

## St Matthew's Anglican Church, Cheltenham

### Christmas Services



**Christmas Eve – Tonight**

11pm – Carols by Candlelight

11.30pm – Midnight Mass

**Christmas Day**

9am – Christmas Holy Communion



### Weekly Services



Sunday – 8am Holy Communion

Sunday – 10am Sung Eucharist

Wednesday – 10am Mass (not in Jan)



The clergy and staff of St Matthew's wish you all a happy and holy Christmas and a great start to the New Year.

May this 'holy day' season be a safe time for you all.



**Parish Office:** 161 Park Road, Cheltenham, 3192

**Phone:** 9583 2205

**Hours:** Wednesday to Friday: 9am to 4pm

**Parish Secretary:** Claire Johnston

**Email:** [stmatthewsanglicanchurch@bigpond.com](mailto:stmatthewsanglicanchurch@bigpond.com)

**Website:** [www.stmatthewscheltenham.org.au](http://www.stmatthewscheltenham.org.au)

## St Matthew's Anglican Church Cheltenham



Corner Nepean Highway and Park Road

Cheltenham, Victoria, 3192

[www.stmatthewscheltenham.org.au](http://www.stmatthewscheltenham.org.au)



## CHILDREN'S CRIB SERVICE

Christmas Eve 2017 at 5.30pm



**Celebrant:** Fr Ron White

**Organist:** Mrs Marlene Davies

150 Years of Witness & Service in Cheltenham



We welcome you to our  
Children's Crib Service!



### Opening prayer

I'm so excited, Jesus!

Christmas is such a great time – full of gifts and surprises.

But you were the biggest surprise of all  
because no one thought you'd come as a tiny baby  
and be born in a poor place like a stable.

You were the best gift of all, too,  
a gift from God to bring us life for ever.

Thank you for being the biggest surprise and the best gift. **Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day 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.**

### Away in a manger

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
And stay by my bedside till morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.



Words: Anonymous Philadelphia 1883  
The New English Hymnal

Fr Ron: Today we remember Jesus and the story of his birth;  
All: **Jesus is our King.**

### *The Advent Wreath is lit*

Fr Ron: Jesus Christ is the light of the world;  
All: **Jesus is our Way.**

Fr Ron: With Jesus even dark places are light;  
All: **Jesus is the Truth.**

Fr Ron: In Jesus we shall live for ever;  
All: **Jesus is our Life.**

## O Christmas tree

1. O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,  
How lovely are your branches!  
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,  
How lovely are your branches!  
In beauty green will always grow  
Through summer sun and winter snow.  
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,  
How lovely are your branches!
2. O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,  
Your beauty green will teach me  
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,  
Your beauty green will teach me  
That hope and love will ever be  
The way to joy and peace for me.  
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,  
Your beauty green will teach me.



Words: First verse is traditional German,  
second verse by Ernst Gebhard Anschutz, 1824

## A Prayer for Christmas

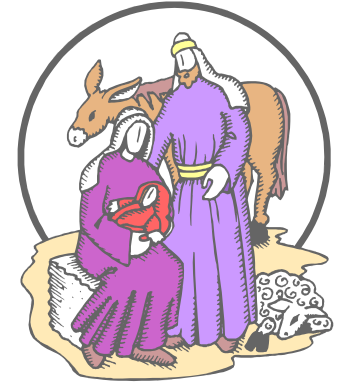
- Fr Ron: Jesus born as one of us,  
All: **We give you thanks today.**
- Fr Ron: Jesus, child of Bethlehem,  
All: **We give you thanks today.**
- Fr Ron: Jesus gift of God to us,  
All: **We give you thanks today.**
- Fr Ron: Jesus, the reason for our Holy Day,  
All: **We give you praise today.**

- Fr Ron: Jesus, creator of time and space,  
All: **We give you praise today.**
- Fr Ron: Jesus, Lord of all people,  
All: **We give you praise today.**

## Christmas talk followed by activity

### Once in royal David's city

1. Once in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that Mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little Child.
2. And through all his wondrous childhood,  
Day by day like us he grew;  
He was little, weak, and helpless,  
Tears and smiles like us he knew;  
And he feels for all our sadness,  
And he shares in all our gladness.



Words: Mrs C.F. Alexander 1818-95  
The New English Hymnal

### Hark! the herald angels sing

1. Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King,  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled:

Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem:  
*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the new-born King.*



Words: Charles Wesley 1707-88 and others  
Reproduced with permission  
Together In Song

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come,  
Offspring of a virgin's womb!  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased in human flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel.  
*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the new-born King.*

## Distribution of gifts

### We wish you a Merry Christmas

1. We wish you a Merry Christmas;  
We wish you a Merry Christmas;  
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.  
*Good tidings we bring to you and your king;  
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

2. Oh, bring us some figgy pudding;  
Oh, bring us some figgy pudding;  
Oh, bring us some figgy pudding and a cup of good cheer  
*Good tidings we bring to you and your king;  
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*
3. We wish you a Merry Christmas;  
We wish you a Merry Christmas;  
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Words: Traditional

## Blessing



**Please stay for the sausage sizzle in the Hall.**

**All very welcome!**



### A prayer to say at home

Thank you, God, for the joys of Christmas:  
For the fun of opening stockings;  
For Christmas trees with twinkling lights;  
For exciting parties;  
For Christmas cakes and puddings;  
Thank you, God.  
Thank you for all the happiness of Christmas-time;  
Thank you for the lovely presents we receive;  
Thank you most of all that Jesus was born as a Baby  
on the first Christmas Day.  
Thank you, God.