

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 8th. April *THE ANNUNCIATION TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY* (transferred from 25th. March)

Geogina Molloy, pioneer church leader and botanist from Western Australia (d.1843)

Tuesday 9th. April

William Law, priest and teacher (d.1761)

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian (d.1945)

Thursday 11th. April

George Augustus Selwyn, first missionary bishop of New Zealand (d.1878)

Friday 12th. April 10.30 am. Easter liturgy, with renewal of vows at Colton Close

Sunday 14th. April 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'

Third Sunday 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's

of Easter 4.00 pm. Hindi Eucharist

LOOKING AHEAD

Wednesday Morning Prayer at St. Matthew's is in Recess

Saturday 13th. April 11.00am to 3pm

Annual Autumn Display - Hadfield Community Hall

Friday 19th. April 12.00-1.00 pm. Foodbank Pantry open

Saturday 20th. April 10.00 am. Parish Council at St. Matthew's

Monday 22nd. April - 1.30 pm. Connect Meditation: Guided Spiritual Meditation at St. Matthew's. Please bring a cushion or rug or both.

All Welcome to participate in a time of relaxation and refreshment.

Enquiries Glenda 0448 821 218

Thursday 25th. April 10.00 am. ANZAC DAY Remembrance Service on St. Linus' Green Following the service there will be Anzac Day activities and BBQ.

If you have any Anzac stories or memorabilia, please come along at 9.30 am to set up a display.

Second Sunday of Easter 07-04-2024

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,

Rev Rob can be found at: St. Linus' - Mon. 9 am. to 3 pm. St. Matthew's - Fri. 9 am. to 3 pm. 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 : ‘Peace be with you, ’says the Lord’ As the Father has sent me, so I send you. *John 20. 21;*

Collect: Risen Christ, whose absence leaves us in despair, but whose presence is overwhelming; breathe on us with your abundant life, that where we cannot see, we may have courage to believe, that we may be raised with you. **Amen.**

Readings

The first reading is from the Acts of the Apostles 4. 32-37;

The whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means :son of encouragement “) he sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles’ feet

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

Psalm 133; said by alternate half verses;

1 Behold how good and how lovely it is;

when families live together in unity.

2 It is fragrant as oil upon the head, that runs down over the beard;

**Fragrant as oil upon the beard of Aaron,
that ran down over the collar of his robe.**

3 It is like a dew of Hermon;

like the dew that falls upon the hill of Zion.

4 For there the Lord has commanded his blessing;

which is life for evermore.

The second reading is from the first letter of John 1. 1-2.2;

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life – this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us – we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

*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 12. 20-33; Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

It was evening on the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’ Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

Faith Matters!! Knowing why we need to be intentional in our discipleship.

Knowing why we do things is very important. Our energy to do things is drawn from knowing exactly why we do things and having confidence the basis of our reason for doing things is valid and true. Our main reason for releasing the gospel message into our communities is that in the resurrection, Jesus showed death has no hold on Him and as his disciples death has no hold on us. To be able to be intentional in our discipleship we need to believe in the resurrection.

Some evidence is shared in the gospel reading where we see Jesus appearing to the disciples and then coming back a second time to let Thomas put his hands into the wounds. This evidence as well as much more in Luke and the book of Acts, present first hand witness accounts that Jesus has risen from the dead and was alive and actively working to restore all of creation. There are those who would contend that this evidence comes from a closed community and therefore why should we believe it? These were not the only writings about Jesus being alive. There were also writings from outside the community from those who did not believe in Jesus as a Messiah and might have seen Him as a wiseman. Josephus, a Jewish slave and scholar, writes about the accounts he is receiving about Jesus’ resurrection. As someone who is outside of the community he writes about Jesus as rising from the dead in the *Antiquities of the Jews Book 8, Chp3 V3*, noting that as the Jewish community starts to be persecuted and appear to be diminishing, the “Christians” are growing under the weight of their persecution and are not extinct to this day because Jesus is alive and seems to empower his community. Josephus is not the only secular source of Jesus’ resurrection. There are some Roman writings that speak about this as well. There are 300 accounts of Jesus from both Christian and non-Christian writers speaking about his works, death and resurrection written within 250 years of the resurrection. For many events 2000-5000 years ago, there are nowhere near this many writings that have survived. For example, there are four recognised sources speaking about the Babylonian Empire, the most reliable being the Old Testament accounts. Yet, even with these minimal sources, we do not question that the Babylonian Empire existed or that what is said is fiction.

The life and times of Jesus is one of the most well documented events in both quantity of writings available and diversity of authors. The knowledge that the resurrection did happen is clear. It is irrefutable and the recollection of the events of Holy Week have stood the test of time. In the reading from the Acts today we see a response to the resurrection in discipleship of a community coming together as one as both the body of Christ. There actions are intentional being inspired by the gospel message of loving and serving each other.

As unbelievable as it is to read that Christ rose from the dead, it validated by many sources and is a truth that we can have confidence in. Let’s make serving and loving others an intention of our community based on the assurance of the resurrection of our Lord. *Blessings, Rev. Rob.*