

ST AGNES[†]

ANGLICAN CHURCH

Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

14th December 2025

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

114 Booran Road Glen Huntly VIC 3163
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: Evensong & Benediction
(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 Marc Billimoria
Fr Ken Hewlett
Bp Brad Billings
Fr Luke Hopkins

Churchwardens

John Hooper 0416 185 005
Jane Fyfield 0412 543 545
Robert Buckmaster 0437 014 090

Director of Music

Rowan Swarbrick 0401 268 269

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.

The symbol ✠ indicates where the Sign of the Cross is customarily made.

Please stand when the bells are rung.

The Ministers and Choir enter while the Opening Hymn is sung.

OPENING HYMN

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.
2. O come, O come, great Lord of might
who to the tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! rejoice! ...
3. O come, O key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! rejoice! ...
4. O come, O branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! rejoice! ...

5. O come, O dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! rejoice! ...

*Anon., Latin, 18th cent. or earlier
based on Antiphons from the 9th cent. or earlier
tr. John Mason Neale 1818-66 alt
TIS 265*

✠ 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.

Silence is held as we gather our hearts and minds into the presence of God

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.

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; 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.’ Jesus said ‘This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.’

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Let us open our hearts and prepare for his coming, 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.
Christ, 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 Trisagion is said.

Holy God,
Holy and mighty,
Holy and immortal,
Have mercy on us.

This prayer is said as the third candle on the Advent Wreath is lit

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth
as a burning and shining light.
May we your servants rejoice in his light,
and so be led to witness to him
who is the Lord of our coming kingdom,
Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages.
Blessed be God for ever.

The Trisagion is repeated

Holy God,
Holy and mighty,
Holy and immortal,
Have mercy on us.

THE COLLECT

Almighty God, you have made us and all things to serve you: come quickly to save us, so that wars and violence shall end and your children may live in peace, honouring one another with justice and love; through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please sit.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

[35:1-10]

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.
Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,

and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

[146]

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul:
while I live I will praise the Lord;

While I have any being:

I will sing praises to my God.

Put not your trust in princes:
nor in flesh and blood, which cannot save.

**For when their breath goes from them,
they return again to the earth:**

and on that day all their thoughts perish.

Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob:
whose hope is in the Lord their God,

The God who made heaven and earth:

the sea, and all that is in them,
Who keeps faith for ever:
who deals justice to those that are oppressed.

**The Lord gives food to the hungry:
and sets the captives free.**

The Lord gives sight to the blind:
the Lord lifts up those that are bowed down.

**The Lord loves the righteous:
the Lord cares for the stranger in the land.**

He upholds the widow and the fatherless:
as for the way of the wicked, he turns it upside down.

**The Lord shall be king for ever:
your God, O Zion, shall reign through all generations.
Praise the Lord.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of James

[5:7-10]

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

Please stand. A Gradual hymn is sung

GRADUAL HYMN

**1. My song is love unknown,
my Saviour's love to me,
love to the loveless shown,**

that they might lovely be.
O who am I
That for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh, and die?

2. He came from his blest throne
salvation to bestow:
but all made strange, and none
the longed-for Christ would know.
But O my friend!
my friend indeed,
who at my need
his life did spend.

7. Here might I stay and sing,
no story so divine;
never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine.
This is my friend,
in whose sweet praise
I all my days
could gladly spend.

Samuel Crossman (1624-84) alt
TIS 341

Please turn to face the Book of the Gospels.

GOSPEL

Alleluia, **alleluia.**

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.
Alleluia.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew. [11.2-11]

Here it is customary to trace three small crosses on the forehead, lips and heart

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.’

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.”

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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

THE SERMON

The Sermon is followed by a time of silence and a musical 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, *here it is customary to make a slight bow*
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,
Here it is customary to make a low bow from the waist until '...became truly human'
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 *here it is customary to make a slight bow*
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

In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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. Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long;
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.

2. On him the Spirit largely poured
exerts its sacred fire;
Wisdom and might and zeal and love
his holy breast inspire.

3. He comes the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

4. He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.

5. His silver trumpets publish loud
the jubilee of the Lord,
our debts are all remitted now,
our heritage restored.

6. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heaven's exalted arches ring
with your beloved name.

Philip Doddridge (1702-51)
TIS 269

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,** *here it is customary to make a low bow from the waist*
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, and
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.

A period of deep silence is held with silent adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.

The priest breaks the bread while the Agnus Dei is sung

♫ O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.
O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.
O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us 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.

Notices may be given here. The priest prays this post-communion prayer

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.**

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The priest pronounces this blessing:

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; *here it is customary to bow, or genuflect on the left knee* 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. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady, *Gloria!*'
2. 'for known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold;
most highly favoured lady.' *Gloria!*
3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,
'my soul shall laud and magnify his holy name'"
most highly favoured lady, *Gloria!*
4. of her, Immanuel, the Christ was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say
'most highly favoured lady'. *Gloria!*

*Basque Carol, paraphrased by
Sabine Baring-Gould 1834-1924
TIS 302*

The organist plays the Postlude.

Please join us for Morning Tea.

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER 7:30PM

Join the Archbishop of Melbourne and Mrs
Louie Thorpe at Saint John's Finch Street for
this traditional Christmas service of readings
and choral music

featuring among others

O Magnum Mysterium by Victoria

Es ist ein Ros Entsprungen by Praetorius

Bululalow by Peter Warlock

The Crown of Roses by Tchaikovsky

followed by a festive supper

Saint John's
5 Finch Street
East Malvern



WWW.SAINTJOHNS.ORG.AU



ADVENT LABYRINTH MEDITATION

*Journey deeply into the mystery of Advent with
this guided meditation using the Saint Agnes' Labyrinth*

**WEDNESDAY 17
DECEMBER 6PM**

Saint Agnes' Anglican Church
114 Booran Road, Glen Huntly

ADMISSION FREE

WWW.SAINTAGNES.ORG.AU

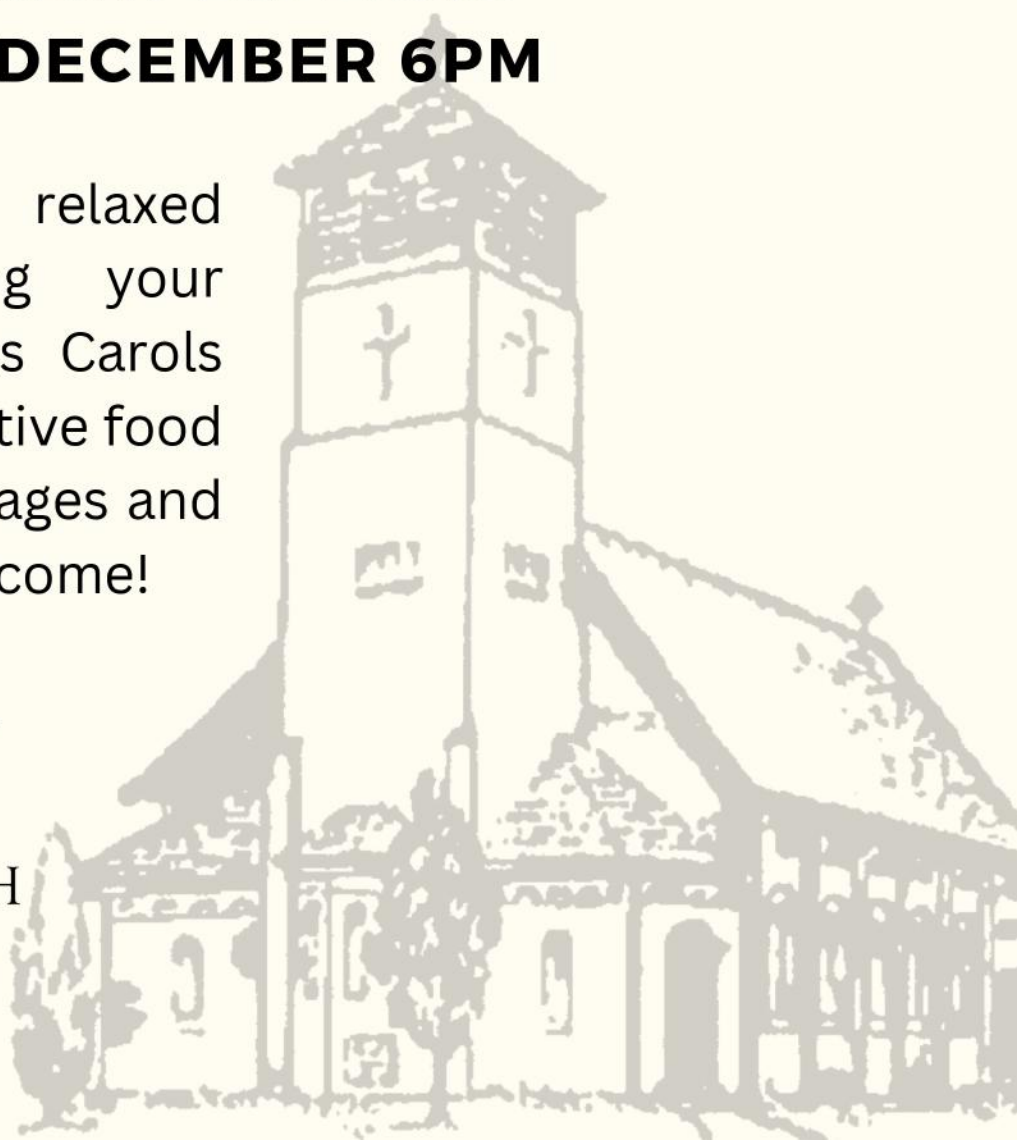


COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS

**FRIDAY EVENING
19 DECEMBER 6PM**

An informal and relaxed occasion to sing your favourite Christmas Carols and enjoy some festive food and fellowship! All ages and singing abilities welcome!

ST AGNES[†]
ANGLICAN CHURCH
114 BOORAN RD
GLEN HUNTLY



SAINT AGNES' GLEN HUNTLY CHRISTMAS

COMMUNITY CAROL
SINGING

6PM FRIDAY 19 DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS
& CAROLS

9PM WEDNESDAY 24 DECEMBER

Followed by festive supper
& refreshments



WWW.SAINTAGNES.ORG.AU

NEWS & NOTICES

ADVENT LABYRINTH EVENT – WEDNESDAY 17 DECEMBER 6PM

We have a wonderful spiritual resource at Saint Agnes' Glen Huntly in the Labyrinth which is painted onto the nave. Come along to a special guided meditation event on Wednesday 17 December at 6pm and learn how to enter into this spiritual practice while reflecting on the themes of the Advent Collects.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS – FRIDAY 19 DECEMBER 6PM

Please spread the word about our upcoming 'Community Christmas Carols' to be held here in church at Saint Agnes' Glen Huntly on Friday 19 December at 6pm. A fun and informal evening of community and 'open mic' carol singing. Accompanied by a festive supper it is a great occasion to bring along friends and acquaintances to introduce them to our life and parish.

NINE LESSONS & CAROLS WITH ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE

Please come along to Saint John's Finch Street for our Nine Lessons and Carols Service on Sunday 21 December at 7:30pm at which we will welcome the new Archbishop of Melbourne and Mrs Louie Thorpe. The service is then followed by a sumptuous supper generously provided by Toscano's! Our Director of Music, Rowan Swarbrick, has planned an exciting selection of carols and music to accompany the traditional 'Nine Lessons', telling the story of God's promises from Creation to Incarnation. Don't miss this very special service!

CHRISTMAS FLYERS LETTERBOX DROP – WALKERS WANTED

Might you be willing to help participate in a 'letterbox drop' of flyers advertising our Christmas services? Flyers are available at the back of the church – please feel encouraged to take a bundle and distribute them to friends and neighbours!



ST AGNES⁺

ANGLICAN CHURCH

www.saintagnes.org.au