

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 WEEEK

TODAY Day of prayer for refugees (general Synod)

Monday 27th. August
Monica, mother of Augustine (d.387)

Tuesday 28th. August
Augustine of Hippo, bishop and teacher (d.430)

Wednesday 29th. August 10.00 am. Morning Prayer at St Matthew's
Beheading of John the Baptist

Thursday 30th. August 10.00 am. Playgroup at St. Linus'

Friday 31st. August 10.45 am. Reserved Sacrament at Craigcare
John Bunyan , preacher & Aged Care Facility
spiritual writer (d.1688) 11.00 am. Gospel Reflection Group
Aidan of Lindisfarne, bishop
& missionary (d.651)

Saturday 1st. September - Produce & Plant Market, Books & Craft
at St. Matthew's

Sunday 2nd. September 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'
Pentecost 15 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's
and Interment of Ashes of Ron George
in Memorial Garden
5.00 pm. Newcomers service at St. Linus'

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday 23rd. September - Patronal Festivals - St. Linus & St. Matthew
Catered Lunch at St. Linus'

Saturday 6th. October - Book and Craft rooms open at St. Matthew's

Saturday 13th. October - Community Fair at St. Matthew's

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

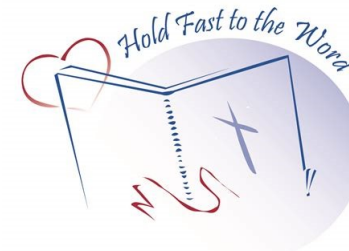
PARISH WEBSITE - www.matthewlinus.com please note the change

Honorary Lay Pastoral Minister
Glenda Owen 0448 821 218

Honorary Lay Parish Readers
Bev. Lacock 9309 2775
Lois Erickson 0421 327 159
Kerryn Pratchett 0409306 818

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

Thank You



**Fourteenth Sunday
after
Pentecost**

**26th. August
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: Jesus said, 'It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.' *John 6. 63;*

Collect: Everliving God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church, is governed and sanctified; hear the prayers we offer for all your faithful people, that in the ministry to which you have called them, each may serve you in holiness and truth; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings

1 Kings 8. 22-30, 41-43;

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. He said, 'O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. Therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, "There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me." Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David. But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! Have regard to your servant's prayer and his plea, O LORD my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; that your eyes may be open night and day towards this house, the place of which you said, "My name shall be there," that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray towards this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling-place; heed and forgive. Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name – for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm – when a



Have you excess vegies or fruit in your garden ?

*Please tell family, friends and neighbours
about this event*



Produce and Plant Market

Saturday 1st. September 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***

NOTICES

Anglican Church
of St Linus' Merlynston



SUNDAY 2nd. September at 5.00 pm.

Informal service at St Linus'
corner Delta Ave & Glyndon Ave, Merlynston
No church experience necessary!
Last Sunday of the month 5-6 pm.

Includes a light meal in our community hall.

For questions or more information, contact

The Rev'd Jo-Anne Wells Mobile: 0414 822095
Email: priest@matthewlinus.org.au

FROM ARCHBISHOP PHILIP FRIER

To mark his retirement and acknowledge the many contributions which Bishop Philip Huggins has made to the Diocese and beyond, a presentation will be made to him at the Synod Eucharist on Wednesday 17th. October.

This acknowledgement will be a monetary gift to the work of The National Council of Churches, (of which Bp. Philip is the President) in the abolition of slavery in all its forms.

Donations are invited from individuals, parishes, schools and agencies, and can be given through an account held at the Anglican Development Fund.

BSB: 703 122

Account no. 05009591

Account Name: MATC - NCCA Anti-slavery fund

THE GIDEONS IN AUSTRALIA

Saturday 6th. October 2018 - 7.00 pm.

at the Celebrity Room, Moonee Valley

Sharing Faith in Australia Tomorrow

Society and Culture are changing, How will we share the gospel ?

Guest Speaker: Karl Faase, CEO of Olive Tree Media

To reserve your FREE ticket contact -
trybooking.com/eventlist/sharingfaithinaustralia

Pew Leaflet Notices:

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

foreigner comes and prays toward this house, then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.'

Psalm 34. 15-22;

- 15 The eyes of God are on the righteous,
and his ears towards their cry.
- 16 The Lord sets his face against wrongdoers.
to root out their memory from the earth.
- 17 The righteous cry, the Lord hears it;
and frees them from all their afflictions.
- 18 The Lord is close to those who are broken-hearted,
and the crushed in spirit he saves.
- 19 The trials of the righteous are many;
but our God delivers us from them all.
- 20 He guards all our bones;
so that not one is broken.
- 21 Evil will slay the wicked,
and those who hate the righteous will be destroyed.
- 22 The Lord ransoms the lives of his servants;
and none who hide in him will be destroyed.

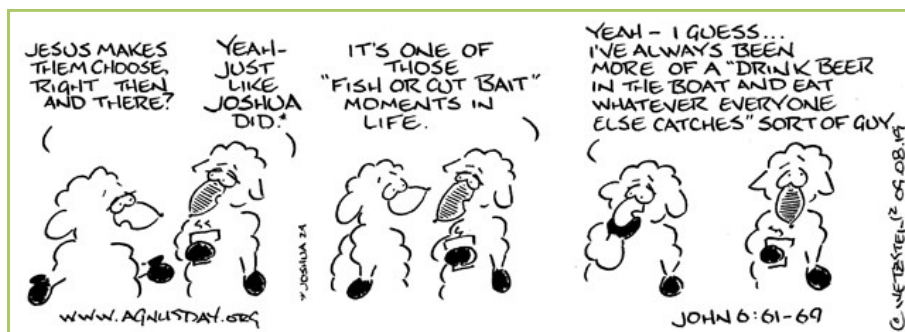
Ephesians 6. 10-20;

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

GOSPEL John 6. 56-69;

Jesus said to the crowd: 'Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I live in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.' He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?' But Jesus, being aware that his

disciples were complaining about it, said to them, 'Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, 'For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.' Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, 'Do you also wish to go away?' Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.'



PENTECOST 14
26th. August 2018

WHAT WE LIVE

Our study of Ephesians concludes with a reflection on the spiritual forces that get in the way of our living as God calls us to live, as well as a description of the ways in which God prepares and protects us for the challenges of the life of faith. This week's focus passage calls believers to prayer and perseverance, even amid trying times.

Focus scripture

Ephesians 6:10-20;

The letter to the Ephesians is filled with moral teaching and challenging requirements for the spiritual life. As we come to the end of the letter, the writer suggests that humans may not necessarily have the capacity to resist temptation on their own because there are greater spiritual forces battling for human hearts and minds. This passage is referred to as the "panoply passage." In ancient Greek, *pan* means "all" and *oplon* means "arms" in terms of armour or more directly, weaponry. Thus, panoply refers to a complete suit of armour. The text uses military imagery to describe how this new Christian community is to prepare for the struggles for justice, wholeness, harmony. The writer encourages the people to derive strength from God's strength. They are not merely in individual struggles with themselves and their own worst desires; rather, they are challenged to be prepared for the external forces that have the power to subject them to its will.

Ancient culture personified this force in a variety of ways: a demonic power called Satan; "fallen" angels who had rebelled against God; powerful astrological bodies; and more. These powers exist not only in the heavens, but also in the world.

What follows is a detailed metaphor for the people to be equipped against such spiritual forces. The writer exhorts them to put on the "whole armour of God." It begins with a belt of truth, circling the wearer as God's truth encircles those who believe. Next is a breastplate of righteousness designed to guard the heart. Ancient soldiers wore sandals that had spikes on the bottom that helped them stand firm. Their shields were made of wood covered in canvas and animal hide. Soaking the shields in water before going into battle meant that when the enemy's flaming arrows hit the shields, they would fizzle out. Helmets were made of skin and metal, while Roman swords were short and straight. From the belt of truth to the helmet of salvation, all of the elements in this list are designed for protection rather than attack except for one: the sword of the Spirit – the word of God.

This description of armour would have been recognizable to the original recipients of this letter because they lived in the era of *Pax Romana*, or "Roman peace." This describes Roman political rule from the reign of Caesar Augustus (27 BCE–14 CE) through 180 CE. Ideals of peace, strength, clemency, freedom of movement, and prosperity characterized the period, but many people in colonized areas like Asia Minor experienced the Roman rule as violent and oppressive. Hearers of the letter would have been used to seeing Roman soldiers and also being victims of their violence. Indeed, some scholars believe that the evil force with which Paul and later writers grappled was the Roman Empire itself.

The letter concludes with the exhortation to pray, to be alert, to persevere. Prayer is the means by which the community of faith can be strong in the strength of God's power, and strong in the strength of Christ's power. The repeated exhortation to prayer in the letter to Ephesians reminds us that we have ongoing invitations to stand in holy presence.

Solomon dedicates the temple to God in **1 Kings 8: 22-30, 41-43**. He praises God for God's loyalty and recognizes God's faithfulness.

Psalm 84 connects with the 1 Kings text, celebrating the temple as a dwelling place for God. "How lovely is your dwelling place" sing the pilgrims as they enter the temple in Jerusalem. They have reached this place of prayer, preparation, and sustenance.

In **John 6:56-69**, Jesus' own disciples seem to be offended by his teachings, yet Peter recognizes that in Jesus is the "Holy One of God." In Christ, the dwelling place for God, they have found their home and strength to go on when others have turned back.

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There is a powerful thread of call woven through each of this week's texts. The call to be faithful to the roots of Judaism, to be courageous in following Jesus, to be grounded in the love and presence of God, and to live truth-telling lives. Which of the calls in this week's texts most resonates with you at this point in your life of faith?

REFLECTION

God of Power, God of Peace, you equip us to face the existential, political and spiritual challenges of this and every era.

May we be mindful of your protection, and help us share your word in ways that promote love, grace, and justice. In Jesus' name. Amen.