

St Matthew's Anglican Church, Cheltenham

CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest: Fr Ron White

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Priest Associate: Fr Andre Hassing

M: 0430 481 103 **E:** andrehassing@yahoo.com.au



Parish Office: 161 Park Road, Cheltenham, 3192

Parish Secretary: Claire Johnston **Hours:** Wednesday to Friday: 9am – 4pm

T: 9583 2205 **E:** stmatthewsanglicanchurch@bigpond.com

W: www.stmatthewscheltenham.org.au

Churchwardens: Vicar's Warden: Andrew Napier **M:** 0425 746 479

People's Warden: Sue Polites **M:** 0414 653 843

Incumbency Committee: Julie Johnston, Glenys Foreman & Mitch Porter

Flower Guild: Sue Polites **M:** 0414 653 843

Prayer Chain: Sr Margot **M:** 0407 889 357

St Matthew's Cheltenham Op Shop: 33-35 Station Road, Cheltenham, 3192

T: 9583 2993 **Hours:** Monday to Friday: 9.30am – 4pm, Saturday: 9.30am – 12pm

SERVICE DETAILS

Sunday 8am: Holy Communion

Sunday 10am: Sung Eucharist

Wednesday 10am: Said Eucharist

Baptisms, First Communions,
Confirmations, Weddings and
Funerals by arrangement

1st Sunday of the month 8am: Book of
Common Prayer (BCP)

1st Sunday of the month 10am: Family Service
with Sunday School

2nd Sunday of the month: Healing Service
follows the 10am Mass

PARISH EVENTS

Morning Tea: After the 10am service every Sunday

Parish Luncheon: 1st Sunday of every 2nd month (Dec)

Parish Breakfast: 5th Sunday of the month

St Matthew's Anglican Church Cheltenham



Corner Nepean Highway and Park Road

Cheltenham, Victoria, 3192

www.stmatthewscheltenham.org.au



○ come • ○ come •
Emmanuel

**FOURTH
SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

*Sunday
23 December
2018*

Welcome to our Services today

8am – Holy Communion

Celebrant & Preacher: Fr Ron White

10am – Sung Eucharist

Celebrant & Preacher: Fr Ron White

Organist: Mrs Marlene Davies

151 Years of Witness & Service in Cheltenham



Merry Christmas!



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

We hope to see many of you at our Christmas services.

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

TODAY'S ROSTER – 23 DECEMBER

| 8 AM | | 10 AM | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Sidespeople: | Cliff Simmons Marilyn Simmons | Sidespeople: | Sandra Cooper |
| Reader: | Priscilla van Reesema | Reader: | Mitch Porter |
| Chalice: | | Chalice: | Harold Daly |
| Server: | Priscilla van Reesema | Server: | Mitch Porter |
| Intercessions: | Cliff Simmons | Intercessions: | Val Fielder |

NEXT SUNDAY'S ROSTER – 30 DECEMBER

| 8 AM | | 10 AM | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sidespeople: | Julie Johnston Rob Johnston | Sidespeople: | Val Fielder Mitch Porter |
| Reader: | Cliff Simmons | Reader: | Val Fielder |
| Chalice: | | Chalice: | Mitch Porter |
| Server: | Priscilla van Reesema | Server: | Harold Daly |
| Intercessions: | Vicki Hutton | Intercessions: | Mitch Porter |

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS – FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26 | Psalm 148 | Colossians 3.12-17 | Luke 2.41-52 |
|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------|

THE HOLY COMMUNION

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Introit Hymn: 465 NEH (10am only)

1. Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown
When thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home there was found no room
For thy holy nativity:

Refrain:

O come to my heart, Lord Jesus;

There is room in my heart for thee.

2. Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,
Proclaiming thy royal degree;
But in lowly birth didst thou come to earth,
And in great humility:

Refrain

3. Thou camest, O Lord, with the living word
That should set thy people free;
But with mocking scorn and with crown of thorn,
They bore thee to Calvary:

Refrain

4. When the heaven shall ring, and her choirs shall sing,
At thy coming to victory,
Let thy voice call me home, saying, Yet there is room,
There is room at my side for thee:

Refrain

Words: Emily Elliott 1836-97
The New English Hymnal

THE ADVENT WREATH – ADVENT 4

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle;
to you be praise and glory for ever!
Your light has shone in our darkened world
through the child-bearing of blessed Mary;
grant that we who have seen your glory

may daily be renewed in your image
and prepared like her for the coming of your Son,
who is the Lord and Saviour of all.

Blessed be God for ever.

God our Father,
the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary
that she was to be the mother of your Son.
Though Mary was afraid,
she responded to your call with joy.
Help us, whom you call to serve you,
to share like her in your great work
of bringing to our world your love and healing.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the Light who is coming into the world.



**Lord Jesus, Light of the world,
blessed is Gabriel who brought good news;
blessed is Mary your mother and ours:
Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;
and bless us your children who long for your coming.**

We sing (10am only)

O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,
whose mercy endures for ever.

The priest greets the people

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Sentence of Scripture

Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken
to her by the Lord.

Luke 1.45

**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 our 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.'

'Lord, have mercy' (8am only)

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

'Lord, have mercy' (10am only)

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

Trisagion

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

The Collect of the Day

Gracious God,
you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son:
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,

Words: Anon., Latin, 18th cent. or earlier
based on Antiphons from 9th cent. or earlier
tr. John Mason Neale 1818-66 alt.
Reproduced with permission
Together In Song
Refrain: The New English Hymnal

make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word,
and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works.
We ask this through him whose coming is certain,
whose Day draws near,
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Advent Collect

Almighty God,
give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life
in which your Son Jesus Christ came among us
in great humility,
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A Reading from the Book of Micah

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

Micah 5:2-5a

Hear the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Song of Mary (with response)

R My soul magnifies the Lord. R

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
For you, Lord, have looked with favour on your lowly servant:
From this day all generations will call me blessed. **R**
You, the Almighty, have done great things for me:
and holy is your name.
You have mercy on those who revere you:
from generation to generation. **R**
You have shown strength with your arm:
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
Casting down the mighty from their thrones:
and lifting up the lowly. **R**
You have filled the hungry with good things:
and sent the rich away empty.
You have come to the aid of your servant Israel:
to remember the promise of mercy,
The promise made to our forebears:
to Abraham and his children for ever. **R**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.
Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."
When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices
and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according

to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Hebrews 10.5-10

Hear the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: 621 TIS (10am only)

1. O God of every nation,
Of every race and land,
Redeem your whole creation
With your almighty hand;
Where hate and fear divide us,
And bitter threats are hurled,
In love and mercy guide us,
And heal our strife-torn world.
2. Keep bright in us the vision
Of days when war shall cease,
When hatred and division
Give way to love and peace,
Till dawns the morning glorious
When truth and justice reign,
And Christ shall rule victorious
O'er all the world's domain.

Remain standing for the Gospel Reading

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke
chapter 1 beginning at verse 39
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken

to her by the Lord." And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.

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

The Sermon

Silence may follow

The Nicene Creed

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church.

**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.**

Words: William Watkins Reid 1923-
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Together in Song

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 priest says

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

The response to 'Jesus, son of Mary' is

Dwell in us.

The prayers may conclude with

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.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The Lord comes, bringing to light things now hidden in darkness, and disclosing the purposes of the heart.

Silence may be kept

Let us open our hearts and prepare for his coming, confessing our sins 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.**

The Absolution. The priest says

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

All stand. The Greeting of Peace is introduced

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

All may exchange a sign of peace

Offertory Hymn: 186 NEH (10am only)

1. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.
2. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name:
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

3. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might:
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.
4. Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word:
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and for evermore.

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Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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Together in Song

The gifts of the people having been brought to the Altar:

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

[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.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross
and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

We thank you that when he shall come again
in power and great triumph to judge the world,
we may with joy behold his appearing,

and in confidence stand before him
who redeems us from sin and death
and makes us heirs of everlasting life.

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 / singing:

**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.**

Merciful God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,

his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

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 forever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

We who are many are one body in Christ,
for we all share in the one bread.

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.

The invitation to receive Holy Communion

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The sacrament is given with the following words

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Post Communion Hymn: 48 NEH (10am only) (please kneel if possible)

1. Bethlehem, of noblest cities
None can once with thee compare;
Thou alone the Lord from heaven
Didst for us incarnate bear.
2. Fairer than the sun at morning
Was the star that told his birth;
To the lands their God announcing,
Seen in fleshly form on earth.

Words: Latin, Prudentius 348-413
Tr Edward Caswall 1854-78
The New English Hymnal

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The priest says

God for whom we wait,
we thank you that you have fed us
with the bread of life
and the cup of salvation.
As we joyfully await your Son,
keep us ever watchful
that we may be ready to stand before him
on the day of his coming.

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.**

Notices and invitations

Dismissal Hymn: 32 NEH (10am only)

1. O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee to-night.
2. O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to all on earth;
For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
3. How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.
4. Where children pure and happy
Pray to the blessèd Child,
Where misery cries out to thee,
Son of the mother mild;
Where charity stands watching
And faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
And Christmas comes once more.

Words: Phillip Brooks 1835-93 alt
The New English Hymnal

The priest says

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The priest or deacon says

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

From a Prayer Book for Australia.
Copyright Broughton Publishing 1995



You are welcome to stay and enjoy a cuppa
and a chat in the Hall after the 10am service!

PARISH ANNIVERSARIES DURING THE WEEK

+ Year's Mind

Gordon Bozen – 24 December; Sheila Noye – 25 December
Maxwell Everett – 27 December



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Finding joy amidst the drought

By supporting the Christmas Bowl, you are helping mothers in Zimbabwe to become conservation farmers, support their children and harvest joy during their toughest seasons. **Please give today.**

CALL: 1800 025 101
VISIT: actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD....

| | | |
|--------------|--|--|
| Mon 24 Dec | <u>Christmas Eve</u> | |
| 5.30pm | Children's Crib Service followed by sausage sizzle in the Hall |  |
| 11pm | Carols by Candlelight | |
| 11.30pm | Midnight Mass | |
| Tues 25 Dec | <u>Christmas Day</u> | |
| 9am | Christmas Holy Communion | |
| Wed 26 Dec | 10am | Mass: Stephen, Deacon & Martyr |
| Thurs 27 Dec | 10am | Mass: John, Apostle & Martyr |
| Fri 28 Dec | 10am | Mass: Holy Innocents |
| Sun 30 Dec | <u>First Sunday after Christmas</u> | |
| 8am | Holy Communion | |
| 10am | Sung Eucharist | |

NOTICES & UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Special Effort drawn today!

Last chance to purchase tickets for our Christmas Special Effort!
Tickets \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

There are a number of hamper prizes to be won!
The draw will take place today during morning tea.



Masses celebrated during
Christmas week

Wednesday 26 December:
10am: Stephen, Deacon & Martyr

Thursday 27 December:
10am: John, Apostle & Martyr

Friday 28 December:
10am: Holy Innocents

Please note...

The Parish Office will be closed from
Christmas Day until mid January.

During the month of January there
will be no Wednesday services.

Apart from the morning tea for Fr Ron
on Sunday 20 January, there will be no
morning tea until February.

The Melbourne Anglican & Salt

Don't forget to pick up a
copy of TMA & Salt.
Please read them and pass
them on!



New Roster Available

The new roster for the December –
February period is now available in the
Narthex. If you are able to help fill in a
gap please let the Office know.

Retirement fast approaching!

As you are all aware, Fr Ron will be retiring on Friday 25 January 2019
(the 40th Anniversary of his Deaconing). There will be a special service
on this day to celebrate this occasion at 6pm.

His last Sunday services will be on Sunday 20 January.

A presentation will be made to Fr Ron at morning tea.

If parishioners would like to make a contribution towards his gift
please put this in an envelope marked 'Fr Ron's Presentation'
and place in the Offertory Plate or hand it into the Parish Office.

Parishioners are invited to bring a plate of cold finger food
(sandwiches, slices, nibbles etc) on Sunday 20 January for the morning tea.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE
5.30pm Children's Crib Service followed by sausage sizzle
11pm Carols by Candlelight
11.30pm Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY
9am Christmas Holy Communion