

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

Monday 6th. February 1.30 pm. Connect group 'Guided Spiritual Meditation' at St. Matthew's. *please bring cushion or rug, or both. This is an open group, not limited to 3 people. All welcome*

Wednesday 8th. February 10.00 am. Morning Prayer at St. Matthew's

Friday 10th. February 10.30 am. Holy Communion at Colton Close Aged Care Facility

Sunday 12th. February 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'
Sixth Sunday 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's
after Epiphany 4.00 pm. Healing Service at St. Matthew's

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday 21st. February 6.00 pm. Parish Pancake Fellowship Gathering at St. Matthew's

*Help need please, to make pancake mixture and toppings,
and to cook pancakes on the night*

Wednesday 22nd. February 10.00 am. Ash Wednesday Service at St. Matthew's
6.00 pm. Ash Wednesday Service at St. Linus'
7.00 pm. Ash Wednesday Service at St. Matthew's

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

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany 5th. February 2023

WELCOME

The services within our parish 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.

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



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: Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.
Matthew 5. 6

Collect: Faithful God, you have appointed us your witnesses, to be a light that shines in the world; let us not hide the bright hope you have given us, but tell everyone your love, revealed in Jesus Christ the Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Readings

First reading is from the book of Isaiah 58. 1-9a;

Thus says the LORD: Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practised righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God. ‘Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?’ Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sack-cloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear-guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

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

Psalms 112; said by alternate half verses;

1 O praise the Lord! Blessed are they that fear the Lord

and greatly delight in his commandments

2 Their children shall be mighty in the land

an upright race who will be blessed.

3 Riches and plenty shall be in their house

and their righteousness will last for ever

4 Light arises in darkness for the upright

gracious and merciful are the righteous

5 It goes well with those who act generously and lend

who guide their affairs with justice

6 Surely they shall never be moved

the righteous shall be held in everlasting remembrance

7 They will not fear bad tidings

their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord

8 Their hearts are confident and will not fear

they will see the downfall of their enemies.

9 They give freely to the poor;

their righteousness stands for ever, their head is uplifted in glory

10 The wicked will see it and be angry

they shall gnash their teeth and consume away, and the hope of the wicked shall fail

The second reading is from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians 2. 1-13;

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God’s wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, ‘What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him’ – these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God’s except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

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 5. 13-20; Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ
Jesus went up the mountain and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to teach them: ‘You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.’

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

Faith Matters!! Salt and Light.

As we continue the experience of reading through the account of the sermon of the mount, Jesus presents two images of discipleship that flow from the beatitudes: salt and light. Jesus suggests that people who are prepared to live in a way that takes a godly perspective and leads to vulnerability, help lift the burdens of the people around them and bring heaven to the earth.

If we are the “salt of the earth”, we act to preserve things from corruption. As disciples we are called to support and maintain the gospel in the world. Like a portion of salt imparts its taste into everything it is mixed with, we show to the world how, by allowing portions of the gospel to permeate our life, our lives are changed so that in our vulnerability we make the world spiritually safer for all those around us. In speaking about us being the salt of the earth, Jesus also warns us that if we mix elements into the gospel message that dilute it or make it impure, then like impure and tasteless salt, the holiness and righteousness that Jesus is leading us towards is lost.

Jesus also speaks to the disciples as being “the light of the world”. On my trip to Israel, we spoke about where this could have been drawn on during Jesus’ time. Jerusalem was the city that was built on a hill and when there were huge religious festivals, the temple would have been illuminated to draw all who were around to the place of worship. Even from Bethlehem you could see some of the tops of the buildings from Jerusalem. In fulfilling the Torah, Jesus notes that we are the temple of the Spirit and so the light that comes from our holy and righteous thoughts, words and deeds is the spark that guides people to God and cheers them on to greater faith.

Being the salt and the light makes Christians distinct and peculiar in their character. “Salt” and “light” imply both the heart and life of faith and practice that draws an outsider to the knowledge and praise of the God who has called them to be “salt” and “light” of the world. As we renew, refresh and respond to God let our faith and practice be about giving people every possible chance to engage with Jesus and be convicted by the Holy Spirit.