

*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 1st. January 2019 *New Years Day holiday*  
*The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus*

Wednesday 2nd. January **NO** service at St. Matthew's  
*Basil of Ceasarea (d.379) and Gregory of Nazianzus (d.389) bishops and teachers.*  
*Eliza Hassal, pioneer of CMS (Australia) & missionary training (d.1917)*

Sunday 6th. January 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'  
**THE EPIPHANY** 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's  
**OF OUR LORD**

### LOOKING AHEAD to 2019

Sunday 13th. January - 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'  
*Baptism of Jesus* 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's

**Saturday 19th. January - Working Bee at St. Matthew's**

Sunday 20th. January - 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'  
*Epiphany 2* 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's

Saturday 26th. January - Australia Day

Sunday 27th. January - 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'  
*Epiphany 3* 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's

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

Sunday 3rd. February - 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'  
*Epiphany 4* 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's

### 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

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



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)

Archdeacon Emeritus Philip Newman 0419 390 650

Honorary Lay Pastoral Minister  
Glenda Owen 0448 821 218

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

## HAPPY NEW YEAR



**First Sunday  
after  
Christmas**

**30th. December  
2018**

**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:** Clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and be thankful.

Colossians 3.14-15

**Collect:** God of community, whose call is more insistent than ties of family or blood; may we so respect and love those whose lives are linked with ours, that we fail not in loyalty to you, but make choices according to your will; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**Readings**

**1 Samuel 2. 18-20, 26;**

Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD'; and then they would return to their home. Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the LORD and with the people.

**Psalms 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;**



**PLEASE CHECK THE DRAFT OF THE 2019 PARISH DIRECTORY,  
which is in the Narthex at each Church  
AND NOTE AMENDMENTS REQUIRED,  
IN PREPARATION FOR 2019 DIRECTORY.**

**IF YOUR DETAILS ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THIS DIRECTORY,  
PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM and give to Glenda Owen.**

**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***

**Surname** .....

**Christian name** .....

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

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

**Address** .....

..... **Post Code** .....

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

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

**Email:** .....

## NOTICES

### THANK YOU

to all who helped with preparations for the 3 Christmas services in the Parish  
In particular to Archdeacon Emeritus Philip Newman for 'stepping in' to be  
Preacher and Celebrant in the unexpected absence of Rev'd Jo-Anne.  
Thank you to those parishioners who attended  
at least one of the 3 services this year.

Also, thank you to the 'little elves' who cut St. Matthew's grass in time for Christmas

## MISSION NEWS

### ANGLICAN OVERSEAS AID

From all of us at AOA, we wish you and your loved ones a meaningful,  
joy-filled and peaceful Christmas.  
It has once again been an eventful year for us, difficult as we work with those  
in need, and also wonderful, as we, with your help, reach out with love  
and support.  
You have once again been enormously generous, and we are so grateful.  
Thank you and we pray that you might find these holidays a happy  
and holy time.

*Sincerely, Rev'd Bob Mitchell*

## YOUNG JESUS

Help Mary and Joseph search for young Jesus



- 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 alone 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 for all his servants,  
**of the children of Israel, a people that is near him.**  
**Praise the Lord.**

### Colossians 3. 12-17;

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### GOSPEL Luke 2. 41-52;

Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' Jesus said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.





**CHRISTMAS 1**  
**30th. December 2018**

**Luke 2. 41-52;** Finally arriving in the temple, Mary and Joseph are astonished to discover amazed teachers and their precocious twelve-year-old son.

If I had been looking for my daughter for three days, I'd have exploded. But Mary and Joseph ask, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." I wonder how Mary *really* said it. More important, I wonder why Mary and Joseph looked for Jesus in all the wrong places. Why did it take them three days to figure out that Jesus must be in his Father's house and about his Father's business?

Had things been so blessedly ordinary for so long -- no more angels, adoring shepherds, and OT prophecies -- that the mystery surrounding their son's birth had begun to fade like a dream? Or maybe Mary and Joseph were aware of what their son would do and become, but figured that was years away. Perhaps Jesus hadn't shown any signs of theological curiosity and so his parents couldn't imagine him hanging out in the temple. Maybe Mary and Joseph simply failed to see that their baby was growing up.

Like Mary and Joseph, we cannot or do not want to see that our Jesus is growing up even as we grow up. Our Jesus is growing beyond our childhood, beyond our children's childhood. Our Jesus is growing beyond our expectations. Arriving in the temple, Mary saw only her boy. She couldn't or wouldn't see that Jesus had grown.

Eager to be a good mother, always pondering the events that led up to and followed Jesus' birth, Mary wasn't ready to "lend" her Jesus to God. Perhaps she just wanted to keep her firstborn close to her. Maybe she simply wanted to delay the symbolic sword that Simeon announced would pierce her own heart as it took the life of her son.

Looking upon Jesus and seeing her baby, Mary asks, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." And Jesus answers, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be about my Father's business?" These same questions face us this week after Christmas, as peace and goodwill fade and Christmas leaves so many of us wanting.

With Mary, we ask, "Why have you treated us like this?" We ask ourselves; we ask our families. We ask the church and we ask God, when our expectations are shattered. And Jesus answers, "Why were you searching for me?" We know where Jesus has gone. He's about his Father's business. But we aren't ready to let go of our

expectations and give our Jesus to God. We are not ready to accept that Jesus did not come to fulfill our expectations. He is not to be found in sentiment for the way things used to be or the way we wish things could be. Jesus is about the future. Jesus was born and lived and died and rose to be about God's business of putting an end to our searching by making plain the way to God, even if that means shattering our expectations.

In the Temple, Mary expects Jesus to behave a certain way and Jesus expects his mother to know why he isn't. The problem is that Jesus and his parents have two different understandings of who Jesus' Father is. Mary tells Jesus that she and his father have been searching anxiously. The message is plain to any child who stays out all night and upon returning home is greeted with a parent's frantic, "Do you know how worried I was?" But Jesus responds that he's been in his Father's house, about his Father's business. Again, I wonder just how Jesus said it. Was he surprised or scolding?

Regardless of Jesus' tone, the tension between Jesus, son of Mary and Joseph, and Jesus, Son of God, is heightened. Sure, Jesus returns to Nazareth and is obedient to his parents. But it is clear that his priorities have changed. Jesus' primary concern is not the will of his parents but the will of God and the mission that God's will entails.

The good news for us in this week after Christmas is that, like Mary and Joseph, *our search has ended. Jesus shows us the way to God. The scary part, perhaps, is that our search doesn't end where we expect. Mary and Joseph searched three days for Jesus, and on the third day found him alive and well. But they didn't find him in the expected places -- the safe confines of his extended family or the familiar company of the pilgrims' caravan. After three days, Mary and Joseph found Jesus alive and well in the Temple at Jerusalem among the teachers of the law, the very company where it all will all end as Jesus is tried, convicted, and handed over to be killed.*

Mary and Joseph find Jesus alive and well after three days in a place they didn't expect. This sounds like Easter. Yes, Luke's hint here is of resurrection. Jesus, dead and buried, is raised on the third day, and there is a new temple, Christ's resurrected body. Our searching will come to an end in new life, meaningful life, the life God intends, but not the life we expect.

But that's Easter. For now Jesus returns to Nazareth. He disappears back into the fabric of his hometown. For perhaps two more decades Jesus is in an out-of-the way place, far removed from the centers of religion and politics, in the company of ordinary people, just like us. Here Jesus continues to grow "in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor." The good news is that this description of Jesus is the description of every child of God, no matter what our age. We all will grow as we respond to God's love. In Christ we can expect nothing else.

*Bp. Craig Satterlee*

**REFLECTION**

**Heavenly Father, as this Christmas season draws on  
and life returns to its familiar pattern of daily routine,  
may we keep the joyful mystery always in our heart s.  
Help us to grow, day by day in obedience and holy wisdom,  
and walk in the way of the Lord Jesus who walked this earth as child and man,  
before us. Amen,**