

*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

Sunday 19th. March 4.00 pm. Choral Evensong at St. Matthew's

Monday 20th. March  
*JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY*  
*Cuthbert of Lindisfarne, bishop and missionary (d. 687)*

Tuesday 21st. March 7.30 pm. Connect: Men's group, Dinner Fellowship at  
*Thomas Cranmer, archbishop of Canterbury, Bluebonnet, 124-126 Lygon St. Brunswick martyr and liturgist (d.1556)*

Wednesday 22nd. March 10.00 am. Morning Prayer at St. Matthew's  
*Thomas Ken, bishop of Bath and Wells, teacher (d.1711)*

Friday 24th. March 10.30 am. Holy Communion at Colton Close  
*Paul Couturier, ecumenist (d.1953)*  
*Oscar Romero, archbishop of San Salvador, martyr (d.1980)*

Saturday 25th. March  
*THE ANNUNCIATION TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY*

Sunday 26th. March 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'  
*Fifth Sunday in Lent* 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's  
4.00 pm. Prayer Circle at St. Matthew's

### LOOKING AHEAD

**Monday in Holy Week 3rd. April 1.30 pm. Connect: 'Guided Spiritual Meditation at St. Matthew's** All Welcome, this group is not limited to 3 people.

*Please bring a cushion and/or rug/blanket.*

Tuesday 18th. April 7.30 pm. Connect: Men's Group

## Fourth Sunday in Lent 19th. March 2023

**Laetare Sunday Mothering Sunday**

### 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](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. & 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](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)

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



**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:** ‘I am the light of the world,’ says the Lord; those who follow me will have the light of life.’  
*John 8. 12;*

**Collect:** Gracious God, in order that we children of earth, might discern good from evil, you sent your Son to be the light of the world; as the light of Christ shines upon us, may we learn what pleases you, and live in truth and goodness; 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 first book of Samuel 16. 1–13;*

The LORD said to Samuel, ‘How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.’ Samuel said, ‘How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.’ And the LORD said, ‘Take a heifer with you, and say, “I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.” Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.’ Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, ‘Do you come peaceably?’ He said, ‘Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.’ And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, ‘Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the LORD.’ But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.’ Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, ‘Neither has the LORD chosen this one.’ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, ‘Neither has the LORD chosen this one.’ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, ‘The LORD has not chosen any of these.’ Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Are all your sons here?’ And he said, ‘There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.’ And Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.’ He sent and brought David in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, ‘Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.’ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

**Psalm 23** read by alternate verses;

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd;  
**therefore can I lack nothing.**
- 2 He will make me lie down in green pastures;  
**and lead me beside still waters.**
- 3 He will refresh my soul;  
**and guide in right pathways for his name’s sake.**
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;  
**for you are with me, your rod and your staff comfort me.**
- 5 You spread a table before me in the face of those who trouble me;  
**you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.**
- 6 Surely your goodness and loving kindness will follow me all the days of my life;  
**and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

*The second reading is from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians 5. 8–14;*

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light – for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, ‘Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’

*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 9. 1–41; Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ*

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ Jesus answered, ‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.’ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, ‘Go, wash in the pool of Siloam’ (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, ‘Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?’ Some were saying, ‘It is he.’ Others were saying, ‘No, but it is someone like him.’ He kept saying, ‘I am the man.’ But they kept asking him, ‘Then how were your eyes opened?’ He answered, ‘The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, “Go to Siloam and wash.” Then I went and washed and received my sight.’ They said to him, ‘Where is he?’ He said, ‘I do not know.’ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, ‘He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.’ Some of the Pharisees said, ‘This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.’ But others said, ‘How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?’ And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, ‘What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.’ He said, ‘He is a prophet.’ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, ‘Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?’ His parents answered, ‘We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.’ His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, ‘He is of age; ask him.’ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, ‘Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.’ He answered, ‘I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.’ They said to him, ‘What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?’ He answered them, ‘I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?’ Then they reviled him, saying, ‘You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.’ The man answered, ‘Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.’ They answered him, ‘You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?’ And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ He answered, ‘And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.’ Jesus said to him, ‘You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.’ He said, ‘Lord, I believe.’ And he worshipped him. Jesus said, ‘I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.’ Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, ‘Surely we are not blind, are we?’ Jesus said to them, ‘If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, “We see,” your sin remains.’

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

## Mothering Sunday

“The fourth Sunday in Lent, also known as Refreshment Sunday and Laetare Sunday. It was the traditional mid-Lent Sunday. It was a time of refreshment and relaxing the penitential discipline of Lent. Rose-pink vestments were allowed to take the place of the purple vestments of Lent. The traditional epistle for the fourth Sunday in Lent states that the heavenly Jerusalem “is the mother of us all” (Gal 4:26).

“Mothering Sunday” was a popular name in England for the fourth Sunday in Lent. It was customary in some places to visit the mother church of one's diocese or chapel on this day. In other places it was customary to visit one's mother on “Mothering Sunday.” Apprentices visiting their parents on this day often took home a “mothering cake.”

During our fellowship time after the service, please take the time to refresh your spirits with a piece of cake that Glenda has so dutifully made to share. She made one cake for each worship centre.

Our Lenten time of repentance has been a very intense one and it has been truly heart warming to see how faithfully and devoutly we have all strived to repent from things that lessen our connection to God and move us closer to the gospel.

The service today does not lessen the need to repent and return to the gospel as we do not know when Jesus will return and we always need to be ready, but I do know that a moment of nurturing fellowship where we share the grace of God and the joy of the Lord in our own hearts will serve us finishing “the race” of the Lenten period this year.

Enjoy your time of fellowship, and again thank you to Glenda for beginning the nurturing fellowship today by making the amazing cakes that will feed our bodies so that our spirits can be in a joyfull space.

*Blessings, Rev Rob.*

## Faith Matters!! The difference between seeing and vision.

It is not usual practice to use all three lectionary readings to develop the sermon. Very often they are discrete thoughts, but as I prayed and prepared, there was a lot that was coming out of the three readings that took me on a journey of the heart.

In light of the information shared with the parish last week on changing our mindset from maintenance to mission, the thought comes to mind that our mind is very much influenced by the senses. What we see, hear, smell, taste and touch gives our mind a lot of information to process. The mindset we form is based on the higher order thinking that the senses lead us into. It is the movement from seeing to vision, from hearing to listening, from touching to feeling. In the readings this week, we are taken on a journey from seeing to vision. Seeing is a function of the eyes, and allows us to physically see. Vision, on the other hand, is in the mind or the mind's eye. It is a proactive portion of our imagination, and helps us plan, think, and be strategic about our goals. It is where our mind forms the images which inform our heart and soul. In Samuel we see what happens when we form an image based on what we see in front of us. Samuel sees that there is a king on the throne and cannot see a way to anoint a new king—God finds a way. Samuel sees the sons of Jesse and cannot understand what God is looking for—God finds the person. When we finally see Jesse's final son, even Samuel who has been relying on his eyesight, sees the totality of the vision of the man who is to be anointed king—God reveals all and brings Samuel into his revelation through his faith.

In the gospel reading from John 9 today where the blind man is healed, we see people who can see blind to the Messiah's presence and those who cannot see, seeing the vision of the Messiah and feeling the power of his grace in their lives. The religious leaders could see the texts and the power of God in the history of the Jewish people, yet they could not envisage the grace that surrounded and sustained them and the people of the Jewish nation. Where the blind man had not seen the scriptures or seen the formal writings that the religious leaders had access to, he did have the vision of grace through the healing of the Messiah and it was by faith he testified. It is clear from the reading from Samuel and John that the filter we need to change what we see into a vision of God's presence in the world is faith. In the reading from Ephesians we are told that we lived in darkness but now are children of light. Allowing light to help us see the vision of the Messiah in the world comes by the faith that allows us to move from being people of the world to disciples of Christ.

Shifting our mindset from maintenance to mission will only happen through the strength of our faith. One of our first goals in becoming a healthy church and being healthy disciples of Christ was to work on energising our faith. To help you with this, I share a testimony of our Healing Services. We have had two healing services and there have been 15 people attend over two services—8 in the first and 7 in the second. In thinking about the services, if we see these numbers alone, then it could be debated as to whether it is worth the effort to keep these services going. Yet, when we see what is happening through God's light, I have had people share significant movement in personal healing or the healing of those that were prayed for. Some have reported direct action and others have reported getting a physician who came and took over the treatment process and ended up being the one who was prayed for. In the attendance of 15 people which by seeing we would consider small, we have concrete confirmation that God is with us and is working through our space to provide healing to vulnerable people who come in the confidence of their faith asking for healing.

I am asking everyone to have a growth mindset. The mindset that says we are here to grow the kingdom in our local context. God's kingdom is released through feeding the hungry, healing the sick, helping the poor and finding homes for the homeless. We entering this kingdom growth by feeding the hungry and offering healing to the sick. Are the numbers we see huge? No there is nothing remarkable in the numbers at all. Do we have a taste of the day of the Lord that Joel 2:28 writes about? Absolutely!! Whilst the changes we are doing are small and incremental, have confidence through the light of the Lord, that we are part of the vision of God's plan to release the kingdom into the world and restore creation. As we are in Lent, if you have any thoughts that are contrary to this, I encourage you to repent of these thoughts and return to the gospel. *Blessings, Rev Rob.*