

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 15th. March 10.00 am. Morning Prayer at St. Matthew's
11.00 am. Lenten Study at St. Matthew's
1.30 pm. Connect: Journalling at St. Matthew's.
contact Marie 0459 953 658

Friday 17th. March 12.00-1.00 pm. Foodbank hampers distribution
Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland (d.461)

Saturday 18th. March
Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop and teacher (d. 386)

Sunday 19th. March 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'
Fourth Sunday in Lent 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's.
4.00 pm. Choral Evensong at St. Matthew's

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday 21st. March 7.30 pm. Connect Men's group: Dinner Fellowship at Bluebonnet
124-126 Lygon St. Brunswick East. RSVP by 14th. March to Grant 0424 908 336

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Maundy Thursday 6th. April 7.00 pm. Service at St. Linus'
7.00 pm. Service at St. Matthew's

Good Friday 7th. April 9.00 am. Service at St. Linus'
9.00 am. Service at St. Matthew's
10.30 am. Stations of the Cross at St. Matthew's
3.00 pm. Vigil Service at St. Matthew's

Easter Saturday 8th. April 3.00 pm. Easter Vigil Reflection -
The Passion of the Christ at St. Matthew's

Resurrection Sunday 9th. April 8.00 am. Service of the Light at St. Matthew's
10.00 am. Combined Parish Service at St. Matthew's

Children's Easter-Egg Hunt will follow the 10.00 am. service in garden of Wiseman House

Third Sunday in Lent 12th. March 2023

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
30 Widford St.
cnr. Melbourne Ave.
Glenroy 3046

with

St. Linus'
21 Glyndon
cnr. Delta Aves.
Merlynston 3058



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' - Thurs. 9 am. to 3 pm.
St. Matthew's - Wed. & Fri. 9 am. to 3 pm.
NOT available Tuesday.*

PARISH WEBSITE - www.matthewlinus.org.au

PARISH FACEBOOK - www.facebook.com/matthewlinus

PARISH PODCAST - www.buzzsprout.com/1974085

Associate Priest

The Reverend Prashant Bhonsle 0457 876 622

Authorised Honorary Lay Minister
Glenda Owen 0448 821 218

Authorised Honorary Parish Reader
Kerryn Pratchett 0409 306 818



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 water that I will give,' says the Lord, 'will become in you a spring of water welling up to eternal life.'

John 4. 14;

Collect: O God, the fountain of life, to a humanity parched with thirst, you offer the living water that springs from the Rock, our Saviour Jesus Christ: stir up within your people the gift of your Spirit, that we may profess our faith with freshness, and announce with joy the wonder of your love. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Readings

First reading is from the book of Exodus 17. 1-7;

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried out to the LORD, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The LORD said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, 'Is the LORD among us or not?'

Hear the word of the Lord, thanks be to God.

Psalm 95; said by alternate half verses;

1 O come, let us sing out to the Lord;

let us shout in triumph to the rock of our salvation.

2 Let us come before his face with thanksgiving;

and cry out to him joyfully in psalms.

3 For the Lord is a great God;

and a great king above all gods.

4 In his hand are the depths of the earth;

and the peaks of the mountains are his also.

5 The sea is his and he made it;

his hands molded dry land.

6 Come, let us worship and bow down;

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

7 For he is the Lord our God;

we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

8 Today if only you would hear to his voice! do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah;

as on that day at Massah, in the wilderness.

9 When your forebears tested me;

put me to proof, though they had seen my works.

10 'Forty years long I loathed that generation and said,;

"it is a people who err in their hearts, for they do not know my ways."

11 Of whom I swore in my wrath;

"They shall not enter my rest."

The second reading is from the letter of Paul to the Romans 5. 1-11;

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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 4. 5-42; Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink," you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.' Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, "'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.' Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.' Many Samaritans from that city believed in Jesus because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

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

We need not a management 'make-over' but a 'Destiny changing turning point'.

— Callum Brown, The Death of Christian Britain

The fact is all churches are pretty puny when it comes to mission.

— Ann Morisy, Beyond the Good Samaritan

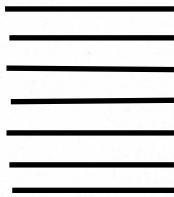
Given that church attendance has been declining for more than a century, it could be argued that the formulation of an anti-decline strategy by the Church of England is somewhat overdue.

— Bob Jackson, Hope for the Church

On each of the lines below, put an “X” as to where you feel we are as a church. If you think we are more about maintenance, your “X” will be closer to maintenance; if you think we are more about mission, your “X” will be closer to the mission church.

The Maintenance Church & the 7 Ps

- 1 Paying the bills
- 2 Preserving the building
- 3 Playing the annual round
- 4 Protecting the past
- 5 Pleasing the insider
- 6 Prioritising the present
- 7 Pretending it's not happening



The Mission Church & the 7 Ps

- 1 Praying for growth
- 2 Prioritising the outsider
- 3 Promoting the faith
- 4 Preparing our people to welcome
- 5 Putting money into evangelism
- 6 Prioritising fresh ways of doing things
- 7 Publicising everything well

Maintenance / inherited church

- Led by a maintenance leader
- Pastoral / pastoral activities
- Tradition friendly worship
- Strategy based on what we have inherited/done in the past
- Institution
- Disappearing
- Key question it asks itself: 'How do we keep going?'

Praying the Growth Prayer—5 times per day.

God of mission, Who alone brings growth to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions, Joy to our worship
And power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local community, through Jesus Christ our Lord,
AMEN

2.2 Moving from Maintenance to Mission (with Maintenance)

The Big Attitude Change

'Moving from maintenance to mission' – this phrase has become a bit of a cliché and is slightly misleading in that all mission churches 'do maintenance' as well as mission. Nevertheless, we continue to use it because, like most clichés, it succinctly states an essential truth. That simply keeping going, paying the bills and caring for the existing church members is not enough. We have to both keep going and start growing.

There was a significant direct association between those who indicated numerical growth was their top priority (the others being spiritual growth / discipleship and social transformation) and actual growth.

— From Anecdote to Evidence

Fresh and traditional expressions of church should each question themselves about the missionary quality and nature of their community, of their worship and of their purpose. It is possible for any expression of church – new or old – to be inspiring and pleasing, but also too comfortable or unconnected with the mission heart of God.

— Mission-shaped Church

The big attitude change is not to abandon Maintenance but to make it part of a mission dynamic.



Exercise: Maintenance and Mission

There are hints in the Gospel accounts at a level of 'maintenance' that surrounded the ministry of Christ and his disciples. For example, in John 12.6 we are told there was a 'common purse': someone must have been doing some spreadsheets and finance reports. (Not a great example: in this instance it was Judas Iscariot who, John tells us, was helping himself to the money!) As well as this example there were times when preparations had to be made for the Passover. All this maintenance type work was being done so that the great mission could keep going.

Luke 9.1-2

Then Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal