

## PARISH ANNIVERSARIES DURING THE WEEK



*Happy Birthday!*

Betty Youens – 15 December

+ *Year's Mind*

Kenneth Leslie – 14 December; Dorothy Garrett – 16 December;  
Don Anderson – 16 December; Henry Cleghorn – 17 December;  
Keith Foreman – 17 December



## NOTICES & UPCOMING EVENTS

Wardens & Parish Council members 2020-2021

Please pray for our members of Parish Council as they are Commissioned today.

**Wardens:**

Sandra Cooper, Sue Polites, Glenys Foreman

**Parish Council:**

Sharon Tapner (Treasurer), Deborah Polites (P.C. secretary),  
Barrie Cledsmith, Deborah Howard, Lesley Boyd



Working Bee

Our next working bee will be held on  
Saturday 19 December at 9am

BYO tools. Contact Glenys on 04.09 850 016 for more information.

Christmas services at St Matthew's

Christmas Eve

5.30pm Crib Service  
11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

9am Holy Communion



# St Matthew's Anglican Church Cheltenham



Corner Nepean Highway and Park Road  
Cheltenham, Victoria, 3192  
[www.stmatthewscheltenham.org.au](http://www.stmatthewscheltenham.org.au)



## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**Sunday 13 December 2020**

**9.30am Eucharist**

**Celebrant:** The Rev'd Colleen Clayton

**Organist:** Mr Keith Fullard

153 Years of Witness & Service in Cheltenham

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

*As we gather to worship the God of peace and reconciliation, we respectfully acknowledge the Boon Wurrung people as the traditional owners of this land.*

### ADVENT 3

*Processional Hymn: 302 TIS*

1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favoured lady.' *Gloria!*
2. 'for known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honour thee,  
thy Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold;  
most highly favoured lady.' *Gloria!*
3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,  
'my soul shall laud and magnify his holy name':  
most highly favoured lady. *Gloria!*
4. of her, Immanuel, the Christ was born  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say  
'most highly favoured lady.' *Gloria!*

Words: Baque Carol,  
Paraphrased by Sabine Baring-Gould 1834-1924  
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Together In Song

### ADVENT LITURGY

*A Reading from the Gospel of Saint Luke*

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name'.

Today we remember Mary, innocent and powerful, sacred and scared, worried and waiting as the Saviour of all grows in her womb. She sings boldly when she

might be meek; she bears her role in history with the confidence of a warrior; she is the beginning of a mighty revolution as the proud are brought down and the lowly lifted up.

**Today we give thanks for the Marys among us,  
who step out of the roles society has planned;  
unintended pioneers determined to do as God asks;  
fearless and fearfully stepping out in faith,  
and beckoning us to do the same.**

On this third Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of Mary, mother of God, bearer of the Way.

*Shine on us, O God of justice (tune Picardy)*

**Shine on us, O God of justice;  
Guide our path through gloom of night;  
Bear within us Wisdom's glory;  
Come to us, O Christ the Light.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.  
Come to us, O Christ the Light.**

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,  
**whose mercy endures for ever.**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

*Sentence (sung by the cantor)*

Bind up the broken hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners: proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, the day of vengeance of our God.

*Prayer of Preparation*

[Let us pray.]

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts**

**by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The two Great Commandments*

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

*Kyries (sung)*

**Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

The Lord comes, bringing to light things now hidden in darkness, and disclosing the purposes of the heart.

*Silence is kept*

Let us open our hearts and prepare for his coming, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
We confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy  
Forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly,  
love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

The Lord enrich you with his grace,  
and nourish you with his blessing;  
the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil;

the Lord accept your prayers,  
and absolve you from your offences,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **Amen.**

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

*The Collect of the Day*

O God, most high and most near,  
you send glad tidings to the lowly,  
you hide not your face from the poor;  
those who dwell in darkness you call into the light.  
Take away our blindness,  
remove the hardness of our hearts,  
and form us into a humble people,  
that, at the advent of your Son,  
we may recognise him in our midst  
and find joy in his saving presence.  
We ask this through him whose coming is certain,  
whose day draws near:  
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*A Reading from the Book of Isaiah*

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the broken-hearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.  
For I the Lord love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.  
I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11

For the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

*Magnificat (sung by the cantor with sung response from the congregation)*

**R My soul rejoices in my God. R**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

Who has looked with favour on his lowly servant:  
from this day all generations will call me blessed; **R**

The Almighty has done great things for me:  
and holy is his name.

God has mercy on those who fear him:  
from generation to generation. **R**

The Lord has shown strength with his arm:  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

Casting down the mighty from their thrones:  
and lifting up the lowly. **R**

God has filled the hungry with good things:  
and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel:  
to remember the promise of mercy,

The promise made to our forebears:  
to Abraham and his children for ever. **R**

*A Reading from the First Letter to the Thessalonians*

But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labour among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. Beloved, pray for us. Greet all the brothers and sisters with a holy kiss. I solemnly command you by the Lord that this letter be read to all of them. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

1 Thessalonians 5.12-28

For the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

*Gospel acclamation*

Alleluia.

**Alleluia.**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me: he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

**Alleluia.**

*The Holy Gospel*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you Lord, Jesus Christ.**

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.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?'

He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.'

And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.'

Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?'

He said,

'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

"Make straight the way of the Lord" ', as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.

They asked him, 'Why then are you baptising if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?'

John answered them, 'I baptise with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know,

the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.'

This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptising.

For the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*The Sermon*

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church.

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,**

**God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit  
and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge  
the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the  
forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The priest says*

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

O God, for whom we wait and long, we bring to you our prayers for your world and for your church.

Promise of righteousness, come.

Feed the hungry, shelter the homeless and hear the cries of all who plead for justice.

Come, O God for whom we wait, and, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Promise of freedom, come.  
Bring good news of release to the oppressed, free those in chains of misery and despair.

Come, O God for whom we wait, and, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Promise of peace, come.  
Heal ancient feuds and hatreds and deliver your people from the horrors of war.

Come, O God for whom we wait, and, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Promise of forgiveness, come.  
Look with mercy on our wrongdoings and help us to turn from our sinful ways.  
Come, O God for whom we wait, and, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Promise of salvation, come.  
Remember your people, according to your ancient promises, and send your Messiah.  
Come, O God for whom we wait, and, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Promise of love, come.  
Hold in your tender embrace all who are lonely, friendless, forgotten, rejected.  
Come, O God for whom we wait, and, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Promise of comfort, come.  
Bring the balm of your presence to all who know pain, anguish, sorrow or grief.  
Come, O God for whom we wait, and, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Promise of hope, come.  
Let us see that the time of your coming is near and keep us watchful for your return.  
Come, O God for whom we wait, and, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Promise of glory, come.  
Draw your saints, in this world and the next, into the light of your eternal presence.  
Come, O God for whom we wait and long, and, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Copyright 'Let Us Pray',  
Janet Nelson 1999  
Harper Collins Publishers, Australia

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.  
**Grant that what we have asked in faith  
we may by your grace receive,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## THE PEACE

May the God of peace make you completely holy, ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

### *Offertory Hymn: 538 TIS*

1. Feed us now, Bread of life,  
in this holy meal;  
let us know your love anew:  
we hunger for you.  
Feed us now, Bread of life,  
come and live within;  
let your peace be ours today,  
Lord Jesus, we pray.
2. Piece of bread, cup of wine:  
Lord, this food is good:  
love and mercy come to us  
your promise we trust.  
Piece of bread, cup of wine:  
who can understand  
how his mercy works in these?  
Yet, Lord, we believe.
3. God is here, O so near,  
nearer than our thoughts.  
Stay with us where'er we go;  
Lord, help us to grow.

God is here, O so near,  
in this heaven's meal.  
May we always feed on you  
on the bread that is true.

Words: Robin Mann 1949  
Reproduced with permission  
Together in Song

### Offertory prayers

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given, and  
human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of  
human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we come offering ourselves; all that we are and all that  
we have. Accept and use us for your glory and for the service of your kingdom.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

.....

for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

.....

Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

.....

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ taught us, we are confident to pray:

Our Fa ther in hea-ven hal-lowed be your name your king-dom come  
your will be done, on earth as in hea ven  
Give us to-day our dai-ly bread For-give us our sins as we for-give those  
who sin a gainst us. Save us from the time of tri  
al and de-li-ver us from e-vil. For the king -  
dom, the power, and the glo-ry are yours now and for e-ver. A men.

### The fraction

As this broken bread was once many grains,  
which have been gathered together and made one bread:  
**so may your Church be gathered  
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

## AGNUS DEI

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

### The invitation to receive

Holy and broken things for holy and broken people. Come.

### Communion verse (sung by the cantor)

Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees: say to those who  
are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, fear not!'

*Prayer after Communion*

God for whom we wait,  
we thank you that you have fed us with the bread of life  
and the cup of salvation.  
As we joyfully await your Son,  
keep us ever watchful  
that we may be ready to stand before him  
on the day of his coming.

*The Commissioning of the Parish Council*

St Paul, writing to the Christians in Rome says, 'For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.' (Romans 12.4-8)

People of God, Christ invites each of us to faithful discipleship and service. We are all called to different ministries as we seek to live God's love. As we commission these people today, will you, with them, and as baptised disciples of Christ, renew your commitment to the loving service of God, of one another and of all people?

**With the help of God, we will.**

These people have been called to form the Parish Council of St Matthew's Cheltenham. Will you, as the people of God here in this place, support and pray for them in this ministry?

**With the help of God, we will.**

N, do you believe that God has called you to this ministry? Will you, as long as you are engaged in this work, seek to perform it prayerfully and in a spirit of mutual respect and collaboration with those who lead ministry in this place?

**With the help of God, we will.**

Will you seek to develop the faith, gifts and skills God has given you as you share in Christ's mission and ministry?

**With the help of God, we will.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, I commission you as the St Matthew's Parish Council for the year 2020-21. May God grant you grace, wisdom and joy as you live out this calling.

**Amen.**

**Living God, draw us deeper into your love;  
Jesus our Lord, send us to care and serve;  
Holy Spirit, make us heralds of good news.  
Stir us, strengthen us, teach and inspire us to live your love  
with generosity and joy, imagination and courage;  
for the sake of your world and in the name of Jesus, Amen.**

*Blessing*

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;  
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Recessional Hymn: 276 TIS*

1. There's a light upon the mountains, and the day is the spring  
when our eyes shall see the beauty and the glory of the King;  
weary was our heart with waiting, and the night-watch seemed so long,  
but his triumph day is breaking, and we hail it with a song.
2. There's a hush of expectation, and a quiet in the air,  
and the breath of God is moving in the fervent breath of prayer:  
for the suffering, dying Jesus is the Christ upon the throne,  
and the travail of our spirit is the travail of his own.
3. He is breaking down the barriers, he is casting up the way,  
he is calling for his angels to build up the gates of day:  
but his angels here are human, not the shining hosts above;  
for the drum-beats of his army are the heart-beats of our love.
4. Hark, we hear the distant music, and it comes with fuller swell –  
the great triumph song of Jesus, of our King, Immanuel:  
Zion, go you forth to meet him; and, my soul, be swift to bring  
all your finest and your dearest for the triumph of our King!

From a Prayer Book for Australia.  
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Together in Song