

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

Tuesday 30th. January  
Charles, king of England (d.1649)

Wednesday 31st. January 10.00 am. Morning Prayer at St. Matthew's

Friday 2nd. February  
THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

Saturday 3rd. February 10.00 am. to 12.00 pm. **Pay what you can Haircuts:**  
in Wiseman House at St. Matthew's  
10.00 am. to 12.00 pm. Second-hand Books on Sale in Wiseman House  
FIRST ANGLICAN SERVICE AT SYDNEY COVE 1788

Sunday 4th. February 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'  
Fifth Sunday 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's  
after Epiphany

### LOOKING AHEAD

**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.

**Second Sunday of each month at 4.00 pm.** at St. Matthew's, there will be a Hindi Eucharist Service. The first service will be on **11th. February.**

**Shrove Tuesday** 7.00pm Tuesday 13th February. We will be gathering at St Linus' to share pancakes and fellowship. Please bring pancake mix or toppings.

**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



## Sunday 28-01-2024 for Australia Day



### 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 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 van be found at St. Linus' Thurs. 9 am. to 3 pm. St. Matthew's Fri. 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:** Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and sickness. *Matthew 9. 35;*

**Collect:** Bounteous God, we give thanks for this ancient and beautiful land, a land of despair and hope, a land of wealth and abundant harvests, a land of fire, drought and flood. We pray that your Spirit may continue to move in this land and bring forgiveness, reconciliation, and an end to all injustice. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Readings

*The first reading is from the Book of Deuteronomy 28.1-9;*

If you will only obey the LORD your God, by diligently observing all his commandments that I am commanding you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth; all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the LORD your God: Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb, the fruit of your ground, and the fruit of your livestock, both the increase of your cattle and the issue of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading-bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out. The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you; they shall come out against you one way, and flee before you seven ways. The LORD will command the blessing upon you in your barns, and in all that you undertake; he will bless you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. The LORD will establish you as his holy people, as he has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in his ways.

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

Psalm 145. 1-9; *said by alternate half verse*

1 I will extol you, O God my king;

**I will bless your name for ever and ever.**

2 Every day will I bless you;

**and praise your name for ever and ever.**

3 Great is the LORD, and wonderfully worthy to be praised;

**his greatness is past searching out.**

4 One generation shall praise your works to another;

**and declare your mighty acts.**

5 As for me, I will be talking

of the glorious splendour of your majesty;

**and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.**

6 All people shall speak of the power of your terrible deeds;

**and I will proclaim your greatness.**

7 Their lips shall flow with the remembrance of your abundant goodness;

**they shall shout for joy at your righteousness.**

8 The LORD is gracious and compassionate;

**slow to anger and of great goodness.**

9 The LORD is loving to every one of us;

**and his mercy is over all his 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 letter of Paul to the Romans 13. 1-8;*

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgement. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval; for it is God's servant for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the servant of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, busy with this very thing. Pay to all what is due to them—taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honour to whom honour is due. Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law

*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 12. 13-17; Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ*

Then they sent to him some Pharisees and some Herodians to trap him in what he said. And they came and said to him, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality, but teach the way of God in accordance with truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?' But knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, 'Why are you putting me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me see it.' And they brought one. Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' They answered, 'The emperor's.' Jesus said to them, 'Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' And they were utterly amazed at him.

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

**Faith Matters:** Today as we celebrate the Australia Day, let us congratulate ourselves for what we have come about to be as Australians. We celebrate the God-given bounties in nature, the sky and the seas, the land and the forests; and we thank God for the fruits of the trees and the birds in the air; for the enormous strength provided to the people of this land – the Aboriginal and Torres Strait islanders, migrants and refugees, young and old, we celebrate all of their hard labour of love in making Australia a land of opportunities for all. Our experiences of life and the growth in our self-understanding exhibit a beautiful blend as to who and how we are formed inherently as a diverse, multicultural society, constantly in the making, becoming, and evolving.

Australia day also comes with a reminder that all the blessings are from God who cares and nurtures. Being the God of the whole of the creation, God expects that we follow his commands of loving, caring, and serving one another. We however have always disobeyed God by not honouring his commandment to follow the law of love; instead have selectively applied the rules of life that will benefit the hierarchy and those in power. St. Paul's exhortation in Romans 13 is one of such many misinterpreted texts that solemnise the authorities and their actions even-though they be life-denying. Such a misinterpretation justifies the unjust act in the past. We need to re-read it in the light of the overall teachings of Paul, who in Ch. 12 calls us to live the new Life in Christ and exhorts us not to confirm with this world but to be transformed and willingly receive the new vision of life that is sustaining, to adhere to what is good, acceptable, and perfect in Christ. Then he makes us realise the inherent diversity of nature and functions we are created in and to reflect on the true marks of a Christian as loving, honouring others, ardent in Spirit, serving in nature, rejoicing in hope and patient in suffering, associating with the those who are denied of their rightful honour and dignity in the land, and calling all to live in Peace. As for the authorities, structures and principalities we should read Romans 13 together with Paul's own encouragement in Ephesians 6:10 following, to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power and know that our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh but against the rulers, the authorities, the cosmic powers of this present darkness... we must therefore recognise the evil design that perpetuates division and marginalisation and while supporting the government, be constructively critical of its policy and implementation if they are against honouring the command of God to embrace one another in love and care in today's challenging times, if we truly hope for a just future. May God help us do his will for our nation and for God's people on earth. Amen! Blessings!! Rev. Prashant.