

**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

29th. December 2019

9.00 am. at St. Linus' & 10.30 am. at St. Matthew's



**Sentence:** Because Jesus himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested. *Hebrews 2. 18.*

**Collect:** Almighty God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: in your mercy, bring us to share the divine life of Jesus Christ, who came to share our human life, and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Readings**

**Isaiah 63. 7-9:** I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, 'Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely'; and he became their saviour in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

- Psalm 148:**
- 1 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord from the heavens;
  - 2 Praise him, all his angels;  
**O praise him, all his host.**
  - 3 Praise him, sun and moon;

**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



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**PARISH WEBSITE - [www.matthewlinus.com](http://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

**THE PEOPLE OF  
ST MATTHEW'S GLENROY / HADFIELD & ST LINUS' MERLYNSTON  
WISH YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES**



**THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD  
25th. December 2019  
&  
FIRST SUNDAY after CHRISTMAS  
29th. December 2019**

**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, on their own country. 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,

**24th. December 2019 - 5.00 pm. at St.Linus'**

**Readings**

**Isaiah 9. 2-7;**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**GOSPEL Luke 2.1-14,**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

**24th. December 2019 - 11.30 pm. Midnight Mass at St. Matthew's**

**Readings**

**Isaiah 9. 2-7;**

**Psalm 96;**

- 1 O sing to the Lord a new song; **sing to the Lord, all the earth.**
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his holy name; **proclaim the good news his salvation from day to day.**
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations **and his wonders among all peoples.**

**Matthew 2. 13-23;**  
After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.' When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.' When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

**Hebrews 2. 10-18;**  
It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.' And again, 'I will put my trust in him.' And again, 'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.' Since the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

- 4 Praise him, you highest heaven;
- 5 and you waters that are above the heavens.
- Let them praise the name of the Lord;
- for he commanded and they were made.
- 6 He established them for ever and ever;
- 7 he made an ordinance which shall not pass away.
- praise the Lord from the earth;
- 8 praise him, you sea-monsters and all deeps,
- 9 Fire and hail, mist and snow;
- and storm-wind, fulfilling his command.
- 10 Mountains and all hills,
- fruit trees and all cedars;
- 10 Beasts of the wild, and all cattle;
- 11 creeping things and winged birds.
- 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples;
- 12 princes and all rulers of the world,
- 12 Young men and maidens,
- 13 old folk and children together.
- 13 Let them praise the name of the Lord,
- for his name only is exalted.
- 14 His glory is above earth and heaven;
- 14 and he has lifted high the horn of his people.
- 15 Therefore he is the praise of all his servants;
- of the children of Israel, a people that is near him. Praise the Lord.

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 and LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday 26th. December *Boxing Day holiday*  
Stephen, Deacon & First Martyr

Friday 27th. December  
John, Apostle and Evangelist

Saturday 28th. December  
HOLY INNOCENTS

Sunday 29th. December 9.00 am. Eucharist at St.Linus'  
First Sunday 10.30 am. Eucharist at St.Matthew's  
after Christmas

Monday 30th. December  
Josephine Butler, social reformer (d.1905)

Tuesday 31st. December  
John Wyclif, teacher and reformer (d.1384)

### HAPPY NEW YEAR

Wednesday 1st January 2020 *New Years Day holiday*  
**THE NAMING AND CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS**

**PLEASE NOTE: NO 10.00 am. Service on Wednesdays during January**  
**Wednesday 5th. February - Morning Prayer with MU Prayers & fellowship**  
**Wednesday 12th. February - Morning Prayer**  
**Wednesday 19th. February - Morning Prayer**

Thursday 2nd. January  
Basil of Ceasarea (d.379) and Gregory of Nanzianzus (d.389) bishops & teachers  
Eliza Hassel, pioneer of CMS (Australia) and missionary training (d.1917)

Sunday 5th. January 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'  
**THE EPIPHANY** 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's  
**OF OUR LORD**

### Pew Leaflet Notices:

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

- 4 For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;  
**he is more to be feared than all gods.**
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are mere idols;  
**it is the Lord who made the heavens.**
- 6 Majesty and glory are before him;  
**beauty and power are in his sanctuary.**
- 7 Render to the Lord, you families of the nations  
**render to the Lord glory and might.**
- 8 Render to the Lord the honour due to his name;  
**bring offerings and come into his courts.**
- 9 O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness;  
**let the whole earth stand in awe of him.**
- 10 Say among the nations that the Lord is king;  
**he has made the world so firm that it can never be moved,**  
**and he shall judge the peoples with equity.**
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad;  
**let the sea roar and all that fills it.**
- 12 Let the fields rejoice, and everything in them;  
**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout with joy before the Lord.**
- 13 For he comes, he comes to judge the earth;  
**he shall judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with his truth.**

### Titus 2. 11-14;

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

### Gospel - John 1. 1-14;

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

### 25th. December 2019 - 10.00 am. at St. Matthew's

#### Readings

#### Isaiah 62. 6-12;

Thus says the LORD: Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, 'See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.' They shall be called, 'The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD'; and you shall be called, 'Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.'

**Psalm 97;**

- 1 The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice;  
**let the multitude of islands be glad.**
- 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him,  
**righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.**
- 3 Fire goes before him;  
**and burns up his enemies on every side.**
- 4 His lightnings light the world;  
**the earth sees it and is afraid.**
- 5 The mountains melt like wax before his face;  
**from before the face of the Lord of all the earth.**
- 6 The heavens have proclaimed his righteousness,  
**and all peoples have seen his glory.**
- 7 They are ashamed, all those who serve idols,  
and glory in mere nothing;  
**all gods bow down before him.**
- 8 Zion heard and was glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoiced;  
**because of your judgements, O God.**
- 9 For you, Lord are most high over all the earth;  
**you are exalted far above all gods.**
- 10 The Lord loves those that hate evil;  
**the Lord guards the life of the faithful,  
and delivers them from the hand of the ungodly**
- 11 Light dawns for the righteous;  
**and joy for the true of heart.**
- 12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous,  
**and give thanks to his holy name.**

**Titus 3. 4-8a;**

When the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**Gospel - Luke 2. 8-20;**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE from ARCHBISHOP PHILIP FREIER**

MAKE THIS CHRISTMAS 'a little more extraordinary'

Our journey to Christ-mas, if it is well made, is to travel in God's time from the promise to the fulfilment. We start at the beginning, on Advent Sunday, with the promise of God. This is a promise that exceeds our expectation and arises not out of our worthiness but out of our need. This is the "sacred time" beginning of the journey. Unlike the linearity and measuredness of our usual reckoning of time, sacred time erupts into our ordinariness when we stop, pray and worship the God and Father of all. It comes into our life when we read Scripture as revelation to be received rather than as a puzzle to be solved. Sacred time calls us into the sharper anticipation of history reaching its fulfilment in the new heavens and the new earth when the Lord returns.

From the perspective of our usual grasp of time we can see the clarity of connections between Jesus' world and ours. Ever since Mesopotamia became the cradle of civilisation nearly 5000 years ago there have been conflicts and war in that region. And ancient Israel suffered in particular. The Bible chronicles the impact on God's people of the powers of the day, great and small. Whether Babylonians, Assyrians, Egyptians or Romans, moments of peace were soon overtaken by invasion and dispossession. Yet it was into this cauldron of trouble that God chose to place the hope of humanity as a helpless infant, Jesus, born of Mary in Bethlehem.

God's time and our time come together in the birth of Jesus. They seem like opposites yet come together in the birth of the Messiah in a remarkable way. In our time, we recognise the similarity. Our entry into the world that Jesus shares seems ordinary because we've all come into the world in this way. It doesn't matter who we are or what we will become, this same beginning is shared by all. In Jesus' birth it is also truly extraordinary because this act of God's vulnerability is unprecedented in human history before or since. God was showing through the birth of his son that everything was at risk, with the benefits only accruing to people like us. Jesus also promises that as we share his birth so we are also able to share his death and his life in eternity.

"People like us" were certainly there at the time. Faithful Mary and Joseph, raging Herod, marvelling shepherds, the persistent sages from the East. All of them share something in common with us too. At our best and at our worst, the gift of Christmas is present for us in our time as much as theirs. Risking all and changing everything about what it means for us to have a life renewed in Christ is God's gift to us then and now. If you are tired of the ordinary, make your Christmas a little more extraordinary this year. Reflect on what the Father of all Creation was doing through the birth of Jesus, enter the mystery of his life at a service of Christmas worship. Sing some Christmas carols with your friends and family, go to the core of the gift in its simplicity and awesomeness. Slow down and read the Bible and let it speak to you to your situation and to your world. Let the Scriptures speak to you through the Spirit.

Praise God this Christmas and every Christmas, for on that day is born the hope of the nations, Jesus our Lord and Saviour.

Have a blessed Christmas.

*Dr. Philip Freier*