, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### Readings

*The first reading is from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah 60:1-6;*

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

*Hear the Word of the Lord Thanks be to God*

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14 said by alternate half verse

<sup>1</sup> Give the king your judgement, O God,  
**and your righteousness to the son of a king.**

<sup>2</sup> That he may judge your people rightly;  
**and the poor of the land with equity.**

<sup>3</sup> Let the mountains be laden with peace, because of his righteousness  
**and the hills also with prosperity for his people.**

<sup>4</sup> May he give justice to the poor among the people,  
**and rescue the children of the needy,  
and crush the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup> May he live while the sun endures;  
**and while the moon gives light, throughout all generations.**

<sup>6</sup> May he come down like rain upon the new-mown fields;  
**and as showers that water the earth.**

<sup>7</sup> In his time shall righteousness flourish  
**and abundance of peace, till the moon shall be no more.**

<sup>10</sup> The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring tribute;  
**the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.**

<sup>11</sup> All kings shall fall down before him;  
**and all nations do him service.**

<sup>12</sup> He will deliver the needy when they cry;  
**and the poor that have no helper.**

<sup>13</sup> He will pity the helpless and the needy;  
**and save the lives of the poor.**

<sup>14</sup> He will redeem them from oppression and violence;  
**and their blood shall be precious in his sight.**

*The second reading is from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians 3:1-12;*

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.\*

*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 Matthew 2. 1-12: Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

### Faith Matters: Jesus convicts us in many ways.

Epiphany is a season where we look for those moments that help us understand that Jesus is our Saviour. In the Matthew 1 we see the detailed genealogy of Jesus showing he is clearly from the House of David. Matthew recognises Jesus as the Messiah through Jewish traditions and prophecies and announces it to the world. In the reading from the gospel today, Matthew shares that Jesus is revealed as the redeemer of the world to others using their traditions and spirituality. There are many ways that Jesus reveals himself as the redeemer of the world.

Today's passage reminds us that people we speak to already have a spirituality and a way to relate to God. Our role in releasing the kingdom is not to impose ourselves on people, but to help people understand that their spiritual journey, like the Magi, are fulfilled in Jesus by listening and helping people have an epiphany on how it all fits together in the Lord.

**Epiphany House Blessing.** There is a tradition in which we bless our house each and every year on the day of the Epiphany of the Lord. Using the chalk that has been blessed, note the following above your door: 20+C+M+B+24 (C, M, B can represent the traditional names of the wise men as well as abbreviating the Latin phrase, Christus mansionem benedicat: "May Christ bless the house.") After completing the above markings, the following prayer to be said at the door:  
*May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is Lord of all people forever and ever. Amen.*