

## PEW SHEET

### Second Sunday of Advent

8<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Welcome to Saint John's Finch Street at the heart of the East Malvern community. This iconic sandstone church is home to a welcoming and hospitable community committed to the worship of God in beauty and holiness in the classical Anglican tradition as well as loving and joyful outreach as disciples of Jesus Christ.

You can find out more about us at [www.saintjohns.org.au](http://www.saintjohns.org.au)

#### **The Anglican Parish of Saint John & Saint Agnes**

5 Finch Street East Malvern VIC 3145  
03 9571 6616  
[secretary@saintjohns.org.au](mailto:secretary@saintjohns.org.au)

#### **REGULAR SERVICES**

##### **Sunday**

8:00am: Eucharist (Saint John's)  
9:30am: Choral Eucharist (Saint John's)  
9:30am: Sung Eucharist (Saint Agnes')  
6:00pm: Choral Evensong  
(Saint John's, First Sunday)  
6:00pm: Congregational Evensong  
(Saint John's, Third Sunday)

##### **Weekday Eucharists**

10:00am: Tuesday (Saint Agnes')  
10:15am: Friday (Saint John's)

#### **Vicar**

Fr. Alex Ross  
0431 308 703  
[vicar@saintjohns.org.au](mailto:vicar@saintjohns.org.au)  
(Day-Off: Monday)

#### **Associate Clergy**

Fr. Ken Hewlett  
Bp. Brad Billings  
Fr. Mick Potter  
Adn. Colleen O'Reilly  
Fr Luke Hopkins

#### **Churchwardens**


John Hooper 0416 185 005  
Anne Kerin 0411 587 180

#### **Director of Music**

Rowan Swarbrick 0401 268 269

*We acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians of this place and their stewardship of the land that now sustains us all and on which we worship the God of all Reconciliation and Hope*

# GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

*Text marked with  is sung together by both congregation and choir at 9:30am. The Mass Setting this morning is by William Mathias.*

## ADVENT PROSE

**Drop down, ye heavens, from above,  
and let the skies pour down righteousness.**

2. We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing,  
and we all do fade as a leaf: and our iniquities,  
like the wind, have taken us away;  
thou has hid thy face from us:  
and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

**Drop down, ye heavens, from above,  
and let the skies pour down righteousness.**

*Rorate Caeli  
NEH 501*

*Please stand when the bells are rung. The Ministers and Choir enter as the Opening Hymn is sung.*

## OPENING HYMN

**1. In Christ there is no east or west,  
in him no south or north,  
but one great fellowship of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.**

**2. In Christ shall true hearts everywhere  
their high communion find,  
his service is the golden cord  
close-binding humankind.**

**3. Join hands, then, people of the faith,  
whate'er your race may be;  
who serves my Father as his child  
is surely kin to me.**

**4. In Christ now meet both east and west,  
in him meet south and north,  
all Christlike souls are one in him  
throughout the whole wide earth.**

*William Arthur Dunkerley  
(John Oxenham) 1852-1941 alt  
TIS 459(ii)*

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

Let us pray.

**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.**

‘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 the second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.’

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. 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.

♪ Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

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

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 Trisagion is sung and a prayer said as the second candle on the Advent Wreath is lit*

Cantor:



Ho - ly God,

All:



Ho - ly and migh-ty, Ho - ly and im-mor-tal, Have mer-cy on us.

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true:  
to you be praise and glory for ever.  
Of old you spoke by the mouth of your prophets,  
but in our days you speak through your Son,  
whom you have appointed the heir of all things.  
**Grant us, your people, to walk in his light,  
that we may be found ready and watching  
when he comes again in glory and judgement;  
for you are our light and our salvation.  
Blessed be God for ever.**

*The Trisagion is repeated*

## THE COLLECT

God of our salvation, you straighten the winding ways of our hearts and smooth the paths made rough by sin: keep our hearts watchful in holiness, and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us. 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.**

*Please sit. Before the Liturgy of the Word all children and their parents are invited to come forward to receive a prayer and blessing*

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Malachi

[3:1-4]

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## THE SONG OF ZECHARIAH

[Luke 1:68-79]

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel:  
who has come to his people and set them free.

**The Lord has raised up for us a mighty Saviour:**

**born of the house of his servant David.**

Through the holy prophets, God promised of old:  
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,

**To show mercy to our forebears:**

**and to remember his holy covenant.**

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**Free to worship him without fear:**

**holy and righteous before him, all the days of our life.**

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High:

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

**To give his people knowledge of salvation:**

**by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God:

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

**To shine on those who dwell in darkness**

**and the shadow of death:**

**and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

## **SECOND READING**

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians.

[1:1-11]

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ

Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

*The O Antiphons are sung*

♪ O Root of Jesse, who standest for an ensign of the people, at whom kings shall shut their mouths, unto whom the Gentiles shall pray: Come and deliver us, and tarry not.

*All turn to face the Book of the Gospels*

## GOSPEL

Alleluia, **alleluia.**

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. **Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

[3:1-6]

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

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the

forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” ’

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

## **THE SERMON**

*The Sermon is followed by a time of reflection, as Paul Annable plays on piano Prelude in E Major, Op. 28, No. 9 by Frédéric Chopin.*

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

Let us together stand to 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.

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

*Please kneel*

Good and gracious God, we give you thanks for all who have told us of your love and your presence among us. We give thanks for John the Baptist preparing the way for our Saviour. We give thanks for the Apostles and Evangelists. Mighty God, guide and empower all preachers of the word and ministers of the sacraments. Bless all who proclaim your love and glory and all who prepare hearts and minds for your coming.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Lord of freedom and grace, we pray for all held prisoner by tyranny and oppression, all who shield themselves from your glory and shrink from your word. Draw to yourself those who do not know or love you and all whose lives are darkened by fear.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all who taught us the faith and led us to you, for all who have given us a glimpse of your glory. We pray for teachers, families and friends and all who are dear to us, remembering those in special difficulty at this time.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Lord of love, we pray for those who are consumed with hatred, all who do not know how to accept or receive forgiveness, all who are not at peace with themselves or the world. Calm the spirit of those who are anxious or fearful. We especially pray this day for: Ali, Christine, Andrew, Alan, Liz, and Cam. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Lord of glory, you destroy the darkness of the shadow of death and open the kingdom of heaven to your loved ones. We pray for the departed, that in your love they may rejoice in peace, as we name before those whose anniversary is this week: Jean Stuart Horner, George John Horner. Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord: **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

*The prayers of intercession may conclude with a final prayer, after which all stand*

## **GREETING OF PEACE**

In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and 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.**

*We greet each other with a sign of Christ's peace.*

## **LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

*A collection is taken to support the life and mission of the parish.*

## OFFERTORY HYMN

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
come then and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings from the King of kings.
2. Then cleansed be every heart from sin;  
make straight the way for God within;  
prepare we in our hearts a home  
where such a mighty guest may come.
3. For you are our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward;  
without your grace we waste away  
like flowers that with and decay.
4. To heal the sick stretch out your hand,  
and bid the fallen sinner stand;  
shine forth, and let your light restore  
earth's own true loveliness once more.
5. To him who left the throne of heaven  
to free us all, let praise be given;  
and praise be to the Father done,  
and Holy Spirit, Three in One.

*Charles Coffin 1676-1749*  
*tr. John Chandler 1806-76 alt*  
*TIS 270*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND CONSECRATION

♪ 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 priest continues in thanksgiving...*

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:

♫ **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 priest continues with the prayer of consecration...*

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

*The Eucharistic Prayer continues...*

... 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, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom  
come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily  
bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass  
against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND COMMUNION

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.**

*The priest breaks the bread while the Agnus Dei is sung*

♫ **O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.**

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Happy 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.**

*All baptised Christians who seek Christ in this sacrament are invited to receive Holy Communion. Anyone is welcome to receive a blessing instead.*

*During Communion the Parish Choir sing the Motet, 'Verily, Verily I say unto you' by Thomas Tallis*

## BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

*Notices may be given here. The priest prays this post-communion prayer*

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.**

*The priest says this blessing:*

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, and scatter the darkness from before your path, 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 among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

*At 9.30am the Closing Hymn is sung.*

### **CLOSING HYMN**

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence  
and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly-minded,  
for with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descending  
comes full homage to demand.
2. King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture,  
in the body and the blood,  
he will give to all the faithful  
his own self for heavenly food.
3. Rank on rank the host of heaven  
spreads its vanguard on the way,  
as the Light of light comes shining  
from the realms of endless day,  
that the powers of hell may vanish  
as the darkness clears away.
4. At his feet the six-winged seraphs,  
cherubim with sleepless eye,  
veil their faces to the presence,

as with ceaseless voice they cry,  
alleluia, alleluia,  
alleluia, Lord most high!

*From the Liturgy of St James c. 4<sup>th</sup> century  
tr. Gerald Moultrie 1829-85 alt  
TIS 497*

*The organist plays the Postlude*

*Please join us for Morning Tea.*

## NEWS & NOTICES

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**NINE LESSONS & CAROLS TONIGHT SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER 7:30PM**  
Don't miss tonight's spectacular service of Nine Lessons and Carols Service, a favourite of the Advent and Christmas season, followed by a sumptuous supper! This will be the first under the direction of Rowan Swarbrick and an exciting selection of carols and music is planned to accompany the traditional 'Nine Lessons', telling the story of God's promises from Creation to Incarnation. This is a highlight service of the year, come along and bring a friend!

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**CHRISTMAS DINNER BOOKING – FRIDAY 13 DECEMBER 6:30PM**  
Bookings are now open for the Parish Christmas Dinner to be held in the Saint John's Hall on Friday 13 December at 6:30pm. The cost is \$40 – which is generously subsidised by the parish – and includes a sumptuous Christmas spread put on by our resident caterer Amanda Grundy and her team, as well as drinks. Please bring a dessert if you are able! Bookings can be made online at [trybooking.com/CUTZR](http://trybooking.com/CUTZR) or if you would like to book and pay in cash or card on the night please email [secretary@saintjohns.org.au](mailto:secretary@saintjohns.org.au)

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## CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS READY FOR COLLECTION

The orders have now closed for Christmas puddings. We thank you for your support, enthusiasm and your orders this year. Thank you also to the pudding mixers, the stirrers and the boilers. The puddings are now available for collection after services at church on Sunday 8 December.

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## CHRISTMAS GARDEN WORKING BEE – SAT 14 DECEMBER 9:30AM

Please come along and join the Garden Group for their final meeting in December as we prepare the garden and grounds for Christmas – Saturday 14 December meeting at 9:30am. Please bring gloves and whatever equipment you can and enjoy good fellowship while helping make our grounds look beautiful!

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## NEXT SUNDAY WELCOME TO FR RUSSELL GOULBOURNE

Next Sunday, 15 December, we welcome Fr Russell Goulbourne who will be officiating at both the 8am and 9:30am Eucharists at Saint John's Finch Street while the Vicar is at Saint Agnes' Glen Huntly. Originally from England, Fr Russell is a priest in the Diocese of Melbourne and a member of Archbishop in Council; he is also Professor of French Literature at the University of Melbourne, where from 2019 until the beginning of this year he was Dean of the Faculty of Arts. It is a privilege to have him with us, please do introduce yourself and make him welcome!

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## CHURCH CHRISTMAS 'SPRUCE UP' WORKING BEE – SAT 21 DEC

All parishioners are invited to attend the pre-Christmas spruce-up working bee in and around the church on Saturday December 21 It will begin at 9am and finish at about 12:30. Please bring your tools – dusters, furniture polish, rakes, spades, brooms, etc.

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## FLOWER GUILD – CALL TO ACTION – MONDAY 23 DECEMBER

The Flower Guild will meet at 9:30am on Monday 23 December to arrange the Christmas flowers in the church. All members and 'budding' florists invited!

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## SUNDAY 29 DECEMBER AND JANUARY SERVICE TIMES

As in previous years, following the choir break-up for their summer rest after Christmas Day there will be only one service – at 9:30am – at Saint John's Finch Street until the first Sunday in February. That is, no 8am service or Evensongs.



# NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER 7:30PM

A traditional Christmas service of readings and music led by the superb choir of Saint John's Finch Street

*featuring among others*

*Here is the Little Door by Herbert Howells*

*Sir Christmas by William Mathias*

*A Christmas Carol by Joshua Adams*

*Bethlehem Down by Peter Warlock*

followed by a festive supper



Saint John's  
5 Finch Street  
East Malvern

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SAINT JOHN'S



FINCH STREET

WITH  
STAGNES<sup>†</sup>

EAST MALVERN & GLEN HUNTLY

JOIN US FOR THE PARISH

# Christmas

• Dinner •



FRIDAY DECEMBER 13, 2024  
AT 6:30 PM

SAINT JOHN'S HALL | \$40

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SAINT JOHN'S



FINCH STREET

# CHRISTMAS

Sunday 8th December 7:30pm Nine Lessons & Carols

*Christmas Eve* 5pm Children's Crib Service  
Tuesday 24th December 11pm Midnight Mass

*Christmas Day* 8am Eucharist  
Wednesday 25th December 9:30am Choral Eucharist

SAINT JOHN'S EAST MALVERN

5 FINCH STREET EAST MALVERN 3145

TELEPHONE 9571 6616

WWW.SAINTJOHNS.ORG.AU

ROSTER	This Week 8 December 2024	Next Week 15 December 2024
<b>8.00am Eucharist</b>		
Welcomer	Bev Kocsis	David Richards
Server	Greg Thompson	Sue McMahon
Readers	Gayle Arden David Richards	Joel Ringrose Bev Kocsis
<b>9:30am Eucharist</b>		
Welcomers	John Stuckey Robin Richards	Sue Lockey Marg Garing
Sub-Deacon	Jane Dwyer	Sebastian Harvey
Crucifer	Will Grant	Satoshi Okita
Acolytes	Manny & William	Manny & William
Thurifer	TBA	TBA
Readers	Bron Williams Robin Richards	Sue Lockey Jane Fyfield
Intercessor	Anne Kerin	Jenny Thomson
Organist	Tim Clarke	David Brennan
Post-Service Hospitality	Sue Lockey Nikki Morshedi	Caroline P'Huillier Chris Martin
<b>6.00pm</b>		
Welcomers	NINE LESSONS & CAROLS 7:30PM – WELCOMERS AND READERS TO BE ANNOUNCED	TBA
Readers		TBA
Organist		Tim Clarke
Post Service Hospitality		TBA
<b>Weekly Duties</b>		
Flowers (for the Sunday)	No Flowers in Advent	No Flowers in Advent
Bins (for the week after Sunday)	John Jobling <i>Garden &amp; Garbage</i>	David Richards <i>Recycling &amp; Garbage</i>



Saint John's Finch Street

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