

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 THS WEEK

Wednesday 11th. December 10.00 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's

Thursday 12th. December 10.00 am. Playgroup at St. Linus'
11.00 am. Reserved Sacrament at Plumpton Villa
Aged Care Facility

Friday 13th. December 11.00 am. Gospel Reflection group at St. Matthew's
Lucy, martyr and virgin (d.304)

Saturday 14th. December from 6.30 pm. Glenroy Carols in front garden of
John of the Cross, mystic and teacher (d.1591) Wiseman House

Sunday 15th. December 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'
3rd. Sunday of Advent 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's,
'Gaudete' Sunday

CHRISTMAS in the PARISH

Tuesday 24th. December - 5.00 pm. All age Christmas Eve service
with a Eucharist, at St Linus'

Tuesday 24th. December - 11.30 pm. Midnight Mass at St Matthew's

Wednesday 25th. December - 10.00 am Christmas Day Eucharist at
St Matthew's

Pew Leaflet Notices:

Please give to, or phone Glenda Owen,
Or e-mail: - gonana7@bigpond.com - by 7.00 pm. Wednesday

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

HONORARY ASSOCIATE PRIEST: The Venerable Philip Newman OAM
Mobile: 0419 390 650 Email: pjnewman2@bigpond.com

PARISH WEBSITE - www.matthewlinus.com

Honorary Lay Pastoral Minister
Glenda Owen 0448 821 218

Honorary Lay Parish Readers
Bev. Lacoek 9309 2775
Lois Erickson 0421 327 159
Kerryn Pratchett 0409 306 818

SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT 8th. December 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.

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: The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent,
and believe in the good news. Mark 1. 15;

Collect: God of all peoples, whose servant John came baptising, and calling for
repentance; help us to hear his voice of judgement, that we may also rejoice in
his word of promise, and be found pure and blameless in that glorious Day, when
Christ comes to rule the earth as Prince of Peace; who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings

Isaiah 11. 1–10;

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes
see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the
poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth
with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around
his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion
shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or
destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the
LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a
signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be
glorious.

Psalms 72.1–7, 18–21;

1 Give the king your judgement, O God;
and your righteousness to the son of a king.

The December issue of *The Melbourne Anglican (TMA)*
is now available in the foyer/narthex



GLENROY CAROLS

14th. December 2019

WISEMAN HOUSE GARDEN

7.00 pm. - 9.00 pm.

All Welcome

Carol Singing

Moreland City

SALVATION ARMY BAND

Come join us for this Community event
Coffee Van Sausage Sizzle Face Painting
BYO Chairs, Rugs, Picnic, Esky

Songsheet available at the event or on website

www.matthewlinus.com



I love a Sunburnt Country

I love a Sunburnt country, a land of sweeping plains.
But I've gotta tell ya mate, I like it better when it rains.
The countryside is dying and there's just no end in sight,
and just to rub salt in the wounds, the bush has caught alight.
The landscape is on fire from Brisbane to the Gong
And everybody's asking "where the hell did we go wrong?
But we can get through this one if we help each other out,
take care of your neighbour, that's what Aussies are about.
The rain is going to fall again, the good times will return.
But living in Australia means at times it's going to burn.
So if you need a helping hand, just give a mate a call.
We're all here to help you out and catch you when you fall.
The RFS, the SES, the firey's, and police,
all put their lives upon the line to help to beat this beast.
So hats off to these heroes and thanks for all you do
And I hope when this is over, we can make it up to you!

MERLYNSTON CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Saturday 21st. December 2019

BAIN RESERVE Merlyn St. 5.00 pm to 7.00 pm.
ALL WELCOME



CHILDREN'S NATIVITY PAGEANT

See Mary and Joseph arrive with their Donkey to the stable
surrounded by Angels, Shepherds and the Three Wise Men

Local children will participate in the Nativity story

CAROL SINGING SALVATION ARMY BAND

A VISIT FROM SANTA

Come join us for this community event
BYO chairs, rug, esky

Organised by St. Linus' Anglican Church
& The Salvation Army



- 2 That he may judge your people rightly;
and the poor of the land with equity.
- 3 Let the mountains be laden with peace because of his righteousness;
and the hills also with prosperity for his people.
- 4 May he give justice to the poor among the people;
and rescue the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor.
- 5 May he live while the sun endures;
and while the moon gives light, throughout all generations.
- 6 May he come down like rain upon the new-mown fields;
and as showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall righteous flourish;
and abundance of peace, till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 Let his name live for ever;
and endure as long as the sun.
- 19 Let all peoples use his name in blessing;
and all nations call him blessed.
- 20 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel;
who alone does great wonders.
- 21 Blessed be his glorious name for ever;
and let the whole earth be filled with his glory.
Amen, Amen.

Romans 15. 4-13;

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name'; and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people'; and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'; and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.' May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL Matthew 3. 1-12;

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root

of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8th. December 2019

HOPE FILLED VISION

Human communities generally tend towards leaders with strength and wisdom. But today's prophetic text points to the particular power and wisdom found only in a vulnerable child, and the unexpected movement of God's Spirit through a newly visioned leader, guiding us to a time when predator and prey gently coexist, when power is finally equalized. Advent invites us to revisit the ways power is defined.

Focus Scripture

Isaiah 11:1-10 In the context of the Syro-Ephraimitic war of 733 BCE, the chapter that precedes today's text names what will ensue for Assyria; the enemy will fall like a tree and never sprout again. As is so often the case in the Hebrew Scriptures, judgments and threats are followed by God's promises that anticipate new well-being for Israel. A new fruit-bearing tree will sprout! Since Jesse is the name of David's father, we know this is a family tree for the house of David. It is not clear why the promise of a messiah king so shaped the life and imagination of Israel. Of course, Christians hear Jesus all over this text, but we do well to look carefully as we make this leap. Scholar Walter Brueggemann writes, "All the heirs of this text (Jewish, Christian, Islamic) have the promissory possibility open to them [to claim a messiah], kept open only by Yahweh's large promise." Most important is the powerful note of hope sounded by Isaiah. In verse three, we learn that this new leader will not merely be talented, but will rely on a divine inner compass, so infused with God's wise spirit that global equity shall finally be realized. From the "new shoot" vision of verses 1-5, we move to the "peaceable kingdom" vision of verses 6-10. To appreciate just how dramatically the prophecy of a little child leader upends convention, we might remember that children in Isaiah's time were far more expendable, powerless, and economically burdensome (until adolescence) than in today's developed world. The high mortality rate for a "nursing child" (v. 8) in the ancient world is worth noting. Today's text suggests we imagine that God's

redeemed world means the keys are handed over to the powerless among us. It is no accident that almost every world religion carries some symbol of a divine child, encouraging us to surrender our small, very human illusions of controlling our fates. Our ultimate freedom comes in reversing our ideas about power. Most impossibly iconic is the pastoral scene of predator and prey nuzzling one another, peacefully and miraculously. What place does Isaiah's idyllic image have in our real world? The path to the peaceable kingdom is recognizing the deep truth that we all are predators, and we all are prey; we carry the capacity for both. One way of interpreting this text is recognition of the precarious powers (and potential for peace) we all carry. Attending to our inner warfare – the power hungry lions within us that tear into our insecure inner lambs – is the hardest work of all, but in this way we join God in imagining our worlds, inner and outer, present and future, into hopeful reconciliation. The complementary texts for this week sound similar themes of God's coming reign. In **Psalm 72**, we have a vision of peace and justice, when righteous judgment brings about a righted world. The people of God are called again to hope, as Isaiah's prophecy is echoed in **Romans 15:4-13**. In today's gospel text, we find John the baptizer embodying many of Isaiah's prophecies. **Matthew 3:1-12** tells how John wears the righteous belt, coming forth possessing the spirit of God. And like Isaiah, there is an axe lying at the root of a cut tree, representing God's judgment, followed by redemption in the form of a new leader to come.

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Today's texts challenge both our inner and outer lives. As is so often the case, Isaiah's prophecy pairs hopeful vision with incredible challenge, upending our ideas about what constitutes strong leadership. The toddler plays over the snake hole, and models the biblical paradigm of power, where vulnerability trumps violence.

REFLECTION

**Leading and loving God, we struggle to allow ourselves to be guided by you.
Our risky world warns us against making ourselves vulnerable.
Softener our hearts, embolden our spirits,
that we might see in the Christ story the deep strength of vulnerability,
and how it guides us to a new day of peace. Amen.**



The following are a few from 12 Mission Agencies recently received -

ACT FOR PEACE

Christmas Bowl Appeal - actforpeace.org.au

CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY

www.cms.org.au/vic

BUSH CHURCH AID

bushchurchaid.com.au

THE LEPROSY MISSION

www.leprosymission.org.au