



ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
TOORAK
EST. 1859



St. Michael & All Angels

29 September, 2024

8am

Welcome

St. John's welcomes everyone to all services and events, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, race or background. This is a wonderful and historic church, founded in 1859. We are part of the Anglican Church of Australia and a member of the global Anglican Communion, comprised of 80 million people.

Worship

Regular services of worship are held each Sunday at 8am and 10am, and Wednesday at 7pm. Services are followed by times of fellowship over food and drinks. All are welcome.

Mission

Our mission is to know and love Christ and neighbour. We actively follow Jesus' command to love God, love one's neighbour and to care for all people. We regularly visit the sick, home-bound, and the dying. We care for the poor and needy through service and charitable giving, through our Opportunity Shop run in partnership with the local Catholic and Uniting churches, and by supporting the work of Anglicare, The Brotherhood of St. Laurence and The Anglican Board of Mission. Our clergy regularly baptise new members of the church, preside at weddings and care for the grieving through our funeral ministry.

Visitors

If you're visiting for the first time please introduce yourself to a welcomer or member of the clergy, and fill out the blue 'Welcome' card found at the end of every pew so we can stay in touch with you.

The Church

The church is decorated in white for the celebration of the Holy Angels. White symbolises purity, light, glory, and joy and is used during the Christmas and Easter seasons, and on major feast days.

Cover Image

The Three Archangels with Tobias, Francesco Botticini (1446-1498),
1470, Tempera on Wood
Tempera on Panel Uffizi Museum, Florence

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge we meet on the Traditional Lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong peoples of the East Kulin Nations and pay our respect to their Elders past and present.



@stjohnstoorak



Like us on
Facebook

*As you enter the church, please ensure your phone is switched off or on silent.
Please use the time before the service for prayer or quiet reflection, and allow others to do the same*

INTRODUCTORY RITE

Please stand as the procession enters the church

PRELUDE Prelude

Henry Coleman (1888-1965)

THE INVOCATION

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

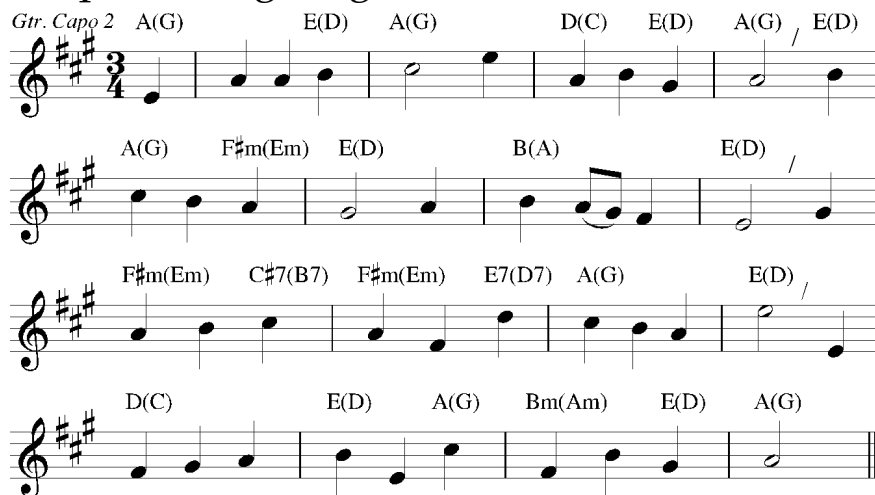
Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

GREETING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

And all the angels sang, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever. Amen

HYMN 'O worship the King all-glorious above'



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. O worship the King all-glorious
above,
O gratefully sing his power and his
love:
our shield and defender, the
ancient of days,
pavilioned in splendour, and
girded with praise. | 2. O measureless might, ineffable
love,
while angels delight to hymn you
above,
the humbler creation, though
faltering their praise,
with true adoration shall sing all
their days. |
|---|--|

Robert Grant 1779-1838 *alt.* based on Psalm 104 & 18

COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.

THE TWO GREAT COMMANDMENTS

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord your 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 a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.’

KYRIE ELEISON *said*

**Lord, have mercy, Lord have mercy.
Christ, have mercy, Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

CONFESSION

We have come to Mount Zion, the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to myriads of angels, to God, the judge of all, and to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant. *Hebrews 12.22-24*

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, confident in God’s forgiveness.

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.

ABSOLUTION

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *said*

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.

COLLECT FOR ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

Almighty God, you govern the courses of this world by means too wonderful for us to comprehend: give us reverence before the mysteries of your providence, and grace to know the messengers of your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING Ezekiel 1.1-14 *read by Molly Bull*

In the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I was among the exiles by the River Chebar, the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God. On the fifth day of the month (it was the fifth year of the exile of King Jehoiachin), the word of the Lord came to the priest Ezekiel son of Buzi in the land of the Chaldeans by the River Chebar, and the hand of the Lord was on him there. As I looked, a stormy wind came out of the north: a great cloud with brightness around it and fire flashing forth continually, and in the middle of the fire, something like gleaming amber. In the middle of it was something like four living creatures. This was their appearance: they were of human form. Each had four faces, and each of them had four wings. Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the sole of a calf's foot; and they sparkled like burnished bronze. Under their wings on their four sides they had human hands. And the four had their faces and their wings thus: their wings touched one another; each of them moved straight ahead, without turning as they moved. As for the appearance of their faces: the four had the face of a human being, the face of a lion on the right side, the face of an ox on the left side, and the

face of an eagle; such were their faces. Their wings were spread out above; each creature had two wings, each of which touched the wing of another, while two covered their bodies. Each moved straight ahead; wherever the spirit would go, they went, without turning as they went. In the middle of the living creatures there was something that looked like burning coals of fire, like torches moving to and fro among the living creatures; the fire was bright, and lightning issued from the fire. The living creatures darted to and fro, like a flash of lightning.

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM Psalm 138 *said*

I will give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart:
even before the gods will I sing your praises.

I will bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name:
because of your faithfulness and your loving-kindness,
for you have made your name and your word
supreme over all things.

At a time when I called to you, you gave me answer:
and put new strength within my soul.

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord:
for they have heard the words of your mouth;
And they shall sing of the ways of the Lord:
that the glory of the Lord is great.

For though the Lord is exalted, he looks upon the lowly:
and he comprehends the proud from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of danger,
yet will you preserve my life:
you will stretch out your hand against the fury of my
enemies, and your right hand shall save me.

The Lord will complete his purpose for me:
your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever;
do not forsake the work of your own hands.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was
in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE SECOND READING Revelation 12.7-12a *read by Marcia Fregon*

And war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world – he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming, ‘Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Messiah, for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they did not cling to life even in the face of death. Rejoice then, you heavens and those who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to you with great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!’

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

THE GOSPEL John 1.45-51

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. John.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, ‘We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.’ Nathanael said to him, ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’ Philip said to him, ‘Come and see.’ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, ‘Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!’ Nathanael asked him, ‘Where did you come to know me?’ Jesus answered, ‘I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.’ Nathanael replied, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’ Jesus answered, ‘Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.’ And he said to him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.’

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

THE SERMON The Assistant, The Revd Dr Wendy Crouch

THE NICENE CREED *said together, standing*

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *led by the clergy*

The Prayers end with the following

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.

PARISH NOTICES

THE GREETING OF PEACE *standing*

**We are the body of Christ. His Spirit is with us.
The peace of the Lord be always with you. And also with you.**

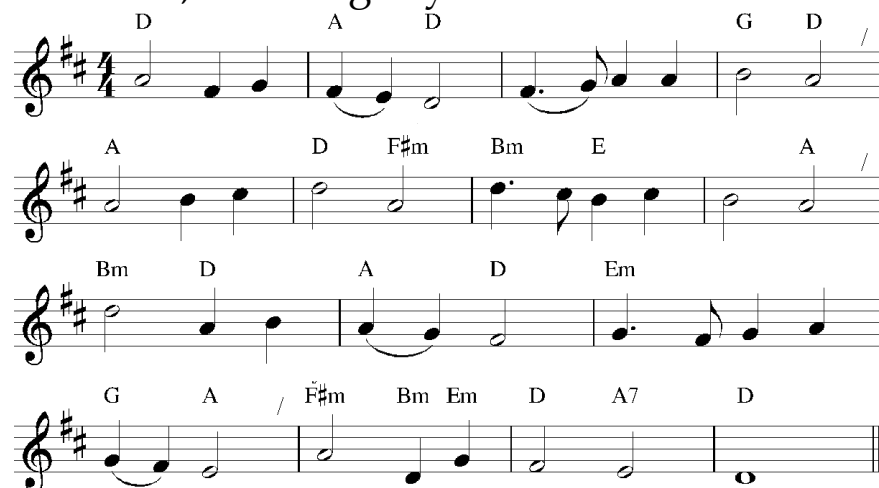
All share with each other a 'COVIDsafe' sign of peace

OFFERTORY

As the gifts of bread and wine are brought forward, a monetary collection for the life of St. John's is taken. Please give by contributing to the collection plate, at the paypoint at the rear of the church or by scanning the QR code.



OFFERTORY HYMN 'Christ, the fair glory'



1. Christ, the fair glory of the holy angels,
thou who hast made us, thou who o'er us rules,
grant of thy mercy, unto us thy servants,
steps up to heaven.
2. Send thy archangel, Michael, to our succour;
peacemaker blessèd, may he banish from us
striving and hatred, so that for the peaceful
all things may prosper.
3. Send thine archangel, Gabriel, the mighty;
herald of heaven, may he from us mortals,
spurn the old serpent, watching o'er the temples
where thou art worshipped.
4. Send thy archangel, Raphael, the restorer,
of the misguided ways of those who wander,
who at thy bidding strengthens soul and body
with thine anointing.
5. May the blest Mother of our God and Saviour,
may the assembly of the saints in glory,
may the celestial companies of angels ever assist us.
6. Father almighty, Son and Holy Spirit,
God ever blessèd, be thou our preserver; thine is the glory
which which the angels worship veiling their faces.

Text: Rabanus Maurus (c776-856)

Tune: Christe Sanctorum

PRAYER FOR RECEIVING THE OFFERTORY

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom. **Blessed be God for ever.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

All remain standing

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 Great Thanksgiving Prayer continues to the following

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:

SANCTUS

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.**

BENEDICTUS

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer continues to the following

...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith
Christ has died, Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer ends with the following

... songs of never ending praise *or* ... now and for ever.
**Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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.**

AGNUS DEI

Jesus Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION *kneeling or standing*

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed 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.**

ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

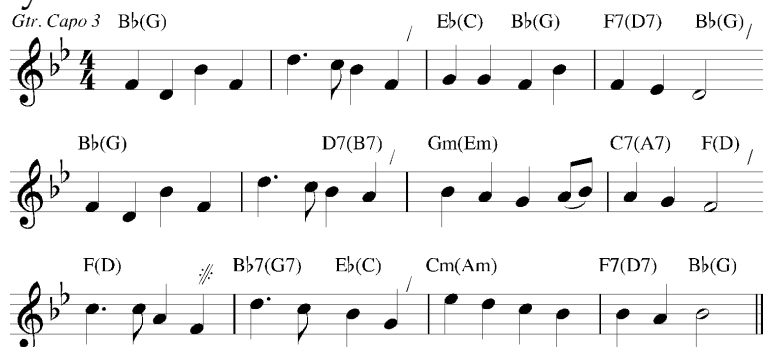
All baptised Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Communion is available as consecrated bread, which is given to each person, and wine which may be drunk from the chalice. A separate chalice for intinction (dipped) is also provided. If you would prefer a blessing, please come forward and indicate this by keeping your arms behind your back. Gluten free wafers are available on request.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER *Please stand*

The prayer ends with the following

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.

FINAL HYMN 'Glory be to God the Father'



1. Glory be to God the Father,
glory be to God the Son,
glory be to God the Spirit,
God almighty, Three in One!
Glory, glory, glory, glory
while eternal ages run.

2. Glory be to him who loved us,
washed us from each spot and stain;
glory be to him who bought us,
made us kings with him to reign;
glory, glory, glory, glory
to the Lamb that once was slain.

3. Glory to the king of angels,
glory to the church's king,
glory to the king of nations,
heaven and earth, your praises
bring;
glory, glory, glory, glory
to the King of Glory bring.

4. 'Glory, blessing, praise eternal!'
thus the choir of angels sings;
'Honour, riches, power, dominion!'
thus its praise creation brings;
glory, glory, glory, glory,
glory to the King of kings!

Horatius Bonar 1808-89 *alt.*

BLESSING

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen**

POSTLUDE Prelude & Fugue in Bb Major BWV 560

from Eight Short Preludes and Fugues

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

As the postlude is played please remain seated or leave quietly



Order of Service from *A Prayer Book for Australia* 1995. Broughton Books by E.J.Dwyer (Australia) Pty Ltd, Unit 13, Perry Park, 33 Maddox Street, Alexandria, NSW 2015. © 1995, The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation. With the Liturgical Psalter, Inclusive Language Version English text © 1995 by David L Frost, John A. Emerton, Andrew A Macintosh. Hymns from *Together in Song Australian Hymn Book II*. © The Australian Hymn Book Pty Ltd 2006. Registered Office 14 Martin Place (Level 17) Sydney 2000. Used with permission. C.C.L.I Licence number 669476. All readings from scripture are taken from The Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

CURRENT NOTICES

Vicar on Study Leave

Our Vicar is on study leave until Saturday 5 October, 2024.

'Vocations Day,' Part 2! Sunday 6 October

On the subject of vocation and being called by God, on Sunday 6 October our assistant curate Lydia will preach at St. George's, Malvern, and their assistant curate, The Revd Aaron Ghiloni, will be our guest preacher here. (This was the original plan for Vocations Day on 25 August but you know what they say about best laid plans...)

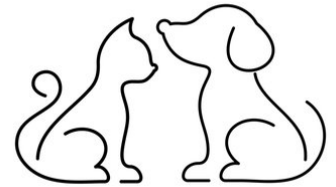
Induction of a new Minister at TUC, Sunday 6 October at 2pm

Toorak Uniting Church invites you to attend the induction of their new Minister, Rev Sylvia 'Akau'ola Tongotongo. A celebratory afternoon tea will follow.

Blessing of the Pets Service, Sunday 6 October at 4pm

A favourite afternoon in the St. John's calendar is the annual blessing of the pets service, held in honour of St. Francis (the patron saint of animals). All are welcome - with their pets! - to gather on the South Lawn for a service of prayer and blessing and for time together with our animals. Refreshments will be served.

Please do sign up to assist with the success of this day, with a sign-up sheet available in the narthex.



Synod, Wednesday 9 October - Saturday 12 October

The Diocese of Melbourne's Synod meets in October this year, beginning with a service of Holy Communion 7pm Wednesday 9 October at St Paul's Cathedral, and ending on Saturday 12 October. (As a result there will be **no** Wednesday night Eucharist on Wednesday 9 October.) Our lay Synod representatives are Jenny Smith, Adriaan den Dulk and Anthony Mannering. Each of our clergy are also representatives. Please pray for this meeting and its success.

Baptism, Confirmation and Reception Service, 13 October 2024 at 10am

Our bishop, The Rt. Revd. Genieve Blackwell, will preside and preach at a service of Confirmation at 10am on October 13, 2024. Confirmation preparation classes have commenced and will be held over five Sunday's after morning tea. The preparation classes will be led by the Vicar and the Assistant Curate. Please pray for those being baptised and confirmed: *Linda Gay* and *Lucas Weir*; those being confirmed *Chloe Joseph*, *Dylan Joseph*, *Sophia Rose Rushton*, *Charlotte Parfit*, *Ruairidh Savage-DeTamble*, *Ella Savage-DeTamble*, *Gus Malcolm Mastores* and *Kim Collins*; and those being received into the Anglican Church, *Mark Di Cesare*.

Morning Tea, 13 October 2024

Thank you to those who have already volunteered to provide Morning Tea on Sunday 13 October. For this special occasion we are looking for additional volunteers to help out. Even if it's just to wash dishes! Your help is appreciated!

All Souls Day Service, Thursday 31 October, 7pm

On All Souls' Day we have the opportunity to hold before God those we hold dear in death as in life. This service includes a Commemoration of the Departed, Holy Communion and excerpts from Fauré's 'Requiem,' sung by St. John's choir.

Archbishop's Dinner, Trinity College, 13 November

Please mark this date in your diary: it is a wonderful evening of fellowship, in the presence of our Archbishop and in support of Trinity College Theological School. Please consider attending if you haven't before; and return if you have!

Enquiries: Briony O'Halloran | events@trinity.unimelb.edu.au | 03 8341 0216
www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1251381 Flyers in the narthex.

Advent Quiet Day at St Joseph's by the Sea, 7 December

The Revd Dr Wendy Crouch will be holding an Advent focussed Quiet Day in the picturesque surrounds of St Josephs by the Sea, Williamstown. Further information to be provided soon. For expressions of interest please contact Wendy or the parish office.

Giving to St. John's Ministry via the Anglican Development Fund (ADF)



We recommend using ADF to set up regular giving. Simply download and complete the form [here](#) or scan the QR code. You can choose to give through *direct debit* or *credit card*, and at what intervals you would like. It not only makes it easier for you to contribute to the ministry of St. John's, it also helps us to budget for the coming year. For any confidential questions or assistance, email our Parish Recorder, Richard Uglow: giving@saintjohnstoorak.org

Australian Anglican Church Calendar 2025

You can now order your very own Australian Anglican Church Calendar for 2025 through [St. Peter's Bookroom](http://St.Peter's Bookroom). This is the only Australian calendar designed to celebrate and seek to preserve the heritage of Australian Anglican Churches. Order forms are available in the Narthex. You can also order online at www.stpetersbookroom.com.au/australian-anglican-church-calendar or instore.

Covid and Flu Safety

Regrettably COVID - and the 'flu - remain ever-present. If you are unwell, don't forget to complete a COVID test, stay home to reduce the spread and wear a mask if you need to go out.



Need time for prayer? Some quiet space?

Please know that the church is open every day from at least 9am until 5pm for you and all people to come and pray, meditate, or sit quietly. We have recently placed some prayer booklets in the Angel Chapel and the Narthex that you are welcome to use, you can also download a digital copy [here](#). All welcome, all the time.



PRAYER FOR THE SELECTION OF OUR NEW ARCHBISHOP

Eternal God, shepherd and guide, in your mercy give your Church in this diocese a shepherd after your own heart, who will walk in your ways, and with loving care watch over your people. Give us a leader of vision and a teacher of your truth. So may your Church be built up and your name glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer Book for Australia, p. 212.

REGULAR NOTICES

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

St. John's is committed to safeguarding all people and protecting their wellbeing, including young and vulnerable people, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, and children with diverse needs. All relevant staff and volunteers are trained in child safety and have appropriate clearance for service or ministry. If you have any concerns about the wellbeing of children in this parish, contact Kooyoora on 1800 135 246 or www.kooyoora.org.au If you have concerns about your wellbeing or that of another churchgoer, please contact the clergy.

Pastoral Care

Clergy and members of the Pastoral Care Team offer pastoral care on a regular basis to parishioners as well as to those who specifically request it. This may include Home Communion. They also visit local hospitals at the request of patients, family, friends or staff with the consent of the recipient. Clergy and Lay Pastoral Carers visit a number of local Aged Care facilities on a regular, usually monthly, basis. Parishioners and others are welcome to phone the church office to arrange a home visit by the clergy or a lay pastoral carer. Those who are no longer able to attend usual services at the church are visited on a regular basis.

The Melbourne Anglican (TMA) and Prayer Diary

The latest edition of TMA is [here](#). The link to the September Prayer Diary is [here](#).

Contribute to Worship Services

All our ministries at St John's are supported by our wonderful volunteers. The rosters for September are available [here](#). And you will note that volunteering for morning tea has now been added to the list of duties. If you can help fill any of the gaps please contact the parish office. Thanks in advance.

Communion Instructions

All are welcome at the altar and those baptised are welcome to receive Communion. Holy Communion is distributed via a chalice from which to sip or, a separate chalice into which the bread may be intincted (dipped). If you wish to simply receive the bread only that is perfectly appropriate. Gluten free wafers are available on request. A blessing only is also available.

Zoom Link

Our 10am Sunday service is streamed here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84378054063?pwd=9vwM1WYJb5uHtBF7jOHFsKUIBhcFbn.1>

Meeting ID: 843 7805 4063 | Passcode: 147808

Prayer Requests

Prayer requests can be sent to prayers@saintjohnstoorak.org. The clergy check emails for prayer requests daily, and pray in solidarity with anyone who would like prayers said for them.

Clergy Days Off

Our clergy have one regular day off per week. Our Assistant Curate Lydia has Monday and Vicar Peter has Friday. Wendy usually works Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday only. Please respect their time away from work and unless in an emergency, please refrain from telephoning, texting, visiting the Vicarage, or emailing them on these days. Thank you.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Prayers for Victims of War

Give comfort, O Lord, to all who are torn away from their homes and their loved ones, by war, by famine, or by cruelty; give the world your peace and turn the hearts of those who will to war; grant that we who dwell secure in this insecure world may be generous in caring for our displaced brothers and sisters, of all faiths and none. We ask this in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: St Paul's Kew East (John Sanderson, Heidin Kunoo, Samantha Lo); The Diocese of Riverina (Bp Donald Kirk, Clergy & People); Archdeaconry of Stonnington (Colleen O'Reilly); St George's Malvern – Pastoral service (Abp Philip Freier); Christ Church Essendon – Pastoral service (Bp Genieve Blackwell); Berwick Anglican Church – Pastoral service (Bp Paul Barker); The Church of Pakistan (Bp Azad Marshall);

For those who lead us in Government: His Majesty King Charles III; Governor General Ms Sam Mostyn AC; Prime Minister Anthony Albanese; Federal Member of Parliament for Division of Higgins, Dr. Michelle Ananda-Rajah; and Premier of Victoria, Jacinta Allan.

For Reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians: For Aboriginal Anglican clergy and lay-leaders around Australia, their spiritual health and physical well-being, and the people they care for. For Aboriginal and Government leaders and their work together.

For The Toorak Ecumenical Movement: Our partner churches, St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Toorak Uniting Church, and The Swedish Church.

For The Anglican Board of Mission, The Brotherhood of St. Laurence, and Anglicare.

For schools in our parish: Geelong Grammar School Toorak Campus, Head of Campus Nicole Ginnane; St Catherine's School, Interim Principal Robert Marshall; and Toorak Primary School, Principal Julie Manallack.

For the sick and all in need: Gwen, Rex, Bruce, Sam, Margaret, Nichole, Joanna, Ivan, Anthea, David, John, Tim, Joan, James, Karen, Trisha, Emma, Thomas, and Rod.

For those in aged care and those who are housebound: Beverley; Angela; Marg; Val; Rosalind; Elizabeth; Russ & Sue.

For those who have died recently and those who mourn them: Bridgett Housman

Give thanks for those whose Anniversary of Death is this week:

William Stokes (2019); Jennifer Mitchell (2021); Andrew Lockwood (2009); Brian Blundell (2015) & Ian Woodroffe (2001).

Support St John's, Toorak

Your support of St John's is greatly appreciated!

Donations can be made directly to:

St. John's Anglican Church General Account, Westpac

Account Name: St John's Anglican Church | BSB: 033 086 | Account: 871931.

International transfers please include SWIFT code WPACAU2S.



SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

Ezekiel 1.1-14

No commentary available at the time of print. Apologies.

Psalms 138

The psalmist expresses his gratitude for God's steadfast, enduring love and his care for his faithful followers, for whom he will fulfil his purpose (v. 8). Vv. 1-2 picture the psalmist in the courtyard of the Temple ("toward", v. 2) to offer thanks. For v. 2b, the Revised English Bible has: "for you have exalted your promises above the heavens". V. 3 tells of the psalmist's experience: when he called upon God, he not only answered but "made me bold and strong" (REB). Vv. 4-5 are a hymn of praise. The REB begins vv. 4 and 5 with "Let": may "all the kings" praise God when they hear his words; may they sing of God's ways, because (v. 6), exalted as he is, he cares for "the lowly" but takes note of the errors of the unjustly proud ("haughty"). Vv. 7-8 are an expression of faith, of trust and acknowledgement. In spite of his troubles, God preserves the psalmist, exercising divine power against his foes. (God's power is his "right hand", v. 7.)

Revelation 12:7-12

The book begins: "The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place; he made it known by sending his angel to his servant John ..." John has a vision of the future, of the age to come – but also presents an understanding of his times and of the past. To us, this book is strange stuff, but no more so than a novel (or a who-done-it) would be to a first-century person. It is an apocalypse. Many Jewish apocalypses were written, but this is a Christian one. It was written in a time of persecution of Christians for refusing to worship the Roman emperor as a god. It is written in symbols, most of which may have been known to people at the time, but whose meaning we can only guess. (In 14:8, 16:19, 17:5, etc., we know that "Babylon" is a code-name for Rome.) In vv. 1-7, we read that a male child, a messiah, is about to be born to a woman, but a red dragon with seven heads, ten horns and seven diadems on his head is ready to devour the child as soon as he is born. "But her child was snatched away and taken to God and to his throne" is clearly a reference to the ascension of Christ. (Red is a symbol of war in Revelation.)

In today's reading, we learn that the dragon (also called "that ancient serpent", v. 9, the one in the Garden of Eden) with whom Michael and his angels fight, is "the Devil and Satan"; both these names mean accuser, one in Greek and the other in Hebrew. Michael and his angels win; the Devil and his forces are thrown out of heaven, down to earth to make trouble here. Vv. 10-12 are a hymn praising the triumph of God and Christ; the victory is indeed God's, Michael being his agent. With this victory, the reign of Christ has begun. Jewish literature of the time refers to Satan as the unceasing accuser of Israel; he continues to accuse, frustrate, Christ's followers, but he is ineffectual because he has been

conquered through Christ's sacrifice on the cross ("the blood of the Lamb", v. 11) and his followers' continuing "testimony", even when facing death for refusing to worship a second god. Rejoice! But in the end-times the Devil will be intensely active ("with great wrath", v. 12) in the whole universe ("the earth and the sea"), trying to subvert good intentions – because the second coming of Christ is near: the devil's "time is short". (Daniel and Mark 13 are other examples of apocalyptic writing.)

John 1:47-51

Both this book and Genesis begin with "In the beginning"; Genesis 1 is the first (seven day) creation story. John then works its way chronologically through seven days. The days (after the first) begin at 1:29, 1:35, 1:41, 1:43 and 2:1; in 2:1, "on the third day" means two days later (in ancient times, counting was inclusive). On Day 5, Jesus invites Phillip to follow him, and Phillip tells Nathanael, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth" (1:45). In spite of making a crack against Nazareth, Nathanael comes to Jesus. (It is likely that, as in Genesis, a day is not 24 hours, but a period of time.)

Jesus says to Nathanael: here's a true Israelite: in popular etymology, Israel meant one who sees God. Nathanael answers: how could you possibly recognize me? We haven't met. Jesus answers him: I saw you (possibly when he was somewhere else, conversing with Phillip). This is clearly miraculous: Nathanael proclaims that Jesus is the Messiah ("Son of God", v. 49, and "King of Israel").

Jesus asks him rhetorically: did you believe because of this miracle? As your faith grows, you will understand much more about me; in fact, you will see the meeting of God with people. V. 51 is like Genesis 28:12 (read today) but different: the angels ascend and descend "on the Son of Man" rather than on the ladder from earth to heaven. Jesus is our way of reaching the immortal. In the Genesis passage, the ladder is the means of communication between heaven and earth; in this passage, Jesus declares that he is the medium of communication, the mediator between God and humankind.

MUSIC COMMENTARY

PRELUDE: Prelude

Henry Coleman (1888-1965)

Coleman was an organist who served Peterborough Cathedral in the UK. He studied organ under Sydney Nicholson, who was the founder of the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) and compiler of The Parish Psalter.

POSTLUDE: Prelude & Fugue in Bb major BWV 560
from Eight Short Preludes and Fugues

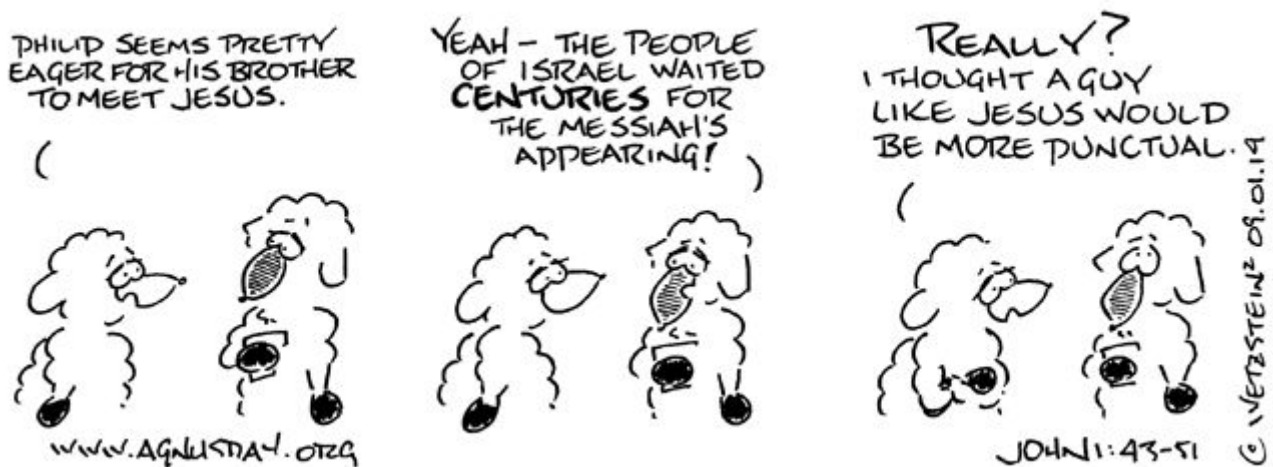
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Although it has not been possible to identify the composer of the "Eight Little Preludes and Fugues" Alfred Dürr writes in his preface to the Bärenreiter urtext edition: "Since the value of a musical work is in no way dependent on whether the composer is known or not, the hope remains that the delightful and appealing music of the Eight will find enthusiasts in the future despite the fact that they no longer fulfil their former task, namely to introduce 'typically Bachian' elements to the future organists. The Eight definitely have their own value".

ART COMMENTARY

Today's art by *Francesco Botticini* depicts the three archangels we celebrate today on the feast of St. Michael and All Angels, Michael, Raphael and Gabriel. The word 'arch-angel' means 'high-ranking angel' – the same way that 'arch-bishop' means a high-ranking bishop for example. Michael is pictured on the left, Raphael in the middle, holding Tobia's hand and Gabriel on the right. Each archangel bears an item symbolising the specific task they accomplished in God's name. Michael is a warrior, Raphael is a guardian, and Gabriel is a messenger.

This painting belonged to the Cappani altar in Santo Spirito, Florence and is one of the very few remaining pieces by this Early Renaissance artist.



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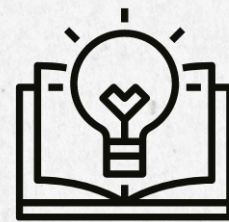
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- Christ Church Mission Community Centre
- St Mark's Community Centre, Fitzroy
- St Martin's Hawksburn
- The Lazarus Centre, St Peter's Eastern Hill, East Melbourne



Refugees, Women & Children

- The Brotherhood of St Laurence (Refugee Child Outreach)
- The Queen's Fund
- After School Care Program, Brotherhood of St Laurence




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This Week

SUNDAY, 29 September 2024
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8am Eucharist
10am Sung Eucharist

WEDNESDAY, 2 October 2024
7pm Eucharist, Angel Chapel



Next Sunday, 6 October Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

8am Eucharist

First Reading: *Jeremiah 1:4-10*, Brenda Mouritz
Second Reading: *Romans 4:13-22*, Ted Mouritz
Gospel Reading: *Luke 1:5-25*
Intercessor: Brenda Mouritz
Preacher: The Revd Aaron Ghiloni

10am Eucharist

First Reading: *Jeremiah 1:4-10*, Anthony Mannering
Second Reading: *Romans 4:13-22*, Lincoln Li
Gospel Reading: *Luke 1:5-25*
Intercessor: Anthony Mannering
Preacher: The Revd Aaron Ghiloni

Morning Tea: Sally Robertson & Jane Anderson



ST. JOHN'S
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