

ST AGNES[†]

ANGLICAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday in Lent (Laetare Sunday) 19th March 2023

Saint Agnes' Glen Huntly is a welcoming and hospitable faith community, celebrating God's compassion and love for all. As an Anglo-Catholic church, our faith, worship and community life finds its ultimate expression in encounter with the Risen Christ in Scripture and Sacrament. Together we are committed to growing in spirituality and service as disciples of Jesus, glorifying God and serving our local community.

You can find out more about us at www.saintagnes.org.au.

The Anglican Parish of Saint John & Saint Agnes

5 Finch Street East Malvern VIC 3145
03 9571 6616
secretary@saintjohns.org.au

REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday

8:00am: Eucharist (Saint John's)
9:30am: Choral Eucharist (Saint John's)
9:30am: Sung Eucharist (Saint Agnes')
6:00pm: Choral Evensong
(Saint John's, First Sunday)
6:00pm: Congregational Evensong
(Saint John's, Third Sunday)

Weekday Eucharist

10:00am: Tuesday (Saint Agnes')
10:15am: Friday (Saint John's)

Daily Morning and Evening Prayer

7:30am & 5:00pm Monday-Friday (Saint Agnes')
9:15am & 4:45pm Tuesday-Friday (Saint John's)

Vicar

Fr. Alex Ross
0431 308 703
vicar@saintagnes.org.au
(Day-Off: Monday)

Warden of Saint Agnes' House

Fr. Peter Richards 0427 631 383
(<http://faithindaba.blogspot.com>)
warden@saintagneshouse.org
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(Day-Off: Friday)

Associate Clergy

Fr. Ken Hewlett 0427 772 003
Bp. Brad Billings

Churchwardens

Robin Richards 0412 545 002
John Hooper 0416 185 005
Anne Kerin 0411 587 180

Director of Music

Lachlan McDonald 0488 278 139

We acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians of this place and their stewardship of the land that now sustains us all and on which we worship the God of all Reconciliation and Hope

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Please stand when the bells are rung. The opening hymn is sung

OPENING HYMN

1. Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief and pain;
leave to your God to order and provide;
in every change he faithful will remain:
Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

2. Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
to guide the future as he has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake,
all now mysterious shall be clear at last.
Be still my soul: the tempests still obey
his voice, who ruled them once on Galilee.

4. Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be for ever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
sorrow forgotten, love's pure joy restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Katharina von Schlegel 1697-?
tr. Jane Laurie Borthwick 1813-97 alt
TIS 123

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: 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. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled and wandered far off. Let us then ask for mercy, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**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.**

♪ Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.	Christ, have mercy.
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 COLLECTS

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made, and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please sit.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

A reading from the First Book of Samuel.

[16.1-13]

The Lord said to Samuel, ‘How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.’ Samuel said, ‘How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.’ And the Lord said, ‘Take a heifer with you, and say, “I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.” Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.’ Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, ‘Do you come peaceably?’ He said, ‘Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.’ And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, ‘Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.’ But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.’ Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, ‘Neither has the Lord chosen this one.’ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, ‘Neither has the Lord chosen this one.’ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, ‘The Lord has not chosen any of these.’ Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Are all your sons here?’ And he said, ‘There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.’ And Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.’ He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, ‘Rise and anoint him; for this is the

one.’ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd:
therefore can I lack nothing.

He will make me lie down in green pastures:
and lead me beside still waters.

He will refresh my soul:
and guide me in right pathways for his name’s sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil:

for you are with me, your rod and your staff comfort me.

You spread a table before me
in the face of those who trouble me:
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup shall be full.

Surely your goodness and loving-kindness
will follow me all the days of my life:

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

SECOND READING

A reading from Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians.

[5.8-14]

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

‘Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.’

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

Please stand. A Gradual hymn is sung

GRADUAL HYMN

1. There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea,
and forgiveness in his justice
sealed for us on Calvary.

2. There is plentiful redemption
in the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.

3. For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

4. But we make his love too narrow
by false limits of our own,
and we magnify his strictness
with a zeal he will not own.

5. If our love were but more simple
we should take him at his word;
and our lives would be illumined
by the goodness of our Lord.

*Frederick William Faber 1814-63 alt
TIS 136*

GOSPEL

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.

'I am the light of the world,' says the Lord;

'those who follow me will have the light of life.'

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

[9.1-41]

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone

who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.' He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him. Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your sin remains.

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

THE SERMON

The Sermon is followed by a period of reflection

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us together stand to 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.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Prayers are offered for the Church and for the world. Each petition ends with...

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

The final petition for all the faithful departed ends...

May they rest in peace: **and rise in glory.**

GREETING OF PEACE

Please stand.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

We greet each other with a sign of Christ's peace.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

A collection is taken to support the life and mission of the parish. An Offertory hymn is sung

OFFERTORY HYMN

1. Robe yourself, my soul, in gladness,
leave sin's gloomy den of sadness,
come where God in light is waiting,
come, begin the celebrating!
For the Lord brings me salvation,
issues me his invitation;
God most holy comes to win me,
comes from heaven to live within me.

2. Quickly let me go to meet him,
like a bride run out to greet him.
With his grace he stands there knocking;
let me now, my doors unlocking,
open wide the way before him,
say to him, as I adore him:
Come, dear Lord, let me receive you,
do not let me ever leave you.

3. How I hunger, loving Saviour,
for your goodness and your favour!
Often has my heart been burning;
for this food have I been yearning,
often thirsting for refreshing
in this cup of life and blessing,
given by him who here invites us,
and to God himself unites us.

4. All our thinking, as we ponder,
cannot comprehend this wonder,
that this living bread is boundless
though the people fed are countless,
and that Christ his blood is giving
with the wine we are receiving.
What a mystery, of God's planning,
past all human understanding!

5. Jesus, sun of life, my splendour,
Jesus, joy, and friend most tender,
Jesus, source of all y being,
all my thoughts and actions seeing:
at your feet I fall before you;
make me worthy to enjoy you
in this feast that you have given
as my food, the food from heaven.

6. Jesus, bread of life, I pray you,
let me cheerfully obey you,
and accept your invitation
for my good, not condemnation.
Let me eat this supper, knowing
what great love, Lord, you are showing.
Now on earth these gifts you give me,
as your guest in heaven receive me.

*Johann Franck 1618-77, tr. Catherine Winkworth 1827-78
rev. in Lutheran Hymnal 1973 and David Arthur Schubert 1942-*

TIS 503

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND CONSECRATION

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.

The priest continues in thanksgiving...

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.

The priest continues with the prayer of consecration...

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

♫ **Christ has died.**

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Eucharistic Prayer continues...

... 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 Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND 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 sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us your peace.**

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin 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.**

All baptised Christians who seek Christ in this sacrament are invited to receive Holy Communion. You are welcome to receive both the consecrated bread and wine. Anyone is welcome to receive a blessing instead. During Communion the Parish Choir sing the Motet 'Hide Not Thy Face' by Richard Farrant.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Notices may be given here. The priest prays the post-communion prayer, followed by

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.

The priest pronounces this blessing:

Christ our Saviour draw you to himself, that you may find in him crucified a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope and the assurance of sins forgiven; and the blessing of God almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the 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

CLOSING HYMN

1. O sacred head sore wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down;
O kingly head surrounded
with thorns your only crown;
death's shadows rise before you,
the glow of life decays;
yet hosts of heaven adore you
and tremble as they gaze.

2. What language shall I borrow
to praise you, heavenly friend,
for this your dying sorrow,
your mercy without end?
Such agony and dying!
Such love to sinners free!
O Christ, all grace supplying,
turn now your face on me.

3. In this your bitter Passion,
good Shepherd, think of me,
look on me with compassion,
unworthy though I be:
Beneath your cross abiding
for ever would I rest,
in your dear love confiding,
and with your presence blessed.

4. Lord, be my consolation,
my shield when death is near;
remind me of your Passion,
be with me when I fear.
my eyes shall then behold you,
upon your cross shall dwell,
my heart by faith enfold you;
and who dies thus, dies well.

*Paul Gerhardt 1607-76, from Salve caput cruentatum
attrib. Bernard of Clairvaux 1091-1153
tr. James Waddell Alexander 1804-59 and others
TIS 339*

Please join us for Morning Tea.

NEWS & NOTICES

JAM FOR SALE

Father Ken's and Bev's Jams for sale \$5.00. Seville Orange Marmalade and Raspberry. All proceeds to aid the Anglican Board of Mission - "The official mission agency of the Anglican Church in Australia set up by General Synod."

ELECTION OF SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES

The Vicar has received a mandate from the Archbishop of Melbourne directing him to invite the Electors of the Parish to proceed to the election of three Lay Representatives and one Alternate Lay Representative in preparation for the Fifty-Fourth Synod of the Diocese of Melbourne. Accordingly, an Election is to be held on Sunday 2nd April. Nominations for Lay Representatives must be given to the Vicar before 8am on Sunday 26th March. Nomination Forms are available from the Vicar. If you would like to nominate somebody, or be considered for nomination, please speak with the Vicar.

ANNUNCIATION MASS AT SAINT AGNES'

Please see the accompanying poster for a special service at Saint Agnes' Glen Huntly on Saturday March 25th at 6pm with a guest choir for the Annunciation. This will be a beautiful evening service featuring Gregorian Chant and other Sacred Polyphony music. Come along and invite a friend to enter into the mystery and majesty of worship and to hear again the angel's message to Mary!

ANNUNCIATION MASS

SAINT AGNES' GLEN HUNTLY

Saturday 25th March 6pm



A Choral Mass to celebrate the wonder of God's promise to Mary that she would bear the Saviour of the World - sung by a new choir dedicated to Gregorian Chant and Sacred Polyphony, Chorus Ecclesiae Australia, with Guest Conductor, Andrew Raiskums. Featuring the Missa Super Dixit Maria by Hans Leo Hassler, and other music drawn from Gregorian Chant. All are welcome!

WWW.SAINTAGNES.ORG.AU