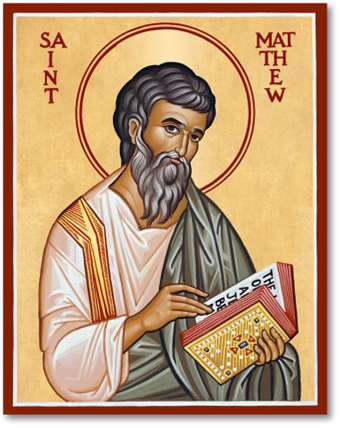
St Matthew’s Anglican Parish Cheltenham

**Feast of St. Matthew**

**Sunday 21st September 2025**



**Vicar: Fr Gerald Loos**

**Organist: Mr Keith Fullard**

*As we gather to worship the God of peace and reconciliation, we respectfully acknowledge*

*the Boon Wurrung people*

*as the traditional custodians of this land.*

OPENING HYMN: **By all your saints still striving**

**By all your saints still striving  
For all your saints at rest,  
Your holy name, O Jesus,  
Forevermore be blest!  
You rose, our King victorious,  
That they might wear the crown  
And ever shine in splendor  
Reflected from your throne.**

**We praise you, Lord for Matthew Whose gospel words declare That, worldly gain forsaking, Your path of life we share. From all unrighteous mammon, O raise our eyes anew, That we, whate’er our station May rise and follow you..**

**Then let us praise the Father  
And worship God the Son  
And sing to God the Spirit,  
Eternal Three in One,  
Till all the ransomed number  
Who stand before the throne,  
Ascribe all power and glory  
And praise to God alone.**

GATHERING IN GOD’S NAME

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen** The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

♫Cantor – Go and make disciples of all nations: baptizing them and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you, says the Lord.

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 Invitation to Confession*

Let us now confess our sins, trusting in God’s mercy and love.

**Merciful God,  
our maker and our judge,  
we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,**

**and in what we have failed to do:  
we have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours**

**as ourselves;  
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.  
Father, forgive us.  
Strengthen us to love and obey you  
in newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God,  
who has promised forgiveness

to all who turn to him in faith:  
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,

strengthen you in all goodness

and keep you in eternal life,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

♫ **Kyrie eleison (x3)**

**Christe eleison (x3)**

**Kyrie eleison (x3)**

**The Gloria**

♫ **Glory to God in the highest,**

**and peace to God’s people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,**

**almighty God and Father,**

**we worship you, we give you thanks,**

**we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,**

**Lord God, Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sin of the world:**

**have mercy on us;**

**you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,**

**you alone are the Lord,**

**you alone are the Most High Jesus Christ,**

**with the Holy Spirit,**

**in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**The Collect**

Let us pray

God of mercy, you chose a tax collector, Saint Matthew, to share the dignity of the apostles. By his example and prayers help us to follow Christ and remain faithful in your service. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

**FIRST READING**

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

(3: 1-6 – page 510 of the pew Bible)

For the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** 19 (verses 1-4)

**~~A close up of a music note

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**~~R~~: Their message goes out through all the earth.**

The heavens declare the glory of God:

and the firmament proclaims his handiwork;

One day tells it to another:

and night to night communicates knowledge. **~~R~~**

There is no speech or language:

nor are their voices heard;

Yet their sound has gone out through all the world:

and their words to the ends of the earth. **~~R~~**

**SECOND READING**

A reading from the Book of Ephesians

(Ephesians 4: 1-14 - page 951 of the pew Bible)

For the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God*.***

*If you are able, please stand for the Gospel.*

♫ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

♫ Cantor –I have chosen you from the world, says the Lord: to go and bear fruit that will last.

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

(Matthew 9: 9-13 - page 790 of the pew Bible)

For the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

**The Homily**

*Silence may be kept*.

**The Nicene Creed**

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

Let us pray for the church and for the world.

Faithful God, as people of old came to you, believing you would answer their needs, so we come today bringing to you the needs of your people.

We pray for your creation, for the fragile ecosystems of the earth, for care and respect for its creatures, and for wise and just stewardship of its resources.

God of the universe, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the people of the world, for all who live with war, poverty or disease, for good government and for peace and harmony between all people.

God of the nations, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for your holy, catholic church, for your priests and people, for unity between Christians, for the ministry and mission of the church throughout the world.

God of the faithful, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are held in the power of sin, for those who are greedy, selfish, dishonest, violent, uncaring or unkind; we pray for ourselves.

God of the sinner, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all whom we push to the fringes of our society, the homeless and the unemployed, prisoners, the mentally ill, those gripped by addictions.

God of the outcast, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who suffer, for the lonely and the broken-hearted, for those in sickness or in pain, for those afraid or unable to name their own needs.

God of the wounded, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for your faithful people of this parish and we remember all who have died in your love. Help us to follow you in faith and hope and love, that with all your saints we may be raised up to everlasting life.

God of the living and the dead, **hear our prayer.**

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 GREETING OF PEACE

*Please stand if you are able*

We are the body of Christ.

**His spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

HYMN: TIS 245   **We have a gospel to proclaim**

**We have a gospel to proclaim**

**Good news for all through the earth;**

**The gospel of a Saviour’s name:**

**We sing His glory, tell His worth.**

**Tell of His birth at Bethlehem,**

**Not in a royal house or hall**

**But in a stable dark and dim:**

**The Word made flesh, a light for all.**

**Tell of His death at Calvary,**

**Hated by those He came to save;**

**In lonely suffering on the cross**

**For all He loved, His life He gave.**

**Tell of that glorious Easter morn:**

**Empty the tomb, for He was free.**

**He broke the power of death and hell That we might share His victory.**

**Tell of His reign at God’s right hand,**

**By all creation glorified;**

**He sends His Spirit on His Church**

**To live for Him, the Lamb who died.**

**Now we rejoice to name Him King:**

**Jesus is Lord of all the earth.**

**This gospel message we proclaim:**

**We sing His glory, tell His worth.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.

Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.

Accept and use our offerings for your glory

and for the service of your kingdom.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Pray, my sisters and brothers, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

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.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,

mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for our Saviour

Jesus Christ,

who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary

and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross and rising to new life,

he offered the one true sacrifice for sin

and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

And now we give you thanks because you have called us into the fellowship of St Matthew and all your saints, and set before us the example of their witness

and the fruit of your Spirit in their lives.

Therefore with angels and archangels,

and with all the company of heaven,

we proclaim your great and glorious name,

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.**

Merciful God, we thank you

for these gifts of your creation,

this bread and wine,

and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,

we who eat and drink them

may be partakers of Christ's + body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;

and when he had given you thanks

he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

“'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper, he took the cup,

and again giving you thanks

he gave it to his disciples, saying,

“Drink from this, all of you.

  This is my blood of the new covenant

shed for you and for many

for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it,

in remembrance of me.”

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:

proclaiming his offering of himself

made once for all upon the cross,

his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,

and looking for his coming again,

we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,

his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice

for the sins of the whole world.

 Renew us by your Holy Spirit,

unite us in the body of your Son,

and bring us with all your people

into the joy of your eternal kingdom;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

with whom, and in whom,

in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

we worship you, Father,

in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power**

**are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

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

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**THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

**AND THE COMMUNION**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**We who are many are one body,**

**for we all share in the one bread.**

♫ **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Grant us peace.**

Behold the Lamb of God

who takes away the sins of the world.

Happy are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*The sacrament is given with the following words*

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

**THE SENDING OUT OF GOD’S PEOPLE**

♫ Cantor –Jesus said, Go and learn what this means, I desire mercy and not sacrifice: for I came not to call the righteous but sinners.

Let us pray. Father, in this eucharist we have shared the joy of salvation which Saint Matthew knew when he welcomed your son. May this food renew us in Christ, who came to call not the just but sinners to salvation in his kingdom where he is Lord for ever and ever

Father,

**We offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Send us out in the power of your Spirit**

**to live and work to your praise and glory.**

*Please remain seated for some announcements.*

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

*If you are able, please stand for God’s blessing*

God give you grace to follow St Matthew and all the saints in faith and hope and love;

and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

HYMN: **TIS 571 Forth in your name, O Lord, I go**

**Forth in your name, O Lord, I go,**

**my daily labour to pursue,**

**you, Lord, alone resolved to know,**

**in all I think, or speak, or do.**

**Each task your wisdom has assigned**

**still let me cheerfully fulfil,**

**in all my works your presence find,**

**and prove your good and perfect will.**

**You may I set at my right hand,**

**whose eyes my inmost substance view,**

**and labour on at your command,**

**and offer all my works to you.**

**Give me to bear your easy yoke,**

**and every moment watch and pray,**

**and still to things eternal look,**

**and hasten to your glorious day;**

**for you delightfully employ**

**all that your bounteous grace has given,**

**and run my course with even joy,**

**and closely walk with you to heaven.**

All hymns and text used with permission from the Australian Prayer Book of Australia, New English Hymnal, Together in Song. CCLI Licence #5371063



**Morning tea after Mass in the Parish Hall**

**INTERNMENT OF ASHES**

**Next Sunday after the 9:30 am Mass there will be the Interment of ashes of**

**Rev. Peter and Barbara Wellock**

**Followed by morning tea**

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**Service Roster 28 September 2025 - 16 after Pentecost**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Volunteer roster:** | **Readings:** |
| Welcomer: Sandra  Chalice: Sandra  Reader: Doug  Intercessor: Priscilla | Amos 6:1a, 4-7  Psalm 146  1 Timothy 6: 6-19  Luke 16:19-31 |

**Prayer Diary:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Monday | 22nd | Barrie Cledsmith  Sandra Cooper  Harold Daly |
| Tuesday | 23rd | Erik, Rachel, Owen, Thomas & Cora Dober  Michael Donnellan  Barbara Duncan |
| Wednesday | 24th | Steve Duggan  David Evans  Fr Roger & Finola Featherstone |
| Thursday | 25th | Keith Fullard  Dagma Ginger  Jill Goodes |
| Friday | 26th | George Halvagis  Fr. Andre Hassing  Jose Hassing |
| Saturday | 27th | CHN  St. Matthew’s Cheltenham |

St Matthew’s feast day invites us to reflect on the call of a tax collector who became an apostle and evangelist. In the Gospels, Matthew is introduced as Levi, sitting at his tax booth when Jesus passes by and says simply, “Follow me” (Matthew 9:9). Tax collectors were despised in Jewish society—seen as collaborators with Rome and often corrupt. Yet it is precisely such a man whom Jesus calls, without condition, hesitation, or explanation.

Matthew’s response is immediate: he rises, leaves everything, and follows. His conversion is not just about leaving behind money and career—it is about stepping into a new identity, from outsider to disciple, from sinner to witness. That night he holds a feast in his house, inviting fellow tax collectors and sinners. Jesus sits at table with them, revealing that the kingdom of God is for the lost, the unwanted, and the overlooked.

The story of St Matthew reminds us of three things:

1. God calls us as we are – not because we are perfect, but because His love is greater than our past.
2. Following Christ means change – Matthew rose up and left behind what once defined him, to walk in a new life.
3. Discipleship is also mission – Matthew did not keep Christ to himself; he opened his home and later wrote a Gospel to proclaim the good news to the world.

As a parish under the patronage of St Matthew, this feast day is a chance to hear again Jesus’ words, “Follow me.” It is an invitation to leave behind whatever holds us back and to live as people of mercy, welcome, and witness. Like Matthew, we are called not only to be disciples, but to share the joy of the Gospel with others.

Blessings

Fr Gerald

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT ST MATTHEW’S**

**First Sunday of the Month**:

8:00am A quiet, said service of Holy Communion

**Every Sunday**:

9:30am A sung service of Holy Communion

**Wednesdays** (not in January):

9:45am Prayer for Healing, Wholeness and Peace

10:00am A quiet, said service of Holy Communion

If you would like to donate to St Matthew’s, thank you!

Our bank details are:

St Matthew’s Anglican Church

BSB 06 3119 Acc. No. 1044 5437



Contact Details:

**Vicar – Fr Gerald Loos SSC**

Mobile 0409 149 486

Wednesday – Healing Mass and Home Communions

Thursday - Office Day in Parish Office

Friday – Pastoral Visits

Please note that Fr Gerald will be taking his regular day off on Monday. Should there be an emergency or if you require urgent pastoral care, he can be contacted on his mobile.

[vicar@stmatthewscheltenham.org.au](mailto:vicar@stmatthewscheltenham.org.au)

www.stmatthewscheltenham.org.au

A poster with cartoon animals

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