

**ST MATTHEW'S ANGLICAN PARISH  
CHELTENHAM**

**ADVENT SUNDAY II**

**SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER 2025**



**CELEBRANT & PREACHER:  
FR. GERALD LOOS**

**DEACON OF THE MASS: REV'D JILL RENISON**

**ORGANIST: MR KEITH FULLARD**

*This church stands on the land of the Boon Wurrung people.  
We respectfully acknowledge their elders, past and present, and we pray  
for the ongoing work of reconciliation.*

## OPENING HYMN: The advent of our God 271 TIS

The advent of our God,  
with eager prayers we greet,  
and singing hasten on his road  
his coming reign to meet.

The everlasting Son  
was born to make us free;  
and he a servant's form put on  
to gain our liberty.

Let Zion now arise  
to greet her infant king,  
and gladly take with thankful heart  
the peace he comes to bring.

As judge, on clouds of light,  
he soon will come again,  
his scattered people to unite,  
with them in heaven to reign.

Then evil flee away,  
before the rising dawn!  
Let our old nature day by day  
God's image still put on.

Praise to the incarnate Son  
who comes to set us free,  
with Father, Spirit, ever one  
to all eternity.

## 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 – The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near: repent and believe in the Good News.

Brothers and sisters, today we gather to celebrate the sacred mysteries. As we begin, we light the candles of our Advent wreath, a sign of our longing and joyful expectation for the coming of Christ, the Light of the World.

*(Pause briefly.)*

Let us pray.

Lord God, You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Your Son. As we light the second candle of our wreath, grant us hearts that seek Your peace and lives that reflect Your compassion. May Christ, the Prince of Peace, guide our steps in the way of salvation. Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*The first and second purple candles are lit followed by the acclamation*

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

*The Invitation to Confession*

Lord Jesus, you come to renew us and make us ready for  
Your coming.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you call us to prepare the way of the Lord in  
our hearts and in the world.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you bring hope and salvation to all who repent  
and believe in You.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

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.**

## **THE COLLECT**

Let us pray,  
God of all peoples,  
whose servant John came baptising  
and calling for repentance:  
help us to hear his voice of judgement,  
that we may also rejoice in his word of promise,  
and be found pure and blameless in that glorious Day  
when Christ comes to rule the earth as Prince of Peace;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

# THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

## FIRST READING

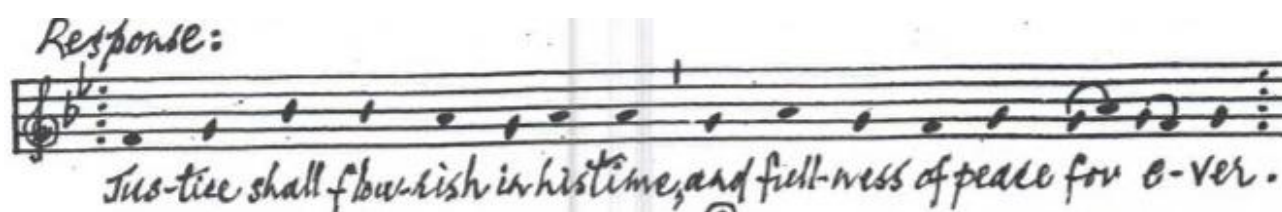
A reading from book of Isaiah

(Isaiah 11:1-10 - Found on page 558 in the pew bible)

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM 72



**R.** Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Give the king your judgement, O God:  
and your righteousness to the son of a king,  
That he may judge your people rightly:  
and the poor of the land with equity. **R.**

In his time shall righteousness flourish:  
and abundance of peace, till the moon shall be no more.  
His dominion shall stretch from sea to sea:  
from the great rivers to the ends of the earth. **R.**

He will deliver the needy when they cry:  
and the poor that has no helper.  
He will pity the helpless and the needy:  
and save the lives of the poor. **R.**

Let his name live for ever:  
and endure as long as the sun.  
Let all peoples use his name in blessing:  
and all nations call him blessed. **R.**

## **SECOND READING**

A reading from the letter to the Romans  
(Romans 15:4-13 - Found on page 923 in the pew bible)

For the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL** *Please stand*

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

♪ Cantor - Prepare the way of the Lord make straight his  
path: all people shall see the salvation of God.  
**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 3:1-12 - found on page 784 in the pew bible)

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

**The Sermon**

*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

*Deacon of the Mass:* In this Advent season of longing and hope, we lift our prayers to the God who comes to us in compassion and peace.

For the Church: O God of peace, prepare your Church to be a beacon of reconciliation in a world of division. Strengthen all who proclaim your Word, and deepen our witness to Christ's peace in our communities.  
**Come, Lord Jesus, and grant us your peace.**

For the World: Prince of Peace, look with mercy on nations in conflict, on leaders who bear heavy burdens, and on all who long for safety and justice. Inspire the hearts of all people toward understanding, restraint, and the ways that make for peace.  
**Come, Lord Jesus, and grant us your peace.**

For Our Communities: God of hope, bless the places where we live and work. Heal divisions, calm anxieties, and open



paths of cooperation and goodwill. Make us instruments of your peace in our neighbourhoods.

**Come, Lord Jesus, and grant us your peace.**

For the Suffering: Compassionate God, bring comfort to those who grieve and healing to all who are ill in body, mind, or spirit. Surround the lonely, the fearful, and the weary with your tender presence.

**Come, Lord Jesus, and grant us your peace.**

For the Oppressed and Vulnerable: God of justice, watch over the poor, the displaced, and those who live without safety or shelter. Stir our hearts to work for systems that protect dignity and foster peace.

**Come, Lord Jesus, and grant us your peace.**

For our Departed brothers and sisters: Lord of eternity, grant rest to all who have died and peace to all who mourn their passing. May your perpetual light shine upon them.

**Come, Lord Jesus, and grant us your peace.**

*Deacon of the Mass:* God of peace, as we await the coming of your Son, keep us steadfast in hope, compassionate in witness, and faithful in prayer. Make us ready to receive Christ with joy, that his peace may reign in our hearts and throughout the world. **Amen.**

## **THE GREETING OF PEACE**

We are the body of Christ.

**His spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*Seek, O seek the Lord, while he is near;  
trust him, speak to him in prayer,  
and he will hear.*

God be with us in our lives,  
direct us in our calling;  
break the snares the world contrives,  
keep us from falling.

*Seek, O seek the Lord ...*

God, increase in us the life  
that Christ by dying gave us:  
though we faint in mortal strife  
his blood will save us.

*Seek, O seek the Lord ...*

Strengthen in our hearts the love  
we owe to one another;  
how can we love God above  
and not each other?

*Seek, O seek the Lord ...*

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.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself  
to come among us in human flesh,  
he fulfilled the plan you formed  
before the foundation of the world  
to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,  
we now watch for the day  
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels  
and with all the company of heaven  
to proclaim your glory  
for ever praising you and singing:

**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."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith  
**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-low ed 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.

♪ 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 – Save us by your might, Lord: answer our prayer  
so that the people you love may be blessed

Let us pray.

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.

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. **Amen**

*Please remain seated for some announcements.*

## THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

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

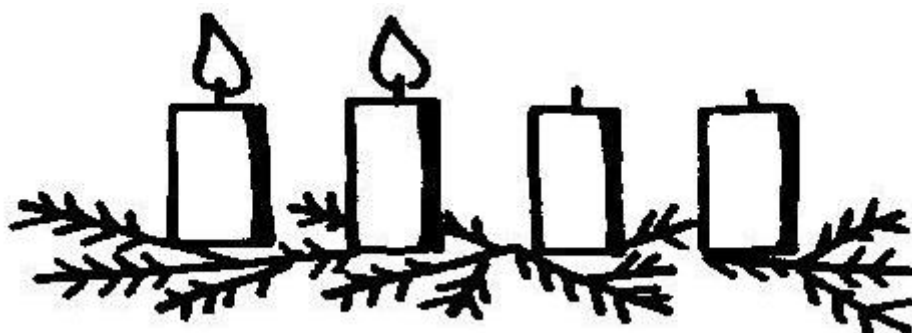
May the God of Peace make you steadfast in hope. **Amen**

May Christ, the Prince of Peace, guard your hearts and  
minds. **Amen**

May the Holy Spirit fill your lives with the peace that passes  
all understanding. **Amenpo**

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

As we await our coming Saviour,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**



Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free,  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us for ever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

## Church News

**Please note NO morning tea after Mass TODAY**

### **Vicarage BBQ**

The Vicarage family invites all parishioners to a BBQ  
at the Vicarage **TODAY**

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December after the 9:30am Service  
**At 4 Pine Street Cheltenham**



## Service Roster 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025 - ADVENT III

Volunteer roster:	Readings:
Welcomer: Jan Chalice: Sandra Reader: Carmen Intercessor: David	Isaiah 35:1-10 Song of Mary James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

### Prayer Diary:

Monday	8 <sup>th</sup>	Gillian Palliser Helen Pederick Sue Polites
Tuesday	9 <sup>th</sup>	Polites / Scully family – Deb, Patrick & Gabrielle Rev Jill Renison
Wednesday	10 <sup>th</sup>	Beverley Roberts Shaun Schoorman Cherrine Siebel
Thursday	11 <sup>th</sup>	Cliff & Marilyn Simmons Jean & George Stokes Roma Swallow
Friday	12 <sup>th</sup>	Sharon Tapner, Derek & Mitchell Sereen Peggy Triggs Fr Roger & Anne Wood
Saturday	13 <sup>th</sup>	CHN St. Matthew's Cheltenham



On this Second Sunday of Advent, the candle of Peace is lit—its quiet flame reminding us that true peace is not merely the absence of conflict, but the presence of Christ.

The Scriptures today echo the voice of John the Baptist crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths.”

This call is not simply about clearing a road; it is about clearing a space

within our hearts. Peace begins when we make room for God—when we allow His Word to challenge us, His mercy to heal us, and His love to reshape the way we live.

In a world marked by noise, division, and hurriedness, peace can feel elusive. But Advent teaches us a profound truth: God's peace enters our lives the same way Christ entered the world—quietly, gently, and in unexpected places.

It begins in the hidden corners of our daily life:

- in the forgiveness we hesitate to offer,
- in the patience we struggle to give,
- in the trust we place in God amid uncertainty,
- in the kindness we extend without seeking anything in return.

Peace is not something we wait for passively. It is something we prepare, something we choose, something we allow God to cultivate within us. And when Christ finds a home in our hearts, His peace radiates outward—into our families, our parish, our workplace, and our world.

The candle of Peace also reminds us that Christ is the Prince of Peace, the One who reconciles all things and who promises a kingdom where justice and mercy meet. Our task is to begin living that kingdom now, even in small, imperfect ways.

On this Second Sunday of Advent, let the light of Peace steady your heart. Let it quiet your fears. Let it renew your longing for the One who comes to heal, to restore, and to bring all things into harmony.

*May His peace settle upon you—  
not as the world gives, but as only God can give.*

Blessings  
*Fr Gerald*



# **CHRISTMAS @ ST MATTHEW'S 2025**

**DECEMBER 14<sup>th</sup> CAROL SERVICE 6.00pm**

**DECEMBER 24<sup>th</sup> CHRISTMAS EVE**

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

**DECEMBER 25<sup>th</sup> CHRISTMAS DAY**

9:30am Christmas Day Mass



## **PRAYER FOR THE NEW PARISH COUNCIL**

Almighty and ever-loving God,  
We give you thanks for the faithful servants who have been called  
to serve on this new Parish Council.

As they begin this important work,  
we ask that you bless them with wisdom, patience, and a spirit of unity.  
Guide their decisions, that they may reflect your will and lead this parish  
in faithful discipleship and service.

Grant them the gift of discernment, that they may hear your voice clearly  
and follow your path in all things. May their hearts be open to one  
another, listening with respect and working together  
in love and mutual trust.

Lord, empower them with the courage to lead with integrity,  
the strength to overcome challenges,  
and the compassion to care for all those entrusted to their care.

May your Holy Spirit help them to serve with humility,  
always mindful of the needs of the poor, the lost, and the broken.

And may the work they do together bring glory to your name,  
strengthen the life of this community,  
and draw all nearer to your loving embrace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
Amen.

# 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.

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 – Pastoral Visits

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](http://www.stmatthewscheltenham.org.au)

