

## PEW SHEET

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

22<sup>nd</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 Harold Darke in E.*

## ADVENT PROSE

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

4. Comfort ye, comfort ye my people,  
my salvation shall not tarry:  
I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions:  
Fear not, for I will save thee:  
For I am the Lord thy God,  
The Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.

**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. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favoured lady, *Gloria!*'

2. 'for known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honour thee,  
thy Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold;  
most highly favoured lady.' *Gloria!*

3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
‘To me be as it pleaseth God,’ she said,  
‘my soul shall laud and magnify his holy name’”  
most highly favoured lady, *Gloria!*

4. of her, Immanuel, the Christ was born  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say  
‘most highly favoured lady’. *Gloria!*

*Basque Carol, paraphrased by  
Sabine Baring-Gould 1834-1924  
TIS 302*

✠ 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 fourth 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, 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.**

*The Trisagion is repeated*

## THE COLLECT

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

*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 Micah

[5:2-5a]

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.

If the Assyrians come into our land  
and tread upon our soil,  
we will raise against them seven shepherds  
and eight installed as rulers.

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# THE SONG OF MARY

[Luke 1:46-55]

MY soul doth magnify the Lord:  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

**For he hath regarded:  
the lowliness of his hand-maiden.**

For behold, from henceforth:  
all generations shall call me blessed.

**For he that is mighty hath magnified me:  
and holy is his Name.**

And his mercy is on them that fear him:  
throughout all generations.

**He hath shewed strength with his arm:  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.**

He hath put down the mighty from their seat:  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.

**He hath filled the hungry with good things:  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.**

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:  
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Ghost;**

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.

## SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

[10:5-10]

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.

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand. The O Antiphons are sung*

♪ O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the Desire of all Nations, and their Saviour: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

*All turn to face the Book of the Gospels*

## **GOSPEL**

Alleluia, **alleluia.**

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

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

[1:39-55]

**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 leapt 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 leapt 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 said,

‘My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’

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

## **THE SERMON**

*The Sermon is followed by a time of reflection as the organist plays the Chorale Prelude  
“Come, Saviour of the Gentiles” by J. S. Bach.*

## **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*

Lord, open our eyes that we may behold your glory, open our minds to know that you are with us, open our hearts to the love that you give us. We give thanks that in Christ you share in our humanity and open for us the gate of glory. We pray for the church's work among children, in nurseries, in schools and in church. Bless those who seek to proclaim the sacredness of all life and give your church the courage to proclaim that you come among us.

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

Prosper the work of all who seek to support family life, all who care for homeless or neglected children, all children taken into care. Raise up all children who live in poverty and those who are economically exploited.

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

We rejoice in the love of our homes and pray for all who have enriched our lives by their goodness, all who have accepted us and cared for us. Accompany with your love and presence all those who are separated from loved ones at this time, and all who are lonely.

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

We pray for all who are hungry for acceptance, hungry for love, all who long to be needed. Remember too, O Lord, all who are in hospital and loved ones who are anxious or suffering any kind of trial at this time, as we name before you particularly: Ali, Christine, Andrew, Alan, Liz, and Cam.

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

Lord God, you came to earth that in your power and love we might ascend into heaven, bless our friends and loved ones who are departed this life with the gift of life and love eternal. We prayerfully remember this week: Caroline Vere Jonas, Marie Dorothy Robinson, George William Masson, Reginald Arthur Frederick Wallace, Margaret Lorna King, Clive Cox, Frederick Guy Tuddenham. 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. Of the Father's heart begotten,  
Ere the world from chaos rose,  
He is Alpha: from that Fountain  
All that is and hath been flows;  
He is Omega, of all things  
Yet to come the mystic Close,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

2. By his word was all created;  
He commanded and 'twas done;  
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,  
Universe of three in one,  
All that sees the moon's soft radiance,  
All that breathes beneath the sun,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

3. He assumed this mortal body,  
Frail and feeble, doomed to die,  
That the race from dust created  
Might not perish utterly,  
Which the dreadful Law had sentenced  
In the depths of hell to lie,  
*evermore and evermore.*

4. O how blest that wondrous birthday,  
When the Maid the curse retrieved,  
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,  
By the Holy Ghost conceived;  
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
In her loving arms received,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

5. This is he, whom seer and sibyl  
Sang in ages long gone by;  
This is he of old revealed  
In the page of prophecy;  
Lo! He comes, the promised Saviour;  
Let the world his praises cry!  
*Evermore and evermore.*

7. Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;  
Angels and Archangels, sing!  
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,  
Let your joyous anthems ring,  
Every tongue his name confessing,  
Countless voices answering,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

*Latin, Prudentius 348-413  
tr. R. F. Davis 1866-1937  
NEH 33 (TIS 290)*

## 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, 'O Thou the Central Orb' by Charles Wood*

## 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. 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!**

*Timothy Dudley-Smith 1926-2024  
based on Luke 1:46-55 in The New English Bible  
TIS 161*

*The organist plays the Chorale Prelude "Sleepers, wake! A voice is calling"*

*Please join us for Morning Tea.*

## NEWS & NOTICES

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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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### NEW YEAR'S EVE DRINKS IN THE GAZEBO

All are invited to New Year's Eve drinks in the Gazebo at Saint John's Finch Street tonight from 5pm. A chance to relax with friends in an informal setting and toast the New Year. Drinks finish up around 7pm, leaving plenty of time to go on to other arranged celebrations. Bring a friend or invite a neighbour!

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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.





New  
year's  
Eve

DRINKS

IN THE GAZEBO BEHIND  
SAINT JOHN'S FINCH STREET

FROM 5PM

ALL WELCOME

[WWW.SAINTJOHNS.ORG.AU](http://WWW.SAINTJOHNS.ORG.AU)

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

<b>ROSTER</b>	<b>This Week 22 December 2024</b>	<b>Next Week 29 December 2024</b>
<b>8.00am Eucharist</b>		
Welcomer	Joel Ringrose	NO 8AM SERVICE UNTIL 2 FEB 2025
Server	Greg Thompson	
Readers	John Jobling David Richards	
<b>9:30am Eucharist</b>		
Welcomers	David Reece Nikki Morshedi	Bev Kocsis
Sub-Deacon	Tim Clarke	Anne Kerin
Crucifer	Rick Burman	Rick Burman
Acolytes		
Thurifer	TBA	NA
Readers	Robert Buckmaster David Reece	Sebastian Harvey David Arden
Intercessor	Robin Richards	Robert Buckmaster
Organist	Bruce Fethers	Yi-Shuen Chan
Post-Service Hospitality	Betty Ladbury Rosemary Wickett	Chris Martin Anne Kerin
<b>6.00pm</b>		
Welcomers	--	NO EVENSONG UNTIL 2 FEB 2025
Readers	--	
Organist	--	
Post Service Hospitality	--	
<b>Weekly Duties</b>		
Flowers (for the Sunday)	No Flowers in Advent	Gayle Arden
Bins (for the week after Sunday)	Jim Morse <i>Garden &amp; Garbage</i>	Chris Martin <i>Recycling &amp; Garbage</i>



# CHRISTMAS ROSTER

## CRIB SERVICE 5.00pm 24<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Welcomers	Lorraine Bisdee Robin Richards	Daniel Morshedi
Ministers of Communion	Robin Richards	
Post-Service Hospitality	Finch Street BBQ: Jim Morse	David Richards CK Choong

## MIDNIGHT MASS 11.00pm 24<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Welcomers	Rosemary Wickett Chris Martin	David Reece
Communion Assistant	Jane Fyfield	
Sub-Deacon	Tim Clarke	
Thurifer	Will Grant	
Crucifer	Rick Burman	
Readers	Sue Lockey	Jane Fyfield
Intercessions	Anne Kerin	
Post-Service Hospitality	Betty Ladbury Chris Martin	Rosemary Wickett David Reece

## CHRISTMAS DAY 8.00am 25<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Welcomers	Lorraine Bisdee	Joel Ringrose
Server	Greg Thompson	
Readers	John Jobling	Bev Kocsis

## CHRISTMAS DAY 9.30am 25<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Welcomers	John Stuckey	Gayle Arden
Sub-Deacon	Sebastian Harvey	
Thurifer	TBA	
Crucifer	Satoshi Okita	
Readers	David Arden	TBA
Intercessions	TBA	



Saint John's Finch Street

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