

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 26th. December *Boxing Day holiday*
Stephen, Deacon and First Martyr

Tuesday 27th. December *Public holiday in lieu of Christmas Day*
John, Apostle and Evangelist

Wednesday 28th. December 10.00 am. Morning Prayer at St. Matthew's.
HOLY INNOCENTS

Thursday 29th. December
Thomas Becket, archbishop of Canterbury (d.1170)

Friday 30th. December
Josephine Butler, social reformer (d.1905)

Saturday 31st. December
John Wyclif, teacher and reformer (d.1384)

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Sunday 1st. January 2023 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'
The Naming and 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's
Circumcision of Jesus

LOOKING AHEAD

Monday 2nd. January *New Years Day holiday*

Wednesday 4th. January 10.00 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's

Friday 6th. January *Epiphany of our Lord*

Sunday 8th. January 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'
The Baptism of our Lord 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's

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

Christmas Day 25th 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' - Thurs 9 am. to 3 pm.

St. Matthew's Wed & Fri 9 am. to 3 pm.

NOT available on 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: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth. *John 1. 1, 14;*

Collect: God Most High, whose eternal Word chose a dwelling among us, that we might live in your presence: grant us a spirit of wisdom, to know how rich is the glory you have given us, and how great is the hope to which we are called in the word made flesh; who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

The first reading is from the book of Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 98 - said by alternate half verse

1 O sing to the Lord a new song;

for he has done marvellous things.

2 With his right hand and his holy arm;

has he won for himself the victory.

3 The Lord has made known his salvation;

he has revealed his just deliverance in the sight of the nations.

4 He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness toward the house of Israel,;

and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth;

break into singing and make melody.

6 Make melody to the Lord upon the harp,

upon the harp and and with the sound of praise.

7 With trumpets and with horns;

Cry out in triumph before the Lord, the King.

8 Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,

the good earth and those who live upon it.

9 Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the mountains ring out together before the Lord,
10 For he comes to judge the earth;
he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

The second reading is from the letter to the Hebrews 1:1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

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 1:1-14

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE from Archbishop Philip Freier 2022

The passage we read today is a dedication to a God who became human on our behalf. Its opening words bear witness to the life of God in Jesus and the oneness of the Word with God. This story at the heart of our faith must be constantly reaffirmed and Christmas is a time for us to dedicate ourselves to the promise we have and the hope, peace, joy and love that is released in our lives.

It is not a story without opposition—in John's day or ours. There are many other voices making claims on how we should be living our lives to attain our highest good. John recognises this opposition to the Word that is Jesus Christ, and he calls on us to stake a claim and bear witness to the truth that it is indeed God who has sent Jesus into our world.

Maybe the most pertinent thought is not about unpacking the complexity of the Christmas story, but rather understanding what it means to bear witness to the coming of Jesus into our world. What is needed on Christmas Day is some understanding of the testimony of a witness. The gospels witness to Jesus' birth, death and resurrection as the Messiah and Redeemer of all of creation.

The Fourth Gospel is filled with parallels and juxtapositions calling on us to take sides, to witness, to stand and be counted as believing that God has acted in a unique way on our behalf. Jesus never commands us to celebrate his birth. He does command us to be ready for his coming again and as we celebrate his birth we must always do it as a way of remembering that he will come again and that we are ready to receive Him.

A prophet named John has been sent from God as a human delegate on a purely human mission, that of bearing testimony to someone to the Messiah. As we wait for Jesus to come again, we are now the delegates filled with the Holy Spirit who bear testimony to the risen Christ acting in our lives, pointing to Christ's coming again and asking all to know Jesus so that they can be saved and come to know eternal life.

In a way, John's witness makes our witness possible. It emboldens us: we too can bear witness to the truth of the Christ child among us. Are you being a witness for Christ in your thoughts, words and actions? Are you sharing the Christ light with everyone? We need to be Christ's face, hands and feet to those that we consider to be the least because if we are a Christlike witness to others, then those who have been touched by our ministry will know Christ when He does return.

Tribulation, trials and turmoil have been widely present in 2022, as they are every year.

Yet the Psalmist exhorts us to "Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things".

That is as true in 2022 as it was two and a half millennia ago when Psalm 98 was written, and Christmas offers a fresh opportunity to offer thanks and praise to the God who took human form and sacrificed himself for us.

Jesus was born into a broken world and lives for the restoration of all that's marred by those old sins that have long broken the heart and peace of humanity.

Violence and hatred of long ago set our world - and this year has been no different, as in Ukraine and other places have shown again, how brutal and ugly humans can be to each other.

Starvation persecution and higher effects of climate change all those evils still with us

The psalmist is aware of such realities but not deterred by them God's holy arm has worked salvation as it says 'the Lord remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God'


There is still beauty and goodness, yet none more so than God's decisive intervention in human history in the birth of Jesus the Messiah, the Christmas story.

So let us then celebrate with the psalmist, with those words, let the rivers clap their hands let the mountains sing together for Joy let them sing before the Lord.

I hope your Christmas celebration is one which gives you hope may you have a Blessed and Holy Christmas



The Parish of St. Matthew's Glenroy/Hadfield with St. Linus' Merlynston, wish you and your loved ones


A Holy and Blessed Christmas