

# The Birth of Our Lord Christmas Day

25<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

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[secretary@saintjohns.org.au](mailto:secretary@saintjohns.org.au)

## SERVICES IN JANUARY

### Sunday

9:30am: Sung Eucharist (Saint John's)  
9:30am: Sung Eucharist (Saint Agnes')

*8am and 6pm Sunday services at Saint John's resume in February together with the return of our Parish Choir after their break in January.*

### Weekday Eucharists

10:00am: Tuesday (Saint Agnes') Resumes Feb.  
10:15am: Friday (Saint John's) Resumes 17 Jan.

## 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 at 9:30am to the Mass Setting by Philip Matthias.*

*Please stand when the bells are rung. At 9:30am the Opening Hymn is sung.*

## OPENING HYMN

1. Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the new-born King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies,  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
*Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the new-born King!”*

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail the incarnate deity;  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus our Emmanuel.  
*Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the new-born King!”*

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace,  
Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.

*Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the new-born King!”*

*Felix Mendelssohn  
v.3 arr. David Willcocks*

✠ 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.’

The sun of righteousness has dawned with healing in his wings.

Let us come to the light of Christ,  
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 GLORIA

♪ Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the ✠ glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

## THE COLLECT

God Most High, whose eternal Word chose a dwelling among us, that we might live in your presence: grant us a spirit of wisdom to know how rich is the glory you have given us, and how great is the hope to which we are called in the Word made flesh; 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 Isaiah.

[62.6-12]

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem,  
I have posted sentinels;  
all day and all night  
they shall never be silent.  
You who remind the Lord,  
take no rest,  
and give him no rest  
until he establishes Jerusalem  
and makes it renowned throughout the earth.  
The Lord has sworn by his right hand  
and by his mighty arm:  
I will not again give your grain  
to be food for your enemies,  
and foreigners shall not drink the wine  
for which you have laboured;  
but those who garner it shall eat it  
and praise the Lord,  
and those who gather it shall drink it  
in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates,  
prepare the way for the people;  
build up, build up the highway,  
clear it of stones,  
lift up an ensign over the peoples.  
The Lord has proclaimed  
to the end of the earth:  
Say to daughter Zion,  
'See, your salvation comes;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.'  
They shall be called, 'The Holy People,

The Redeemed of the Lord';  
and you shall be called, 'Sought Out,  
A City Not Forsaken.'

For the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

Psalm 97

The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice:  
let the multitude of islands be glad.

**Clouds and darkness are round about him:  
righteousness and justice  
are the foundation of his throne.**

Fire goes before him:  
and burns up his enemies on every side.

**His lightnings light the world:  
the earth sees it and quakes.**

The mountains melt like wax before his face:  
from before the face of the Lord of all the earth.

**The heavens have proclaimed his righteousness:  
and all peoples have seen his glory.**

They are ashamed, all those who serve idols  
and glory in mere nothings:

all gods bow down before him.

**Zion heard and was glad,  
and the daughters of Judah rejoiced:  
because of your judgements, O God.**

For you, Lord, are most high over all the earth:  
you are exalted far above all gods.

**The Lord loves those that hate evil:  
the Lord guards the life of the faithful,  
and delivers them from the hand of the ungodly.**

Light dawns for the righteous:  
and joy for the true of heart.

**Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous:  
and give thanks to his holy name.**

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter from Paul to Titus.

[3.4-8a]

But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is sure.

I desire that you insist on these things, so that those who have come to believe in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works; these things are excellent and profitable to everyone.

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## GOSPEL

Alleluia, **alleluia.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth. **Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

[2.8-20]

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

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will

find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

For the gospel of the Lord.

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

## **THE SERMON**

*The Sermon is followed by a period of reflection, as the organist plays ‘Quelle est cette Odeur Agréable’ arranged by Paul Manz.*

## **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*

Jesus, Son of Mary, you have come among us, to be one of us. We welcome you into our homes, we welcome you into our hearts, we welcome you into our lives. Let all who come to your church, worship with the shepherds and adore you with the wise men. Let your church witness this day to your love and saving power and empower it to show forth your glory.  
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Jesus, Prince of Peace, bring the peace of your presence upon this troubled world, and the power of your presence to protect your people from all evil. Bring lasting peace and justice to the Holy Land and its peoples at this time of war and enmity. Give peace on earth, peace among the nations and peace in each land.

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

Jesus, Wonderful Counsellor, fill us with wonder and awe, fill us with joy and thanksgiving, that our lives may proclaim your grace and glory. Be known in our homes, in our lives, in our communities.

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

Jesus, Light of the World and eternal Word made flesh, give comfort and consolation to all for whom Christmas is clouded by darkness or sadness, and all who suffer in flesh, body, mind or spirit at this time. Bring the knowledge of your presence to all who are alone or feel neglected, all who will spend Christmas in hospital or away from those whom they love. We pray also particularly this day for: Ali, Christine, Andrew, Alan, Liz, and Cam.

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

Jesus, we rejoice that you became partaker in our humanity so that we might become partakers in your divinity; you came down to lift us into your Kingdom; we entrust to your eternal embrace all our loved ones departed and pray that we may share with them in the vision of your glory. We commend to you those who have died recently, Nancy Frusher, and in a time of silence we remember those on our hearts this day.

May they rest in peace: **and rise in glory.**

*Please stand.*

## **GREETING OF PEACE**

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.

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. At 9:30am the Offertory Hymn is sung.*

### OFFERTORY HYMN

1. As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold,  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright:  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore your glory see.

2. As with joyful steps they sped,  
Saviour, to your lowly bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
one whom heaven and earth adore:  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek your mercy seat.

3. As they offered gifts most rare  
at your cradle rough and bare:  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure, and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to you, our heavenly King.

4. Holy Jesus, every day  
keep us in the narrow way;  
and, when earthly things are past,  
bring our ransomed souls at last,  
where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds your glory hide;

5. in the heavenly country bright  
need they no created light:  
you its light, its joy, its crown,  
you its sun which goes not down.  
There for ever may we sing  
hallelujahs to our King.

*William Chatterton Dix 1837-98 alt*  
*TIS 314*

## 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  
be 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*

♪ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us your 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 Magnum Mysterium' by Tomas Luis de Victoria.*

## BLESSING & DISMISSAL

*Notices may be given here.*

*Please stand.*

*The priest prays a post-communion prayer, followed by*

**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.**

*The priest prays this blessing*

May the Father,  
who has loved the eternal Son  
from before the foundation of the world,  
shed that love upon you his children.

**Amen.**

May Christ,  
who by his incarnation gathered into one  
things earthly and heavenly,  
fill you with joy and peace.

**Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit,  
by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,  
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

**Amen.**

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. Joy to the world! The Lord is come;  
let earth receive its king;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.**

**2. Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns;  
let us our songs employ;  
while fields and streams, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**3. He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, and wonders of his love.**

*Isaac Watts 1674-1748 alt  
based on Psalm 98  
TIS 268*

*The organist plays the Postlude, 'Christmas Scherzo' by June Nixon.*

A festive New Year's Eve illustration on a dark background. At the top, there are colorful bunting flags in yellow, grey, and pink. Below them are several circular ornaments with orange and white radial patterns. In the center, two champagne flutes filled with bubbly liquid are clinking. The background is decorated with stylized fireworks in orange and white, and small stars. A faint, large watermark of a lion's head is visible in the background.

# 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)