

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 8th. April
Georgina Molloy, pioneer church leader and botanist from WA (d.1843)

Tuesday 9th. April
William Law, priest and teacher (d.1761)
Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian (d.1945)

Wednesday 10th. April 10.00 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's
1.00 pm. Lenten Study at St. Linus' Church

Thursday 11th. April 10.00 am. Playgroup at St. Linus'
11.15 am. Reserved Sacrament at Plumpton Villa
George Augustus Selwyn Aged Care Facility
first missionary bishop of New Zealand (d.1878)

Friday 12th. April 11.00 am. Lenten Study at St. Matthew'

PALM CROSS FOLDING, Friday and / or Saturday at St. Matthew's

Saturday 13th. April 9.00 am. WORKING BEE at St. Matthew's

Sunday 14th. April 9.00 am. Eucharist at St.Linus'
PALM SUNDAY 10.30 am. Eucharist at St.Matthew's
12.30 pm. Lenten Study at St. Matthew's

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday 14th. April - PALM SUNDAY
Thursday 18th. April - MAUNDY THURSDAY
Friday 19th. April - GOOD FRIDAY
Sunday 21st. April - EASTER DAY

Thursday 25th. April - ANZAC DAY

Saturday 4th. May - Secondhand Books & New Craft items for sale

The Anglican Parish of Glenroy / Hadfield / Merlynston



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

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



PARISH PRIEST: The Reverend Jo-Anne Wells

Phone: 9306 9528
Mobile: 0414 822 095
Email; priest@matthewlinus.org.au

HONORARY ASSOCIATE PRIEST: The Venerable Philip Newman OAM
Mobile: 0419 390 650 Email: pjnewman2@bigpond.com

PARISH WEBSITE - www.matthewlinus.com

Honorary Lay Minister
Glenda Owen 0448 821 218

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



**Fifth Sunday
in
Lent**

7th. April

PLEASE **TURN OFF** YOUR MOBILE PHONE BEFORE
THE SERVICE COMMENCES. Thank You

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.

**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

GLUTEN FREE COMMUNION WAFERS ARE AVAILABLE

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

Sentence: Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves. Psalms 126. 6;

Collect: O God, the Redeemer of all who trust in you: heed the cry of your people, and deliver us from the bondage of sin, that we may serve you in perfect freedom, and rejoice in your unfailing love; through Jesus Christ our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Readings

Isaiah 43. 16–21;

Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

Psalms 126;

- 1 When the Lord turned again the fortunes of Zion;
then were we like those restored to life.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter;
and our tongue with singing.
- 3 Then said they among the heathen;
‘The Lord has done great things for them.’
- 4 Truly the Lord has done great things for us;
and therefore we rejoiced.
- 5 Turn again our fortunes, O Lord;
as the streams return to the dry south.
- 6 Those who sow in tears;
shall reap with songs of joy.
- 7 They that go out weeping, bearing the seed;
Shall come again in gladness, bringing their sheaves with them.

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HOLY WEEK and EASTER SERVICES in the PARISH

Palm Sunday	14th. April 9.00 am. Procession of Palms and Eucharist at St. Linus’ 10.30 am. Procession of Palms and Eucharist at St. Matthew’s
Monday in Holy Week	15th. April 7.00 pm. Tenebrae at St. Linus’
Tuesday in Holy Week	16th. April 7.00 pm. at St. Matthew’s
Wednesday in Holy week	17th. April 10.00 am. Stations of the Cross at St. Matthew’s
Maundy Thursday	18th. April 10.45 am. Holy Communion at Colton Close 7.30 pm. Foot Washing, Eucharist with Bishop Kate at St. Matthew’s
Good Friday	19th. April 10.00 am. Veneration of the cross at St. Linus’
Easter Day	21st. April 6.00 am. Lighting of the new fire, vigil and Renewal of Baptismal vows at St. Matthew’s 9.00 am. Lighting of New Fire and renewal of Baptismal vows at St. Linus’ 10.30 am. Eucharist with Renewal of Baptismal vows at St. Matthew’s



ABM's 2019 Lent Appeal

Envelopes are available in the Narthex of St. Matthew’s and St. Linus’

This year’s appeal focuses on ABM’s projects in Australia and Zambia where there is a real need to boost support for the work of our Partners. We hope that the envelopes have been well received and are enjoyed throughout your community.

HELP NEEDED PLEASE at ST. MATTHEW'S

There is a small settee in the front foyer of Wiseman House which needs to go out on the nature strip in Melbourne Ave, for the Council Hard Rubbish collection. And anything else that needs to go out to the hard rubbish collection.

Also, the 2 pews need to be moved from the foyer into the Hall.

In anticipation, Thank You Gentlemen, for your assistance.

CAR PARKING at ST. MATTHEW'S

On Sundays PLEASE DO NOT park in front of Wiseman House, Church or Memorial Garden. The Disability Taxi needs access to pick-up Jim, also Rev'd Jo-Anne needs access to park her car near the Study entry, when rushing back to St. Matthew's after the 9.00 am. service at St. Linus'

And at all other times,
PLEASE DO NOT park in front of Memorial Garden

The April issue of *The Melbourne Anglican (TMA)* is now available in the foyer/narthex.

ANGLICAN OVERSEAS AID An Armchair Pilgrimage - A Lenten Reflection

Bread for the Journey

A Christian pilgrimage is both a physical expression of a desire to follow Jesus, and an inward spiritual journey. This requires not just an abundant supply of high-energy snacks, but more lasting spiritual food. During the season of Lent we are reminded that Jesus describes himself as the Living Bread. The deepest and most enduring sustenance in your life will come from Him.

For many, a pilgrimage may resemble an extended conversation with God over a period of days or weeks. It is an intentional journey that will often involve meditation, reading and listening, and worship in its various forms. Pilgrimage may also involve reflection on the life of those who have gone before. The sheer beauty of the landscape may also speak eloquently to our inner self.

Thinking of your own experiences, what are the ways in which you have been able to draw strength from the Living Bread? Which spiritual activities have been most helpful and life-giving for you? Similarly to a real pilgrimage, in what areas have you wrestled with God about particular themes or topics over an extended period? Or is there something that is troubling you that requires dedicated conversation with God?

Pew Leaflet Notices:

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

Philippians 3. 4b-14;

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL John 12. 1-8;

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me



TODAY - SUNDAY 7th. April at 5.00 pm. to 6.00 pm.



Informal service at St Linus'
corner Delta Ave & Glyndon Ave, Merlynston
No church experience necessary!
Includes a light meal in our community hall.
and 1st. Sunday of each month

5th. SUNDAY IN LENT

7th. April 2019

GRACIOUS MINISTRIES

The author of John's gospel is a weaver. Layers of details and themes move back and forth through the stories told, blending traditions from Israel and the other gospels. Here, the one who comes to minister becomes the one ministered to in surprising ways and by surprising ones. The grace revealed suggests Isaiah's "new thing," the psalmist's hope of restoration, and Paul's pressing goal.

Focus scripture

John 12:1-8 All four gospels tell a story of a woman anointing Jesus; only John names this woman. Along with Mark and Matthew, John sets the scene in Bethany (although these other gospels indicate the home is that of a Pharisee named Simon). Along with Luke, John associates the woman's action with an extravagant act of hospitality.

Care needs to be taken in assessing the roles played by Mary and Martha here. In Luke 10:38-42, Jesus contrasts Mary's doing of the "needful thing" with Martha's distraction over her tasks. John 12:1-8 might be taken as yet another instance of that distinction. Mary anointed Jesus while Martha "served." Yet there is more: the Greek verb translated as "served" is diakoneo. In most New Testament occurrences (especially those involving men!), this verb is translated as "minister." In John's narrative, then, Jesus is graciously ministered to by the actions of both women.

Controversy arises in interpreting the closing verse's assertion that the poor will always be present, while Jesus will not. The first half of that verse paraphrases Deuteronomy 15:11a. That verse commands care for the poor. Justice is a critical tradition Jesus inherits from his Jewish moorings. Does John 12:8 reject that tradition? Consider this. A central theme in John's gospel is what "time" it is. Numerous references have already been made to an approaching "hour." John 12:8 contains Jesus' assertion of the timeliness of Mary's action, since his time draws short ("day of my burial" in verse 7). John makes clear the market value of the nard: 300 denarii is roughly equivalent to the yearly wage for a day labourer. But there are other values than the market. The opportunity moment to minister to Jesus leads Mary to move outside of still-valued traditions of justice and risk censure to engage in this highly relational act. Ironically, what Mary does in ministering to Jesus above and beyond all else serves as a path to the most gracious acts of justice for and with those in our midst in whom Jesus still stands (Matthew 25:40).

In Isaiah 43:16-21, the prophet beckons Israel with the gracious promise of deliverance. The catch is, the way forward summons letting go of the past and opening to the "new things" God is about to do. The original audience was the exiled people of Judah in Babylon. Many had been born in exile, never having seen the land related to in these promises. Some scholars argue that many of the exiles had grown secure and even prosperous over the years. Letting go of the familiar and moving outward toward promise would have required a remarkable act of trust in God's power, when all they had known was Babylon's power.

Psalms 126 gives voice to a song of thanksgiving for that very return from exile, as promised in Isaiah. God's ministering to the people has resulted in a celebrated restoration that is still ongoing ("restore our fortunes, O God"). The journey and its transformation is not a singular moment, but a continuing willingness to travel and minister with God's grace as companion and hope.

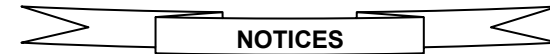
In Philippians 3:4b-14, the "letting go" of Isaiah's passage takes autobiographical shape. What had formerly been Paul's sources of pride gives way to Paul's source of hope. Everything now hinges on an ever-deepening relationship with the risen Christ. That is the goal that moves him to press forward in ministry empowered by grace.

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In what ways do we find ourselves recipients, and providers, of gracious ministries? Isaiah invites us to consider the possibilities of God's new and gracious actions in our midst. The psalmist sounds our continuing hopes and prayers for God's restorative grace. Paul personalizes the priority given to relationship with Christ that empowers ministry. And at the feet of Jesus, and at the table where he eats, Mary and Mary both minister to Jesus.

REFLECTION

**God of surprising grace,
embolden us in ministries that convey care and connection,
whether such ministry engages us in actions of long-standing tradition
or risk taking newness, for in gracious ministry to and with those around us –
like Mary, like Martha – we minister to you. Amen**



GAVIN'S FAREWELL GIFT

Sunday 24th March we said farewell to Gavin Hanford. He commenced Sunday 31st March in his student placement.

On behalf of the parish the vicar presented Gavin with the gift of a book voucher. Theological books are very expensive and a struggle for most students to access if not purchasing.

If you would like to contribute to the gift there will be a retiring collection over a couple of Sundays. Excess funds received will be given to him in the form of additional book vouchers.

WORKING BEE AT ST. MATTHEW'S

9.00 am. Saturday 13th. April

Please come and help with shrub trimming, weeding,
cleaning windows and more, much more,
or whatever you see that needs attention

Morning Tea provided



CARD MAKING WORKSHOP

Saturday 18th. May - 10.00 am. to Noon

In front room of Wiseman House at St. Matthew's Anglican Church

Concertina / Multi-fold card will be demonstrated

Kit to make your own will be available for \$5.



If interest is sufficient, future workshops will feature Crochet, Knitting, Smocking