

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 18th. March
Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop & teacher (d.386)

Tuesday 19th. March
JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Wednesday 20th. March 10.00 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's,
Cuthbert of Lindisfarne, 1.00 pm. Lenten Study group at St. Linus'
Bishop & missionary (d.687)

Thursday 21st. March 10.00 am. Playgroup at St. Linus'
Thomas Cranmer, 10.45 am. Holy Communion at Colton Close
archbishop of Canterbury, Aged Care Facility
martyr and liturgist (d.1556)

Friday 22nd, March 11.00 am. Lenten Study group at St. Matthew's
Thomas Ken,
bishop of Bath and Wells, teacher (d.1711)

Sunday 24th. March 9.00 am. Eucharist at St.Linus'
Lent 3 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's
12.30 pm. Lenten Study group at St. Matthew's

LOOKING AHEAD

Saturday 6th. April - Secondhand Books & New Craft items at St. Matthew's,
Come browse, Come buy

Saturday 13th, April - Working Bee at St. Matthew's

Sunday 14th. April - PALM SUNDAY

Thursday 18th. April - MAUNDY THURSDAY

Friday 19th. April - GOOD FRIDAY

SUNDAY 21st. April - EASTER DAY

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

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



**Second Sunday
in
Lent**

**17th. March
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; Our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. Philippians 3. 20;

Collect: God of our ancestors, whose chosen servant Abraham was given faith to obey your call and go out into the unknown: endow your Church with such faith, that we may follow you with courage; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Readings

Genesis 15. 1–12, 17–18;

The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' But Abram said, 'O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' But the word of the LORD came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness. Then he said to him, 'I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' But he said, 'O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.'



WORKING BEE AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Thank You to all who helped yesterday

Next Working-bee - 9.00 am. Saturday 13th. April

**Please come and help to prepare for Palm Sunday and Easter,
with shrub trimming, weeding, cleaning windows and more,
Morning Tea provided**



CARD MAKING WORKSHOP

Saturday ??? April - 10.00 am. to Noon

Please ask Marie Brennan the Date for Workshop

In front room of Wiseman House at St. Matthew's Anglican Church

All materials required to make cards will be available

Donation only toward cost

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - URGENTLY PLEASE

to assist Primary age children at a new Homework Club

which will commence at St. Matthew's

on Wednesday 13th. March,

3.30 - 4.30 pm.

and every Wednesday during School term.

The more people who offer to assist, the less often you will be required.

For further details, Please speak with Bev. Lacock

9309 2775 0409 255 443

Your involvement with this new venture will be a step toward raising the profile of this Parish within the wider Community.

ANGLICAN OVERSEAS AID

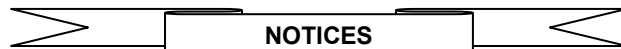
An Armchair Pilgrimage

An Agile Faith

The fact that many pilgrims took very little to sustain themselves along the way was meant to help them rely completely on God's provision. This meant that pilgrims would often rely on the hospitality of complete strangers. This approach seems very counter-cultural today. Many would critique it as showing a reckless disregard for good planning!

Looking more broadly, many Christians struggle to strike a balance between responsible long-term decision making and being flexible in God's service. Some people feel trapped by their comfortable, predictable lives, and may even resent the loss of freedom experienced when they were younger.

The ministry of Jesus and his disciples was highly itinerant. In fact, the early Christian church has been more aptly described as a movement for a good reason. Take time this Lent to think about the way you express your own availability to God. How can you keep your faith open and agile while being firmly settled in one place? What are the things that tether you, and do they prevent you from being available to God?



Mothers' Union Lady Day
(Feast of the Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary)

Sunday 24th. March 2019
2.30 pm. at St. Paul's Cathedral Flinders St. Melbourne

SUNDAY 7th. April ?? at 5.00 pm. to 6.00 pm. ??



Informal service at St Linus'
corner Delta Ave & Glyndon Ave, Merlynston
No church experience necessary!
Includes a light meal in our community hall.
and 1st, Sunday of each month

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

Psalm 27;

- 1 The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom then shall I fear?;
the Lord is the strength of my life, of whom then shall I be afraid?
- 2 When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes, come upon me to devour me;
they shall stumble and fall.
- 3 If an army encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid;
and if war should rise against me, yet will I trust.
- 4 One thing have I asked from the Lord, which I will require;
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;
- 5 To see the fair beauty of the Lord;
and to seek his will in his temple.
- 6 For he will hide me under his shelter, in the day of trouble;
**and conceal me in the shadow of his tent,
and set me high upon a rock.**
- 7 And now he will lift up my head;
above my enemies round about me;
- 8 And I will offer sacrifices in his sanctuary with exultation;
I will sing, I will sing praises to the Lord.
- 9 O Lord, hear my voice when I cry;
have mercy upon me and answer me.
- 10 My heart has said of you, 'Seek his face.'
your face, Lord, I will seek.
- 11 Do not hide your face from me;
nor thrust your servant side in displeasure.
- 12 For you have been my helper;
do not cast me away or forsake me, O God of my salvation.
- 13 Though my father and my mother forsake me;
the Lord will take me up.
- 14 Teach me your way, O Lord;
and lead me in an even path, for they lie in wait for me.
- 15 Do not give me over to the will of my enemies;
**for false witnesses have risen against me,
and those who breathe out violence.**
- 16 But I believe that I shall surely see the goodness of the Lord;
in the land of the living!
- 17 O wait for the Lord;
**stand firm and he will strengthen your heart;
and wait, I say, for the Lord.**

Philippians 3.17 – 4.1;

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Luke 13.31–35;

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow,

and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem.” Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.”



LENT 2

17th. March 2019

RITUAL OF PROMISE

When you find yourself in a space such as Lent, where life seems thinner than usual and the journey more focused than normal, what do people of faith do to keep journeying on? In ancient times, rituals helped to remind the people of the promise, as yet unfulfilled, and gave reason to trust what seemed to be impossible.

Focus scripture

Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18; Abram finds himself living within a promise. Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18 describes the ritual that establishes the covenant between Abram and God, which is meant to be enough for Abram and Sarai to trust God despite all the evidence to the contrary. Abram and Sarai have been promised children and all Abram can see is that his line will be continued through his slave Eliezer of Damascus. You can hear the disappointment in the voice of Abram. But only later will he understand the truth, for now there is only trust. Which brings us to the great dramatic ritual of cutting the animals in half and laying them out with fire passing through them. This may have been an ancient ritual where two sides come together to form a treaty, dividing the riches equally and fire being a symbol of cleansing and forging. But whatever its origins, this ritual is a means to establish a new relationship. Ritual is the visual sign of something that has been forged between two people or nations or, in this case, between a god and a patriarch. In a contemporary world, we see treaties being made regularly, forming new communities, establishing peace, symbolizing a new cooperation together in economy or politics. It is a symbol of preparing now for the future; this is the work we do now in order that the future is better. For Abram and Sarai the work to be done is simply to believe and trust, but it began with questions. While the oft quoted Genesis 15:6 suggests it was easy for Abram, to believe and trust was not easy, but there is little else he can do. The covenant has been established and all there is to do is believe it and live within that

promise. The ritual that established the relationship between God and Abram began with questions, and expressed frustrations and doubts.

Psalms 27 is a work of trust, despite what the evidence seems to be saying. The promises of God are the foundations of the writer's faith, even when everything seems to be going in the opposite direction. Yet there are moments where desperation might be heard in the writer's voice: "I am believing you, God, with all my soul I believe your promises: show me some sign you are with me." Living in the promise offers hope in the future, but is not always easy to hold on to in the present.

Philippians 3:17–4:1 calls us to live beyond the present and into the future. These are bold words for those who live through present difficulties; hope lies in the future. Such rhetoric can be shallow. Many a political leader and autocrat has used the promise of the future to justify the present. Here the difference is found in the writer living through the difficulties as much as the Philippians.

Luke 13:31–35 speaks in this way, too. Hold to the promise to make sense of the present.

...

Perhaps this is true of God's covenant that God is living through the present and into the future as much as we are, towards a future still to take shape. This may be our experience as we move through the wilderness of Lent: we trust the future but the present experiences count against that. What words and rituals do you hold on to that keep you on the journey of faith?

REFLECTION

Covenant God, may we find ourselves trusting you when the evidence says don't.

May we find ourselves following you when the world says not to.

**May we find ourselves living with the impossible
when everything else says we can't.**

May we hear the promise in our souls, and live it in our world. Amen.

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*PEOPLE WERE CREATED TO BE LOVED,
THINGS WERE CREATED TO BE USED.
THE WORLD IS IN CHAOS,
BECAUSE THINGS ARE BEING LOVED
AND PEOPLE ARE BEING USED.*

