

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 11th. March	Public Holiday
Wednesday 13th. March	10.00 am. Morning Prayer at St. Matthew's
Thursday 14th. March	10.00 am to 11.30 am. Playgroup at St. Linus' All Welcome to attend
Friday 15th. March	10.00 am. Connect Lent: 10.00 am. at home of Bev. Lacock 12.00 to 1.00 pm. Foodbank Pantry open at St. Matthew's
Saturday 16th. March	10.00 am. Parish Council meeting at St. Linus'
Sunday 17th. March	9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus' <i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i> 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's 4.00 pm. Hindi Eucharist at St. Matthew's

LOOKING AHEAD

Monday 18th. March - 1.30 pm. Connect Meditation: Guided Spiritual Meditation at St. Matthew's. All welcome to participate in a time of quiet reflection and refreshment. Please bring a cushion or rug, or both. Enquiries - Glenda 0448 821 218

HOLY WEEK and EASTER SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY 24th. March Blessing of Palms, Procession, Eucharist
8.45 am. at St. Linus' **10.30 am.** at St. Matthew's

MAUNDY THURSDAY 28th. March **7.00 pm.** Service at St. Linus' Church

GOOD FRIDAY 29th. March **10.00 am.** Service at St. Linus' Church

EASTER SATURDAY 30th. March **4.00 pm.** Gathering around the fire and placing your Lenten Passport into the fire to release all your worries. Prayers and Reflection.
5.00 pm. Service of Light with Eucharist

RESURRECTION SUNDAY 31st. March Renewal of vows and Eucharist
9.00 am. at St. Linus' Church
10.30 am. at St. Matthew's Church

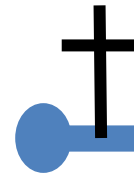
Children's Easter Egg hunt will follow 10.30 am. service at St. Matthew's.

***** Volunteers needed please, to plan, organise and set up on the day. *****

Fourth Sunday in Lent 10-03-2024

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,
St. Matthew's - Fri. 9 am. to 3 pm. Monday is a public holiday.
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

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 Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

John 3. 14-15'

Collect: Everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you: give us purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, no weakness prevent us from doing it; that in your light we may see light, and in your service find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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 Numbers 21. 4-9;

The Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.' Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Hear the Word of the Lord Thanks be to God

Psalm 107. 1–3, 17–22; *said by alternate half verse*

- 1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his loving mercy is for ever.
- 2 Let the Lord's redeemed say so;
whom he has redeemed from the hand of the enemy.
- 3 And gathered in from every land,
from the east and from the west;
from the north and from the south.
- 17 Fools were far gone in transgression;
and because of their sins were afflicted.
- 18 They sickened at any food;
and had come to the gates of death.
- 19 Then they cried to the Lord in their distress;
and he took them out of their trouble.
- 20 He sent his word and healed them'
and saved their life from the pit.
- 21 Let them thank the Lord for his goodness;
**and the wonders that he does
for the children of Adam.**
- 22 Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving;
and tell what he has done with shouts of joy.

The second reading is from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians 2. 1–10;

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved – and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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 John 3. 14-21; **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ** Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

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

Faith Matters!! What are the idols that we put before we gaze on the cross.

The Old Testament and gospel readings are intertwined today. From the gospel reading it is very clear that we have eternal life through the cross. John's Gospel emphasizes the mystery of a God who has always been with us and who chooses to come closer to us. Jesus came to save the world rather than to condemn it and yet against this backdrop of love, we see people sabotaging their grace by complaining, grumbling and rebelling against God. The readings say a lot about ourselves as a parish and individuals.

In the reading from the book of Numbers, we see that the Israelites complain, grumble and rebel against Moses and God and rather than providing provision, God allows the snake bites to kill them. It isn't until they repent from their ways that Moses interceded in prayer and God hears Moses prayer. As a community we must remember that complaining and rebellion leads to death. When we complain, God may provide provision for our needs, but there will come a time when He doesn't. The reading shows that complaining, grumbling and rebellion has grieved God and he has taken away His favour and Spirit. The complaining and rebellion comes from people who have made idols of themselves, their past history and placed their wisdom above God's. What is also interesting is that God does not heal them when they pray. God only restores his Holy Spirit when Moses see the genuine nature of their repentance and intercedes in prayer for God to heal them.

The gospel today also speaks to us as individuals who find fault but do it from a space of spiritual blindness. Nicodemus flatters Jesus but Jesus has none of it. Jesus calls out Nicodemus for his knowledge of scripture and lack of wisdom due to his spiritual blindness. Nicodemus is blind to the fact that scripture cannot be applied to living a worldly life. Scripture can only be applied to the new life in the Messiah and Jesus' response would indicate there is no middle ground. You cannot use scripture to justify earthly concerns but only what concerns the kingdom of God and you need to accept that you are reborn to share the message of salvation through the cross.

The texts are confronting as they remind us that God's plans for us to prosper are enacted whether you like it or not. Our personal desires, comforts and wisdom are not the starting point for God's plan for the world and for us as a parish. The cross of Jesus is the starting point and any words that do not point you to the loving grace of the cross is just white noise and the toxic spiritual energy that comes with it just brings death to your eternal soul. *Blessings, Rev. Rob.*

HISTORY OF MOTHERING SUNDAY and SIMNEL CAKE

For the past 300 years or so, in England (& parts of Ireland) the 4th. Sunday of Lent, which is the middle of the Lenten observance, has been known as Mothering Sunday.

On this Sunday during Lent, it became the custom for parishioners who lived in small and distant villages, to make their once a year visit to the 'Mother Church' - that is, the main Church of their Parish.

Mothers receive flowers and other gifts, from their children (*this day is different from the commercialized Mother's Day*)

People who live away from home visit their mothers.

Young people who were 'in service' to well-off families, would be allowed this day off to visit their mother. Very often this was the only day in the year when they were given a day off from duties.

These young people, particularly those apprenticed as cooks, were allowed to bake a 'Simnel Cake' to take to their mother - this was also a way of 'showing off' their culinary skills.

The word *Simnel* is derived from the Latin word *simila* - meaning 'fine flour'; Fine flour was a luxury put aside for special occasions.

The break from the Lenten fast, on mid-Lent Sunday, was such an occasion.

The 11 balls of marzipan on top of the cake represent Christ's Apostles, a twelfth one is not put on the cake, but a space left for Judas who betrayed Jesus.



SIMNEL CAKE RECIPE

Ingredients -

Almond Paste ingredients -

250 grams ground almonds

200 grams caster sugar

OR buy 500 g. prepared Marzipan (*Odense brand ?*)

180 grams sifted pure icing sugar

2 egg yolks

Juice of ½ lemon

½ teaspoon vanilla essence

¼ teaspoon almond essence

Combine ground almond, caster sugar and sifted icing sugar, add egg yolks, lemon juice, vanilla and almond essences. Mix together well, then knead well. Set aside while mixing cake

30 grams Mixed Peel

250 grams Sultanas

250 grams Raisins

100 grams Currants

125 grams Glace Cherries

} prepare fruits, pour over 2 tablespoons sherry or orange juice, cover, allow to stand overnight.

250 grams Butter

250 grams Caster Sugar

5 Eggs

275 grams Plain Flour

1 teaspoon baking powder

2 teaspoons mixed spice

2 tablespoons milk

Cream butter and sugar, add eggs slowly, sift in plain flour, baking powder and spice. Combine mixture, add milk, add in fruits, mix all together well. From almond paste, make 11 small round shapes; divide remainder into 2; roll out these 2 pieces to size of cake pan.

Pour half of cake mixture into lined 20-24 round cake pan, place one piece rolled almond paste over mixture, pour in remainder of cake mixture.

Bake in - fan forced oven @ 140c. for 1 ¾ to 2 hours.

Other ovens @ 160c. for 2 to 2 ½ hours.

When cooked, and cooled, remove cake from pan, brush cake with lightly beaten egg white, place other piece of rolled almond paste on top of cake, place 11 round shapes around edge, leaving a space where the twelfth would fit.

(The 11 balls represent the twelve Apostles - Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, James the Less, Matthew, Jude, Simon - minus Judas, the one who betrayed Jesus)