

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

**TODAY 29th. April PLEASE NOTE - The Concert to have been held at St. Matthew's this afternoon has been CANCELLED.**

**5.00 pm. New Comers service at St. Linus'**

Tuesday 1st. May  
PHILIP and JAMES, APOSTLES and MARTYRS

Wednesday 2nd. May 10.00 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's, including Athanasius, bishop Mothers' Union prayers & fellowship of Alexandria, teacher (d.373)

Thursday 3rd. May 10.00 am. Playgroup at St. Linus'  
10.45 am. Holy Communion at Colton Close  
Aged Care Facility

**Saturday 5th. May 9.00 am. Produce & Plant Market at St. Matthew's**

Sunday 6th. May 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'  
Easter 6 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's  
12.30 pm. Confirmation preparation at Vicarage

### LOOKING AHEAD

**BISHOP'S VISIT** 24th June 2018

This will be Bishop Philip's last visit to the parish prior to his retirement later in the year. Please mark this date in your diary.

### 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



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

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

Honorary Lay Pastoral Minister  
Glenda Owen 0448 821 218

Honorary Lay Parish Readers  
Bev. Lacock 9309 2775  
Lois Erickson 0421 327 159

**PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR MOBILE PHONE BEFORE  
THE START OF THE SERVICE.**

**Thank You**

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**Fifth Sunday  
of  
Easter**

**29th. April  
2018**

### 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:** In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us.  
Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.  
1 John 4. 10-11;

**Collect:** O god, form the minds of your faithful people, that we may love  
what you command, and desire what you promise, so that, amid the many  
changes of this world, our hearts may there be fixed where true joys are to  
be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Readings**

**Acts 8. 26–40:**

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they

**PLEASE NOTE - SONGFEST to have been held today  
at St. Matthew's  
to support the Glenroy Chaplaincy Fund**

**has been CANCELLED, due to some of the IMMANUEL SINGERS  
being unwell.**

**NEW COMERS SERVICE**

**Today 5.00 pm. at St. Linus'  
and the last Sunday of each month**



**ACT FOR PEACE**

Mother's Day is just around the corner.  
This year, why not give a gift that makes a lasting difference

The gift of a SAFE BABY DELIVERY KIT for mums in rural Pakistan \$32.  
Your Mother's Day gift will provide new mums with all they need  
for a safe delivery.  
Each Gift for Peace you order comes with a beautiful card and magnet  
that the recipient can keep as a lasting keepsake.  
There are lots of other great gift ideas too.

Check out the full range of gifts at - [www.actforpeace.org.au](http://www.actforpeace.org.au)

**WHAT'S NEWS AT ABM**

- >> RIP Bishop James Ayong
- >> Holy Land: Update from our partner in Gaza
- >> New bishop consecrated for Queensland southern region
- >> PNG Church supports joint earthquake response
- >> Register for Abundant Justice & Prophetic Imagination conference
- >> Prayer for the Day

, please visit ABM's website [www.abmission.org](http://www.abmission.org) and Facebook page

REFLECTION

God, as the branches are connected to the vine in every way that is possible, so are we connected to you. As the vine is connected to the earth from which it receives life, so we, through you, are connected to all that you have created. May we always know this truth. Amen.

NOTICES

Have you excess vegies or fruit in your garden ? OR do you know someone who does ? Please tell people about the following -

Produce and Plant Market

Saturday 5th. May 2018

9.00 am. to 12 noon

In the front grounds , along the driveway of Wiseman House at St. Matthew's Anglican Church Cnr. Widford St. & Melbourne Ave. Glenroy

Call Colleen on 0438 673 779

Book a site - \$20.

Hire a table extra \$10.

also, BOOK and CRAFT rooms open for sales in Wiseman House, for the usual 1st. Saturday of each month

HELPERS NEEDED PLEASE

Not only this day but each month please , when the Book & Craft rooms are open

were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Psalm 22. 26-32:

- 26 From you springs my praise in the great congregation; I will pay my vows in the sight of all that fear you.
27 The meek shall eat of the sacrifice and be satisfied; and those who seek the Lord shall praise him— may their hearts rejoice for ever. !
28 Let all the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and let all the families of the nations worship before him.
29 For kingdom is the Lord's; and he shall be ruler over the nations.
30 How can those who sleep in the earth do him homage; or those that descend to the dust bow down before him.
31 But he has saved my life for himself; and my posterity shall serve him.
32 This shall be told of my Lord to a future generation; and his righteousness declared to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.

1 John 4. 7-21;

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God,' and hate their brothers or

Sisters are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

**GOSPEL John 15. 1–8;**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'



**6th. SUNDAY of EASTER  
29th. April 2018**

**REACH OUT**

There is an old hymn that begins, "In Christ there is no east or west, in Christ no south or north; but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth." That is the great story being told in our readings for this week. This is the world that we hope for, that we seek to live in this week as we explore God's great universal and unconditional love.

**Focus scripture**

**Acts 8:26–40** begins the fulfillment of the quest Jesus gave his disciples in Acts 1:8. The court official in the chariot comes from Ethiopia, a country that, during the time of the Roman Empire, really was at the very edge of the known world. Many scholars believe that the Philip in this story was Philip the Evangelist from Acts 6:4, rather than Philip the Apostle. If this is so, then we are already seeing the work of mission going beyond the first apostles.

But he does not ask the Ethiopian if he needs healing or if he had heard of the Holy Spirit or what he knows of the story of Jesus. Philip might also have brought with him a kind of cultural, religious, and racial prejudice that Peter struggles with in Acts 10. In this story, though, Philip sees a particular person in a particular situation and he engages with him as he finds him. Seeing – or more likely hearing, as reading aloud was the common practice – that the man was engaged with the prophet Isaiah and drawing from his own experience (as a good Jewish man, Philip would have been familiar with the text) of that work's complexity, Philip asks an open, reasonable, straightforward question. It is the answer to that question that provides Philip with the invitation that he needs to tell the new story that is at the same time the old story continued.

The story in Acts 8:26–40 is the story being told in **Psalm 22:25–31**. God's interest and concern is universal; God is sovereign of the living and the dead, the past, the present and the future, a God who holds out the great promise of unity and equality for all people. The poor receive what is normally reserved for the rich. They eat, not only until they have had just enough to keep going, as is the usual lot of the poor, but until they are satisfied. God is the one who has done this, who is doing this, and who will do this. God is love; love is God.

This is the equation of **1 John 4:7–21**. Everything that God does is an act of love; every act of love is an act of God. To know God is to live and act in love; to live and act in love is to know God. It's that simple and that all-encompassing. Beyond that, this text reminds us that love is always a gift. It cannot be earned, nor can it be parceled out. You cannot be loved a bit or for a limited period. Love is, as Psalm 22 says, universal. And we know this to be true because this is the love we experience from Christ. Total acceptance that drives out fear is the experience of those who know God's love.

In **John 15:1–8** Jesus offers his followers a radical proposition; together with him they are a new entity. Vine and branches are of the same substance – they are all vine. Jesus tells us that we are all part of him, organically and intimately connected with his purpose and life force in God. In this gospel, where Jesus is so strongly identified as being the same as God and as coming from God, both the contrast and the connection of the vine and the branches take on new importance. Jesus claims that he has a direct and intimate and unmediated communication with God (John 5:36, 8:16, 10:30). This same intimacy Jesus now offers to his followers. Because of their intimate connection with Jesus, they are connected with God and God will hear and act when they call.

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If we are ever tempted to think of God's love being available to only certain people in certain situations who have certain practices, this week's readings help us see God's love is for all of us, in any time and place. What faith practices do you have that most remind you of God's universal love?