

*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 3rd. December  
*Francis Xavier,  
Priest and missionary*

Tuesday 4th. December  
*Nicholas Ferrar, deacon, man of prayer (d.637)*

Wednesday 5th. December 10.00 am. Eucharist at St.Matthew's, including  
M U prayers & fellowship

Thursday 6th. December 10.00 am. Playgroup at St.Linus'  
*Nicholas of Myra, 10.45 am. Holy Communion at Colton Close  
bishop and Philanthropist (d.c.342) Aged Care Facility*

Friday 7th. December  
*Ambrose of Milan,  
Bishop and teacher (d.397)*

**Saturday 8th. December Community Christmas Fair at St. Linus'**  
*The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Richard Baxter, pastor and spiritual writer (d.1691)*

Sunday 9th. December 9.00 am. Eucharist at St.Linus'  
**ADVENT 2** 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 3046

with

St.Linus'  
cnr. Glyndon Ave. &  
Delta Ave.  
Merlynston 3058



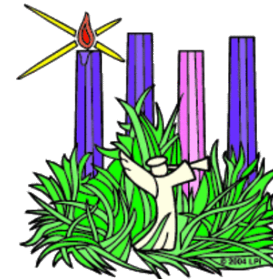
PARISH PRIEST: The Reverend Jo-Anne Wells  
Phone: 9306 9528  
Mobile: 0414 822 095  
Email: priest@matthewlinus.org.au

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

Honorary Lay Minister  
Glenda Owen 0448 821 218

Honorary Lay Parish Readers  
Bev. Lacock 9309 277  
Lois Erickson 0421 327 159  
Kerryn Pratchett 0409 306 818

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



**FIRST SUNDAY  
of  
ADVENT**

**2nd. December  
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:** Stand up and raise your heads; your redemption is drawing near.  
Luke21. 28;

**Collect:** Eternal God, you have taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand; keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom, and make us strong in faith, so that when Christ comes in glory to judge the earth, we may go out joyfully to greet him; and with all your saints, may worship you for ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**From today the READINGS are from Year C of the 3 year cycle**

**Jeremiah 33. 14–16;**

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

**Psalms 25. 1–10;**

- 1 In you, O Lord my God, have I put my hope;  
**in you have I trusted, let me not be ashamed,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**
- 2 Let none who wait for you be put to shame;  
**but let those that break faith be confounded and gain nothing.**
- 3 Show me your ways, O Lord,  
**and teach me your paths.**
- 4 Lead me in the ways of your truth, and teach me;  
**for you are the God of my salvation;**



**ST. LINUS' ANGLICAN CHURCH**  
**Cnr. Glyndon Ave. & Delta Ave. Merlynston**

**COMMUNITY  
CHRISTMAS  
PARTY**

**Saturday 8th. December**

**10.00 am-2.00 pm**

**Fun for all the Family**

JUMPING CASTLE

SAUSAGE SIZZLE

STALLS

FACE PAINTING

NATIVITY ACTIVITIES

SANTA

and More



**CHRISTMAS BOWL**

*The Christmas Appeal of Act for Peace, the International aid agency  
of the National Council of Churches in Australia.*

**A Hand Up, Not a Hand Out**

Gifts to the Christmas Bowl will support local partners around the world to both meet urgent need and create change that lasts, equipping communities affected by conflict and disaster with the skills they need to solve their own problems and get back on their feet.

**TEAR Australia Useful Gifts Shop**

A display & the catalogue will be available at Morning Tea at **St. Matthew's**

Every item in the Useful Gift catalogue represents a contribution to a long-term poverty-fighting project run by one of TEAR Australia's Christian partners

**NOTICES**

**ANGLICARE VICTORIA  
Toys and Food Christmas Appeal**

Gifts needed for Teenagers - Sporting equipment such as -  
footballs, soccer balls, cricket items.  
Gift Vouchers, Musical Instruments,  
Jewellery, Make-up, Perfume, Aftershave,

Toys for Children -  
Lego, Arts and Crafts, Board Games,  
Bikes, Dolls - BUT NO Teddies please.

For babies - bottles, educational toys, bath toys and walkers.

New items only, thank you, and unwrapped.

Please bring your donations by **Sunday 9th. December**, because Anglicare volunteers will be in the area on **Tuesday 11th. December, to collect from St. Matthew's, the gifts** which you have so generously donated.

*Thank You*

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**ADVENT REFLECTION - from Anglican Overseas Aid**

In the 2016 Census, 30% of Australians claimed 'no Religion';  
in 1966 it was only 0.8%. Increasingly,  
'God bothering' is viewed with strangeness and suspicion.

Despite this, the Christmas story, with its curious mix of the 'everyday' and the Transcendent, still appeals to many Australians. On the one hand there is the donkey, the inn, and the lowly shepherds in the field. On the other hand there are angels, and stars, and startling personal revelations.

It's not a choice between ordinary and otherworldly.

Christmas is about God's extraordinary provision being found in the midst of the ordinary. That's what incarnation is about. At Christmas we celebrate that God has come among us.

**PRAY:**

Ask God to remind us every day about his provision and presence with us.

- 5 In you have I hoped all the day long.  
**because of your goodness, O Lord.**
- 6 Call to mind your compassion and your loving-kindness;  
**for they are from of old.**
- 7 Remember not the sins of my youth nor my transgressions;  
**but according to your mercy think on me.**
- 8 Good and upright is the Lord;  
**therefore will he direct sinners in the way.**
- 9 The meek he will guide in the path of justice;  
**and teach the humble his ways.**
- 10 All the paths of the Lord are faithful and true;  
**for those who keep his covenant and his commandments.**

**1 Thessalonians 3. 9-13;**

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

**GOSPEL Luke 21. 25-36;**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.' Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'



**ADVENT 1**  
**2nd. December 2018**

**SIGN OF THINGS TO COME**

God's steadfast love invites us to enter Advent by trusting and living out the realm Jesus proclaims. Prophets declare earth and heaven are astir with signs of a new day to come. The signs of God's nearness and "here-ness" summon us to balance our longing for God's coming day with faithful action in this day and to trust that God provides the way forward.

**Focus Scripture**

**Luke 21:25–38;** The timing of this passage in Luke is Jesus' final week in Jerusalem. The setting is the temple. For the community to whom Luke wrote, the prediction of the temple's destruction in verse 5 was an accomplished fact – the failed Zealot rebellion led to the destruction of the temple by the Romans in 70 CE.

This passage comes near the end of two chapters where Luke recounts several temple encounters. Chapter 21 includes an extended narrative of Jesus' teaching about signs of things to come, with references from Hebrew prophets that serve to link Jesus' teachings with Jewish hopes for the future. The imagery of verses 25–26 presents a worldview that seems devoid of hope. The signs suggest upheaval across creation. Earth and heaven will show distress. The nations will be confused. "Fear and foreboding" form an understandable response to such crises. But between the lines and through the Hebrew Scripture references, another word is affirmed. The future will bring fulfillment of God's purposes. The parable of the fig tree "and all the trees" provides further assurance that new life approaches. "These things" (v. 31), to which the earlier signs point, reveal the nearness of God's reign.

For Jesus' listeners and Luke's community, that nearness evokes trust in God's promised redemption (liberation from bondage). The context of the Hebrew Scriptures used here helps to explain why Jesus links these otherwise troubling signs to the day when God's promise of redemption will be accomplished finally and fully. Verses 25–26 draw on several prophetic texts. Among them is Joel 2:30, with its "portents in the heavens and on the earth." Jesus' listeners and Luke's community would have been aware of what precedes this passage; Joel 2:28–29 promises the outpouring of God's Spirit "on all flesh." The wider context behind Jesus' reference to the "Son of Man" offers another clue for hope. That title comes from the book of Daniel, where a coming "Son of Man" will bring in the day of God's dominion. The gospel passage closes with a strong ethical appeal to Jesus' followers. "Be on guard" and "be alert" call for an attitude of readiness in the midst of chaotic times. Such vigilance in behaviour grows out of an outlook of hopeful expectation. The call to prayer in verse 36 invites trust of God, in whose hands the future rests secure. Such trust empowers us to risk living the ways of Jesus. God's promises provide the way for us to stand firm and act with hope.

This theme – key in Luke – also is addressed in the additional readings. **Jeremiah 33:14–16** declares the coming of God's new day. Those days will fulfill promises made of a "righteous branch," who will bring justice in the land. Those hopes for justice in a coming day encourage our words and acts of justice today.

**Psalms 25:1–10** speaks of the way God provides for us through acts of mercy and love. God's actions teach and lead us in making those ways our own.

**1 Thessalonians 3:9–13** offers the blessing of God's presence for days yet to come. Its closing benediction joins the love we have received with the strength God provides for our living.

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The power of God breaks open the present to a future gifted with hope. What signs of God's realm do you see here and now? What promises of God's realm seem yet to be fulfilled? What might you and your church do this Advent to be signs of God's presence and promise to others?

**REFLECTION**

**Help us, O God, to discern the signs of our times with trust and hope.  
When everything seems confused,  
may we stand firm in your purpose and mercy.  
When nothing seems to change, may we move freely toward  
the coming of new days and new ways. Amen.**



Today, we welcome,  
through the  
Holy Waters of Baptism

at St Matthew's

HARPER LOUISE FORDE

We give thanks for her parents,  
Jemma and Craig  
and  
Godparents,  
Kaitlin, Amanda and Wayne

**CHRISTMAS in the PARISH**

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>. December - 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>. December - 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's

Monday 24<sup>th</sup>. December - 5.00 pm. All age Christmas Eve service  
with a Eucharist, at St Linus'

Monday 24<sup>th</sup>. December - 11.30 pm. Midnight Mass at St Matthew's

Monday 25<sup>th</sup>. December - 10.00 am Christmas Day Eucharist at  
St Matthew's.