

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

Wednesday 10th. January 10.00 am. Morning Prayer at St. Matthew's
William Laud, archbishop of Canterbury, martyr (d.1645)

Saturday 13th. January
Hilary of Poitiers, bishop & teacher (d.367)

Sunday 14th. January 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'
Second Sunday after Epiphany 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's

LOOKING AHEAD

Church in work clothes - 14th of January 2024 at St Matthew's. There is the concrete to pour at the gate, pews need dusting and ask Robyn what needs doing in the garden. We will have sausage sizzle fellowship lunch after the jobs are done.

'Pay what you can Haircuts' are back: Back to school haircuts - Saturday 3rd February in Wiseman House at St. Matthew's 10.00am to 12.00 pm.

Book Room open for sales in Wiseman House. Saturday 3rd. February 10.00 am to 12.00pm.

Forum for parish name change: Sunday 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. Imposition of Ashes and Eucharist
St. Matthew's 10.00 am. and 7.00 pm. St Linus' 7.00 pm.

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.

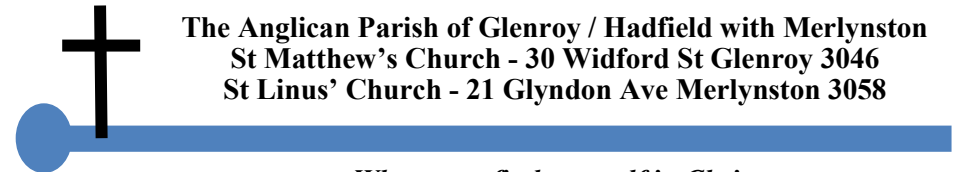
All are welcome to participate in a time of quiet reflection and refreshment.

Please bring a cushion or rug, or both. Enquiries: Glenda 0448 821 218.

Baptism of our Lord 07-01-2024

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

Available at other times by appointment only

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 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: God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; and he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. *Acts 10. 38;*

Collect: Eternal God, at the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan, you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: grant that all who are baptized into his name, may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Saviour; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

Readings

The first reading is from the book of Genesis 1. 1-5;

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Hear the Word of the Lord Thanks be to God

Psalm 29:

- 1 Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name;
O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness.
- 3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders, the Lord is upon the great waters.
- 4 The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation;
the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.
- 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;
the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the Lord divides the lightning-flash.
**the voice of the Lord whirls the sands of the desert,
the Lord whirls the desert of Kadesh.**
- 8 The voice of the Lord rends the terebinth trees;
and strips bare the forests; in his temple all cry 'Glory'.
- 9 The Lord sits enthroned above the water-flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king for ever.
- 10 The Lord will give strength to his people;
the Lord will give to his people the blessing of peace.

The second reading is from the Acts of the Apostles 19. 1-7;

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them,

the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied – altogether there were about twelve of them.

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 Mark 1. 4-11; Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.' In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

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

Faith Matters!! Diving Deeper into the Baptism of our Lord.

Today we read about the Baptism of Jesus. The word Messiah or Christ literally means the anointed one. In today's gospel reading, we witness the Jesus' anointing as the Messiah through baptism; God declares it as such. Being anointed usually means being anointed into a greater role. For example, David the shepherd was anointed by Samuel into taking on his role as a great king. Yet the anointing Jesus receives brings him into the missional role of the suffering servant, the one who suffers for all and is the way through which all sins are atoned for all time. Jesus' baptism is a declaration of power and consecration for mission. The mission being death on the cross and conquering death through his resurrection so that all who believe in Him may have life. Whilst Jesus was sinless and was not baptised as repentance for his sins, He still gave up something in order to do the Father's will. Jesus repented from his divinity and his claim to heaven while His mission of redemption was in place. Until his return to heaven, the gospels show that Jesus did not rely on his divine nature in order to prevent the mission of the Father from being fulfilled. Yes he taught people about God with the authority of the Word of God, and healed people with the power of heaven, but Jesus was baptised into our humanity to live the way we live, to feel the suffering we feel and to lay his life down for all that hate him and did evil things to Him. He did not rely on His place in the Godhead to change the course of his death, resurrection and ascension into heaven as the Father willed it.

Hence as we reflect on the Lord's baptism, there are clearly implications for us. Our baptism baptises us into the body of Christ and calls us into the mission of releasing God's love into the world as God wills it, not as we will it. Our repentance is from the sin that comes from living of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil. Whilst the manifestation of this fruit is wide and varied, we are called to repent from doing things in our own wisdom into seeking God's wisdom and perspective; we are called to repent from deciding on what to do by our own thoughts and allowing God's promptings to lead us; we are called not to do things in our own power but to do the promptings on our hearts with the power of heaven behind us. In repenting we are drawn into sharing the gospel message of how the death and resurrection of Jesus brings spiritual life to all and how the Word of God wants it done, not how we want it done.

Our baptism is not the end of a journey. It is the beginning our our personal calling and mission as baptism releases the mission of the Father into our hearts and calls us to live that mission into the world. By the power of the Holy Spirit we too can teach the gospel, heal the sick and forgive others. Even as we do this, we have a mission that God wants us to do and this is where, like Jesus did, we need to empty ourselves of all the things that would stop us from doing the Father's mission. Jesus exemplified a conscious commitment to the Father's will and so we are required to do the same. As John's baptism anointed Jesus into the role of the suffering servant, we are anointed into the role of being the face, hands and feet of Christ in the world and sharing the gospel of life so that all might be part of the kingdom of God. Embrace your anointing just as Jesus embraced his. This conscious embracing of the will of the Father is what makes us part of the body of Christ. *Blessings, Rev. Rob.*