

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 WEEEK

Monday 12th. November
Charles Simeon, priest and evangelist (d.1836)

Wednesday 14th. November 10.00 am. Eucharist at St Matthew's

Thursday 15th. November 10.00 am. Playgroup at St. Linus'
10.45 am. Holy Communion at Colton Close
Aged Care Facility

Friday 16th. November 11.00 am. Gospel Reflection Group at St. Matthew's
*Margaret of Scotland,
Queen, helper of the poor (d.1093)*

Saturday 17th. November
*Hilda of Whitby, abbess (d.680)
Hugh, bishop of Lincoln (d.1200)*

Sunday 18th. November 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'
Pentecost 26 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's,
Noon **PARISH ANNUAL MEETING**
at St. Matthew's

LOOKING AHEAD

Saturday 1st. December - Book and Craft rooms open at St. Matthew's

Sunday 2nd. December - Advent Sunday
and 'Newcomers Service' 5.00 pm. at St. Linus'

Saturday 8th. December - Christmas Fair at St. Linus'

Sunday 16th. December - Nine Lessons & Carols at St. Matthew's

Sunday 2nd. December - Advent Sunday

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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Glenda Owen 0448 821 218

Honorary Lay Parish Readers
Bev. Lacock 9309 2775
Lois Erickson 0421 327 159
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100th. Anniversary
of
Armistice Day

Twenty-fifth Sunday
after Pentecost
and
St. Martin

11th. November 2018



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: 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. *Luke 6. 38;*

Collect: O God, whose blessed Son came into the world, that he might destroy the works of evil, and make us your children and heirs of eternal life; grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Collect for St. Martin

O God, our heavenly father, who raised up your faithful servant Martin, to be a bishop in your Church, and to feed your flock: give abundantly to all bishops and other pastors, the gifts of your Holy Spirit, so that they may minister in your household, as true servants of Christ, and stewards of your holy mysteries; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever, **Amen.**

Readings

Ruth 3. 1-5, 4. 13-17;

Naomi, Ruth's mother-in-law, said to her, 'My daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you. Now here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have been working. See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing-floor. Now wash and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing-floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. When he lies down, observe the place where he lies; then, go and uncover his feet and lie down; and he will tell you what to do.' She said to her, 'All that you tell me I will do.' So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When they came together, the LORD made her conceive, and she bore a son. Then the women said to Naomi, 'Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin; and may his name be renowned in

PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PRAYER GUIDE FOR 16 DAYS

As Robyn Boosey, the Diocese's Preventing Violence Against Women Program Manager, mentioned when she preached at the Synod Eucharist, you are invited to join us in prayer for the United Nations 16 days of action against violence against women (25 November - 10 December 2018). "16 Days of Action against Domestic Violence" is a global campaign to challenge violence against women and girls. The campaign has been run every year since 1991 from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day. This campaign believes that prayer is vital if we are to see positive change in the area of violence against women. Further information is available at <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/16days-of-activism>.

25 November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, is a Sunday and presents an opportune time for integrating prayers into your church service.

TMA is available today

- Reports on Bishop Philip Huggins' retirement and the consecration of Bishop Kate Prowd as his successor as Bishop of the Oodthenong Episcopate;
- Archbishop Freier and the Bishops of the Melbourne Diocese apologise to survivors of abuse at a special service in St Paul's Cathedral which was held on the eve of Prime Minister Scott Morrison's National Apology;
- Extensive coverage of the Melbourne Synod held 17-20 October in St Paul's Cathedral;
- A Melbourne Anglican Priest reflects on her experience of abuse;
- A tribute to leading Melbourne Anglican laywoman Morna Sturrock, a "pioneering perfectionist", who died last month;
- Can salvation, immortality come through science? Renowned UK scientist Dr Denis Alexander considers this question in conversation with the Revd Dr Chris Mulherin;
- The Revd Dr Michael Bird reflects on the recent reporting of and reactions to some of the leaked recommendations of the Ruddock Review into Religious Freedom;
- South Sudanese chaplain the Revd Duku Wolikare argues that the South Sudanese 'problem' is misunderstood.

Pew Leaflet Notices:

Please give to, or phone Glenda Owen,
or e-mail: - gonana7@bigpond.com - by 8 pm. Tuesday



ANGLICAN CHURCH CALENDAR 2019

TODAY is your last opportunity to order a Calendar

PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday 18th. November 2018 12noon at St. Matthew's

**This meeting is open to all parishioners,
and is an important meeting for all to be in attendance.**

But to vote on any issue which may arise, you must be enrolled on the Parish Electoral Roll for 2018

Minutes of 2017 Annual Meeting and other reports are available today.
There is a copy for each person listed on the Electoral Roll.
St. Matthew's parishioners, your copy is in your folder in the Narthex

ANGLICARE VICTORIA

Toys and Food Christmas Appeal

Gifts needed for teenagers - sporting equipment such as, footballs, soccer balls or cricket items; after-shave, make-up, perfume, jewellery
Games, Lego, Dolls - but NO teddies please,
for babies - bottles, educational toys, bath toys

New items only, thank you, and unwrapped.

Because Anglicare need to distribute gifts to their clients during December, please bring your donations before **1st. December** for collection next day.

TEAR Australia - Useful Gifts Shop

Leading up to Christmas 2016, Ashlee and Pedro Pirzadeh set-up the TEAR Useful Gifts at St. Matthew's.

On behalf of Ashlee and Pedro, Marie Brennan will again be running TEAR Useful Gift shop
A display & the catalogue will be available at Morning Tea today.

Every item in the Useful Gift catalogue represents a contribution to a long-term poverty-fighting project run by one of TEAR Australia's Christian partners.

So, this CHRISTMAS, choose a gift, send a card, and fight poverty

Israel! He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him.' Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse. The women of the neighbourhood gave him a name, saying, 'A son has been born to Naomi.' They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Psalms 127;

- 1 Unless the Lord builds the house,
their labour is but lost that build it.
- 2 Unless the Lord keeps the city,
the watchmen watch in vain.
- 3 It is in vain that you rise up early and go so late to rest,
eating the bread of toil;
for the Lord bestows honour-and on those whom he loves.
- 4 Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord,
and the fruit of the womb is his gift.
- 5 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior
are the children of one's youth.
- 6 Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them;
**he will not be put to shame
when he confronts his enemies at the gate.**

Hebrews 9. 24-28;

Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgement, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly

GOSPEL Mark 12.38-44;

Jesus was teaching in the temple, and a large crowd was listening to him. He said, 'Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honour at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.' He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.'

PENTECOST 25
and
SAINT MARTIN of TOURS
and
CENTENARY of ARMISTICE DAY [Remembrance Day]

11th. November 2018

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JUST GIVING

Today's readings challenge us to look past mere appearances into the deeper and sometimes subtle sources of oppression in our world. Cultural and religious practices are under scrutiny. We are called to take the time to identify the motives and systems that endeavour to exploit the most vulnerable, and to trust in another way – God's way. God is present in the resilient hope that emerges from the most humble and unexpected places within this struggle for justice.

Focus scripture

Mark 12: 38–44; Compared to the other gospels, Mark is known for being to the point, perhaps even crude, in its literary style. Correspondingly, Mark's Jesus does not shy away from confronting those with authority, particularly the religious leaders who abuse their power over the most vulnerable. As Jesus teaches at the temple, he warns the listening crowd to "beware of the scribes" (v. 38) whose actions are worthy of "condemnation" (v. 40b). Similar warnings frequently appear in the prophetic writings, such as Isaiah.

The scribes are openly accused of being addicted to self-centred privileges and ravenous greed dressed up as religious piety. The phrase "for the sake of appearance" (v. 40, *NRSV*) is translated from the Greek word *prophasis* which carries a meaning of "pretending." Jesus accuses the scribes of pretending to live righteously while devouring widows' houses in the process. He calls his disciples to take notice of this transgression in action as a destitute widow puts two small copper coins into the temple treasury.

The widow remains anonymous in contrast to the scribes who proudly project their egos to the world around them. In Greek the word used for the widow's coins is *lepton*, which means "a tiny thing." This *lepton* was the smallest coin, the smallest unit of money in circulation during that time and place. It would take between 4 to 8 of these coins to make a penny. Not only is this woman a widow, but Jesus makes clear that she is "poor" (v. 42). There are two Greek words used in the NT for the word poor; one refers to someone who doesn't have a steady job (*penes*), the other describes someone who is a beggar (*ptoche*). Mark's widow is identified as

ptochoi; she is the poorest of the poor. It is significant that the widow possesses two coins, since this means that she potentially could have given one to the treasury and kept one for herself. Instead, she gives it all, "everything she had, all she had to live on" (v. 44). In Greek this verse reads that she literally gives "her whole life." Although the widow seems to accomplish in silence the very kind of faith that the scribes raucously pretend to live by, the text does not explicitly testify that Jesus affirms what is happening in the situation at hand. Is the widow's action exemplary, as it is declared to be in stewardship sermons across the globe, or is Jesus pointing to a reality that calls for grave lament?

More and more scholars and theologians wonder if Jesus recognizes the woman's offering as a tragic case of shameless exploitation. If so, the temple, the place meant for prayer, has turned into a place that devours what little lies in the hands of the poor. Perhaps it is no coincidence that right after witnessing this injustice, Jesus predicts the destruction of the temple.

The writer of **Psalm 127** declares, "Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labour in vain." Apparently, the scribes have lost sight of God's purposes for this space.

Jesus sees what others neglect or misunderstand. He notices this unnamed widow just as he notices other unnamed women of faith throughout his ministry. Similarly, in the story of Ruth and Naomi in **Ruth 3:1–5; 4:13–17**, Boaz takes account of a widow, an outcast to her society, at the threshing floor. These women embody a faith that is daring and courageous. They give up all they have, just as Jesus gives up all he has, literally his whole life, for the sake of humanity (**Hebrews 9:24–28**). Jesus honours the poor in his society, those despised and abandoned, in the name of a love that cannot be oppressed.

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Each day we are given the opportunity to see ourselves and our neighbours with new eyes, to look past mere appearances into the heart of ourselves and our communities. We are encouraged to take the time to take notice, to look deeper. What are the unnamed people and places in our world that need more care and attention? What do you see when you look deeper into your own motives and intentions?

REFLECTION

**God of all the small things, may those without voice be championed,
those without hope be comforted, those without faith be uplifted.**

**May we be rich in courage as we confront the greed
that leads to oppression.**

**May we be rich in compassion as we lament with the brokenhearted.
Amen.**