

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	7th. May	4.00 pm. Prayer, Praise and Proclamation at St. Matthew's
Monday	8th. May	<i>Julian of Norwich, holy woman and mystic (d.1417)</i>
Wednesday	10th. May	10.30 am. Opening of St. Linus' Kindergarten, following completion of refurbishment works Morning Prayer will follow the opening at St Linus'
Friday	12th. May	10.30 am. Holy Communion at Colton Close 12.00 to 1.00 pm. Foodbank Hampers distribution in car-park at St. Matthew
Sunday	14th. May	9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus' 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's 4.00 pm. Healing Service at St. Matthew's

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday 16th May 2023 7.30 pm. Connect Men's Group Fellowship Dinner First and Last Bistro, Merlynston. Please RSVP to Rev Rob by 12/5/2023

Sunday 28th May 10.00 am. Combined service at St Matthew's for the start of Reconciliation Week. Our guest speaker will be 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.

Monday 5th June 1.30 pm Connect Meditation: 'Guided Spiritual Meditation' at St. Matthew's. Please bring cushion or rug, or both. This is an open group, All Welcome. Enquiries - Glenda 0448 821 218

7th to 9th June 2023 Revs Rob and Prashant are away at Diocesan Ministry Conference.

Sunday 18th June 10.00 am. Combined service at St Linus for Refugee Week. Service will be followed by our Annual International Lunch Festival. Please bring a plate from your country of origin to share with each other and invited Foodbank clients.

Fifth Sunday of Easter -7th. May 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

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 way, and the truth, and the life,' says the Lord. 'No one comes to the Father except through me'

Collect: Everliving God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life; 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 7. 55-60;

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

Hear the Word of the Lord Thanks be to God

Psalm 31. 1-5, 17-18;

- 1 To you, LORD, have I come for shelter;
let me never be put to shame.
 - 2 O deliver me in your righteousness;
incline your ear to me and be swift to save me.
 - 3 Be for me a rock of refuge, a fortress to defend me;
for you are my high rock and my stronghold.
 - 4 Lead me and guide me for your name's sake;
**bring me out of the net that they have secretly laid for me,
for you are my strength.**
 - 5 Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you will redeem me, O LORD God of truth.
- 17 All my days are in your hand;
O deliver me from the power of my enemies and from my persecutors.
- 18 Make your face to shine upon your servant;
And save me for your mercy's sake.

The second reading is from the first letter of Peter 2. 11-25;

Beloved, I urge you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul. Conduct yourselves honourably among the Gentiles, so that, though they malign you as evil-doers, they may see your honourable deeds and glorify God when he comes to judge. For the Lord's sake accept the authority of every human institution, whether of the emperor as supreme, or of governors, as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing right you should silence the ignorance of the foolish. As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil. Honour everyone. Love the family of believers. Fear God. Honour the emperor. Slaves, accept the authority of your masters with all deference, not only those who are kind and gentle but also those who are harsh. For it is to your credit if, being aware

of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.' When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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 14. 1-14; Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.' Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

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

Faith Matters!! Being a "proclamation" community.

In the gospel reading today, we find Jesus speaking to his disciples in a time of transition. He knows that his earthly ministry is coming to an end, and that he will soon leave them to return to the Father.

As he prepares them for this change, he offers them words of comfort, direction, and promise. Jesus' words offer comfort to those who are hurting. In verse 1, he says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me." This message is as relevant today as it was then. People are hurting, and they need to know that they can find comfort and hope in Christ. Jesus says, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.", underscoring the vital need to have relationship with Jesus as the Messiah as it central to our salvation.

In these words we can also see ideas on how to refresh, renew and revive our discipleship and the parish. Our discipleship and parish ministry needs to offer comfort and the hope of the gospel to those who are hurting. In being Christ like, we must be willing to proclaim through thought, word and deed that our relationship with Jesus matters in all that we do, even when it is unpopular or goes against the prevailing cultural narrative. All of this is encapsulated in the power of prayer and the faithfulness of God, which is part of the rhythm of the services and worship. As a parish, we must be willing to pray boldly and give testimony to each other where our prayers have been answered.

As we pray for spiritual growth and growth in numbers, let us be a parish that proclaims the hope of the resurrection, reaching out to those who are struggling. Let us be a parish that that proclaims the truth to those seeking direction. Let us be a community that proclaims the gospel boldly and without compromise. Finally we must proclaim the promises of Christ to those who are seeking meaning and purpose. Pray boldly and share your testimony of how God has acted in your life. When we read the Acts, that is how the church grew spiritually and in numbers on the day of Pentecost.

Blessings and peace, Rev Rob.