

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

Wednesday 9th. January 10.00 am. NO service at St. Matthew's

Thursday 10th. January 11.30 am. Reserved Sacrament at Plumpton Villa  
*William Laud,* Aged Care Facility  
archbishop of Canterbury, martyr (d.1645)

Sunday 13th. January 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'  
**THE BAPTISM** 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's

### LOOKING AHEAD

**Saturday 19th. January 9.00 am. WORKING BEE at St. Matthew's**

Saturday 26th. January - Australia Day

**Saturday 2nd. February - Books & Craft rooms open at St. Matthew's**

Friday 1st. March - 10.30 am. World Day of Prayer

**Saturday 2nd. March - Books & Craft rooms open at St. Matthew's**

Tuesday 5th. March - Shrove Tuesday

Wednesday 6th. March - ASH WEDNESDAY

#### Pew Leaflet Notices:

Please give to, or phone Glenda Owen,  
or e-mail: - gonana7@bigpond.com - by 8 pm. Tuesday

## The Anglican Parish of Glenroy / Hadfield / Merlynston



St. Matthew's  
Cnr. Widford St.  
& Melbourne Ave.  
Glenroy 3046

with

St. Linus'  
Cnr. Glyndon Ave.  
& Delta Ave.  
Merlynston 3058



PARISH PRIEST: The Reverend Jo-Anne Wells  
Phone: 9306 9528  
Mobile: 0414 822 095  
Email; priest@matthewlinus.org.au

PARISH WEBSITE - [www.matthewlinus.com](http://www.matthewlinus.com)

Honorary Lay Pastoral Minister  
Glenda Owen 0448 821 218

Honorary Lay Parish Readers  
Bev. Lacock 9309 2775  
Lois Erickson 0421 327 159  
Kerryn Pratchett 0409 306 818



## The Epiphany of Our Lord

6th. January  
2019

### WELCOME

Our service begins on page 119 of 'A Prayer Book for Australia' (green book)  
Hymns are found in 'Together in Song' (red book)  
The number of each hymn is clearly displayed in the Church.  
At St. Matthew's the service can be followed on the screens.  
Please join us for morning tea, following the service.

During the 10.30 am. Service at St. Matthew's each Sunday,  
opportunity will be available to receive one-on-one prayer  
for any personal needs.  
Please go to the Chapel area after you have received Communion

**Acknowledgement of Land**

( An act towards reconciliation by the Parish of Glenroy/ Hadfield / Merlynston )

For thousands of years indigenous people have walked in this land.  
Their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives.  
We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation,  
for their stewardship throughout the ages.

GLUTEN FREE COMMUNION WAFERS ARE AVAILABLE

If you require Gluten free wafer,  
please speak to the Lay Assistant or a Welcomer, BEFORE the Service,

**PLEASE OBSERVE SILENCE  
PRIOR TO OUR SERVICE, DURING HOLY COMMUNION  
AND AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SERVICE**

**Catch up with one another in the Narthex or at Morning Tea**

**Sentence:** Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord  
has risen upon you. *Isaiah 60. 1;*

**Collect:** Lord God of the nations, we have seen the star of your glory  
rising in splendour; may the brightness of your incarnate Word, pierce the  
night that covers the earth, signal the dawn of justice and peace, and  
beckon all nations to walk as one in your light. We ask this through Jesus  
Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy  
Spirit, in the splendour of eternal light, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Reading**

**Isaiah 60. 1-6**

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen  
upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the  
peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear  
over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of  
your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they  
come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall  
be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your  
heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be  
brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of  
camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those  
from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall  
proclaim the praise of the LORD.

**Psalms 72. 1-7, 10-14;**

1 Give the king your judgement, O God,  
**and your righteousness to the son of a king.**

**THE LAST OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR DETAILS**



**TO BE INCLUDED IN THE**

**PARISH DIRECTORY 2018**

**will be SUNDAY 20th. January 2019**

**PLEASE CHECK THE DRAFT PARISH DIRECTORY,  
which is in the Narthex at each Church  
AND NOTE AMENDMENTS REQUIRED,  
IN PREPARATION FOR 2018 DIRECTORY.**

**IF YOUR DETAILS ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE DRAFT DIRECTORY,  
PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM and give to Glenda Owen,  
or email to gonana7@bigpond.com THANK YOU**

***The completion of this form gives the Parish your consent for  
your details from this form to be included in the Parish Directory***

**Mr. / Mrs. / Ms. / Surname** .....

**Christian name** .....

**Spouse (if applicable)** .....

**Children  
living at  
home** .....

**Address** .....

**Post Code** .....

**Phone no.** .....

**Mobile no.** .....

**Email:** .....

## REFLECTION

Guiding God, your light beams into our lives,  
offering us what we cannot do without: hope.

Help us hear your hope, and draw nearer to you and your truth  
as we encounter your word together today. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen

## NOTICES



### WORKING BEE AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Saturday 19th. January 2019 at 9.00 am.

The warm weather and rain has produced much growth  
to plants in front of Wiseman House and the Church.

PLEASE come and help to trim the bushes

Please bring your own gardening tools.



## MISSION NEWS

Donation requests received from -

- L'Arche Australia and report about 40th Pilgrimage held in Alice Springs during 2018.
- World Leprosy Sunday - during February, March or April to raise weakness of the rejection and stigma which affects people with leprosy
- Nungalinga College and newsletter.
- Bush Church Aid - 2019, 100 years of BCA, and Prayer Notes; Real Australian newsletter.

- 2 That he may judge your people rightly;  
**and the poor of the land with equity.**
- 3 Let the mountains be laden with peace,  
because of his righteousness  
**and the hills also with prosperity for his people.**
- 4 May he give justice to the poor among the people,  
**and rescue the children of the needy,  
and crush the oppressor.**
- 5 May he live while the sun endures;  
**and while the moon gives light,  
throughout all generations.**
- 6 May he come down like rain upon the new-mown fields;  
**and as showers that water the earth.**
- 7 In his time shall righteousness flourish  
**and abundance of peace, till the moon shall be no more.**
- 10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring tribute;  
**the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.**
- 11 All kings shall fall down before him;  
**and all nations do him service.**
- 12 He will deliver the needy when they cry;  
**and the poor that have no helper.**
- 13 He will pity the helpless and the needy;  
**and save the lives of the poor.**
- 14 He will redeem them from oppression and violence;  
**and their blood shall be precious in his sight.**

### Ephesians 3.1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery- was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.\*

## Matthew 2. 1–12;

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage. When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.



### The EPIPHANY of our LORD

As brightly as the story's star, the Epiphany opens up the stellar power of God's coming to humanity, and our awkward, dramatic, unlikely fumbling toward the Divine. We see the rewards of leaving the comfort zone of one's own faith and of interfaith cooperation, the penalties for missing the signs of other seekers, and the ways all of us are Herod, all of us are the magi, and all of us long for power

#### Focus scripture

**Matthew 2:1–12** The secular definition of epiphany is an “a-ha” moment. We love these “out-of-nowhere” gifts: sudden clarity about a tough decision, a creative solution to a thorny problem, a revelation about a relationship.

But most often, epiphanies come after long periods of study or research. So it was with the wise ones travelling from the East. In a sense, the magi followed their particular faith practices and traditions (including following the stars), and their seeker impulses. Impulses of all kinds are at the core of the Epiphany: longing, fear, curiosity, and joy. There is intrigue, suspicion, anticipation, so many chords and tones of the symphony of human experience. Most importantly, the Epiphany is the story of all humanity realizing God is born among us. Like any other action-rich biblical story, the Epiphany narrative offers us windows and mirrors into ourselves and our faith lives as we peer into the characters and their choices. How could Herod have been so greedy, fearful, and cruel? If we were one of the magi, would we have trusted deeply enough in the signs of stars and dreams to embark upon long and expensive travel? Did any of the scribes and priests want to join the magi team? What did Mary think when the magi presented their gifts to her child? The narrative is a lesson in the reward of leaving one's comfort zone, as we watch the wise ones from the East risk life, reputation, money, and time on hunting for the new divine child. Notice who loses out when they fail to leave their comfort zone: the priests and scribes! They peered in the Scripture, and determined the new ruler of Israel would be born in Bethlehem. What kept those scribes and priests from closing their books and packing up to join the magi? In this light, it is illuminating to consider our other passages for this Epiphany Sunday. In reading **Isaiah 60:1–6** and **Psalms 72:1–7, 10–14**, we remember how often the language of “coming king” occurs in the Hebrew Scriptures, the very scriptures being considered by the scribes. Notice also how interfaith cooperation is critical to the Epiphany. The magi needed to depart from their tradition and seek the wisdom of the Hebrew Scriptures in order to follow their divine goal. But without “outsiders” (Gentiles), the keepers of the Israelite faith were unable to follow the signs and see how God was being birthed among them. Not only might we note the power of interfaith cooperation, but also the foreshadowing of the gospel writers: from the very start, Jesus is rejected by many, but not all, of his own people and received by Gentiles. While the magi seek to worship Jesus, his own king (Herod) tries to kill him. But before we celebrate the seekers of Jesus and criticize those who reject Jesus in the Epiphany narrative, we might consider the most personally revelatory power of the story. Each of us is the rejecter, and each of us a seeker; we all have impulses to fearfully destroy and impulses to lovingly worship. As scholar Douglas Hare writes, “the contrast can serve to symbolize the internal contrast between that part of the inner self which willingly and joyfully accepts the Lordship of Christ our king, and that darker side of the self which firmly and persistently rejects his right to rule. Scoff not at the Herod until you have acknowledged the Herod in yourself!”

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As we ponder what gifts the Epiphany lays at our feet this year, perhaps we consider what sorts of power we seek, and how we might be sure we do not fail to see the signs of God's new life born among us.