

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.*

DIARY THIS WEEK

Monday 19th. December 10.45 am. Reserved Sacrament at Craiggcare Aged Care Facility

Wednesday 21st. December 10.00 am. Morning Prayer at St. Matthew's
THOMAS, APOSTLE AND MARTYR

Saturday 24th. December 9.00 am. to 11 am. Drive through Foodbank distribution via Car-park. Please come and share your Christmas spirit by handing our a box or two.

CHRISTMAS IN THE PARISH

Saturday 24th. December
5.00 pm. All age Christmas Eve Eucharist at St. Linus'

Saturday 24th. December
11.00 pm. Nativity Story and Carols
11.30 pm. Midnight Mass at St. Matthew's

Sunday 25th December Birth of our Lord
9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'
10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's



Fourth Sunday of Advent 18th. December 2022



WELCOME

*The service booklet and song sheet can be found in the Narthex at St Linus' worship centre.
The service at St Matthew's worship centre 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 at each worship centre.
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: A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel: God with us.
Matthew 1. 23;

Collect: Gracious God, you chose the virgin Mary, by your grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour, so fill us with your grace, that with her we may rejoice in your salvation, and in all things embrace your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

READINGS

The first reading is from the Prophet Isaiah ch. 7. v. 10–16:

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ‘Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.’ But Ahaz said, ‘I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.’ Then Isaiah said: ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.’

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 80 1-7, 17-19;

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, you that lead Joseph like a flock;
you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine out in glory.

2 Before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh;
stir up your power, and come to save us.

3 Restore us, O Lord of hosts;
show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O Lord God of hosts;
how long will you be angry at your people’s prayer ?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;
and given them tears to drink in good measure.

6 You have made us the victim of our neighbours,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O Lord of hosts;
show us the light of your countenance and we shall be saved.

17 Let your power rest on the man at your right hand,;
on that son of man, whom you made so strong for yourself.

18 And so we shall not turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call upon your name.

19 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
show us the light of your countenance and we shall be saved.

The Second Reading is from the letter of Paul to the Romans ch. 1. v. 1–7;

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hear the Word of the Lord; Thanks be to God

*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 1:18–25;
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ*

The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,’ which means, ‘God is with us.’ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

Faith Matters!! - Love

Joseph being a righteous man was unwilling to expose Mary to public disgrace which would have most certainly led to her death but was going to dismiss her quietly and move on with his life. This was the case until the angel of the Lord came to Joseph and spoke to him in a vision which restored his connection to God’s plan and allowed him to move forward with Mary and preserve his righteousness. In today’s passage we see love acting in two ways with Joseph.

Firstly, he clearly loved Mary and wanted no harm to come to her. If he wanted to follow his honour the Law of the Torah allowed for Mary to be stoned and beaten for “sinful” actions. It is interesting that Joseph just wanted to be a righteous man, and in following this path, he went down a another road—that which allowed his to do to Mary as he would want done to him. He showed mercy.

Secondly, we see another love, which is the advent love that we profess today. Advent love is the love that comes from hope, peace and joy in the Lord. In Jesus’ words, Joseph loves his god with all his heart, mind, soul and strength. When filled with the hope that Jesus is the Messiah, the knowledge that Jesus is the king of peace and that the world will be filled with joy when all people are saved and restored to God—he comes to be filled with the love of God.

When we are filled with the love of our God, how much more can we love our neighbour. In Joseph’s case, how much more could he love Mary and care for her as the love of God gave him the power of heaven to do so.

This week we light the candle of love. Allow your love light to be empowered by hope, peace and joy that finds its source in God so that your thoughts, word and deeds can be empowered by heaven. Live in the knowledge that your ministry and discipleship, like Joseph’s, is part of God’s plan.