



ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH  
TOORAK  
EST. 1859



All Saints' Day  
1 November, 2026  
*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 symbolising purity, grace, and, ultimately, the resurrection of Jesus Christ. White is also used for 'feast' days and festivals such as All Saints Day.

## Cover Image

*All Saints*, Louis de Laval Seigneur de Châtillon (1411-89)  
From the Book of Hours of Luis de Laval,  
1470-1475, 1485-1489, paint, ink, gilding on vellum,  
Bibliothèque Nationale de Paris, France.

## 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



*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 as the procession enters the church*

# PRELUDE

## THE INVOCATION

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

## THE GREETING

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

HYMN 'Ye watchers and ye holy ones'

*Gr. Capo 1* Eb(D) Cm(Bm) Bb(A) Eb(D) Cm(Bm)

Bb(A) Eb(D) Ab(G) Eb(D) F(E) Bb(A) Eb(D)

Eb(D) Ab(G) Eb(D) Bb(A) Eb(D) Ab(G) Eb(D)

Bb(A) Ab(G) Bb(A) Eb(D) Ab(G) Bb(A) Cm(Bm)

F(E) Bb(A) Eb(D) Ab(G) C7(B7) Fm(Em) Bb(A) Bb7(A7) Eb(D)

1. Ye watchers and ye holy ones,  
bright seraphs, cherubim and  
thrones,  
raise the glad strain: alleluia!  
Cry out, dominions, princedoms,  
powers,  
virtues, archangels, angels' choirs:  
alleluia!
  2. O higher than the cherubim,  
more glorious than the seraphim,  
lead their praises: alleluia!
  - Thou bearer of the Eternal Word,  
most gracious, magnify the Lord,  
alleluia!
  3. Respond, ye souls in endless rest,  
ye patriarchs and prophets blest:  
alleluia, alleluia!  
Ye holy twelve, ye martyrs strong,  
all saints triumphant, raise the  
song,  
alleluia!

4. O friends, in gladness let us sing,  
supernal anthems echoing:  
alleluia, alleluia!  
To God the Father, God the Son,  
and God the Spirit, Three in One,  
alleluia!

John Athelstan Laurie Riley 1858–1945  
*arr. and harm.* Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872–1958  
LASST UNS ERFREUEN (TiS 150)

#### 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*

**Kyrie** **2**

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.

#### CONFESSION

We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.

*Silence is kept*

Let us then run our race, laying aside every weight and bringing our sins to the Lord in penitence and faith.

**Merciful God, our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.**

**Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ABSOLUTION

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *sung*

**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

give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the

Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on

us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For

you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

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

COLLECT FOR ALL SAINTS DAY

We praise you, heavenly Father, that you have knit together your chosen ones in one communion and fellowship in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord: give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Saviour, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING Revelation 7.9-17 *read by Suzanne Cooper*

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

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

THE PSALM Psalm 34.1-10, 22 *sung by the choir*

I will bless the Lord continually:

his praise shall be always in my mouth.

Let my soul boast of the Lord:

the humble shall hear it and rejoice.

O praise the Lord with me:

let us exalt his name together.

For I sought the Lord's help and he answered:

and he freed me from all my fears.

Look towards him and be bright with joy:

your faces shall not be ashamed.

Here is a wretch who cried, and the Lord heard me:

and saved me from all my troubles.

The angel of the Lord encamps round those who fear him:  
 and delivers them in their need.  
 O taste and see that the Lord is good:  
 happy are they that hide in him!  
 Fear the Lord, all you his holy ones:  
 for those who fear him never lack.  
 Lions may suffer want and go hungry:  
 but those who seek the Lord lack nothing good.  
 The Lord ransoms the lives of his servants:  
 and none who hide in him will be destroyed.  
 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 1 John 3.1-3 *read by Judy Richardson*

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

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

THE GRADUAL HYMN 'Blest are the pure in heart'



- |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1. Blest are the pure in heart,<br/>             for they shall see our God;<br/>             the secret of the Lord is theirs,<br/>             their soul is Christ's abode.</p> | <p>3. still to the lowly soul<br/>             he will himself impart,<br/>             and for his cradle and his throne<br/>             chooses the pure in heart.</p> |
| <p>2. The Lord who left the heavens<br/>             our life and peace to bring,<br/>             to dwell with us in lowliness,<br/>             our pattern and our King:</p>      | <p>4. Lord, we your presence seek;<br/>             this blessing now renew:<br/>             give us a pure and lowly heart,<br/>             a temple fit for you.</p>  |

John Keble 1792-1866 (vv. 1,3) and others  
 FRANCONIA (TiS 448)

*Please remain standing for the reading of the Gospel*

THE GOSPEL Matthew 5.1-12

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

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

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 'Blessed are those who are

persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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

THE SERMON The Assistant Curate, The Revd Victoria Bakerov

THE ANTHEM 'Holy is the true light'

*William Henry Harris (1883-1973)*

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 John Horan*

*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.**

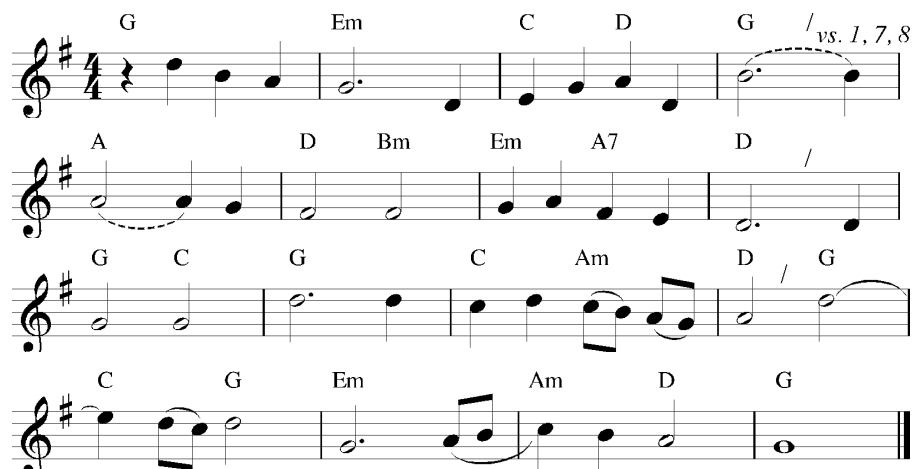
*All share with each other a sign of peace  
Feel free to come and share peace with those people joining us on Zoom*

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 'For all the saints who from their labours rest'



1. For all the saints who from their labours rest,  
who to the world their Lord by faith confessed,  
your name O Jesus, be for ever blessed.  
*Hallelujah, hallelujah.*
2. You were their rock, their fortress and their might,  
you were their captain in the well fought fight,  
in deepest darkness still their one true light.  
*Hallelujah, hallelujah.*
3. So may your servants, faithful, true and bold,  
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,  
and win, with them, the victor's crown of gold.  
*Hallelujah, hallelujah.*
4. O blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine,  
all yours, all joined in unity divine.  
*Hallelujah, hallelujah.*
5. And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,  
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,  
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.  
*Hallelujah, hallelujah.*
6. The golden evening brightens in the west;  
soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest,  
the peaceful calm of paradise the blest.  
*Hallelujah, hallelujah.*
7. But see, there breaks a yet more glorious day;  
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;  
the King of glory passes on his way.  
*Hallelujah, hallelujah.*
8. From earth's wide bounds and ocean's farthest shore,  
through heaven's gate the holy people pour;  
the Three-in-One for ever they adore.  
*Hallelujah, hallelujah.*

William Walsham How 1823-97 *alt.*  
Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958 SINE NOMINE (TiS 455)

## 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

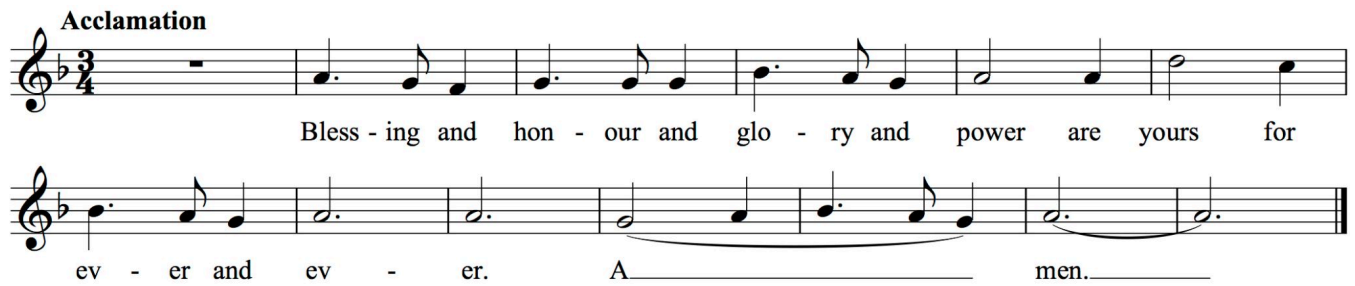
**Acclamation**



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.



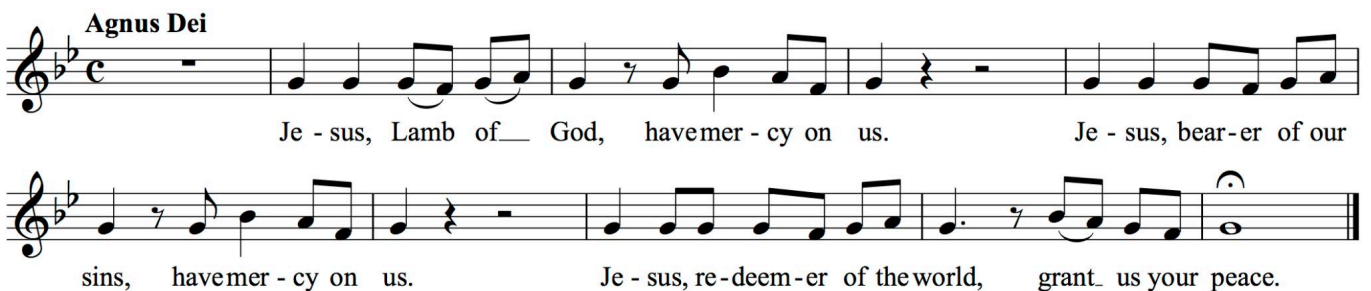
#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

#### 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.*

COMMUNION 'God be in my head'

*Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941)*

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 'Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days'



- |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days:<br>a world without saints forgets how to praise.<br>Their faith in acquiring the habit of prayer,<br>their depth of adoring, Lord, help us to share.         | 3. Rejoice in those saints, unpraised and unknown,<br>who bear someone's cross, or shoulder their own;<br>they shame our complaining, our comforts, our cares:<br>what patience in caring, what courage, is theirs! |
| 2. Some march with events to turn them God's way;<br>some need to withdraw, the better to pray;<br>some carry the gospel through fire and through flood:<br>our world is their parish; their purpose is God. | 4. Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days:<br>a world without saints forgets how to praise.<br>In loving, in living, they prove it is true:<br>their way of self-giving, Lord, leads us to you.                |

Frederick Pratt Green 1903–2000  
PADERBORN (TiS 470)

BLESSING

DISMISSAL

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

## POSTLUDE

*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)

### **Support St John's, Toorak**

Your support of St John's is greatly appreciated!

Donations can be made directly to:

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

International transfers please include SWIFT code **WPACAU2S**.



## CURRENT NOTICES

### **Electoral Roll Review Now until November 8**

In preparation for our upcoming Annual Meeting, the St. John's Electoral Roll is currently being revised in accordance with Diocesan requirements. All parishioners are encouraged to check that their details are up to date. You can review the current Electoral Roll and check eligibility guidelines in the Narthex today, or contact the Parish Office [enquiries@saintjohnstoorak.org](mailto:enquiries@saintjohnstoorak.org)

### **Remembrance Day Service, Sunday 8 November, at 10am**

Please join us for our annual Remembrance Day Service as we honor and remember those who served. We are pleased to welcome members of the Toorak RSL Sub-Branch, local representatives, and members of the wider community to this special service of commemoration. All are welcome to attend.

### **Meet Amelia Hamer, Sunday 15 November**

On Sunday 15 November, member of St. John's Amelia Hamer (Liberal candidate for Malvern) will be available to speak with parishioners at morning tea.

### **Annual Archbishop's Dinner, Wednesday 18 November**

Join the Most Revd Dr Ric Thorpe, Archbishop of Melbourne, and his wife, Louie, for their inaugural year hosting Trinity College Theological School's flagship fundraising event. This special evening marks the launch of *The Next 150*, a new fund established to celebrate the Theological School's upcoming 150th anniversary in 2027. Enjoy a three-course dinner, live and silent auctions, and entertainment. Evensong: 6pm, Trinity College Chapel | Dinner: 6:45pm, A C C Farran Hall | Dress Code: Lounge suit | Tickets: \$120 per person | Bookings: [trybooking.com/au/event/1628440](https://trybooking.com/au/event/1628440) RSVP: Wednesday 11 November | Enquiries: [events@trinity.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:events@trinity.unimelb.edu.au) Please notify the parish office of your attendance for potential car-pooling opportunities.

## Christmas Hampers for the Homeless

Anglicare Victoria's Homeless Support Services is once again collecting donations to create festive hampers for people experiencing homelessness. Requested Items:

- **Christmas Treats:** Small Christmas puddings, cakes, mince pies, shortbread, chocolates, lollies, biscuits, and crackers.
- **Pantry Goods:** Ring-pull tins of ham (not Spam), turkey, or chicken; sachets of liquid gravy; long-life custard; jams/spreads; and UHT milk (6-packs).
- **Beverage Supplies:** Cans of soft drink, tea bags (small packets), sugar sachets, and small jars/packets of instant coffee or hot chocolate.
- **Toiletries:** Basic travel/hotel-sized toiletries (toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, soap, deodorant, safety razors).

Please drop off donations at St Mark's Fitzroy by **Friday, 4 December** (earlier is greatly appreciated). Note: Please call ahead prior to delivery so volunteers are ready to receive items. Ph: 03 9412 6060 | E: [homelesssupport@anglicarevic.org.au](mailto:homelesssupport@anglicarevic.org.au)  
Thank you for helping bring joy to those in need this festive season!

## ART COMMENTARY

Today's pewsheet features an exquisite illuminated manuscript page from the *Book of Hours of Luis de Laval*, a masterpiece of 15th-century French illumination. Louis de Laval served King Louis XI of France and commissioned this book from the great master Jean de Colombe. Practically every page of the manuscript is embellished with lavish stylised architectural frames and gilt painted borders filled with flowers and winged cherubs. The book contains over 1,200 miniatures. The illuminated page we are looking at today is stunning. The female saints are very distinguishable on the first row, but as the perspective takes us deeper into the composition, the faces slowly disappear and the halos take over... It is a beautiful way to show us that there are so many anonymous saints around us too... people who never get recognised but do wonderful work for God.



## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

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**A Prayer 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:** Archbishop in Council and diocesan governance; for wisdom, integrity, faithful stewardship and decisions that serve the Church's mission across Melbourne and Geelong.

**For the Anglican Church:** Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Revd and Rt Hon. Sarah Mullally; Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia, The Rt Revd Dr Mark Short; Archbishop of Melbourne, The Most Revd Dr Ric Thorpe; 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, Ben Carroll; and, Member for Malvern, Michael O'Brien.

**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:** Beverley Quail & Kari Kongshem.

**For the sick and all in need:** Nichole, Joanna, James, Karen, Trisha, Daphne, Thomas, Rod, Stephen, Stella, Louis, Nina, Bissie, Jane, Rosie, Alina, Maria, Diana, Briody, Hazel & Tim.

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

**For those who have died and their families who mourn them:** Fiona Baillieu & Susan Moorshead.

**Give thanks for those whose Anniversary of Death is this week:** Dorothy Pizzey (2024); Hugh Wallace-Smith (2025); Barbara White (2016); Bruce Fordham (2024); Sandra Baroutas (2017); Joan Layet (2019); Kay Carr (2025); Alexander Cameron (2016); James Anderson (2016).

## REGULAR NOTICES

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### **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](http://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.

### **Prayer Diary**

The link to the December Prayer Diary is [here](#).

### **Contribute to Worship Services**

All our ministries at St John's are supported by our wonderful volunteers. The rosters for this month 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.

### **Parish Council**

Parish council meets monthly, and minutes are available on request.

### **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:

[us06web.zoom.us/j/86212089431?pwd=ZEN2M2xWRHRhMVhxTWhwcmVwTzFEdz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86212089431?pwd=ZEN2M2xWRHRhMVhxTWhwcmVwTzFEdz09)

Meeting ID: 862 1208 9431 | Passcode: 541347

### **Prayer Requests**

Prayer requests can be sent to [prayers@saintjohnstoorak.org](mailto: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 Vicar, Peter, has Friday. Our Assistant Priest Kathryn works Thursday, Friday and Sunday. Our Curate Victoria works Sunday, Monday and Wednesdays. Please respect their time away from work and unless in an emergency, please refrain from telephoning, texting, emailing them, or visiting the Vicarage, on these days. Thank you.

## SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

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### Revelation 7:9-17

When Revelation was written, people were concerned about what would happen at the end of time. It was also a time of persecution: some died for the faith. This book tells of John's (see 1:1) visions of the future. He sees thrones and courts – part of the culture then but not of ours today, but we still ask: *what will happen at the end of time?*

In his dream, John sees the heavenly court where God sits enthroned and from which he rules the universe. Those around him praise him as Creator and Lord of all. Present too is “the Lamb” (see 6:1) through whom redemption from sin was achieved: Christ has brought victory by his own sacrifice. As a result of his triumph, he, in God's name, directs history and brings it to its conclusion. In a cosmic liturgy, the whole of creation proclaims the dignity of the Lamb as he is enthroned. In 7:1-8, the “living God” commands that earth and living creatures not be destroyed until the “servants of our God”, the faithful, have been marked with a seal – in ancient times, a monarch marked his property with a signet ring. First many people from each of the tribes of Israel receive this mark. Then follows our passage, in which members of the Church are *sealed*.

“Palm branches” (v. 9) are a sign of victory and thanksgiving: they were strewn on the road during victory parades. In vv. 11-12, the whole court of heaven join the “great multitude” (v. 9), the elect, in praising God, in triumph. Humankind is on the same level as “angels” (v. 11). (The “four living creatures”, representing what is most splendid in life, were identified earlier as a human being (for wisdom), a lion (for nobility), an ox (for strength), and an eagle (for swiftness or over-view) – later adopted as symbols of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John respectively.) Then v. 14: the elect are the members of the Church who have remained faithful through the final testing (“great ordeal”) by the Antichrist, the devil; they have received the gift of Christ, (purity, sinlessness), through his death (“made them white in the blood of the Lamb”). For this reason, they ceaselessly celebrate a celestial liturgy in God's presence, protected by God (“shelter them”, v. 15). Vv. 16-17 tell of their happiness, using quotations from previous books of the Bible. Christians will no longer suffer.

### Psalms 34:1-10,22

The “humble” (v. 2, dedicated, committed believers in God, who hence have a claim on God's help) will be delivered from “fears” (v. 4). They will be delivered, rescued (v. 7): at the Last Day, their faces will be “radiant” (v. 5) in God's presence; God will help them to overcome evil. He will protect those who hold him in proper respect (“fear him”, v. 7). “Taste” (v. 8, experience), God's inherent goodness and the joy of trusting in him! Hold him in awe, you “holy ones” (v. 9), you who are set apart for God, elect, chosen by God – for your needs will be fully met. But avoid “evil” (v. 13) and “deceit”. God listens to the godly but he shuns those who do evil, cutting them off from his blessings (vv. 14-17).

Then v. 19: though the godly suffer much, God will rescue them from their afflictions, but the ungodly (who hate the godly) will be condemned (to damnation). Despite onslaughts by the ungodly, the integrity of the godly will be maintained (v. 20). Unlike the fate of the ungodly, God “redeems” (v. 22, restores the fortunes of) the godly, so they will not be condemned at the end of time. 1

### **John 3:1-3**

The author emphasizes that through our kinship with Christ, son of God, we “should be called children of God”. This has arisen because of God’s gift of love: his gift of his only Son as Saviour of the world. We are God’s children now (“that is what we are.”) Then v. 1b: most people did not listen to and understand Jesus (“did not know him”), so it is to be expected that few will listen to us, his emissaries. Then v. 2: being his children is happening now, and will be at the end of time, but we have not been shown in what way this will be; however, we do know that we will be like Christ: we will see the Father fully, in all his glory. “All who have this hope” (v. 3), this expectation of the future “in him” – i.e. Christians – consider it required of them to live a virtuous, ethical, life (“purify themselves”), emulating the essential goodness, purity, of God.

### **Matthew 5:1-12**

4:23-25 say “Jesus went throughout Galilee ... proclaiming the good news of the kingdom ... great crowds [including Gentiles] followed him ...” He speaks to his disciples, but the crowd is not far away: per 7:28, they too hear.

“Blessed are” (v. 3) can be translated as *Happy are those who*. The “poor” (v. 3) are the many who were literally impecunious and therefore suffered subservience to the will of the wealthy. Those of them who place themselves in God’s hands will enter the kingdom of heaven. Those who have no worldly joy because life is hard on them (“mourn”, v. 4) yet turn to God for help will be comforted, renewed, strengthened. Those whose lives are God-centred (“meek”, v. 5) will enter the kingdom (“the earth”, figuratively, the Promised Land). Those who seek ardently to live in unison with God (“righteousness”, v. 6) will know the privilege and joy of loyal response to God’s will. The compassionate (“merciful”, v. 7) will receive compassion. Those who are single-minded, in their very beings, in complete loyalty to God will live in God’s presence (v. 8). Reconciliators (“peacemakers”, v. 9) will, because they share in what God does, be his “children”. Those who are “persecuted” (v. 10), ridiculed, denounced, ill-treated, in maintaining a right relationship with God (through Christ) will receive a “reward” (v. 12), God’s blessing: they will share in the kingdom. Disciples in Jesus’ day are like the prophets: they suffered persecution from their own people (v. 11). (Some of the beatitudes overlap.) The Beatitudes present a paradox; they overturn the conventional values of society; they constitute a moral revolution, which continues today.

## This Week

SUNDAY, 1 November 2026

### All Saints Day

8am Said Eucharist

10am Sung Eucharist

TUESDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 2026

Melbourne Cup Day

Office Closed

WEDNESDAY, 4 November 2026

11am Memorial Service for Fiona Baillieu

7pm Eucharist, in the Angel Chapel

THURSDAY, 29 November 2026

10am Funeral Service for Susan Moorshead



## Next Sunday, 8 November Remembrance Sunday

### 8am Eucharist

First Reading: *Isaiah 2.1-4*, Volunteer Required

Second Reading: *Romans 8.31-39*, Volunteer Required

Gospel Reading: *John 14.1-6*

Intercessor: Volunteer Required

Preacher: The Revd Kathryn Watt

### 10am Eucharist

First Reading: *Isaiah 2.1-4*, Craig McConaghy

Second Reading: *Romans 8.31-39*, John Lines

Gospel Reading: *John 14.1-6*

Intercessor: St. Catherine's Students

Preacher: The Revd Kathryn Watt

Morning Tea: Judy Richardson & Barbara George



ST. JOHN'S  
ANGLICAN  
CHURCH  
TOORAK  
EST. 1859

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Open 9am - 5pm | Monday - Friday

9826 1765 or 9826 1434

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### Wardens

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Mr Jason Pennell, Mr Richard Uglow

### Parish Council

Mr Rob Condon, Mr Craig Cooper,

Mr Anthony Gissing

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