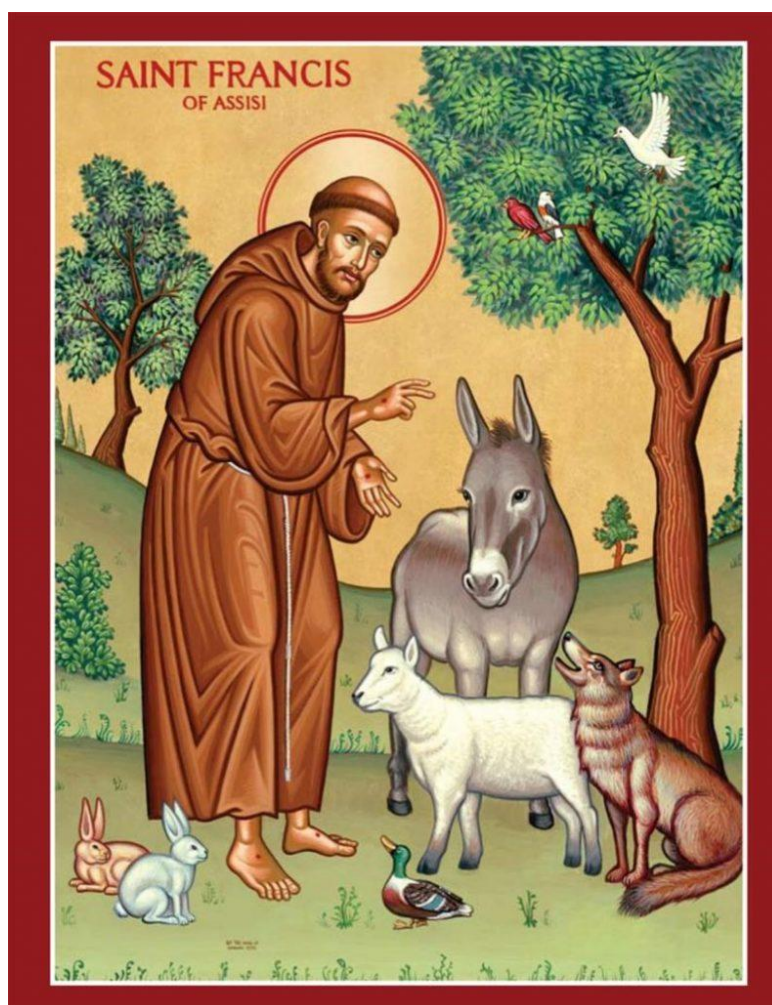


ST MATTHEW'S ANGLICAN PARISH CHELTENHAM

**FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
SUNDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2025**



VICAR: FR GERALD LOOS

DEACON OF THE MASS: REV'D JILL RENISON

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: TIS 135 *All things bright and beautiful*

Refrain

*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful—
the Lord God made them all.*

The wildflowers in their beauty,
the mountain ranges tall,
the billabongs and rivers,
and friendly birds that call,

Refrain

The cold wind in the winter,
the bright, life-giving sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden—
he made them everyone.

Refrain

The coloured walls of gorges,
the gum trees green and tall,
the rocks, and pools, and palm trees,
the sparkling waterfall,

Refrain

The many-coloured corals,
the creatures of the sea,
of bushland, field or desert,
on farms, or roaming free,

Refrain

He gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty
who has made all things well.

Refrain

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: You Lord are all that I have: I have promised to
keep your word. I have sought your favour with all my heart:
be gracious to me according to your promise.

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

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.**

♪ Lord, have mercy (x3)
Christ, have mercy (x3)
Lord, have mercy (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,

Father, you helped Saint Francis to reflect the image of Christ through a life of poverty and humility. May we follow your Son by walking in the footsteps of Francis of Assisi and by imitating his joyful love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

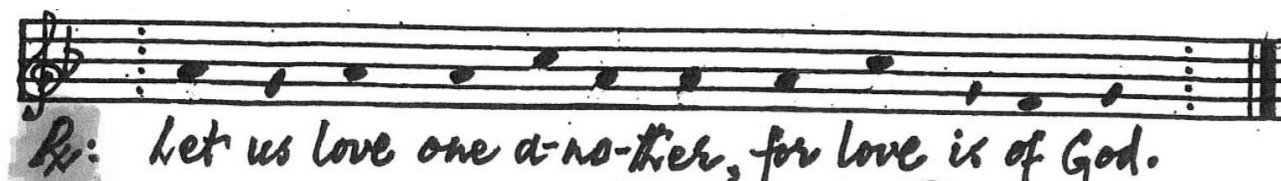
THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

A reading from the Letter to the Galatians
(Galatians 6:14-18 – page 949 of the pew Bible)

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

Responsorial Psalm 133



R Let us love one another, for love is of God.

Behold how good and lovely it is:
when families live together in unity. It is fragrant as oil upon
the head, that runs down over the beard:
fragrant as oil upon the beard of Aaron, that ran down over
the collar of his robe. **R**

It is like a dew of Hermon:
like the dew that falls upon the hill of Zion.
For there the Lord has commanded his blessing: which is life
for evermore. **R**

If you are able, please stand for the Gospel.

♪ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

♪ Cantor: Happy the poor in spirit: the kingdom of heaven
is theirs.
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 11: 25-30 - page 792 of the pew Bible)

For the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

THE HOMILY

Silence may be kept

Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

St Francis of Assisi embraced a life of poverty, humility, and deep love for all of God's creation. As we celebrate his feast, let us confidently bring our prayers before the Lord, who desires peace and goodness for all.

For the Church:

That all Christians may follow the example of St Francis by living lives of humility, simplicity, and compassion.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For peace in the world:

That the prayer of St Francis may be fulfilled in our time — that we may be instruments of peace, sowing love where there is hatred and hope where there is despair.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For care of creation:

That we may respond to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor by living in harmony with nature and protecting our common home.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For the poor, the forgotten, and the marginalized:

That, like St Francis, we may see Christ in the faces of the poor and work to uphold their dignity and rights.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For our community at St Matthew's:

That we may grow in love for God's creation, for one another, and for all creatures great and small.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For those who have died:

That they may, like St Francis, come to rejoice in the fullness of God's glory in heaven.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

O God, you made St Francis a living image of Christ in his humility and love. Hear the prayers we bring on this feast, and help us to walk in his footsteps, praising you in all things. We ask this through 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 607 Make me a channel of your peace

Make me a channel of your peace:

Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your pardon Lord,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

*O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace:

where there's despair in life let me bring hope;
Where there is darkness, let me bring your light,
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

O Master, grant that I may never seek

Make me a channel of your peace:

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

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 Francis 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,

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 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.

♪ 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.

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: O shout to the Lord in triumph all the earth:
serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his face with
songs of joy.

Let us pray.
Lord, by the holy eucharist we have celebrated, help us to
imitate the apostolic love and zeal of St Francis. May we who
receive your love share it for the salvation of all mankind.

Father,
We offer ourselves to you
as a living sacrifice
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out in the power of you Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.

NOTICES

Blessing of our pets

Ny you were created by God, and you are loved by God. May you and your human family experience joy and companionship together and continue to be a blessing to each other. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, **Amen.**

[If a person has brought a photograph of the animal (such as a cat) rather than the animal itself, then the priest will bless the owner, and have them pass on this blessing when they return home]

Remembrance of our pets who have died

We remember our animal companions who are no longer with us physically. We give thanks for the gifts they gave us and the variety of ways they enriched and blessed our lives. We are confident that our Creator continues to care for them. **Amen**

PRAYERS TO ST. FRANCIS FOR OUR PETS:

Good St. Francis, you loved all of God's creatures.
To you they were your brothers and sisters.
Help us to follow your example
of treating every living thing with kindness.
St. Francis, Patron Saint of animals,
watch over my pet
and keep my companion safe and healthy.
Amen.

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Lord Jesus Christ, you gave us in Saint Francis a perfect example of gospel living. Today, as we celebrate the gift of his life help us to walk in his footsteps, in peace and joy, following the path your gospel has traced for us.; 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: All creatures of our God and King TIS 100

All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia, alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Thou rushing winds that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in Heav'n along,
O praise him, alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice.
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

And all ye saints of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part,
O sing ye, alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on him cast your care:
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Let all things their creator bless,
And worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One:
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

CHRISTMAS @ ST MATTHEW'S 2025

DECEMBER 24TH CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00pm Family Service 11:30pm Midnight Mass

DECEMBER 25TH CHRISTMAS DAY

9:30am Christmas Day Mass

NOTICES:



ALL SAINTS & ALL SOULS
1st November 8:00am & 9:30am
Names of our loved ones who
have gone before us will be
remembered at this Mass



PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 30th November @ 10:45am

Please note that the Electoral Role will be closed on Sunday 26 October please check that your name is on the Electoral Role if not please fill in the form provided

All organisations within the parish please send in your reports by the end of October.

Service Roster 12th October – 18th Sunday after Pentecost / OS 28

Volunteer roster:	Readings:
Welcomer: Jan Chalice: Graham Reader: Tao / Chung family Intercessor: Tao / Chung family	2 Kings 5.1-3, 5.7-15c Psalm 111 2 Timothy 2:1-15 Luke 17:11-19

Prayer Diary:

Monday	6 th	Romain Ohlmus Gillian Palliser Helen Pederick
Tuesday	7 th	Sue Polites Polites / Scully family – Deb, Patrick & Gabrielle Rev Jill Renison
Wednesday	8 th	Beverley Roberts Shaun Schoorman Cherrine Siebel

Thursday	9 th	Cliff & Marilyn Simmons Jean & George Stokes Roma Swallow
Friday	10 th	Sharon Tapner, Derek & Mitchell Sereen Peggy Triggs Fr Roger & Anne Wood
Saturday	11 th	CHN St. Matthew's Cheltenham



St Francis of Assisi is one of the most beloved saints in the history of the Church — not because he was powerful or important in the world's eyes, but because he gave everything up to follow Christ with radical love, humility, and joy.

Born into a wealthy family, Francis had every comfort. But when he encountered the Gospel — truly heard it in his heart — he chose a different path. He gave up wealth, status, and safety, and embraced a life of simplicity, poverty, and peace. He saw God's presence in everyone and everything: in the poor, in lepers, in animals, in the sun and stars, in the smallest flower and the harshest storm.

To Francis, creation was not just scenery — it was a song of praise to the Creator. He called the sun his brother, the moon his sister, and he preached not only with words, but with how he lived. His life was a homily of humility.

But Francis was not just about nature and peace — he was deeply devoted to Christ crucified. He bore the stigmata, the wounds of Christ, and lived in profound union with the suffering Jesus. His peace was not shallow; it was born from a deep well of prayer, sacrifice, and love.

In a world obsessed with power, possessions, and self-promotion, Francis reminds us that true joy is found in letting go.

In a world of noise, he teaches us the value of silence and stillness.

In a world divided by hatred, greed, and fear, he shows us the way of peace, fraternity, and trust in God.

You don't have to sell everything to follow Christ like Francis did — but maybe you're being called to simplify your life, to care for the poor, to pray more deeply, or to see creation as a gift, not a resource to consume.

Blessings

Fr. Gerald

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi (Prayer for Peace)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.



St. Francis, pray for us

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
with a Children's Program

Wednesdays (not in January):

9:45am Prayer for Healing, Wholeness and Peace

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

Monday, Thursday and Friday mornings:

9:00-9:30 am Morning Prayer via Zoom.

The link can be found in the Parish e-newsletter.

Meeting ID: 796 1738 1243

Passcode: 8hzrij

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

Tuesday & Friday – Pastoral Visits

Wednesday – Healing Mass and Home Communion

Thursday - Office Day in Parish Office

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

www.stmatthewscheltenham.org.au