

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 19th. February 1.30 pm. Connect Meditation: Guided Spiritual Meditation at St. Matthew's. All welcome. Please bring a cushion or rug, or both. Enquiries, Glenda 0448 821 218

Tuesday 20th. February  
*William Grant Broughton, first bishop of Australia (d.1853)*

Wednesday 21st. February 10.00 am. Morning Prayer at St. Matthew's

Thursday 22nd. February 10.00—11.30am St Linus Playgroup. All welcome to attend.

Friday 23rd. February 10.30 am. Holy Communion at Colton Close Aged Care Facility  
*Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna, martyr (d.c. 155)*

Saturday 24th. February  
*MATTHIAS, APOSTLE and MARTYR*

Sunday 25th. February 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'  
*Second Sunday in Lent* 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's

### LOOKING AHEAD

#### Lenten Devotion Activity - Lenten Passport 2024

Lenten devotion pilgrimage for you to complete. Make sure you get your copy from the Narthex and take it home to complete. Completed booklets will be brought to the Good Friday service and handed over during the Veneration of the Cross.

**Friday 1st. March** - 12.00 to 1.00 pm. Foodbank pantry open at St. Matthew's

**Friday 1st. March** - 6.00 pm. World Day of Prayer at St. Linus' Theme 'Palestine'

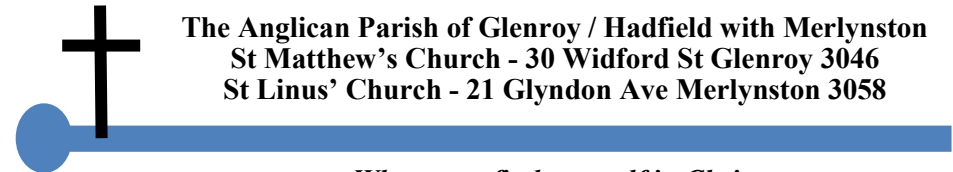
**Saturday 16th. March** - 10.00am Parish Council meeting at St Linus.

**Palm Sunday 24th. March** - 8.45 am. St. Linus' 10.30 am. St. Matthew's  
Blessing of Palms, Procession, and Eucharist at both services.

## First Sunday in Lent 18-02-2024

### 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 St. Matthew's Fri. 9 am. to 3 pm. Rev Rob. has a leadership team meeting with Bishop Brad and Archdeacon Michael on Monday and will not be available.

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 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:** The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.

*Mark 1. 15;*

**Collect:** God of the new and eternal covenant, as the forty days of the great flood, swept away the world's corruption, and watered new beginnings of righteousness and life; grant to us, who are washed clean and born again, in the saving flood of baptism, the well spring of your grace, that your gift of new life may flourish once again; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### Readings

*The first reading is from the Book of Genesis 9. 8–17;*

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

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

### Psalm 25.1–10

- 1 In you, O Lord my God, have I put my hope;  
**in you have I trusted, let me not be ashamed,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**
- 2 Let none who wait for you be put to shame;  
**but let those that break faith, be confounded and gain nothing.**
- 3 Show me your ways, O Lord;  
**and teach me your paths.**
- 4 Lead me in the ways of your truth, and teach me;  
**for you are the God of my salvation.**
- 5 In you have I hoped all the day long;  
**because of your goodness, O Lord.**
- 6 Call to mind your compassion and your loving-kindness;  
**for they are from old.**
- 7 Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions;  
**but according to your mercy think on me.**
- 8 Good and upright is the Lord;  
**therefore will he direct sinners in the way.**
- 9 The meek he will guide in the path of justice;  
**and teach the humble his ways.**
- 10 All the paths of the Lord are faithful and true;  
**for those who keep his covenant and his commandments.**

*The second reading is from the first letter of Peter 3. 18-22;*

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you – not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to 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 Mark 1. 9-15; Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ*

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.' And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now 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.'

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

**Faith Matters!!** *What is the source of your strength to face loneliness and hostility.*

On Ash Wednesday we place a cross on our forehead. Ash represents our brokenness, weakness and sinfulness and the cross that it is shaped in represents God's response to us and allow Jesus come and die on the cross so that we could receive eternal life and be resurrected from the ashes. God's response to our sinfulness was to bring the light of life and overcome what brings death. The question I pose is what response do we have to our sinfulness? Do we say we are going to repent and continue to live a life of licentiousness? Jesus faced Satan and beasts after he had been baptised and the heavens had opened up to declare Him as the Son of the Most High and was empowered spiritually to face the desert, a place of loneliness and hostility.

When we are under attack by Satan and his beasts, we seem to think we are alone and facing hostility and loneliness and this state of mind can be overwhelming. There are some specific traits that are tested. Character is tested when a person is all alone. We have ways of relating to people and circumstances that might at times require us to have a protective outer shell. Our desert experience will strip us down to our root desires and raw motives. This is when we are most vulnerable to a devil who prowls in the wilderness and consorts with our solitude. When we are at our rawest self, our creativity is also tested. When we strip away all of the intellectual, social, and spiritual supports that prop us up and feel like we have no resources to stand on we might not have the creativity of knowing how to release the kingdom of God into our circumstances. Our communion to the body of Christ is also tested when we are alone in the wilderness. We are social beings and like to be around and with people. When we are all alone in the desert, we can shout to the winds and find that no one answers and the shimmering shadows play with our minds perception.

The gift of baptism which our Lord Jesus instituted and left for us, is one way to empower us to remain grounded and centred in the Lord God. One of the vows we make is that when we are faced with sin, loneliness and hostility we will turn to Christ. When we our character is tested by temptation, we turn to Christ to seek His counsel. When we feel lost and vulnerable and cannot think of a way to be creative in how we can stay close to God, we turn to Christ, and when we feel alone we know in confidence that our Lord Jesus Christ is by our side.

When we have sinned and lost our way before God, we have a natural instinct to do things in our own power and turn away from God. The source of our strength to remain strong in character, be creative in releasing the kingdom of God and know that we are in communion with each other is our vow to turn to Christ. As you fill in your passport this week, think about how you will repent from things that make you turn away from Christ. *Blessings, Rev. Rob.*