

*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

Tuesday 10th. January  
*William Laud, archbishop of Canterbury, martyr (d.1645)*

Wednesday 11th. January 10.00 am. Morning Prayer at St. Matthew's

Friday 13th. January  
*Hilary of Poitiers, bishop and teacher (d.367)*

Saturday 14th. January  
*Sava, first archbishop of the Serbian church (d.1235)*

Sunday 15th. January 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'  
*Second Sunday after Epiphany* 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's.

### LOOKING AHEAD

**ASH WEDNESDAY 22nd. February 2023**

**Maundy Thursday 6th. April**

**Good Friday 7th. April**

**Easter Day 9th. April**

**Pew Leaflet Notices:**  
please email [gonana7@bigpond.com](mailto:gonana7@bigpond.com)  
by 4.00 pm. Wednesday

## The Baptism of our Lord 8th. January 2023



### 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](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



### 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 voice came from heaven, saying, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’  
Matthew 3.17

**Collect:** Eternal God, at the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan, you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: grant that all who are baptized into his name, may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Saviour; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

### Readings

*First reading is from the book of the prophet Isaiah 42:1-9;*

Thus says the LORD: Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: 6I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

*Hear the word of the Lord, thanks be to God.*

*Psalm 29 said by alternate half verses;*

- 1 Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven,  
**ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.**
- 2 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name;  
**O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness.**
- 3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;  
**the God of glory thunders, the Lord is upon the great waters.**
- 4 The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation;  
**the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.**
- 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;  
**the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon;**  
6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
**Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox.**
- 7 The voice of the Lord divides the lightning-flash.  
**the voice of the Lord whirls the sands of the desert,  
the Lord whirls the desert of Kadesh.**
- 8 The voice of the Lord rends the terebinth trees;  
**and strips bare the forests; in his temple all cry ‘Glory’.**
- 9 The Lord sits enthroned above the water-flood;  
**the Lord sits enthroned as king for ever.**
- 10 The Lord will give strength to his people;  
**the Lord will give to his people the blessing of peace.**

*Second reading is from the Book of Acts 10:34-43*

Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius. ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’

*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 Matthew 3. 13-17; **Glorify to you Lord Jesus Christ***

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.’ Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’

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

### Faith Matters—Why did Jesus need to be baptised??

At this time of the year, I often get asked “If Jesus was without sin, why did he need to be baptised?”. It is a very interesting question and one I thought I would address here to help energise your faith. Theories and ideas abound as everyone is looking for an ulterior motive.

Perhaps John and Jesus plotted or conspired together to gain attention for Jesus's ministry; perhaps Jesus came as a representative of the sinful human race; perhaps He submitted to baptism as foreshadowing His death and resurrection, or perhaps His baptism made the act of baptism work for everyone else. Each of these theories, however, misses a few key elements. For example, we have no evidence that John or Jesus spoke prior to the time of the baptism, even though they were cousins. John lived in the wilderness and only knew what sign to look for. But most of all, John's baptism was not primarily a baptism of repentance (the turning away from sin). Instead, the submersion in water identified the person with the coming Messianic Kingdom.

Those whom John baptized had already repented and sought to be joined to the coming Messiah and His reign. John, in fact, would only accept true obedience—even from the spiritual leaders of Israel. His mission was to prepare the way for Jesus to come, not to take away sin. John baptised those who would assent to letting the part of themselves that was not serving God to die and to rise from the waters ready to fulfil God’s purpose and promptings in their lives.

Implying that there was an ulterior motive would have implied that Jesus was sinful. In fact, no ulterior motive is required. Jesus asked John to baptize Him simply as an act of obedience to God's purpose. Jesus was leaving his private life and moving into His public ministry. God had given John the promise of a coming Messiah and the way to identify Him. Jesus fulfilled that promise. His baptism was saying to the world that he was going to take on his role as the great High Priest, take the cup that God the Father was giving him to be the Messiah of the whole world and abdicate his divinity until he fulfilled the Father’s purpose to die on the cross for our sins and rise from the dead.

Take your place in allowing things that are not from God to die, and rise in a new life of obedience to do God’s purpose and promptings in your life.

### **Shrove Tuesday**

6pm Fellowship Gathering for all at Wiseman House  
Help needed to do the pancakes and toppings.

### **Ash Wednesday Services – 22nd February 2023**

6pm at St Linus'  
10am and 7pm at St Matthew's

## **Holy Week Services 2023**

### **2nd April 2023 - Palm Sunday**

9.00am at St Linus'  
10.30am at St Matthew's

### **6th April 2023 - Maundy Thursday**

7pm Service at St Linus'  
7pm Service at St Matthew's

### **7th April 2023 - Good Friday**

9am Service at St Linus'  
9am Service at St Matthew's

10.30am Stations of the Cross Service at St Matthew's

3pm Vigil Service at St Matthew's

### **9th April 2023 - Resurrection Sunday**

8am Service of the Light at St Matthew's

10am Service at St Matthew's with renewal of vows  
combined service at St Matthew's

Children's Easter Egg Hunt will follow the service  
Help needed to organise and put this together.

## **Our Journey over 2023...**

Over the last few months we have been discerning a way forward in 2023. In the vision casting statement that was given prior to the APM spoke about a number of initiatives that were coming into place from the start of 2023.

### **Worship:**

Beginning in February, we will be adding the following worship services to our schedule each Sunday at 4pm:

- First Sunday of the month – Praise, Proclamation and Thanksgiving non-communion service with contemporary songs, and time for testimony.
- Second Sunday of the month – Healing Service and anointing with oil.
- Third Sunday of the month – Sunday Choral Evensong.
- Fourth (and Fifth Sunday of the month when it occurs) – Compline/ Prayer circle.

### **Mission:**

Bible Studies will be resuming with the first bible study scheduled as a Lenten Study. The studies will be facilitated from St Matthew's and will be a hybrid study allowing people to attend online as well as in person.

As well as our mission to the general community, we are also going to “missioners” to each other. Growing up I kept hearing that the family that prays together, stays together. To this end we are spending this year developing our Connect Groups within the parish to allow fellowship opportunities for prayer, care and connectedness. Connect groups that we are proposing to begin with are:

- Connect Three - groups of three gathering to meet with each other.
- Connect Men - once a month gatherings for fellowship
- Connect Women- once a month gatherings for fellowship
- Connect Interest - common interests that people might connect in eg Yoga, Meditation.

These are not facilitated by the clergy. These are lay people leading in spiritual areas where they know a need exists. If you have an idea on how to satisfy a spiritual need within the parish, please check in with Rev Rob.

As these are groups that are officially acknowledged by the parish, all groups need approval from the Priest in Charge and the policies around child safety and how we treat each other extend to each gathering.