

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 25th. February
MATTHIAS, APOSTLE and MARTYR

Wednesday 27th. February NO Eucharist at St. Matthew's, visit to Glen Iris
George Herbert, Parish Indigenous Liturgy Eucharist
parish priest, poet (d.1633)

Friday 1st. March **NO** Gospel Reflection group at St. Matthew's
10.30 am. World Day of Prayer service at Glenroy
Uniting Church, W heatsheaf Rd.
6.00 pm. World Day of Prayer service at St. Linus'
Merlynston, cnr Glyndon & Delta Aves.

Saturday 2nd. March 10.00 am. **BOOK and CRAFT rooms open for sales at St. Matthew's**

Sunday 3rd. March 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'
TRANSFIGURATION 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's
LAST SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday 5th. March - Shrove Tuesday

Wednesday 6th. March - ASH WEDNESDAY

Friday 8th. March - 11.00 am. to noon - Lenten Study at St. Matthew's

Sunday 10th. March - 12.30 pm. Lenten Study at Vicarage

Wednesday 13th. March - 1.00 pm. Lenten Study at St. Linus' (Church)

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

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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



**Seventh Sunday
after
Epiphany**

**24th. February
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: Love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. You will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

Luke 6. 35;

Collect: God of compassion, keep before us the love you have revealed in your Son, who prayed even for his enemies. In our words and deeds, help us to be like him, through whom we pray, Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. **Amen.**

Readings

Genesis 45. 3–11, 15;

Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?' But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me.' And they came closer. He said, 'I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there – since there are five more years of famine to come – so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty." And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Psalms 37. 1–12, 40–41;

- 1 Do not vie with the wicked;
or envy those that do wrong.
- 2 For they will soon wither like the grass;
and fade away like the green leaf.

For those who have worshipped in this Parish for many years, Archbishop Freir has sent news of a former Assistant Curate -

The Rev'd William Warren Moriarty died on 18th. February
in Drysdale Grove Aged Care Home



DAILY DEVOTIONAL & GROUP REFLECTION

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, this year on 6th March. What would you say to someone who asked, 'What is Lent?' The simple response is that it is a season of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self examination and reflection. It is the forty days, counting Sundays, that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. However, I think Lent invites us to so much more.

This year I am inviting everyone in the parish to undertake a daily lenten devotion or study. There are numerous devotionals available but I have chosen 'The Sanctuary for Lent' by Juan Hertas. The paper edition is \$2, there is also a kindle edition I have to share – when I work out how! If you would like a copy of this book in either form please put your name on the sheet in the narthex.

Each day has a verse and a thought provoking reflection that relates to our every day lives. You may know someone for whom this may be helpful so you may also consider giving one as a gift. Oftentimes these types of devotionals give us pause to think and we find ourselves asking questions.

I am always available to talk about your thoughts and/or your journey.

Group studies are always an opportunity to learn from others. This year, studies will be offered at -

St Linus' 1.00 pm. Wednesdays in St. Linus' Church

St Matthew's 11am Fridays (1hr only) and

St Matthew's following church on Sundays at 12.30 and/or at a local café or Vicarage.

Each group will determine time for the study but I will attempt to restrict to 1hr 30min.

Material will be provided for the group sessions.

Please put your name on the list if you would like to participate in one of the groups.

I hope to see all of you enter Lent 2019 with a purpose and a passion. Let us journey this year together.

Rev'd Jo-Anne



NOTICES

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 1st. March

10.30 am. at Glenroy Uniting Church, Wheatsheaf Rd. Glenroy

6.00 pm. at St. Linus' Anglican Church, cnr. Glyndon & Delta Aves.
Merlynston (North Coburg)

Service prepared by the people of SLOVENIA
Theme 'Come - Everything is Ready'

Saturday 2nd. March 2019

SECONDHAND BOOK and NEW CRAFT items for sale at St. Matthew's

10.00 am. to noon

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING

Saturday 2nd. March 2019 10.00 am. to 4.00 pm.

Hosted by The Salvation Army

828 Sydney Rd. Coburg North (at end of tram line, enter via Headley St.)

Join together with Christian leaders and Churches of all denominations to pray and celebrate the National Day of Prayer and Fasting

Pray for a National Awakening for Australia and pray for millions to find Jesus.

Take part in the 40 day Prayer Relay

Initiate a Bible Reading marathon and take part in a live webcast on the day.

40 Day Prayer Relay

6th. March - 14th. April

Let our Father's heart for the lost, move you to:

Walk together in love and unity, 'one Father of all, over all, through all and in all.

Encourage each other as 'sons' and 'fathers' so many receive Jesus.

Pray with others from your area and join the 40 day Prayer relay

Register now: www.40DayRelay.org.au

SUNDAY 3rd. March 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.



- 3 Trust in the Lord and do good;
and you shall dwell in the land and feed in safe pastures.
- 4 Let the Lord be your delight;
and he will grant you your heart's desire.
- 5 Commit your way to the Lord;
trust him, and he will act.
- 6 He will make your righteousness shine as clear as the light ;
and your innocence as the noonday.
- 7 Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him.
**do not be vexed when someone prospers,
when they put their evil purposes to work.**
- 8 Let go of anger and abandon wrath;
let not envy move you to do evil.
- 9 For the wicked shall be cut down;
but those who wait for the Lord shall possess the land.
- 10 In a little while the ungodly shall be no more;
you will look for them in their place, but they will not be found.
- 11 But the meek shall possess the land;
and enjoy the abundance of peace.
- 12 The ungodly plot against the righteous;
and gnash at them with their teeth.
- 40 Deliverance for the righteous shall come from the Lord;
he is their strength in time of trouble.
- 41 The Lord will help them and deliver them;
**he will save them from the ungodly and deliver them,
because they come to him for refuge.**

1 Corinthians 15. 35-38, 42-50;

Someone will ask, 'How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?' Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, 'The first man, Adam, became a living being'; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

GOSPEL Luke 6. 27-38;

Jesus said to his disciples, 'I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to

those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.'



SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

24th. February 2019

The resurrection is central to Christianity, not just as a doctrine, but as a driving principle. Unfortunately, Paul's writing in this, (**1 Corinthians 15. 35-38, 42-50**) the earliest discussion of it, is dense and difficult, and some of the regular translations do not help. The key is Paul's contrast between perishable and imperishable. The seed and the plant are not an exact analogy for the old body and the new, but rather a way of demonstrating radical change within basic continuity.

The all-important claim is that 'God gives us a body' (v. 38) It is relevant to worry (as did some of the early Fathers) about how God will reassemble the exact atoms and molecules of our present bodies. They are in any case in a constant state of flux, through which matter is shared, not hoarded.

Near a town in the state of Washington, millions of gallons of radioactive atomic wastes are being stored in huge underground tanks. The tanks have a life expectancy of 20 or 30 years. The wastes within them will remain deadly for about 600 years. We live in a society which, like those tanks in Washington, is trying to store up anger that sooner or later is going to break forth, causing pain and misery for many. We are all familiar with the popular bumper sticker in Dallas which reads, "I'm Mad Too, Eddie." The other day I saw one that said, "I'm Mad At Eddie." Basically, there are far too many hostile people going around looking for some way to unload their anger. Anger takes a tremendous toll on those about us: Eighty percent of all murders are committed by people who have some relationship with the victim. Somebody gets angry, there's a gun or knife handy, and tragedy results. According to hospital records, innumerable parents have inflicted serious injuries upon their small children in fits of temper. One authority estimates that 60,000 children a year in America are beaten to death, that more children under five years of age are killed by their parents than die of disease. Besides hurting others, anger is killing us. Suppressed anger and bitterness are eating away at our health and peace of mind:

Those years which Joseph spent in slavery and prison could have been the occasion for a slow burn that might have ignited into an explosion of anger at the sight of his brothers. How angry Joseph could have been with God for getting him into such a

situation. But Joseph recognized that God was with him in his sufferings and that these were from the loving hand of a sovereign God. Most of all, Joseph could have been Angry with his brothers, who had callously sold him into slavery. The high point of Joseph's relationship with his brothers comes in **Genesis chapter 45**, for it is here that there is a reconciliation brought about between them. This was made possible on the brothers' part by their genuine repentance, regretting their sin with regard to Joseph, and reversing their actions when a similar situation was presented with regard to Benjamin. But on Joseph's part, reconciliation was achieved through his sincere and total forgiveness of his brothers for the evil they had committed against him.

Let us, then, seek to learn the lessons on forgiveness which this chapter offers us.

But some man will say, How are the dead raised up?] We now proceed from the *fact* of the resurrection to its *manner*, a question which the Apostle discusses as far as **1 Corinthians 15:54**, where he begins to treat of its *result*. *and with what body do they come?]* It was the doctrine of the Resurrection of the *body* which was the stumbling-block of many hearers of the Gospel. Estius remarks that the Pharisees taught that men would rise again with bodies possessing in every respect the same functions as those in which they were laid in the grave. This was a difficulty to many, especially to the Sadducees. See St **Matthew 22:23-33**. To remove these difficulties St Paul now explains the nature of the Resurrection body, and of the process whereby it is brought into being.

LUKE 6:27-38; It is natural to reciprocate—to help those who help you and hurt those who hurt you. "Do unto others as they do unto you" is simple justice, and has been enshrined in law at least since the Code of Hammurabi (18th Century B.C.), which specified an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. Reciprocity is a natural, common-sense way to order one's life, and is far more enlightened than the aggressive, selfish approach that many people favour today. "Do unto others as they do unto you" has morphed into "Do unto others *before* they do to you" and simply "Do unto others!" We live in a world where powerful and wealthy people use power and wealth to accumulate even more power and wealth—with little regard to the effects on other people. As a wealthy rancher is reputed to have said, "All I want is what's mine—and what adjoins it." In many circles, such aggressive behavior is not only condoned but is celebrated. In some cases, truly evil people deliberately inflict injury on others for no apparent reason. We can understand the person who would steal something of value. It is more difficult to understand a person who would set fire to a church because of racial hatred or shoot a passer-by for a quick thrill.

In such a dog-eat-dog world, reciprocity seems positively enlightened. It does not seek to inflict injury except in cases where injury is deserved. Its goal is fairness. The bad person suffers, and the good person prospers. It is as it should be.

And yet Jesus tells us that reciprocity is not kingdom behavior. Just as God goes beyond justice to mercy, we are to do the same. It is a hard lesson, one that goes against the grain. It is *un-natural*. We can move beyond justice to mercy, but only through the grace of God.

REFLECTION

Lord Jesus, you have given us an example of the perfect love
that pardons and shows mercy,
and in pity of our failures you have continually brought us back into the right way.
Give us the strength of your tenderness, the power of your compassion,
so that when we are tempted to anger,
our response shall always be gentle and considerate. **Amen**