



ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
TOORAK
EST. 1859



Feast of Christ the King
23 November, 2025
10am

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 Christ the King. White symbolises purity, light, glory, and joy and is used during the Christmas and Easter seasons, and on major feast days.

Cover Image

The Fresco of Crucifixion, Pietro Gagliardi (1809-1890)
1847-1852, fresco paint on wall,
San Girolamo dei Croati, Rome, Italy.

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 and use the time before the service for prayer or quiet reflection, allowing others to do the same

INTRODUCTORY RITE

Please stand when the procession enters the church

PRELUDE 'Adagio in Db'

Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

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.**

HYMN 'Let all the world in every corner sing' *sung together*



1. Let all the world in every corner
sing:
My God and King!
The heav'ns are not too high,
his praise may thither fly;
the earth is not too low,
his praises there may grow.
Let all the world in every corner
sing:
My God and King!

2. Let all the world in every corner
sing:
My God and King!
The church with psalms must
shout,
no door can keep them out;
but, above all, the heart
must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in every corner
sing:
My God and King!

George Herbert 1593-1633
LUCKINGTON (Tis 105)

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 *sung together*

Kyrie

Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

From Parish Eucharist - Michael Dudman (1938-1994)

CONFESSION

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

Silence is kept

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 *sung together*

Gloria

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.
Lord God, hea - ven-ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we



From *Parish Eucharist* - Michael Dudman (1938-1994)

COLLECT FOR THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

Eternal God, you exalted Jesus Christ to rule over all things, and have made us instruments of his kingdom: by your Spirit empower us to love the unloved, and to minister to all in need, then at the last bring us to your eternal realm where we may be welcomed into your everlasting joy and may worship and adore you for ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING Jeremiah 23.1-6 *read by Richard Uglow*

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. The days are

surely coming, says the Lord , when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

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

THE PSALM Psalm 46 *sung by the choir*

God is our refuge and strength:

a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved:

and though the mountains are shaken

in the midst of the sea;

Though the waters rage and foam:

and though the mountains quake at the rising of the sea.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God:

the holy dwelling-place of the Most High.

God is in the midst of her,

therefore she shall not be moved:

God will help her, and at break of day.

The nations make uproar, and the kingdoms are shaken:

but God has lifted his voice, and the earth shall tremble.

The Lord of hosts is with us:

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Come then and see what the Lord has done:

what destruction he has brought upon the earth.

He makes wars to cease in all the world:

he breaks the bow and shatters the spear,

and burns the chariots in the fire.

'Be still, and know that I am God:

I will be exalted among the nations,

I will be exalted upon the earth.'

The Lord of hosts is with us:

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

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.

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

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

Please stand to sing the Gradual Hymn

THE GRADUAL HYMN 'Lord Jesus, our bright Morning Star'



1. Lord Jesus, our bright Morning Star,
how full of grace and truth you are,
my bridegroom, king from heaven!
From Jacob's line, the promised one,
our great deliverer, David's son,
to you my heart is given.

Dearest
Jesus,
you are glorious,
great, victorious,
richly giving;
high in heaven's glory living.

2. You loved me, Father, in your Son
before you even had begun
to plan this world's creation.
Your Son is standing by my side,
he is my treasure, I his bride;
what joyful celebration!
Praise him!
Praise him!
Life in heaven
now is given
by my Saviour.
There I'll sing his praise for ever.

3. What joy is mine, all sorrow past;
the Lord I love is first and last;
there is no other saviour.
I know that I will surely rise
to be with him in Paradise,
where I will live for ever.
Amen,
amen,
for your coming
I am longing,
Crown of gladness!
Come, and end all grief and
sadness.

Philipp Nicolai 1556–1608
tr. John Clement Pfitzner 1942–
WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET (TiS 199)

Please remain standing for the reading of the Gospel, turning to face it as it is read

THE GOSPEL Luke 23.33-43

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

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.' One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

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

THE SERMON The Vicar, The Revd Dr Peter French

THE ANTHEM 'Let all the world in every corner sing'

George Dyson (1883-1964)

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 Richard Uglow*

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.**

THE 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
Feel free to come and share peace with those people joining us on Zoom*

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 'Rejoice, the Lord is King'



1. Rejoice, the Lord is King;
your Lord and King adore;
let all give thanks, and sing,
and triumph evermore;
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice.
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*
2. Jesus the Saviour reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains,
he took his seat above:
Lift up your heart, ...
3. His kingdom cannot fail,
he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus given:
Lift up your heart,...
4. He sits at God's right hand,
till all his foes submit,
and bow to his command,
and fall beneath his feet:
Lift up your heart,...
5. Rejoice in glorious hope;
Jesus the judge shall come,
and take his servants up
to their eternal home:
*We soon shall hear the
archangel's voice;
the trump of God shall sound,
Rejoice!*

Charles Wesley 1707-88 alt.
John W. Wilson GOPSAL (TiS 216)

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 singing:

Sanctus **2**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Benedictus

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - - est.

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer continues to the following

...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith

Acclamation

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain.

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer ends with the following

... songs of never ending praise.

Acclamation

Bless - ing and hon - our and glo - ry and power are yours for

ev - er and ev - er. A _____ men. _____

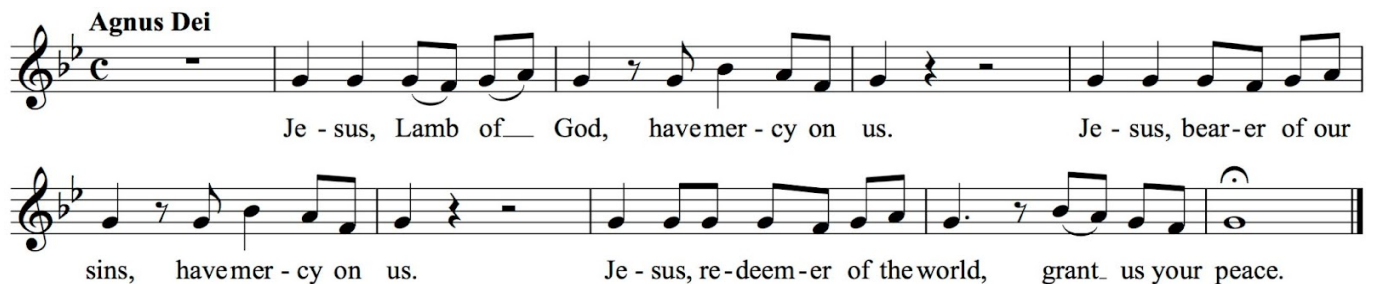
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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



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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

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 receive the bread only that is perfectly appropriate. Gluten free wafers are available on request. A blessing only is also available, please simply ask one of the clergy at the altar rail.

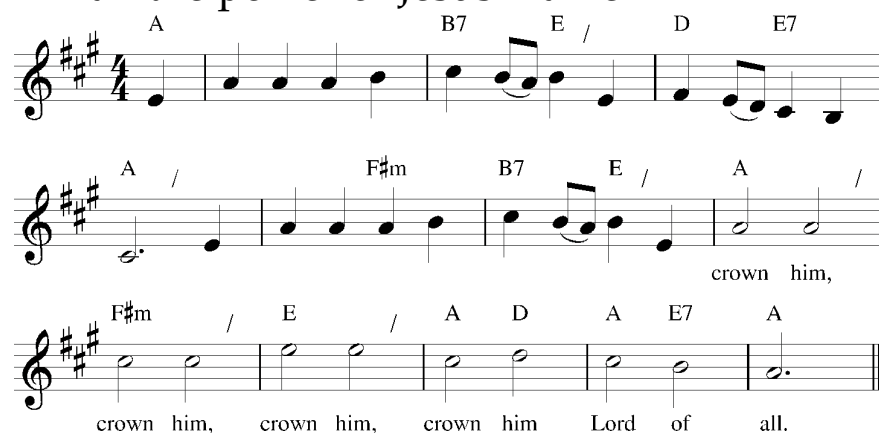
COMMUNION ANTHEM 'O God, the King of Glory' Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

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 'All hail the power of Jesus' name'



1. All hail the power of Jesus' name;
let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem
to crown him Lord of all.
2. Crown him, you martyrs of our
God,
who from his altar call;
praise him whose way of pain you
trod,
and crown him Lord of all.
3. As heirs of Israel's chosen race
and ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his
grace,
and crown him Lord of all.
4. Sinners, whose love cannot forget
the wormwood and the gall,
go spread your treasures at his feet
and crown him Lord of all.
5. Let every tribe and every tongue
responsive to his call,
now shout in universal song
and crown him Lord of all.

Edward Perronet 1726-92 *alt.*
MILES LANE (TiS 224 i)

BLESSING

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE 'Festal March'

William Lloyd Webber (1914-1982)

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)

Wednesday Night Service

You are invited to join us each week, Wednesday at 7pm,
for Eucharist in the Chapel of St. Michael and All Angels.
The service is usually followed with supper and fellowship.
All are welcome. We hope to see you there!



CURRENT NOTICES

Welcome to The Venerable Ray McInnes

Today at the 8am and 10am services, we welcome The Venerable Ray McInnes as a volunteer associate priest in the parish. Fr Ray has a distinguished clerical career in the Anglican Church, including serving as Dean of Wangaratta Cathedral, leading parishes including Benalla, Albert Park and Port Melbourne and as Archdeacon in various Archdeaconries of the Diocese of Melbourne. Ray will be assisting in many aspects of the church's life, including presiding and preaching and I very much look forward to working and praying alongside him. *The Vicar*

A Note from the Vicar Regarding Parish Council Elections

Thank you to all those who participated in the Annual Meeting Sunday, 16 November. Craig Cooper and Anthony Gissing were elected to Parish Council, and Richard Uglow and Keith Beecher were elected as Churchwardens. I have appointed Jason Pennell as Vicar's Warden and Rob Condon as member of Parish Council. Please pray for our Wardens and Council Members as we work together on ensuring our church remains the vibrant and caring place it is. *The Vicar.*

Assistant Priest on Leave

The Revd Dr Wendy Crouch is on leave until Sunday 7 December.

Prayers for Christian Unity, Thursday 27 November, 10.30am at Toorak Uniting

All are invited to join with our sisters and brothers in Christ in Toorak for prayer and fellowship.

Advent Preparation of the Church, Saturday November 29, 10am-12pm

Come and join in as we prepare the church for Advent, with a spruce up of the church and the setting up of the unadorned trees and wreaths. Morning Tea will be served. All help willingly received! Sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Advent Lessons & Carols with Trinity Choir, Saturday 29 November, 7pm

You are warmly invited to a Service of Advent Lessons and Carols with the Choir of Trinity College, The University of Melbourne, directed by Christopher Watson. We are thrilled to welcome them to St John's to start our 2025 Advent season.

Please arrive early to secure your seat!

Installation of the new Archbishop, Sunday 30 November, 2025, at 4pm

The new Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne, Dr. Ric Thorpe, will be installed at St. Paul's Cathedral on Advent Sunday, November 30, 2025, at 4pm. You can also view the installation online at: youtube.com/live/W957vtVI50Q

'Food for Friends Appeal' 2025

As we have done for the last four years, with considerable success, we are asking for financial donations once again to support those who go hungry in our community. The money raised is spent during the coming year on food supplies for the various agencies nominated by the member churches of the Toorak Ecumenical Movement. This has proved to be very successful as all the agencies have been experiencing increasing demand throughout the year, not just at Christmas time, for their services as inflation continues to contribute to the rising cost of living.

So, please consider donating to;

The Toorak Ecumenical Fund - CBA Toorak

BSB: 063 177

ACC: 1002 6147.

Please mark 'F for F.' Cheques/cash may be dropped into the parish office.

Cheques should be made payable to the 'Toorak Ecumenical Fund.' Sincere

thanks to all those generous people who have supported our appeal in previous years.

The Ecumenical Candle

In front of the lectern our ecumenical candle is lit. This is the candle which moves from each member church of the Toorak Ecumenical Movement, the Catholic, Swedish, Anglican and Uniting Churches, to symbolise our unity in Christ. The word 'ecumenical' comes from the ancient Greek word 'oikumene,' meaning 'the whole (inhabited) earth,' and simply means churches who come together to better understand each other and to live into Christ's call for all his followers 'to be one.' St. John's has been a proud member of the Toorak Ecumenical Movement for all its 43 years of existence.

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.



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: Church of the Ascension Springvale (Inpa Eliezer); The Diocese of Gippsland (Bp Richard Treloar, Clergy & People); Geelong Grammar School (Rebecca Cody, Principal; Gordon Lingard, Chaplain); The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia (Abps Don Tamihere, Justin Duckworth and Sione Ulu ilakepa); St Eanswythe's Altona – Pastoral service (Bp Kate Prowd); St Paul's East Kew – Confirmation service (Bp Alison Taylor); City on a Hill Bayswater – Pastoral service (Bp Paul Barker); Christ Church Little River – Confirmation service (Bp Brad Billings);

For the Anglican Church: The Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia, The Right Revd Dr Mark Short; Archbishop-elect of the Diocese of Melbourne, The Rt Revd Dr Richard (Ric) Thorpe; Diocesan Administrator The Rt Revd Genieve Blackwell; and Assistant Bishop of Melbourne, Marningatha Episcopate, The Rt Revd Alison Taylor.

For those who lead us in Government: His Majesty King Charles III; Governor General Sam Mostyn AC; Prime Minister Anthony Albanese; Member for Kooyong, Dr. Monique Ryan; Premier of Victoria, Jacinta Allan; and, Member for Prahran, Rachel Westaway.

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 our Neighbours: Our partner churches in the Toorak Ecumenical Movement, St. Peter's Catholic Church, Toorak Uniting Church, and The Swedish Church; and our friends at the Melbourne Hebrew Congregation.

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, Principal Natalie Charles; and Toorak Primary School Principal Suada Dzaferovic.

For those celebrating birthdays: Stella Jongebreur

For the sick and all in need: Nichole, Joanna, Ivan, Anthea, Joan, James, Karen, Trisha, Emma, Thomas, Rod, Robyn, Stephen, Stella, Louis, Nina, Bissie, Jane, Naomi, Rosie, John, Alina & Maria.

For those in aged care and those who are housebound: Angela, Elizabeth, Russ, Sue & Nancy.

For those who have died and their families who mourn them: Nancy Pearson

Give thanks for those whose Anniversary of Death is this week: Donald Sawers (2018); Pamela Fraser (2019); Dorothy Hughes (2017); William Catanach (1986); William Flintoft (1990); Jill Loton (2016); Alan Mackay (2023); Philip Strang (1989); Margaret Ullin (2023); Thomas North (2015) & Robert Van Valzah (2021).

SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

Jeremiah 23:1-6

In Chapters 21-22, Jeremiah has made prophecies about four of the five last kings of Judah. Three of these he considers bad, for siding with foreigners. Rather than predicting the fate of the last one, Zedekiah, God now speaks (through Jeremiah) about an ideal future king. God blames Judah's kings ("shepherds") for scattering his "sheep"; they will be punished "for your evil doings" (v. 2). But God will bring the people together again, to perfect safety, and will set good kings ("shepherds", v. 4) over them. Their state will be as God originally intended: in the first creation story, God commanded humans to "be fruitful and multiply" (v. 3). God makes a formal pronouncement ("the days are surely coming", v. 5) when God will "raise up" a godly "Branch" (shoot, descendant) of David's line who will be wise, just and godly, ruling over both "Judah" (v. 6) and "Israel". (Zedekiah is alluded to in a wordplay, the Hebrew for "righteousness" being *tzidkenu*.) Later prophets, in dark times of unfaithful kings, recalled this ideal rule and promised its realization in the future. This led to expecting a new era, when God would himself rule the faithful.

Psalms 46

This psalm tells of God's protection and defence of his people. Perhaps the psalmist thinks of Isaiah 8:6-7; there "streams" (v. 4) are what God provides to the godly. The "city of God" is Jerusalem, God's dwelling place on earth. Even if natural disasters (earthquakes, vv. 2-3) or political turmoil (v. 6) occur, or earth returns to its primordial chaotic state ("waters", v. 3), God will remain ("not be moved", v. 5), answering night-long prayer in the "morning". Israel has suffered "desolations" (v. 8) for not doing God's will. In a liturgy, a priest or prophet invites participants to consider God's d

Colossians 1:11-20

The author has heard of the trust in Christ his readers have because of their hope of eternal life. "This hope ... is bearing fruit and growing ... from the day you ... truly comprehended the grace of God" (his freely given gift of love expressed in Christ, vv. 5-6). So he prays for them that they may experience God's ways to the full, leading the ethical lives God expects, and growing in knowledge of him (v. 10). Faced with deviant teaching, may God make them "strong" (v. 11) and "prepared to endure everything". God (in Christ) has "rescued us" (v. 13) from the power of evil ("darkness") and moved us to Christ's realm, enabling us to share with others in the "inheritance" (v. 12, in being God's children).

Vv. 15-20 is a hymn about Christ ("He"); he is how we see (and access) God ("image"). *Angelology* was popular at the time; "thrones ..." (v. 16) were orders of angels; each was "created", had its origin "in him", and exists "for him"; any power they have is subordinate to Christ's. The whole of creation, both heavenly and earthly, were created "through him" (v. 16), with his participation. He is the "firstborn" (v. 18), the inheritor from the Father, of *created-ness*; he governs it and

is the cohesive power of the universe (v. 17). He existed “before all things”, before the first creative act. Greeks saw the “head” (v. 18) as the body’s source of life and growth. Christ is this to the Church, and “head” of it in the modern sense. He is “the beginning”, the nucleus of restoration of humanity to union with God, of the new created-ness. In his death (“blood of his cross”, v. 20), resurrection, and ascension to the Father, he is the *forerunner* (“firstborn”, v. 18) of our elevation to being with the Father, of our *reconciliation* with the Father (v. 20). Christians at Colossae tried to find ultimate power and truth in various deities, but in Christ all power and ultimate truth is present (v. 19).

Luke 23:33-43

Jesus has been betrayed, arrested, mocked, beaten, and sentenced to death. He, Simon of Cyrene (carrying the crossbar), two criminals and a few police have walked to Calvary, “the place that is called The Skull” (v. 33). Jesus continues his ministry of giving forgiveness to those who have not heard the Good News (v. 34). The division of his clothing fulfills the prophecy in Psalm 22:18; to be deprived of one’s clothing was to lose one’s identity. (Biblical examples are prisoners, slaves, prostitutes and damned people.) The mob contemplates what is happening, but the “leaders” (v. 35) taunt Jesus: they blaspheme against God. In accord with Psalm 69:21, a psalm of the innocently suffering godly one, Jesus is offered “sour wine” (v. 36) – to revive him, and to prolong his ordeal. Ironically, “Messiah of God, his chosen one” (v. 35) and “King of the Jews” (v. 38) are all true. Jesus refuses to subvert God’s plan by saving himself from a horrible death. A placard was placed around the criminal’s neck, bearing an “inscription” (v. 38) stating his crime. One criminal joins with the mob (v. 39) but the other responds positively to Jesus (vv. 40-41). For him there is salvation; Jesus pronounces him free of sin. Only a king can give pardon. (“Paradise”, v. 43, was the Jewish name for the temporary resting place of the godly dead.)

Need time for prayer? Some quiet space?

The church is open every day from 9am until 5pm for you to come and pray, meditate, or sit quietly. There are prayer books and prayer booklets in the Angel Chapel and the Narthex for use, the latter of which you can also download [here](#).

MUSIC COMMENTARY

PRELUDE 'Adagio in Db'

Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

Liszt was the most electrifying piano virtuoso of the Romantic era. He achieved success as a concert pianist from a young age and received lessons from notable composers Carl Czerny and Antonio Salieri. He toured around Europe in the 1830s and 1840s and due to the virtuosic nature of his performances he would cause a commotion that was dubbed "Lisztomania".

POSTLUDE 'Festal March'

William Lloyd Webber (1914-1982)

Lloyd Webber was an English organist and composer, and is known for being the father of fellow composer Andrew Lloyd Webber and virtuoso cellist Julian Lloyd Webber.

ART COMMENTARY

The art on today's pewsheet is a fresco depicting the Crucifixion by Italian painter and architect Pietro Gagliardi. The Fresco can be found in San Girolamo dei Croati (the national church for Croatian Catholics in Rome). Painted between 1847 and 1852 it is directly behind the high altar. The fresco follows traditional iconography: Christ crucified at the centre, elevated on the cross, with a focus on the sacrificial and redemptive nature of His death. Below the cross, we typically see the Virgin Mary, Saint John the Evangelist, and Mary Magdalene, all shown in mourning, but also contemplation. What makes Gagliardi's approach distinctive is the clarity, solemnity, and restrained emotion in his composition. The colours are simply stunning.



This Week

SUNDAY, 23 November 2025

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

8am Said Eucharist

10am Sung Eucharist

12pm Baptism of Mila Vandenhoff,
Charlotte Christoffelsz & Oliver Pristel

WEDNESDAY, 26 November 2025

St. Catherine's Day

7pm Eucharist, in the Angel Chapel

THURSDAY, 27 November 2025

9am Geelong Grammar School Service

10.30am Prayers for Christian Unity,
at Toorak Uniting Church

SATURDAY 29 November 2025

10am - 12pm Advent Working Bee

4pm Wedding of Joe Smith & Kate Greaves

7pm Advent Lessons & Carols
with Trinity College Choir



Next Sunday, 30 November

First Sunday of Advent

8am Eucharist

First Reading: *Isaiah 2:1-5*, Volunteer Required

Second Reading: *Romans 13:11-14*, Anthony
Rose

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 24:36-44*

Intercessor: Volunteer Required

Preacher: Scott Walker

10am Eucharist

First Reading: *Isaiah 2:1-5*, Glenda Strike

Second Reading: *Romans 13:11-14*, Adriaan den
Dulk

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 24:36-44*

Intercessor: Jenny Smith

Preacher: Scott Walker

Morning Tea: Volunteers Required



ST. JOHN'S
ANGLICAN
CHURCH
TOORAK
EST. 1859

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