

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. March
THE ANNUNCIATION TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Wednesday 27th. March 10.00 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's
1.00 pm. Lenten Study group at St. Linus'

Thursday 28th. March 10.00 am. Playgroup at St. Linus'

Friday 29th. March 10.45 am. Reserved Sacrament at Craigcare Aged Care Facility
John Keble, priest (d.1866)
11.00 am. Lenten Study group at St. Matthew's

Saturday 30th. March 10.00 am. Parish Council at ? ?

Sunday 31st. March 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Laetare Sunday
Mothering Sunday
10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's
12.30pm. Lenten Study group at St. Matthew's

LOOKING AHEAD

Saturday 6th. April - Second-hand Books & New Craft items for sale at St. Matthew's

Saturday 13th. April - Working Bee at St. Matthew's to prepare for Palm Sunday & Easter

Sunday 14th. April - PALM SUNDAY

Thursday 18th. April - MAUNDY THURSDAY

Friday 19th. April - GOOD FRIDAY

Sunday 21st. April - EASTER DAY

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 3046

with

St. Linus'
cnr. Glyndon &
Delta Aves.
Merlynston 3058



PARISH PRIEST: The Reverend Jo-Anne Wells

Phone: 9306 9528

Mobile: 0414 822 095

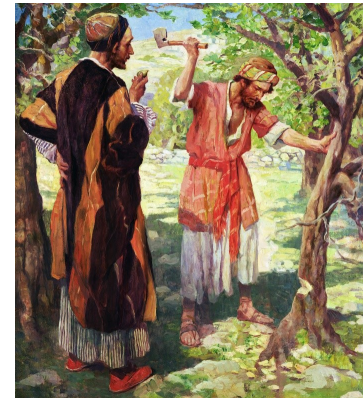
Email; priest@matthewlinus.org.au

HONORARY ASSOCIATE PRIEST: The Venerable Philip Newman OAM
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. Lacock 9309 2775
Lois Erickson 0421 327 159
Kerryn Pratchett 0409 306 818



Third Sunday
in
Lent

24th. 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; ‘As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts,’ says the Lord. Isaiah 55. 9;

Collect: O God, the fountain of life, to a humanity parched with thirst, you offer the living water that springs from the Rock, our Saviour Jesus Christ: stir up within your people the gift of your Spirit, that we may profess our faith with freshness, and announce with joy the wonder of your love. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Readings

Isaiah 55.1–9;

The LORD says this: Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

PRISON FELLOWSHIP EASTER BISCUIT BAKE is on again. **10 biscuits and an Easter Message** are given to **ALL in prison** in Victoria each Easter ie **85,000 biscuits**



Please contact **Margaret Chambers** if you are happy to bake and/or have spare 2 litre or 4 litre plastic containers..

ALL biscuit ingredients must be listed on containers.

No nuts or peanut butter are allowed.

Because they will be re-packaged in plastic bags for distribution, **please don't make them crumbly**

I am happy to pick up from you and deliver to the Prison Fellowship.

Deadline for pick up: Friday 5th April.

Please ring me on **9972 1410** or **0402 124 129** if you need more details or for arrangements for pick up or delivery to me.



Thanks from, Margaret

MISSION NEWS

ANGLICAN BOARD OF MISSION

The 2019 Lenten appeal seeks support for the work of ABM-assisted projects in Zambia, Lebanon and Australia.

Donation envelopes are available in the Narthex at St. Linus' and St. Matthew's

BUSH CHURCH AID

100 years of BCA

Celebrate across the nation

Sunday 26th. May 2019, St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne

5.00 pm. afternoon Tea followed by Choral Evensong at 6.00 pm.

Also, Autumn edition of The Real Australian newsletter, and Prayer note.

bushchurchaid.com.au

BARNABAS FUND

Hope in the midst of disaster

Aid agency for the persecuted Church - bringing hope to suffering Christians especially in Kerala, Sulawesi; Zanzibar; India

To Donate - www.barnabasfund.org/au/donate

ACT FOR PEACE

The International Aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia.

Thank You for your support through the Christmas Bowl which helped people in - Sulawesi recovering from Earthquake and Tsunami

'The Link' newsletter includes - Loving our Neighbours; Voices for Justice ; Breaking Down Barriers to Girls' Education; Sharing the Spirit of Generosity;

NOTICES



WORKING BEE AT ST. MATTHEW'S

9.00 am. Saturday 13th. April

Please come and help with shrub trimming, weeding, cleaning windows and more, much more or whatever you see that needs attention



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



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - URGENTLY PLEASE



to assist Primary age children at a new Homework Club which will commence at St. Matthew's on Wednesdays 3.30 - 4.30 pm. 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.



CARD MAKING WORKSHOP

Concertina Card will be demonstrated
Kit will be available at \$5 per kit, to make your own.

Saturday 18th. May 2018
In Wiseman House at St. Matthew's

Psalm 63. 1-8;

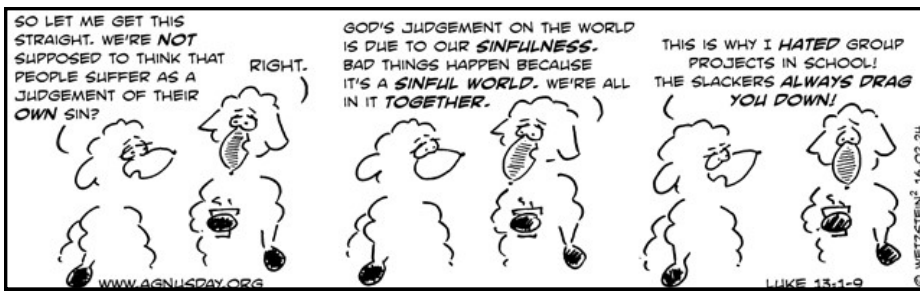
- 1 O God, you are my God;
eagerly I seek you.
- 2 My soul thirsts for you, my flesh longs for you;
as a dry and thirsty land where no water is.
- 3 So it was when I beheld you in the sanctuary;
and saw your power and your glory.
- 4 For your unchanging goodness is better than life;
therefore my lips shall praise you.
- 5 And so I will bless you as long as I live;
and in your name will I lift my hands on high.
- 6 My longing shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness;
my mouth shall praise you with exultant lips.
- 7 When I remember you upon my bed;
when I meditate upon you in the night watches.
- 8 How you have been my helper;
then I sing for joy in the shadow of your wings.

1 Corinthians 10. 1-13;

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Gospel Luke 13.1-9;

There were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them - do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.' Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"



3rd. SUNDAY IN LENT

24th. March 2019

ENDURING LOVE

Hunger and plenty, thirst and flowing water, seeking and finding, or seeking and choosing the wrong things are the contrasts running through these passages for today. With so many choices set before us it is easy to pick the fruit that dazzles rather than that which fills and satisfies; but even in our confusion in the marketplace of choice God is patient, enduring, faithful and holds out to us the things that lead to life.

Focus scripture

Psalm 63:1–8 Lent is a testing time of difficult stories en-route to the harsh events in Jerusalem, which we reflect on in a time of self-denial or self reflection. A growing awareness of who we are in the story and where we are on the road leads to questioning and doubt, personal struggle and regret. It is here, in the middle of this journey, that we are promised times of refreshment and a banquet in the midst of the dusty land when our hunger is real and we need to be nurtured and fed. The psalmist has known the dry patch, the emptied spirit, the crushed heart, and feels the longing of a dry earth that for too long has felt no rain upon it. The verses that follow the focus scripture give more than a hint of the troubles the writer has faced. The poet longs with all the longing of drought and famine to be touched and filled with all the good things that life has to offer; and has found or hopes yet to find in the sanctuary a vision of God’s glory and power and an experience of God’s constant, unailing love. The language of hunger and thirst for God in the context of the temple is not unusual for the Hebrew Scriptures. The words expressing that God’s steadfast love is better than life is not a denigration of life but a conviction that the connection between God’s love and the poet’s life is what sustains and makes life worth living. Even in difficult times the love of God is present to make all the difference. It is with an expression of thirst that the poet begins; quite a well-used metaphor for a spiritual longing but satisfaction is expressed in the more unusual metaphor of being well-fed and satisfied as after a rich banquet. The knowledge of God’s love is to be experienced and longed for in the public space of the sanctuary, of the temple, but also in the private sphere, in the arena of personal meditation. The constant love of God may be rejoiced in and through public worship and through personal reflective prayer.

The themes of thirst and hunger and their satisfaction find their echo in the words of Isaiah 55:1–9. In the ancient world the arrival of a new king could herald release from former debts and a call to feasting. Here a new day is being announced, the beginning of the hoped-for return to Jerusalem whose waters will assuage everyone’s thirst. The past will be forgiven, the old debts written off and the people will rejoice on the way to a new age.

1 Corinthians 10:1–13 is a reminder that all God’s people in different times and places pass through seasons of great hardship and difficulty and that the food and nourishment offered by God are not to be treated lightly, but to be appreciated and to help God’s people choose the right path. God faithfully provides spiritual food that we may faithfully follow God.

Luke 13:1–9 also reminds us that God gives many opportunities for faithful service and the result of that should be our bearing fruit. It is a difficult passage but points again to the enduring love of God.

....

Each generation knows its own hunger and thirst and faces challenges to belief and struggles to keep going, but the message of Lent and Easter is that God is with us and for us and God’s love does not fail. What does this psalm inspire you to do this next week to feed your relationship with God?

REFLECTION

**In a dry and thirsty land water flows straight and true,
refreshing, renewing the life lived in troubled times and places.
In a barren and hungry territory banquets are set out, rebuilding,
strengthening worn out bodies and wasted souls.
Life-giving God, may these promises fill and sustain us on our journey. Amen.**

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**From ANGLICAN OVERSEAS AID - AN ARMCHAIR PILGRIMAGE
A Lenten Reflection**

HILLS and VALLEYS

The rhythm of the pilgrimage walk is a marvelous thing. The cadence of your own footsteps can open your mind to God in an almost hypnotic way. Warm feelings may flow as you think about the steady progress being made on your journey.

And yet enthusiasm will quickly dissipate when tiredness and exhaustion set in, challenging your will-power to go on. Every pilgrimage will involve elements of struggle, mental as well as physical. A pilgrimage without struggle is not worthy of the name.

Steep hills will be encountered as a metaphor for life’s challenges. As one hill is conquered, another comes into view. God is with you in your journey, although you may not always feel that. There may be no end in sight.

What are the mountains you have conquered in your life, and what can you see ahead? As you think about Christ’s journey to the Cross, what do you think enabled him to go on? From where do you obtain your energy and sense of purpose? How do you know that Jesus is truly with you even when you don’t feel it?

MORNING TEA AT ST. MATTHEW’S

Because there are insufficient people willing to take a turn on the roster, a request has been put forward, that those not on the roster please donate packets of biscuits to have ‘on hand’ for those days when no one is available to do the duty of Morning Tea.

The Urn is usually switched on to heat prior to 10.30 am. service commencing, which enables most people to make Tea or Coffee for themselves.