

*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

- Tuesday 21st. May 2.00 pm. Ecumenical Service of Prayer & Praise  
at Federation Residential Village
- Wednesday 22nd. May 10.00 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's
- Thursday 23rd. May 10.00 am. Playgroup at St. Linus'
- Friday 24th. May 11.00 am. Gospel Reflection group at St. Matthew's  
*John (d.1791) and Charles (d.1788) Wesley, evangelists*
- Saturday 25th. May 10.00 am. Parish Council at St. Matthew's  
*Bede of Jarrow, priest and teacher (d.735)*
- Sunday 26th. May 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'  
10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's,  
2.30 pm. TRIVIA AFTERNOON in Wiseman House

### LOOKING AHEAD

- Saturday 25th. May - Parish Council at St. Matthew's
- Saturday 1st. June - GARAGE SALE, New Craft / Bric-a-Brac and Second-hand Books at St. Matthew's**
- Sunday 9th. June - PENTECOST
- Wednesday 12th. June - Eucharist at St. Matthew's and Mothers' Union Deanery gathering - M U Executive speakers - MULOA  
11am.-12.30pm. & 1 pm.-2.30pm. Listening, Observing, Acting  
All Welcome - BYO Lunch - Tea & Coffee supplied
- Saturday 15th. June - Working Bee at St. Matthew's  
- Card Making Workshop at St. Matthew's

## The Anglican Parish of Glenroy / Hadfield / Merlynston



St. Matthew's  
cnr. Widford St. &  
Melbourne Ave.  
Glenroy

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



PARISH PRIEST: The Reverend Jo-Anne Wells

Phone: 9306 9528

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Email; priest@matthewlinus.org.au

HONORARY ASSOCIATE PRIEST: The Venerable Philip Newman OAM

Mobile: 0419 390 650

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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



**Fifth Sunday  
of  
Easter**

**19th. May  
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.

**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:** God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. 1 John 4. 16b;

**Collect:** We behold your glory, O God, in the love shown by your Son, lifted up on the cross and exalted on high; be glorified anew in the love we have for one another, as disciples of the Risen Jesus, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Readings**

**Acts 11. 1–18;**

The apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?' When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'

**GARAGE  
SALE**

**RUMMAGE  
SALE**

**SATURDAY 1st. June**

**9.00 am. to Noon**

**in Wiseman House & Church Grounds  
cnr. Widford St. & Melbourne Ave.  
Glenroy**

**COME BROWSE**

**COME BUY**

**Secondhand Books**  
**New Craft  
& Bric-a-Brac**

**PLEASE  
COME AND  
HELP TO SET-UP  
AND SERVE**

**MISSING FROM ST. MATTHEW'S**

**1 Round Tablecloth**  
**2 White Towels which are used for Maundy Thursday Foot Washing**  
**6 Tea Towels**

**FREE FORUM**

to explore implications of  
**LEGALISED ASSISTED DYING ACT**

**St. Thomas' Anglican Church 44 Station St. Burwood**

**7.30 pm. Wednesday 19th. June 2019**

For more information please speak to Marie Brennan

A young friend of Marie Brennan is collecting empty Aluminium drink cans.  
The money raised from selling the cans he gives to a charity.

**PLEASE SAVE EMPTY ALUMINIUM CANS**  
**DO NOT CRUSH THE CANS**

There will be a collection bag or box in Narthex at St. Matthew's



Please join us for a  
**TRIVIA AFTERNOON**

to support

**GLENROY COLLEGE CHAPLAINCY**

**On SUNDAY May 26th.**

**@ 2.30 pm.**

St. Matthew's Anglican Church  
Cnr. Widford St. & Melbourne Ave.

Glenroy

BYO Nibbles ( and friends )

Tea / Coffee supplied



**ADMISSION \$10. DOOR PRIZE TRADING TABLE**

**Psalm 148**

- 1 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord from heaven;  
**O praise him in the heights.**
- 2 Praise him, all his angels;  
**O praise him, all his host.**
- 3 Praise him, sun and moon;  
**praise him, all you stars of light.**
- 4 Praise him, you highest heaven;  
**and you waters that are above the heavens.**
- 5 Let them praise the name of the Lord;  
**for he commanded and they were made.**
- 6 He established them for ever and ever;  
**he made an ordinance which shall not pass away.**
- 7 O praise the Lord from the earth,  
**praise him, you sea-monsters and all deeps;**
- 8 Fire and hail, mist and snow;  
**and storm-wind fulfilling his command.**
- 9 Mountains and all hills;  
**fruit trees and all cedars;**
- 10 Beasts of the wild, and all cattle;  
**creeping things and winged birds.**
- 11 Kings of the earth, and all peoples;  
**princes, and all rulers of the world;**
- 12 Young men and maidens;  
**old folk and children together.**
- 13 Let them praise the name of the Lord;  
**for his name only is exalted,**
- 14 His glory is above earth and heaven.  
**and he has lifted high the horn of his people.**
- 15 Therefore he is the praise of all his servants;  
**of the children of Israel, a people that is near him. Praise the Lord.**

**Revelation 21. 1-6;**

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.' And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.'

**GOSPEL John 13. 31-35;**

During the supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'



## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

19th. May 2019

### BEYOND BOUNDARIES

The Spirit breaks open the community of Christ to move in new ways. How and where we set boundaries in Christian community is always subject to the gracious nature of God's love. The texts this week witness to a new vision for God's people and of all creation. Where the Spirit leads, the church is called to follow in love.

#### Focus scripture

**Acts 11:1–18** . Peter has surprised, perhaps even shocked himself into eating with Gentiles and seeing the Spirit of God given to those who once excluded. God sent a vision of unclean food made clean and Peter experienced a people once excluded and rejected now brought home and welcomed in. Acts 11:1–18 is the second telling of the story of Peter and Cornelius, but this is the more personal tale as seen through the eyes of Peter. We have read in the previous chapter the narrative of the events but now that the heady experience is past, now that the visions and strange events are behind him, Peter is back in Jerusalem in the company of the circumcised and now is to answer for his breach of the sacred rules by which he has so far lived. The major points of contention are around circumcision and table fellowship. That Peter ate with the uncircumcised is never spelled out but must be assumed from the fact that he spent days in their company. He tells the story from his perspective, beginning with his own vision. Told by Peter it is a vivid tale of a sheet brought close to him with the most unclean of creatures, even beasts of prey upon it. He defends himself as one appalled by the notion that he would suddenly eat that which is unclean. Peter's defence includes the fact that he was not alone in the home of the Gentile but was one of seven brothers. He has been invited there because Cornelius had a vision that, through Peter, he and his household might be saved; and just as the Jerusalem Jews had received the Holy Spirit so Peter saw the very same gifts being bestowed upon this household. Peter could see so clearly the hand of God at work and to resist the notion of including the Gentiles would be to resist the work and desires of God and how could he and how could they? Such a good defence; such a well set out and detailed analysis of the events left the circumcised convinced. Not that there wouldn't be further arguments to follow and it would take time for Jew and Gentile converts to live in harmony but a start had been made. God included the Gentiles in the gift of repentance and new life and this process would not be stopped. The poet of **Psalms 148** sings a song of inclusive praise. The whole world should praise God whether in the heavenly or earthly sphere, whether in the deeps or the land or the air. Whatever the creature, whatever station a human found in life, it mattered nothing for all creation should offer praise. Age, gender, power are pushed aside when we stand before God and acknowledge God's goodness. If all are to

praise then we might conclude that the praise of all is acceptable to God and something God desires.

**Revelation 21:1–6** reveals the new heaven and the new earth and the possibility that things as we know them may change, fade, and pass away. This is the God who does new things, who transforms the world and is able to create life where once there was death and mourning. In leaving his earthly life, Jesus in **John 13:31–35**, calls on his followers to love one another. It is a universal message, one that is inclusive and life changing. Love one another without restriction and without condition for this is the way in which people will know the disciples of Jesus.


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The texts for this week point to a message of inclusion, of a God who goes beyond human set boundaries and practice. This new thing is still to be grasped and grappled with by many in the Christian community. How might we open ourselves to welcome the still emerging and unfolding story of God's gracious actions in our time? In what new ways might Jesus' command to love take shape for you and your faith community?

#### REFLECTION


**God who fails to see the distinctions of colour, race, gender, ability; God who loves creation in all its rainbow or tartan diversity, speak to us who narrow, define, pigeonhole and exclude those who are not like us. Give us a vision of the world and its people as you see it in all its strange beauty and wonderful diversity. Amen.**

### NOTICES



**Thank You to all who attended the  
WORKING BEE AT ST. MATTHEW'S**

**on Saturday 18th. May 2019**



**HYMN SING-A-LONG**

TODAY - Sunday 19th. May 2019 at 2.00 pm.  
Pascoe Vale South Uniting Church  
10 Cumberland Rd. Pascoe Vale South Vic. 3044

Comper: Rev. Ian Collings      Organist: Geoffrey Anderson  
*Please come along, and bring your friends*

Afternoon Tea to follow

**Pew Leaflet Notices:**  
Please give to, or phone **Glenda Owen**,  
or e-mail: - [gonana7@bigpond.com](mailto:gonana7@bigpond.com) - **by 8 pm. Tuesday**