

ST AGNES[†]

ANGLICAN CHURCH

Second Sunday of Easter (Low Sunday)

12th April 2026

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
Archdeacon Colleen O'Reilly
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.

OPENING HYMN

1. The day of resurrection!
earth, tell it out abroad;
the Passover of gladness,
the Passover of God:
from death to life eternal,
from earth up to the sky,
our Christ has brought us over
with hymns of victory.

2. Our hearts be pure from evil
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection light;
and listening to his greeting
may hear, so calm and strong,
his own 'All hail' and, hearing,
may raise the victors' song.

3. Now let the heavens be joyful
and earth her song repeat,
the whole world shout in triumph
her living Lord to greet;
let all things seen and unseen
their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord has risen,
our joy that has no end.

*John of Damascus c.675-749
tr. John Mason Neale 1818-66 alt
TIS 361*

✠ 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.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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.’

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and inviting them to the Lord's table. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, with a sincere and a true heart.

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 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, *here it is customary to make a slight bow*
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, here it is customary to make a slight bow
**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:
Here it is customary to bow for the duration of the words 'receive our prayer'
receive our prayer.
**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High**
Jesus Christ, here it is customary to make a slight bow
**with the Holy Spirit,
in the ✠ glory of God the Father. Amen.**

THE COLLECT

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life of all
who put their trust in him: raise us, we pray, from the death of sin to the life
of righteousness; that we may ever seek the things which are above, where
he 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 Book of Acts

[2.14a, 22-32]

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: ‘Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

‘You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him,

“I saw the Lord always before me,

for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.”

‘Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

“He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.”

This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

[16]

Preserve me, O God:

for in you have I taken refuge.

**I have said to the Lord, You are my lord:
and all my good depends on you.**

As for those who are held holy on the earth:

the other gods in whom people delight,

**Though the idols are many that they run after:
their offerings of blood I will not offer,
nor take their name upon my lips.**

The Lord is my appointed portion and my cup:

you hold my lot in your hands.

**The share that has fallen to me is in pleasant places:
and a fair land is my possession.**

I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel:

at night also he has instructed my heart.

**I have set the Lord always before me:
he is at my right hand, and I shall not fall.**

Therefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices:

my flesh also shall rest secure.

**For you will not give me over to the power of death:
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.**

You will show me the path of life:

in your presence is the fulness of joy,

and from your right hand flow delights for evermore.

SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of Peter.

[1.1-12]

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To the exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who have been chosen and destined by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit to be obedient to Jesus Christ and to be sprinkled with his blood:

May grace and peace be yours in abundance.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours made careful search and inquiry, inquiring about the person or time that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated, when it testified in advance to the sufferings destined for Christ and the subsequent glory. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in regard to the things that have now been announced to you through those who brought you good news by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look!

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand. A Gradual hymn is sung

GRADUAL HYMN

**1. Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

2. Holy, Holy, Holy! all the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns
around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

3. Holy, Holy, Holy! though the darkness hide thee,
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
Only thou art holy, there is none beside thee
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

4. Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth,
and sky, and sea;
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Reginald Heber 1783-1826
NEH 146 / TIS 132 (Nicea)

Please turn to face the Book of the Gospels.

GOSPEL

Alleluia, **alleluia.**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. **Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John. [20:19-31]

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus

came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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...

Rest ☩ eternal grant to them, O Lord:
and let light perpetual shine upon them.
May they rest in peace:
and rise in glory.

The prayers of intercession may conclude with this final prayer, after which all stand

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.
**Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your grace receive,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

All stand.

GREETING OF PEACE

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia

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.

OFFERTORY HYMN

1. Now the green blade rises
from the buried grain,
wheat that in the dark earth
many days has lain:
love lives again,
that with the dead has been:
*Love has come again,
like wheat that springs up green.*

2. In the grave they laid him,
Love whom hate had slain,
thinking that he never
would wake again,
laid in the earth,
like grain that sleeps unseen.
*Love has come again,
like wheat that springs up green.*

3. Up he sprang at Easter,
like the risen grain,
he who for the three days
in the grave had laid,
raised from the dead
my living Lord is seen:
*Love has come again,
like wheat that springs up green.*

4. When our hearts are wintry,
grieving, or in pain,
then your touch can call us
back to life again -
fields of our hearts
that dead and bare have been:
*Love has come again,
like wheat that springs up green.*

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, after which please stand.

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.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The priest pronounces the 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; *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 the peace of Christ, Alleluia, Alleluia:
Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia.

CLOSING HYMN

*By your kingly power, O risen Lord,
all that Adam lost is now restored:
in your resurrection be adored.*

1. Sing the joyful Easter cry,
sound it to the souls in prison,
shout our triumph to the sky:
sing Christ risen, sing Christ risen.
*By your kingly power, O risen Lord,
all that Adam lost is now restored:
in your resurrection be adored.*

2. Sing the joyful Easter cry,
let all times and peoples listen:
death has no more victory,
sing Christ risen, sing Christ risen.
*By your kingly power, O risen Lord,
all that Adam lost is now restored:
in your resurrection be adored.*

3. Death has lost and life has won;
every newborn soul we christen
has the Father's child become:
sing Christ risen, sing Christ risen.
*By your kingly power, O risen Lord,
all that Adam lost is now restored:
in your resurrection be adored.*

*James Phillip McAuley 1917-76 alt
TIS 386*

The organist plays the Postlude.

Please join us for Morning Tea.

NEWS & NOTICES

ELECTION OF SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES

The period for receiving Nomination Forms for the election of two Lay Representatives and one Alternate Lay Representative in preparation for the Fifty-Fifth Synod of the Diocese of Melbourne closed at 8am Sunday 12th April.

VICAR ON LEAVE 23 APRIL TO 5 MAY INCLUSIVE

Please note that the Vicar will be on leave from Thursday 23 April until Tuesday 5 May, inclusive. He will be travelling solo to Hong Kong – his first visit there – to experience its culinary and sartorial delights, as well as two Sundays at St John's Cathedral of the Anglican 'Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui'. I am grateful to Fr Luke Hopkins who will be at Saint John's Finch Street on Sunday 26 April and Archdeacon Colleen O'Reilly who will be at Saint John's Finch Street on Sunday 3 May. Fr Marc will be at Saint Agnes' Glen Huntly as usual on those Sundays as well as officiating at Choral Evensong on Sunday 3 May and can be contacted for any pastoral emergencies.