

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	30th. April	4.00 pm. Prayer Circle at St. Matthew's
Monday	1st. May	1.30 pm. Connect Meditation at St. Matthew's <i>please bring a PHILIP AND JAMES, cushion or rug, or both. Enquiries 0448 821 218</i> <i>APOSTLES AND MARTYRS</i>
Tuesday	2nd. May	<i>Athanasius, bishop of Alexandria, teacher (d.373)</i>
Wednesday	3rd. May	10.00 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's, including M. U. prayers 7.00 pm. Rev. Rob's 1st. Anniversary Pizza Meal and Fellowship at Wiseman House. BYO desserts and drinks
Saturday	6th. May	10.00 am. to Noon, Bookroom open for sales in Wiseman House
Sunday	7th. May	9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus' <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i> 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's 4.00 pm. Prayer, Praise and Proclamation service at St. Matthew's

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday 28th May 10.00 am.

Combined service at St Matthew's for the start of Reconciliation Week.

Our guest speaker will be by The Reverend Canon A/Prof Uncle Glenn Loughrey.

He is visiting parishes throughout the Melbourne Diocese to speak about the referendum on The Voice to Parliament. He will speak during the service as well as being available for a Q and A session after the service. Uncle Glenn is one of the First Nation Cannons at St Paul's Cathedral as well as the appointed representative of Archbishop Philip on matters to do with the referendum and the Voice to Parliament.

Pew Leaflet Notices:
please email gonana7@bigpond.com
by 4.00 pm. Wednesday

Fourth Sunday of Easter 30th. April 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' - 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

PARISH FACEBOOK - www.facebook.com/matthewlinus

PARISH PODCAST - www.buzzsprout.com/1974085

Associate Priest

The Reverend Prashant Bhonsle 0457 876 622



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 good shepherd,’ says the Lord. ‘The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.’
John 10.11

Collect: God of all power, you called from death our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep: send us as shepherds to rescue the lost, to heal the injured, and to feed one another with understanding; through your Son, 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 Acts of the Apostles 2. 42-47;

Many were baptized and were added to the community. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Hear the Word of the Lord Thanks be to God

Psalm 23: 1-6 said by alternate half 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 me 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 first letter of Peter 2. 1-10;

Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: ‘See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.’ To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner’, and ‘A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.’ They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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 10. 1-10;
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ*

Jesus said to the Pharisees: ‘Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.’ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.’

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

Faith Matters!!

Today’s gospel has so many dimensions to it. We can see Jesus as the door, the gatekeeper and the shepherd. As we look at all the lectionary readings, the theme of shepherding is very strong. From the three readings, we get three perspectives of shepherding: the one being shepherded, the one doing the shepherding, and a community that shepherds as well.

Psalm 23 presents someone who is open to being cared for by the spirit of God. Being led to still waters, comforted as they walk through the valley of the shadow of death. The shepherded one finds wellness in the goodness and mercy of God.

In the gospel, Jesus exemplifies the shepherd in no uncertain terms: calling forth His sheep with His voice and giving life abundantly. As we are in the Easter season, we remember the role of the shepherd is a sacrificial one and remember that the shepherd lays down his life for their sheep with Acts 2 further developing the outcome of the resurrection of Christ, and of the miraculous glory of Pentecost, to underscore the beginnings of the community of shepherds and the priesthood of all.

The gospel speaks about false teachers and bandits. Those who are noted as being spiritually blind in the previous passage are those who are trying to come into the sheepfold by another way and therefore are false teachers and bandits. The Pharisees, Sadducees and Scribes could all trace their ancestry and lineage to prove that they were priests in the tradition of the Torah, so the gate that Jesus speaks about is something more than the gate based on the Torah. The priesthood that Jesus calls us to is one in which we proclaim Christ crucified, desiring all we do to glorify Christ, doing what we do to release the kingdom of God in the strength of Christ, testifying to the impact of the gospel on our own lives and walking in Christ’s steps. Baptism is the gate we pass through calls us to die to the world and rise in Christ. When I die to the world and am raised in Christ, I experience Psalm 23 not as prosperity that is based in the symbols of my life, but experience God in the deepest parts of my, irrespective of the symbols that I am surrounded by. When we die to the world and are raised in Christ, each of us individually become the sacrificial shepherd who accept the measure of prosperity that is sufficient to preach Christ crucified. Paul’s prosperity was to do this whilst chained and in a prison, symbols which are almost the antithesis of prosperity, yet it was sufficiently prosperous to bring many to Christ.

We often think of shepherding as a one-on-one relationship. The lone shepherd takes care of the one lost sheep. There is nothing wrong with this image: on the contrary, some of our most significant experiences are surely spent with people who are spiritual caregivers, mentors. or pastoral figureheads in our individual lives. Acts 2 reminds us that as a community we need to die to the world and be raised in Christ. As a community, we must die to the measures of prosperity, achievement and growth that the world uses to measure success. In this time of refreshment, renewal and reformation in our parish, we are challenging the functions, practices, and environment of our parish to release things that do not serve the release of the kingdom of God and need to die, and accept taking on the things that do release the kingdom. Being a community of shepherds involves prayer, economic generosity, a culture of hospitality, the gathering around worship, and rejoicing in our togetherness.

Allowing God to shepherd us and following the example of Jesus as the good shepherd informs us on how to be a shepherding community. Allow yourself to die to the world and rise in the resurrection of Christ—it is the season for it.

Blessings, Rev. Rob.