

St Matthew's Anglican Church, Cheltenham

CONTACT DETAILS

Locum Tenens: The Reverend Dr Geoff Cheong

M: 0408 583 205 **E:** anglican.church@bigpond.com; gjcheong@bigpond.com

Priest Associate: Fr Andre Hassing

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

Assisting Priest: Fr Russell Joyce OAM

M: 0412 680 019 **E:** r.joyce@iinet.net.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 & Sue Polites

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

Baptisms, First Communions,

Sunday 10am: Sung Eucharist

Confirmations, Weddings and Funerals

Wednesday 10am: Said Eucharist

by arrangement

PARISH EVENTS

Morning Tea: After the 10am service every Sunday

Please see pew sheet notices for dates regarding Parish Lunches and Breakfasts

St Matthew's Anglican Church Cheltenham



Corner Nepean Highway and Park Road

Cheltenham, Victoria, 3192

www.stmatthewscheltenham.org.au



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday
15 December
2019

Welcome to our Services today

8am – Holy Communion

10am – Sung Eucharist

Celebrant & Preacher: Fr Geoff Cheong

(Assisting Priest: Fr Russell Joyce OAM)

Organist: Mr Edwin Kwong

152 Years of Witness & Service in Cheltenham

OTHER SERVICES DURING THE WEEK

St Matthew's

Wednesday 18 December:
10am Mass – Fr Geoff Cheong

Friends of St Francis

Sunday 15 December:
9.30am Mass at CHN Prayer Room – Fr Andre Hassing

TODAY'S ROSTER – 15 DECEMBER

8 AM		10 AM	
Sidespeople:		Sidespeople:	Val Fielder
Reader:	Fr Russell	Reader:	Val Fielder
Chalice:		Chalice:	
Server:	Priscilla van Reesema	Server:	Harold Daly
Intercessions:	Priscilla van Reesema	Intercessions:	Deborah Howard

NEXT SUNDAY'S ROSTER – 22 DECEMBER

8 AM		10 AM	
Sidespeople:	Cliff Simmons Marilyn Simmons	Sidespeople:	
Reader:	Vicki Hutton	Reader:	Lesley Boyd
Chalice:		Chalice:	
Server:	Priscilla van Reesema	Server:	Harold Daly
Intercessions:	Cliff Simmons	Intercessions:	Kath Daly

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah	Psalm	Romans	Matthew
7.10-16	80.1-7, 17-19	1.1-7	1.18-25

THE HOLY COMMUNION

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude: Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele (BWV 654) [Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness] (JS Bach)

Introit Hymn: 18 NEH

- Ye servants of the Lord
Each for your Master wait,
Observant of his heavenly word,
And watchful at his gate.
- Let all your lamps be bright,
And trim the golden flame;
Gird up your loins as in his sight,
For awful is his name.
- Watch! 'tis your Lord's command,
And while we speak, he's near;
Mark the first signal of his hand,
And ready all appear.
- O happy servant he,
In such a posture found!
He shall his Lord with rapture see,
And be with honour crowned.
- Christ shall the banquet spread
With his own royal hand,
And raise that faithful servant's head
Amidst the angelic band.

Words: Philip Doddridge 1702-51
The New English Hymnal

THE ADVENT WREATH – ADVENT 3

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, just and true:
to you be praise and glory for ever!
Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth
as a burning and shining light.

May we your servants rejoice in his light,
and so be led to witness to him
who is the Lord of our coming Kingdom,
Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages.

Blessed be God for ever.

God our Father,
you gave to Zechariah and Elisabeth in their old age
a son called John.

He grew up strong in spirit,
prepared the people for the coming of the Lord,
and baptised them in the Jordan to wash away their sins.
Help us, who have been baptised into Christ,
to be ready to welcome him into our hearts,
and to grow strong in faith by the power of the Spirit.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the Light who is coming into the world.

**Lord Jesus, Light of the world,
John told the people to prepare,
for you were very near.
As Christmas grows closer day by day,
help us to be ready to welcome you now.**

We sing

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.



Words: John Mason Neale 1818-66 alt
Tr. Latin Advent Antiphons
Ancient & Modern
Hymns & Songs for Refreshing Worship

Sentence of Scripture

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those
who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.'

Isaiah 35:3-4

**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

Sustain us, O God, with the power of your love
on our journey to meet the One who is coming:
strengthen our weak hands,
make firm our feeble knees,

and open blind eyes to the dawning of your kingdom,
so that our hearts may rejoice
as we behold the majesty of our God.
We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and 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 Isaiah

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.
Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 35:1-10

Hear the Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Song of Mary (said antiphonally)

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.**

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.**

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.**

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.

A Reading from the Letter of James

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

James 5:7-10

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

Gradual Hymn: 186 NEH

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.

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith b 1926
based on St Luke 1:46-55 in the New English Bible
The New English Hymnal

Remain standing for the Gospel Reading

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew
chapter 11 beginning at verse 2
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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.**

**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 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: 339 NEH

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art,
Be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.
2. Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
Be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord,
Be thou my great Father, and I thy true son,
Be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.
3. Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight,
Be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might,
Be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower,
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.
4. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Be thou my inheritance now and always,
Be thou and thou only the first in my heart,
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.
5. High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won,
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

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.**

And now we thank you
for these gifts of bread and wine;
may we who receive them,
as Jesus said,
share his body and his blood.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread
and gave you thanks.

He broke the bread and gave it to his friends, and said,
'Take and eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup
and gave you thanks.
He shared the cup with them and said,
'This is my blood poured out
so that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

You have gathered us together
to feed on Christ
and to remember all he has done for us:

Fill us with your Spirit
that we may follow Jesus
in all we do and say,
working for justice and bringing your peace
to this world that you have made.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.
**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.**

*Communion music: Meine Seele erhebt den Herren (BWV 648) [My soul doth
magnify the Lord] (JS Bach)*

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: 5 NEH

1. Hark! a herald voice is calling:
'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;
'Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!'
2. Startled at the solemn warning,
Let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.
3. Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heaven;
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all to be forgiven;
4. So when next he comes in glory,
And earth's final hour draws near,
May he then as our defender
On the clouds of heaven appear.

5. Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
To the Father and the Son,
With the co-eternal Spirit,
While unending ages run. Amen.

Words: From the Latin
Tr. E. Caswall 1814-78
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

Postlude: Fugue in G minor (BWV 578) (JS Bach)



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

PARISH ANNIVERSARIES DURING THE WEEK



Happy Birthday!

Betty Youens – 15 December

+ Year's Mind

Dorothy Garrett – 16 December; Don Anderson – 16 December
Henry Cleghorn – 17 December; Keith Foreman – 17 December
Syd Liebe – 20 December; Reginald Noye – 21 December
Norman Stansfield – 21 December



CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD....

Sun 15 Dec	5pm	CCC Carol Service, Church of Christ
Tues 17 Dec	10am	Aged Care Ministry, Cheltenham Manor – Fr Geoff
Wed 18 Dec	10am	Mass
Fri 20 Dec	11am	Aged Care Ministry, St James Terrace – Fr Andre
Sun 22 Dec		<u>Fourth Sunday of Advent</u>
	8am	Holy Communion
	10am	Sung Eucharist
	5pm	Carol Service



NOTICES & UPCOMING EVENTS

Carol Service!



Our Carol Service (with readings) is on next Sunday, 22 December at 5pm. This is a good opportunity to invite those who might find a more formal service difficult so bring along your friends and neighbours and even members of your family!

Cheltenham Combined Churches:
Ecumenical Carol Service

Today at 5pm
at the Southern Community
Church of Christ.
All welcome!



Working Bee – thank you!

Thank you to those who helped
yesterday at our working bee.
Your efforts have made
the place look neat & tidy
as we approach Christmas!



Cheltenham Primary School

Cheltenham Primary School again visited St Matthew's for their annual Christmas Service last Wednesday, 11 December, but this time we had two services as the school is now too big for one!
It was a very happy and fun occasion with beautiful singing!

The Melbourne Anglican (TMA)

The December edition of TMA is now available in the Narthex.
Don't forget to pick up your copy, read it and pass it onto others!

CHRISTMAS SERVICES
SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER
5pm - Carol Service

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

CHRISTMAS DAY
9am - Christmas Holy Communion

Third Sunday of Advent



Finding joy in resilience

Is it possible to be joyful when the natural disasters that batter your island home become more destructive with every year? Your gifts help the people of Tonga to prepare for, and stay safe through, worsening disasters. **Please give to the Christmas Bowl 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