

ST AGNES[†]

ANGLICAN CHURCH

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

4th February 2024

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 Eucharists

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

Vicar

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

Associate Clergy

Fr. Peter Richards 0427 631 383
(<http://faithindaba.blogspot.com>)
Fr. Ken Hewlett 0427 772 003
Bp. Brad Billings

Churchwardens

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

Text marked with ♪ is sung to the Mass Setting by Michael Dudman. Please stand when the bells are rung.

OPENING HYMN

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

2. Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave:
thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

3. Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be,
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

*Charles Wesley 1707-88 alt
TIS 217(ii)*

✠ 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.

Christ the Son of God has been revealed as a light to the nations. Let us bring our darkness to his light, 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 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

Almighty and ever-living God, we humbly pray that, as your only Son was presented in the temple in accordance with the law, so we may be dedicated to you with pure and clean hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please sit.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Malachi.

[3.1-4]

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

How lovely is your dwelling-place:

O Lord God of hosts!

**My soul has a desire and longing
to enter the courts of the Lord:
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

The sparrow has found her a home,
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young:
even your altar, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

**Blessed are those who dwell in your house:
they will always be praising you.**

Blessed are those whose strength is in you:
in whose heart are the highways to Zion;

**Who, going through the valley of dryness,
find there a spring from which to drink:
till the autumn rain shall clothe it with blessings.**

They go from strength to strength:
they appear, every one of them,
before the God of gods in Zion.

**O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer:
give ear, O God of Jacob.**

Behold, O God, him who reigns over us:
and look upon the face of your anointed.

**One day in your courts is better than a thousand:
I would rather stand at the threshold
of the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of ungodliness.**

For the Lord God is a light and a shield,
the Lord gives favour and honour:
and no good thing will he withhold
from those who walk in innocence.

**O Lord God of hosts:
blessed are those who put their trust in you.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

[2.14-18]

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the

power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand. A Gradual hymn is sung

GRADUAL HYMN

**1. Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
gold of obedience and incense of lowliness
bring, and adore him: the Lord is his name.**

**2. Low at his feet lay your burden of carefulness,
high on his heart he will bear it for you,
comfort your sorrows, and answer your prayerfulness,
guiding your steps in the way best for you.**

**3. Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth you would reckon to own:
truth in its beauty and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings to bring to his throne.**

**5. Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
gold of obedience and incense of lowliness
bring, and adore him: the Lord is his name.**

*John Samuel Bewley Monsell 1811-75 alt
TIS 454*

GOSPEL

Alleluia, **alleluia,**

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel. **Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

[2.22-40]

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When

they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

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.**

All stand.

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.

We greet each other with a sign of peace.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

A collection is taken to support the life and mission of the parish.

OFFERTORY HYMN

1. How brightly shines the Morning Star!
The nations see and hail afar
The Light in Judah shining.
Thou David's son of Jacob's race,
The Bridegroom, and the King of grace,
For thee our hearts are pining!
Lowly, holy,
Great and glorious, thou victorious
Prince of graces,
Filling all the heavenly places!

2. Though circled by the hosts on high,
He deigns to cast a pitying eye
Upon his helpless creature;
The whole creation's Head and Lord,
By highest seraphim adored,
Assumes our very nature.
Jesu, grant us,
Through thy merit, to inherit
Thy salvation;
Hear, O hear our supplication.

3. Rejoice, ye heav'ns; thou earth, reply;
With praise, ye sinners, fill the sky,
For this his Incarnation.
Incarnate God, put forth thy power,
Ride on, ride on, great Conqueror,
Till all know thy salvation.
Amen, Amen!
Alleluya, Alleluya!
Praise be given
Evermore by earth and heaven.

Philipp Nicolai 1556-1608
tr. William Mercer 1811-1873
TIS 199 / NEH 27

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.

The priest breaks the bread while the Agnus Dei is sung

**✠ O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
O 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. Anyone is welcome to receive a blessing instead.

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:

May Christ the Son of God be manifest to you, that your lives may be a light to the world; 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. He who would valiant be
‘Gainst all disaster,
Let him in constancy
Follow the Master.
There’s no discouragement
Shall make him once relent
His first avowed intent
To be a pilgrim.
2. Who so beset him round
With dismal stories,
Do but themselves confound-
His strength the more is.
No foes shall stay his might,
Though he with giants fight:
He will make good his right
To be a pilgrim.
3. Since, Lord, thou dost defend
Us with thy Spirit,
We know we at the end
Shall life inherit.
Then fancies flee away!
I’ll fear not what men say,
I’ll labour night and day
To be a pilgrim.

*John Bunyan 1628-88 and Percy Dearmer 1867-1936
TIS 561 / NEH 372*

The organist plays the Postlude

Please join us for Morning Tea.

NEWS & NOTICES

CARITAS – MONDAY 5 FEBRUARY 8PM

Monday 5th February at 8pm is our first meeting for the year. It will be a home Eucharist and Planning Meeting followed by supper, held at the home of Rosemary Wickett. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

CHORAL EVENSONG TONIGHT 6PM AT SAINT JOHN'S

All are welcome to join at Saint John's Finch Street tonight at 6pm for the return of Choral Evensong, sung by our wonderful Parish Choir. Music includes Responses by Smith of Durham, Canticles by George Dyson, the Introit 'Ave Maris Stella' by Guillaume Dufay and – appropriately – the Anthem 'O Pray For The Peace Of Jerusalem' by Herbert Howells. Followed by wine and cheese – all are welcome, bring a friend!

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE – 9:30AM WEDNESDAY 14 FEBRUARY

There will be two Ash Wednesday services offered on 14 February as we enter into the Lenten season – a simple service with Imposition of Ashes at 9:30am at Saint Agnes' Glen Huntly, followed by the first session of our Contemplative Lenten Study, and a choral service also with Ashes at 6pm at Saint John's Finch Street which is followed by a simple meal and the first session of our Missional Lenten Study. All are encouraged to observe this important day in the calendar.

LENTEN STUDIES

The Lenten programme for this year has been published and includes two studies with both a missional and a contemplative focus. Please do take up the opportunity of joining for one or both of these studies this year as a means to enrich your observance of Lent.



ST AGNES⁺
ANGLICAN CHURCH

Saint Agnes' Glen Huntly

www.saintagnes.org.au

SAINT JOHN'S



FINCH STREET

CHORAL EVENSONG

A service of music, prayer and Scripture led by our outstanding Parish Choir, followed by wine and cheese

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 6PM





ST AGNES[†]

ANGLICAN CHURCH
GLEN HUNTLY

'LISTENING FOR GOD' LENT 2024

Worship

Ash Wednesday

9:30am Wednesday 14th February 2024

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ." Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes.

Study

Contemplative Lenten Study

'The Jesus Prayer'

Tuesdays at 10:30am following Eucharist at Saint Agnes'

Explore the Contemplative Tradition of the Orthodox and Eastern Churches in using the 'Jesus Prayer' together with music and other elements to develop the unceasing prayer of the heart in meditation.

Missional Lenten Study

'God's Own Country'

Wednesdays at 6pm at Saint John's Finch Street

Based on the Seven Days of Creation, listen for God's work and presence in this land through the voices of indigenous Christians.

Act

Dixon House Lenten Collection

Sundays throughout Lent

Bring along your non-perishable donations as we gather together a Lenten offering to Dixon House, supporting those in need this season.

WWW.SAINTAGNES.ORG.AU