ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
TOORAK
EST. 1859



The Feast of Christ the King

22 November, 2026

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 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 Blessing Christ, Fernando Gallego (1440–1507),
c. 1492, Oil on Panel
Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid, Spain.

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 as the procession enters the church

PRELUDE 'Andante Tranquillo' from Sonata 3 in A major, Op. 65
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

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 'Let all the world in every corner sing'



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
Basil Harwood 1859-1949
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 *said*

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

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

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 sins 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 THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

God of power and love, who raised your Son Jesus from death to life, resplendent in glory to rule over all creation: free the world to rejoice in his peace, to glory in his justice, and to live in his love. Unite the human race in Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24 *read by Nick Cree*

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

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

THE PSALM Psalm 100 *said*

O shout to the Lord in triumph, all the earth:
serve the Lord with gladness,
and come before his face with songs of joy.
Know that the Lord he is God:
it is he who has made us and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
Come into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise:
give thanks to him, and bless his holy name.
For the Lord is good, his loving mercy is for ever:
his faithfulness throughout all generations.
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 Ephesians 1.15-231 *read by Anthony Rose*

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

THE GOSPEL Matthew 22.34-46

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 the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' He said to him, ' "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.' Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: 'What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?' They said to him, 'The son of David.' He said to them, 'How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, "The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet'"? If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?' No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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

THE SERMON The Assistant Curate, The Revd Victoria Bakerov

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

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*

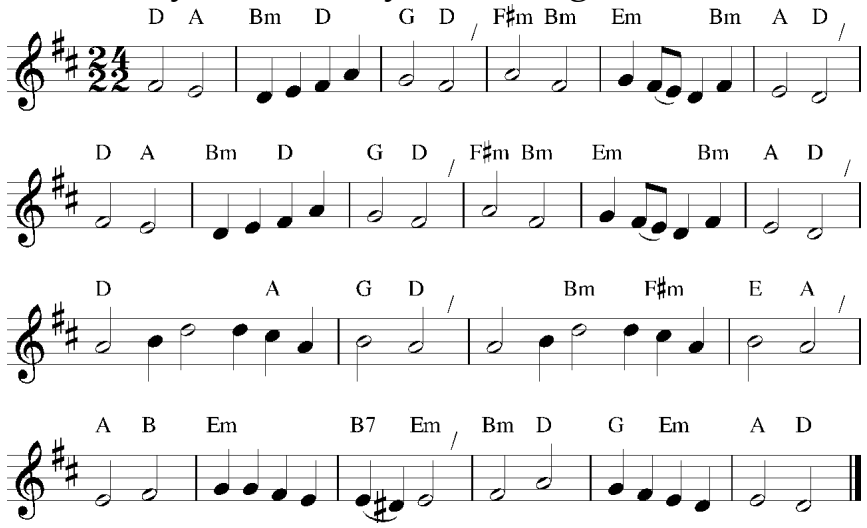
We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**
The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

All share with each other a sign of peace

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 'Robe yourself, my soul, in gladness'



1. Robe yourself, my soul, in gladness,
leave sin's gloomy den of sadness,
come where God in light is waiting,
come, begin the celebrating!

For the Lord brings me salvation,
issues me his invitation;
God most holy comes to win me,
comes from heaven to live within me.

2. Quickly let me go to meet him,
like a bride run out to greet him.
With his grace he stands there knocking;
let me now, my doors unlocking,
open wide the way before him,
say to him, as I adore him:
Come, dear Lord, let me receive you,
do not let me ever leave you.

3. All our thinking, as we ponder,
cannot comprehend this wonder,
that this living bread is boundless
though the people fed are countless,
and that Christ his blood is giving
with the wine we are receiving.
What a myst'ry, of God's planning,
past all human understanding!

4. Jesus, bread of life, I pray you,
let me cheerfully obey you,
and accept your invitation
for my good, not condemnation.
Let me eat this supper, knowing
what great love, Lord, you are showing.
Now on earth these gifts you give me,
as your guest in heaven receive me.

Johann Franck 1618–77
tr. Catherine Winkworth 1827–78
rev. D. A. Schubert 1942–1827–78
Johann Crüger 1598-1662
SCHMÜCKE DICH (TiS 503)

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 & BENEDICTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The 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

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

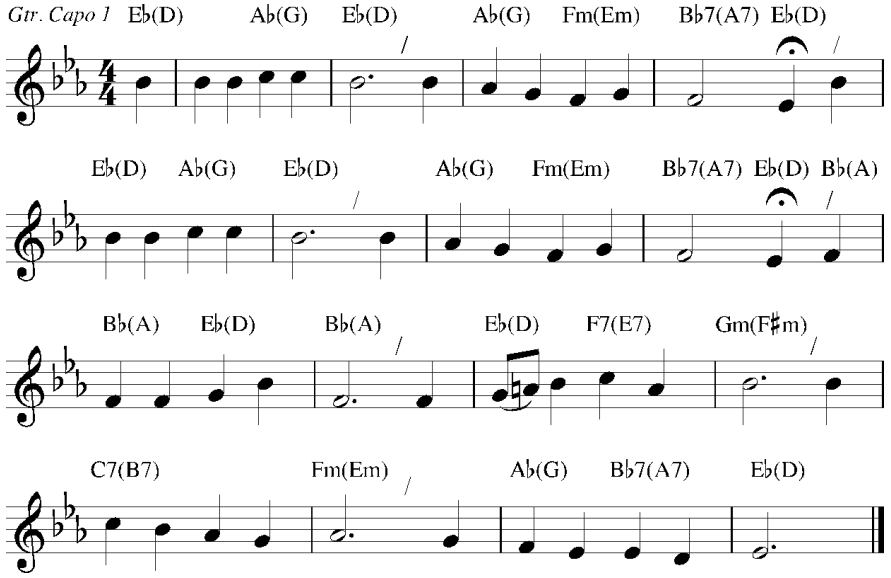
All baptised Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Communion is available as consecrated bread, which is given to each person, and wine which may be drunk from the chalice. A separate chalice for intinction (dipped) is also provided. If you would prefer a blessing, please come forward and 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 'Now thank we all our God'



1. Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom the world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

2. All praise and thanks to God
who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son
and Spirit now be given:
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore,
who ever was, is now,
and shall be ever more.

Martin Rinkart 1586–1649
tr. Catherine Winkworth 1827–78 *alt.*
Johann Crüger 1598-1662
NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT (TiS 106 i)

BLESSING
DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE 'Nun danket alle Gott' (Now thank we all our God)
Karl Piutti (1846-1902)

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

TODAY Meet Amelia Hamer, Sunday 22 November
Member of St. John's Amelia Hamer (Liberal candidate for Malvern) will be available to speak with parishioners at morning tea.

TODAY Parish Council Nominations, 22 November
With the Annual Meeting date only a week away (*Sunday 29 November, 11.30am)*, today is the last day nominations can be made for parish council. Nomination forms can be found in the Narthex. You must be on the parish roll to be nominated.

Advent Working Bee, Saturday 29 November, 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. All help willingly received! Sign up here or in the narthex.

Annual Meeting, Sunday 29 November at 11.30am
All members of the parish are invited to the Annual Meeting, to be held in the church. Those on the Electoral Roll may vote but all are invited. This is an important event in the life and affairs of the parish so all are encouraged to attend.

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. Thank you for helping bring joy to those in need this festive season!

Advent Quiet Day, Saturday 5 December, 10am-4pm

Join The Revd Dr Wendy Crouch for a day of Advent reflection and preparation at St. Joseph's Spirituality Centre, Williamstown. The theme this year is *Waiting Expectantly in Hope.* There will be opportunities between guided reflections to walk along the beach or in the adjacent Botanic Gardens. Cost $15. BYO lunch, tea and coffee will be provided. To register your attendance, scan the QR code, or click here. For further information, contact Wendy at wcrouch@melbourneanglican.org.au.

Food for Friends

Maureen List and I have been busy shopping, spending $2352.75 on food and delivering to Christ Church Mission St Kilda and St Mark's Fitzroy. Christ Church Mission yesterday saw 71 people seeking food assistance. This is the most Maree (food coordinator) has ever had. When Food for Friends was started back in 1990, Christ Church Mission would help 60 people per week! The need is growing with people who would never have sought help before, now needing it. At St Mark's Fitzroy, we had to guard the car while the food was being transported from the boot to the trolley. There are increasing numbers of homeless. If you can help in any way, please contact me (Brenda) 0413 393097 or speak with Maureen. The agencies we support are: Christ Church Mission St Kilda, St Mark's Fitzroy, Richmond Churches Food Bank. To all those who support this Ecumenical Appeal, THANK YOU! If you wish to donate:
Toorak Ecumenical Fund - BSB: 063177 - Acc: 10026147
Many thanks for your support that is gratefully received by the Agencies.
Brenda Mouritz

Toorak Op Shop Volunteers Needed!

Toorak Op Shop in Carters Avenue has been running for over 40 years thanks to the dedication of volunteers from St. John's, St. Peter's and Toorak Uniting Church. Each year funds are carefully distributed to charitable and community organisations. If you would like to join this team of incredible volunteers and contribute to this worthwhile cause please call (03) 9827 3172 or email admin@toorakopshop.com.au

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.

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
Meeting ID: 862 1208 9431 | Passcode: 541347

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 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.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

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, Nunawading Episcopate, The Rt Revd Ben Wong.

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: Caroline Johnston & Stella Jongebreur.

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.

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: Richard Kelly.

Give thanks for those whose Anniversary of Death is this week: Jeannette Viney (2020); Wendy McLaren (2022); Don Sawers (2018); Dorothy Hughes (2017); Pamela Fraser (2019); Russ Thorn (2025); Ron Alder (2003); Joan Heywood (2025); Jill Loton (2016); Barbara Davis (2023); Phillip Strang (1989); Margaret Ullin (2023) & Alan Mackay (2023).

SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

Ezekiel 34:11-16,20-24

Rulers in the Near East had long seen themselves as shepherds of their subjects. Ezekiel was sent by God to prophesy against Israel's kings, who had misused their people and were responsible for scattering them. The kings had taken the plenty of the land for themselves, rather than sharing it with their subjects. Written in a time of despondency (Judah had been invaded by Babylon in 587 BC), vv. 1-10 blame the people's sorry state on the kings: some people had dispersed around the Mediterranean; others were deported to Babylon; those left at home were no better off. In foreign lands, they have fallen prey to pagan beliefs. Rulers too are subject to God's law: they are individually responsible for the mess.

Now God will reverse the evil done by the bad human shepherds. He will seek out the sheep, and "rescue" (v. 12) them from wherever they have been scattered. God will "gather them" (v. 13) and bring them back, restore them, to Palestine; he will care for them (v. 14). He will aid the "lost" (v. 16), "strayed", "injured" and "weak" – but he will destroy the "fat and the strong", i.e. those who rule them. God will give them justice: rulers will be accountable for their actions. God will judge, and differentiate between, the "fat sheep" (v. 20, the overfed rich oppressors, the ungodly) and the "lean" (the underfed poor oppressed, the godly). "I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged" (v. 22). The sheep must behave properly, and submit to "one shepherd" (v. 23), a descendant of "David" (vv. 23, 24), a "prince", whom God will place over them. There will be peace, prosperity and safety from attack by other nations; then Israel will truly know her God. Jesus built on this passage to express the nature of his mission.

Psalm 100

All people everywhere ("all the earth") are invited to joyfully worship God. Both the Temple and royal palaces had "gates" (v. 4) and "courts", so God the king, present in the Temple and reigning from there, is envisaged. All are to acknowledge that Israel's god, the LORD, is the god (v. 3): he created us, we belong to him and he cares for us. He is ultimate goodness (v. 5): per his covenant, he loves – and is faithful to – us, our ancestors and descendants.

Ephesians 1:15-23

Paul has written of the Father's wisdom and insight in making known to us his will, his plan for completion of the restoration of the faithful to oneness with him, as told by Jesus (vv. 8, 9). God's plan embraces both Jews and Gentiles, bringing them together in one Christian community. That this is happening he sees as evidence of God's ability to break down diverse barriers, and to bring the world to unity in Christ.

And so, in vv. 15-16, he is delighted to hear of the successful missionary activity by people he does not know at first hand. Their "faith" (commitment to Christ) and fraternal love (love of "all the saints", Christians both Jewish and Gentile) go hand in hand: faith involves appreciating God's great love for

humanity demonstrated in the Father's giving of the Son. That "your" (v. 15) refers to new Christians is indicated by "as you come to know him" in v. 17: Paul prays that these (relatively) new converts may receive "a spirit of wisdom and revelation" as each progressively come to understand God more and more. It is not just *digested knowledge* ("wisdom") that they will receive, but also "revelation", what God will show of himself and his ways, his manifest character, his greatness, "glory", and the fruit of interaction of knowledge with experience. The objective (v. 18) is that, illuminated by innermost conviction ("with the eyes of your heart"), they may attain a maturer knowledge of God in three ways: (1) in spiritual growth ("hope") being those whom God has called; (2) the "glorious inheritance" Gentile Christians now share with their Jewish brethren; and (3) experience of the tremendous power of God as he works in their lives. Paul's experience speaks here: God showed him mercy when he was a persecutor of Christians. Then v. 20: this power that they now experience is what the Father used in raising Christ and having him share in the divine glory. Christ has also conquered all alien spiritual powers ("far above all rule ...", v. 21) and pagan gods ("every name that is named"). God has made "all things" (v. 22) subject to humanity; the Father has given Christ to the church as ruler over all things spiritual. The church is one in Christ and thus is able to share in Christ's exaltation, Christ being the complete embodiment of God, who is in the process of filling (making good) all things. It is through the church that God pervades the world with his goodness.

Matthew 25:31-46

Vv. 14-30 are the Parable of the Talents. Jesus has used it to stress the importance of fidelity to him and his mission while he is away. Here Jesus tells us the kind of conduct, of morality, towards others expected of the faithful – and the consequences of not caring for others. Sheep and goats behave differently but in Palestine they were fed together. At the end of the era, when Christ comes again, he will act for the Father ("sit on ... [his] throne", v. 31). He will separate the "sheep" (v. 32) from the "goats", assigning the former to a place of honour ("at his right hand", v. 33) and the latter to dishonour. He, as "king" (v. 34) will invite the godly (or faithful), those whom the Father has pre-ordained for this, to live with him ("the kingdom"), a state that existed before creation ("from the foundation of the world"). Why? Because the godly have fulfilled God's expectation: in reaching out to the disadvantaged they have, in fact, been reaching out to him (v. 40). We are all part of his family. But the "goats", those who have ignored the needy, will be permanently separated from God, be unhappy, and be punished, for they have failed to see Christ in people. The "righteous" (v. 46) are the faithful, the godly, those who understand that to serve humanity is to serve Christ – and do so.

MUSIC COMMENTARY

PRELUDE: 'Andante Tranquillo' from Sonata 3 in A major, Op. 65
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Despite being renowned for his piano works, Mendelssohn was also a skilled organist who, during a trip to Britain, gave a number of well-received organ recitals. This movement comes from Mendelssohn's third, of six, organ sonatas. However, the word sonata, in this context, is not meant to imply a classical sonata form, but instead as Bach would have used it (for a collection or suite of varying pieces).

POSTLUDE: 'Nun danket alle Gott' *Karl Piutti (1846-1902)*

Now thank we all our God. Piutti was an Italian composer and organist who studied at the Leipzig Conservatory.

ART COMMENTARY

Today's pewsheet features *The Blessing Christ*, by Spanish Renaissance master Fernando Gallego. While little is known about Gallego's formal training, his naturalistic rendering of form and meticulous technique clearly reflect the influence of 15th-century Early Flemish painting—a movement celebrated for its vivid illusionism and intricate symbolism. In this striking composition, Christ sits enthroned in a red tunic, holding the globe of the world in his left hand while raising his right in a gesture of blessing. Flanking him are allegorical figures representing the Old and New Covenants: the Synagogue, carrying the tablets of Moses alongside a torn banner, and the Church, crowned with laurel and holding the flag of victory as well as a chalice with the Host—a symbol of the new promise of salvation through Christ's death and Resurrection. Surrounding the central scene is the *Tetramorph*, representing the four Gospel writers: the eagle for St John, the bull for St Luke, the lion for St Mark, and the angel for St Matthew. Originally housed in the church of *San Lorenzo de Toro*, this panel was long assumed to be part of a larger altarpiece. However, historians now believe it was specifically commissioned in 1492 for the tombs of Don Pedro de Castilla el Viejo and his wife, Beatriz Rodríguez de Fonseca y Ulloa.



Food for Friends

2026 CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Supporting local food relief throughout the year!



Through the Food for Friends project,
the Toorak Ecumenical Council provides year-round food supplies to local welfare agencies facing record demand due to the rising cost of living.

THE TOORAK ECUMENICAL FUND - CBA TOORAK

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THE AGENCIES WE ASSISTED THIS YEAR WERE:

Christ Church Mission, St Kilda
St Joseph's, South Yarra
Church of All Nations
St Mark's, Fitzroy
Burwood Heights Care
Prahran Mission
Richmond Churches Food Bank
Aboriginal Catholic Ministry
MacKillop Family Services
John Pierce Centre for the Deaf

This Week

SUNDAY, 22 November 2026
Christ The King
8am Said Eucharist
10am Sung Eucharist
12pm Baptism of Matilda McKenna-Brown & Illiana, Nathaniel & Gianna Fernandez
3pm Baptism of Jaspar Baillieu Hay

WEDNESDAY, 25 November 2026
7pm Eucharist, in the Angel Chapel

THURSDAY, 26 November 2026
9am Geelong Grammar School Christmas Service

SATURDAY, 26 November 2026
10am Advent Working Bee

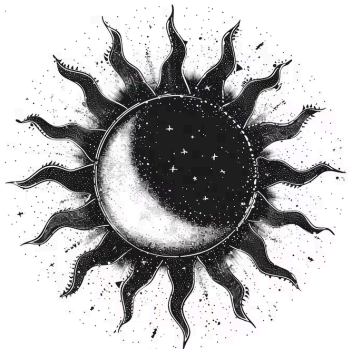
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Next Sunday, 29 November
First Sunday of Advent

8am Eucharist
First Reading: *Isaiah 64:1-9*, Volunteer Required
Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 1:1-9*, Volunteer Required
Gospel Reading: *Mark 13:24-37*
Intercessor: Volunteer Required
Preacher: The Revd Kathryn Watt

10am Eucharist
First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9, Volunteer Required
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, Volunteer Required
Gospel Reading: Mark 13:24-37
Intercessor: Volunteer Required
Preacher: The Revd Kathryn Watt

Morning Tea: TBC



ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
TOORAK
EST. 1859

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