

*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.*

### DIARY THIS WEEK

Monday 22nd. January  
*Vincent, deacon and martyr (d.304)*

Wednesday 24th. January 10.00 am. Morning Prayer at St. Matthew's  
*Companions of Paul, including Timothy, Titus and Silas.*

Thursday 25th. January  
*CONVERSION OF PAUL THE APOSTLE*

Friday 26th. January AUSTRALIA DAY *Public holiday*

Saturday 27th. January  
*John Chrysostom, bishop of Constantinople, teacher (d.407)*

Sunday 28th. January 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'  
*Australia Day Liturgy* 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's  
*Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*

### LOOKING AHEAD

**Pay what you can Haircuts are back:** Back to school haircuts - 3rd February 2024  
10.00am to 12pm. In Wiseman House at St. Matthew's.  
Also, Book-room open for sales in Wiseman House 10.00 am to 12.00 pm.

**Hindi Eucharist Service:** We are beginning a new Hindi Eucharist Service on the second Sunday of each month, at 4.00 pm. at St. Matthew's. The first service will be on 11th. February.

**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.

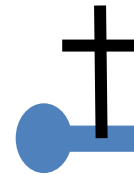
**Forum for parish name change:** 18th February after service at St Linus'. At the APM it was noted that we will be looking to rename the parish so that we are seen as part of the community rather than an exclusive gathering. Please come along to share your thoughts.

**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

## Third Sunday after Epiphany 21-01-2024

### 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](mailto:priest@matthewlinus.org.au)  
Parish Mobile: 0493 384 108  
Parish Phone: 9306 9528

*This Week,*  
Rev Rob on leave

**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 can be found at St. Linus' Thurs. 9 am. to 3 pm. (Fri. Australia Day public holiday)  
Available at other times by appointment only.

Authorised Honorary Lay Minister  
Glenda Owen 0448 821 218

Authorised Honorary Parish Reader  
Kerry 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:** The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel.

*Mark. 1. 15;*

**Collect:** Bountiful God, through your son you have called us to repent of our sin, to believe the good news, and to celebrate the coming of your kingdom; teach us, like Christ's first apostles, to hear the call to discipleship, and, forsaking old ways, to proclaim the gospel of new life to a broken world; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### Readings

*The first reading is from the Book of Jonah 3. 1-10;*

The word of the LORD came to Jonah, saying, 'Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.' So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, 'Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!' And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish. When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it

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

*Psalm 62:5-12 said by alternate verses;*

5 Nevertheless, my soul, wait in silence for God;

**for from him comes my hope.**

6 He only is my rock and my salvation;

**my strong tower, so that I shall not be moved.**

7 In God is my deliverance and my glory;

**God is my strong rock and my shelter.**

8 Trust in him at all times, O my people;

**pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge.**

9 The children of Adam are but breath, the children of earth are a lie;

**place them in the scales and they fly upward; they are as light as air.**

10 Put no trust in extortion, do not grow worthless by robbery;

**if riches increase, set not your heart upon them.**

11 God has spoken once, twice have I heard him say;

**that power belongs to God.**

12 That to the Lord belongs a constant goodness;

**for you reward each one of us according to our works.**

### 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*

*The second reading is from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians 7:29-31;*

Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

*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 1:14-20; Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ*

After John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.' As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

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

**Faith Matters:** "No worries" is perhaps the most loved Aussie expression. I love it and like it really. It can relieve you of your anxiety for the moment. It can also then be a way of life if you can wield confidence to wade through the difficult waters of life. However, realistically speaking, for many of us life is not that simple always. Worries surround us all the more as we grow: work, money, rent, mortgage, house utility bills, etc. etc. We are always worried for some reason or the other. Today's readings offer us a great respite, The collect of the day affirms that we are called by Jesus, the Son of God, to repent of our Sin, to believe the good news and celebrate the coming of God's Kingdom, we pray to be taught like His own apostles, to hear the call to discipleship, to forsake old ways and to proclaim the Gospel of new life. This echoes the Gospel passage in which we learn Jesus himself: announces that the Kingdom of God is at hand, and invites people to repent and believe in the good news. It clearly indicates if we follow in this simple programmatic direction we will be enjoying life to its hilt. The Only precondition is a complete turning around, trusting in God and His faithfulness towards us. Jesus calls Simon and Andrew. They were working, fending for their livelihood. Yet, they simply followed him leaving their nets. And so did James and John who left their boat with their father and hired men. They stepped outside of their comfort zone from under the guidance and care of their father and their already built in support system of their fishing business enterprise. How could all this be? What was it in the call of Jesus that they found it so compelling to leave everything and follow him? In the coming of Jesus, as St. Paul mentions the appointed time had already come. Ney, the appointed time had grown short, he says, meaning the time contracted into itself. An event that was to happen sometimes far off in the future had already come. Paul in his same later farther in chapter 15:20 affirms, that 'Christ is the first fruit of those who have died'. Further Paul clearly suggests, 'those who are in Christ... for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ' (15:22). Then he conforms that 'all this will take place at the coming of Christ (15;23). It is this event of the coming of the Lord is in Pauls mind that he encourages the Corinthians to know that 'the appointed time has grown short; ...the present form of this world is passing away'. So Paul encourages us to build up the kind of attitude as though the coming of Christ is imminent. When the world is after Power, money, comfort and after pseudo pursuits of peace in times of war and in a culture of self aggrandisement for profit, we are called by Jesus to follow an alternative path of justice, equality, peace and rest, where relationships will flourish and joy will abound in the world. Are we willing to respond to the call then? As Simon and Andrew, James and John did. Can we follow in the footsteps of the Apostles and be taught by Jesus, as we are praying in the collect, to build an alternative world view and culture that will truly sustain and offer peaceable life for all in this world?

Let us ponder, pray and practice with God's help. Amen. Every blessing. Rev. Prashant.