

ST AGNES[†]

ANGLICAN CHURCH

EASTER VIGIL

31st March 2024

6am

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

BLESSING AND PROCLAMATION OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

All gather outside the church. In darkness, fire is kindled.

LIGHTING OF THE NEW FIRE

Dear friends in Christ,
on this most holy night,
in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life,
the Church invites believers throughout the world
to come together in vigil and prayer.

This is the Passover of the Lord,
in which by hearing his word and celebrating his sacraments,
we share in Christ's victory over evil, sin and death
and live with him for ever in God.

Let us pray.

God of eternal brightness,
we share in the light of your glory
through your Son, the light of the world.
Sanctify ✠ this new fire and inflame us with new hope.
Purify our minds by this Easter celebration
and bring us one day to the feast of eternal light.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Paschal Candle is blessed with the sign of the Cross

Christ yesterday and today,
the beginning and the end,
Alpha and Omega,
all time belongs to him, and all ages:
to him be glory and power,
through every age and for ever. **Amen.**

The Paschal candle is lit from the new fire.

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

PROCESSION OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

The ministers and congregation all enter the church. Three times the minister holds aloft the Paschal Candle and proclaims

♪ The light of Christ!
Thanks be to God!

The people's candles are lit from the Paschal Candle and all gather around as the Exultet is sung

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Exult, all creation around God's throne!
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!
Sound the trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour,
radiant in the brightness of your King!
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!
Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!
The risen Saviour shines upon you!
Let this place resound with joy,
echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

My dear friends, standing with me in this holy light,
join me in asking God for mercy,
that he may give his unworthy minister
grace to sing his Easter praises.

♪ The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly right
that with full hearts and minds and voices
we should praise the unseen God, the all-powerful Father,
and his only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

For Christ has ransomed us with his blood,
and paid for us the price of Adam's sin
to our eternal Father!

This is our Passover feast,
when Christ, the true Lamb, is slain,
whose blood consecrates the homes of all believers.

This is the night when first you saved our fathers:
you freed the people of Israel from their slavery
and led them dry-shod through the sea.
This is the night when the pillar of fire
destroyed the darkness of sin!

This is the night when Christians everywhere,
washed clean of sin
and freed from all defilement,
are restored to grace and grow together in holiness.

This is the night when Jesus Christ
broke the chains of death
and rose triumphant from the grave.
What good would life have been to us,
had Christ not come as our Redeemer?

Father, how wonderful your care for us!
How boundless your merciful love!
To ransom a slave
you gave away your Son.

O happy fault, O necessary sin of Adam,
which gained for us so great a Redeemer!
Most blessed of all times, chosen by God
to see Christ rising from the dead!

Of this night scripture says:
"The night will be as clear as day:
it will become my light, my joy."

The power of this holy night
dispels all evil, washes guilt away,
restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy;
it casts out hatred, brings us peace, and humbles earthly pride.

Night truly blessed when heaven is wedded to earth
and man is reconciled with God!

Therefore, heavenly Father, in the joy of this night,
receive our sacrifice of praise,
your Church's solemn offering.

Accept this Easter candle,
a flame divided but undimmed,
a pillar of fire that glows to the honour of God.

Let it mingle with the lights of heaven
and continue bravely burning
to dispel the darkness of this age!

May the morning Star which never sets
find this flame still burning:

Christ, that Morning Star,
who came back from the dead,
and shed his peaceful light on all mankind,
your Son who lives and reigns
for ever and ever.

Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The congregation sit

FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

[1.1-2:4a]

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, ‘Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.’ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, ‘Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.’ And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, ‘Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.’ And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, ‘Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.’ And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the

day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

RESPONSE

**1. God is love, let heav'n adore him;
God is love, let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him,
and exalt him with one voice.
God, who laid the earth's foundation,
he who spread the heavens above,
and who breathes through all creation
God is love, eternal Love.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the Book of Exodus.

[14.10-31]

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, 'Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, "Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians"? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.' But Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them;

and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.’

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, ‘Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.’

Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.’ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

RESPONSE

**2. God is love, and gently enfolding
all the world in one embrace,
with unfailing grasp is holding
every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then they find that selfsame aching
deep within the heart of God.**

THIRD READING

A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel

[36.24-28]

I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

RESPONSE

**3. God is love, and though with blindness
sin afflicts our human hearts,
God's eternal lovingkindness
holding, guiding, grace imparts.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain;
God is love, so love for ever
o'er the universe must reign.**

Timothy Rees (1874-1939) alt
TIS 153

FOURTH READING

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

[6.3-11]

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EASTER ACCLAMATION

All stand

Christ is risen! Alleluia, alleluia!

He is risen, indeed! Alleluia, alleluia!

THE GLORIA

Tapers are extinguished, the church is fully illuminated, the 'Gloria in Excelsis' is sung to the organ and festive ringing of bells.

♫ **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

Eternal giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ: renew your Church with the Spirit given to us in baptism, that we may worship you in sincerity and truth, and shine as a light in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

GOSPEL

Alleluia, **alleluia,**
Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us;
therefore let us keep the feast. The Lord is risen indeed, alleluia!
Alleluia.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark. [16.1-8]
Glory ✠ to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away

the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?’ When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.’ So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

For the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE SERMON

The Sermon is offered by the Vicar and is followed by a period of reflection.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

All gather around the font

Dear friends, through the paschal mystery we are buried with Christ in his death, so that we may rise with him to new life. Now that our Lenten observance is ended, let us reaffirm the promises we made in baptism.

I ask you all to make the profession of Christian faith into which you were baptised, and in which you live and grow.

Do you turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of my sins.

Do you renounce all that is evil?

I renounce all that is evil.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Water is poured into the font and the minister says a prayer of blessing

I ask you now to reaffirm as yours the faith of the Church.

Do you believe in God the Father?
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in God the Son?
**I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead,
on the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heave,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge
the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Will you each by God's grace, strive to live as a disciple of Christ, loving God with your whole heart, and your neighbour as yourself, until your life's end?

I will with God's help.

God the Father, the rock of our salvation, has given us new birth by water and the Spirit, and bestowed on us the forgiveness of sins, through Jesus Christ our Lord. May God keep us faithful to our calling now and forever.
Amen.

The people are sprinkled with water from the font.

GREETING OF PEACE

Christ is risen. Alleluia!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The peace of the risen Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

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

OFFERTORY HYMN

1. Jesus lives! Your terrors now
can, O death, no more appal us;
Jesus lives! By this we know
now the grave cannot enthrall us.
Hallelujah!

2. Jesus lives! For us he died;
then may we, for Jesus living,
pure in heart, in him abide,
glory to our Saviour giving.
Hallelujah!

4. Jesus lives! Henceforth is death
not for us a gloomy portal
when we take our final breath,
but the gate to life immortal.
Hallelujah!

5. Jesus lives! To him the throne
over all the world is given;
may we go where he is gone,
rest and reign with him in heaven.
Hallelujah!

Christian Fürchtegott Gellert (1715-69)
Tr. Frances Elizabeth Cox 1812-97 and others
TIS 372

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
be 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

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

♪ **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.**

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.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Notices may be given here.

The priest prays a 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 says this blessing:

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight; 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 the peace of Christ, Alleluia, Alleluia:
Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia.

CLOSING HYMN

**1. At the dawning of salvation;
in the morning of the world,
Christ is raised, a living banner
by the love of God unfurled,
Through the daylight, through the darkness,
Christ leads on his great array:
all the saints and all the sinners
he has gathered on his way.**

**2. He is risen in the morning,
he is risen from the dead;
he is laughter after sadness,
he is light when night has fled.
He has suffered, he has triumphed,
life is his alone to give:
as he gave it once he gives it
evermore, that we may live.**

**3. For the glory of salvation
in the dawn of Easter day
we will praise you, loving Father;
we rejoice to sing and pray
with the Son and with the Spirit
Lead us on, your great array,
saints and sinners celebrating
your triumphant love today.**

*Jock Curle (1919-?)
TIS 392*

Please join us for a festive breakfast.

NEWS & NOTICES

ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

WELCOME

Welcome to Saint Agnes' Glen Huntly for this joyful celebration of the new life and hope we have in Jesus' conquering of death and resurrection to a new and transformed humanity, the first fruit of what all who are baptised into his death may confidently look forward to in a resurrection like his.

If you are visiting us this morning, please stay for a celebratory morning tea and if you would be happy for us to keep in touch please complete one of the 'Welcome Cards' and return to the Vicar or Fr Peter Richards.



ST AGNES[†]

ANGELICAN CHURCH

Saint Agnes' Glen Huntly

www.saintagnes.org.au