

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.

STEWARDSHIP GIVING

Please consider using Direct Deposit for your Stewardship giving.

Bank account details - BSB 703122, Indue Ltd. Account no. 05004414

The account is in the name of - St. Matthew's Glenroy/Hadfield with St. Linus' Merlynston

DIARY THIS WEEK

Tuesday 13th. December
Lucy, martyr and virgin (d.304)

Wednesday 14th. December 10.00 am. Morning Prayer at St. Matthew's
John of the Cross, mystic and teacher (d.1591)
12.00 pm. to 1.00 pm. Drive through, Foodbank distribution via car-park

Sunday 18th. December 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'
Fourth Sunday of Advent 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's.



Christmas Carols
on the St Linus Green

You are warmly invited to our
Annual Christmas Carols Event
in Merlynston
@St Linus Church
16th December 2022
We will be singing Carols 6-7pm
There will be social time 7-8pm.

CHRISTMAS IN THE PARISH

Saturday 24th. December 5.00 pm. Family Service with Eucharist at St. Linus'

Saturday 24th. December 11.00 pm. Christmas Story with Carols
11.30 pm. Midnight Mass

Sunday 25th. December 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'
Birth of our Lord 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's

Pew Leaflet Notices:
please email gonana7@bigpond.com
by 4.00 pm. Wednesday

Third Sunday of Advent 11th. December 2022



WELCOME

The service booklet and song sheet can be found in the Narthex at St Linus' worship centre.

The service at St Matthew's worship centre can be seen on the screens during the service.

Please see one of our welcomers if you would like to use the complete prayer book.

Morning tea will follow the service at each worship centre.

Please join in our fellowship time.

The Anglican Parish of Glenroy / Hadfield with Merlynston



St. Matthew's
30 Widford St.
cnr. Melbourne Ave.
Glenroy 3046

with

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



PARISH PRIEST: The Reverend Robert Koren

Email: priest@matthewlinus.org.au

Parish Mobile: 0493 384 108

Parish Phone: 9306 9528

This week, Rev. Rob can be found at:
St. Linus' - Mon. & Thurs. 9 am. to 3 pm.
St. Matthew's - Wed. & Fri. 9 am. to 3 pm.
NOT available Tuesday.

PARISH WEBSITE - www.matthewlinus.org.au

PARISH FACEBOOK - www.facebook.com/matthewlinus

PARISH PODCAST - www.buzzsprout.com/1974085

Associate Priest

The Reverend Prashant Bhonsle 0457 876 622

Authorised Honorary Lay Minister
Glenda Owen 0448 821 218

Authorised Honorary Parish Reader
Kerryn Pratchett 0409 306 818



Love. Grow. Serve.

Acknowledgement of Country

From time immemorial the Wurundjeri people have cared for this land, nurtured it, depended on it and given honour and thanks to the Creator.

As we acknowledge their faithful custodianship of the land, and the sacred stories they have told; as we offer our respect to their elders, past, present and emerging, guide us Lord in caring for them, this land, and each other with the help of the Holy Spirit of Dreaming.

Sentence: Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Matthew 11.11

Collect: Sustain us, O God, with the power of your love on our journey to meet the One who is coming: strengthen our weak hands, make firm our feeble knees, and open blind eyes to the dawning of your kingdom, so that our hearts may rejoice as we behold the majesty of our God. We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Readings

First reading is from the book of Isaiah 35. 1–10;

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, ‘Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.’ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Hear the word of the Lord, thanks be to God.

Psalm 146 said by alternate half verses;

1 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul;
while I live I will praise the Lord.

2 While I have any being;

I will sing praise to my God.

3 Put not your trust in princes;
nor in flesh and blood, which cannot save.

4 For when their breath goes from them, they return again to the earth;
and on that day all their thoughts perish.

5 Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob;
whose hope is in the Lord their God.

6 The God who made heaven and earth;
the seas, and all that is in them.

7 Who keeps faith for ever;
who deals justice to those that are oppressed.

8 The Lord gives food to the hungry;
and sets the captives free.

9 The Lord gives sight to the blind;
the Lord lifts up those that are bowed down.

10 The Lord loves the righteous;
the Lord cares for the stranger in the land.

11 He upholds the widow and the fatherless;
as for the way of the wicked, he turns it upside down.

12 The Lord shall be king for ever;
your God, O Zion, shall reign through all generations. Praise the Lord

Second reading is from the Letter of James 5. 7–10;

Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.

You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Hear the word of the Lord; thanks be to God.

The Lord be with you; and also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 11:2-11; Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.’ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.” Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Faith Matters!! - Joy

John sends his disciples to ask Jesus, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’ . While we don’t have details of any prison-visit conversations with the disciples, John has heard “about the things the Christ was doing” that leads to his question, and what he has heard Jesus is doing is not what he expected the Christ and Messiah to do. Jesus’ concerns identify him more and more with people who hold zero social power. Healing and forgiving are important and generate a significant following, but John expects the Christ to be doing much more. He expects the rapture to be released and all the corruption, disease and decay to be destroyed.

As strange as this may sound, John is not sure Jesus is acting in a Christlike manner. We often use this term to refer to the daily grace-filled interactions of Jesus and how we can reflect them in our own lives and situations. We are not thinking about the equivalence of Christ with Messiah. We would certainly raise an eyebrow if we heard a fellow Christian say, “I want to learn how to respond in a Messiah-like manner to a complicated situation at work.” However, John isn’t separating Christlike from Messiah-like. John may have expected Jesus to welcome the excluded, but he did not expect the Messiah himself to become marginalized by the establishment in the way he has been marginalised and vilified.

After John’s disciples leave, Jesus could denounce John for his question. Instead, he affirms that John is a true prophet, identifies him with Elijah, and says no one has been greater in preparing people for the kingdom. In this passage, we find that even a prophet committed to holiness who Jesus calls one of the greatest remains a work in progress when it comes to growing in faith. Jesus makes room for John to doubt and to grow in faith, understanding, and calling. If Jesus considers the least in heaven to be greater than John, then today’s passage gives us permission to doubt and grow in faith, understanding and our own personal calling. It is certainly joyous news for us to have a Messiah that takes us where we are and walks with us as we come to understand our relationship with Him who is the Messiah.