

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 Eve 24th 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: I bring you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Luke 2. 10-11;

Collect: All glory to you, gracious God, for the gift of your Son, whom you sent to save us. With the angels, let us praise your name, and tell the earth his story, that all may believe, rejoice, and proclaim your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The first reading is from the Book of Isaiah 62: 6-12;

Thus says the LORD: Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, 'See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.' They shall be called, 'The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD'; and you shall be called, 'Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.'

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 97;

- 1 The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice;
let the multitude of islands be glad.
- 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.
- 3 Fire goes before him;
and burns up his enemies on every side.
- 4 His lightnings light the world;
the earth sees it and is afraid.
- 5 The mountains melt like wax before his face;
from before the face of the Lord of all the earth.
- 6 The heavens have proclaimed his righteousness,
and all peoples have seen his glory.
- 7 They are ashamed, all those who serve idols, and glory in mere nothing;
all gods bow down before him.
- 8 Zion heard and was glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoiced;
because of your judgements, O God.
- 9 For you, Lord are most high over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.

10 The Lord loves those that hate evil;
**the Lord guards the life of the faithful,
and delivers them from the hand of the ungodly**

11 Light dawns for the righteous;
and joy for the true of heart.

12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name.

The second reading is from the letter of Paul to Titus. 3. 4-8a;

When the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is sure. I desire that you insist on these things, so that those who have come to believe in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works;

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 Luke 2. 1-20;

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.


This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Myth	Reality
Mary and Joseph were travelling and arrived on the night Jesus was born.	Mary and Joseph were already there with their family. They had to be there for the census.
The arrived at an inn and they were full.	The word translated from Greek to “inn” can also mean guesthouse. It seems more likely that there was no room for Mary to give birth to Jesus with the extended family present so they were excluded and used a cave in the Shepherd’s field.
 <p data-bbox="107 810 454 839">General Image about Christmas</p>	 <p data-bbox="560 810 994 906">Photo take by Rob Koren @ Shepherd’s field showing cave in which they would be. It was –2 degrees Celsius that night</p>
Maggi from the East arrived on the night Jesus was born.	It was more than likely that the Maggi arrived a year later.

When we know the reality from the myth, the story of Christmas becomes richer and more potent. Jesus was born in the shepherd field—a field where the lambs that were taken to the temple for the day of atonement on Yom Kippur. Jesus was the lamb of God who died to take away all our sins. Jesus’ coming into the world was not as glamorous as we portray it. Jesus comes into our reality and speaks as God walking with his people. How blessed are we.

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



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE from Archbishop Philip Freier 2022

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

