

ST AGNES[†]

ANGLICAN CHURCH

PEW SHEET

Fourth Sunday of Advent

22nd December 2024

Saint Agnes' Glen Huntly is a welcoming and hospitable faith community, celebrating God's compassion and love for all. As an Anglo-Catholic church, our faith, worship and community life finds its ultimate expression in encounter with the Risen Christ in Scripture and Sacrament. Together we are committed to growing in spirituality and service as disciples of Jesus, glorifying God and serving our local community.

You can find out more about us at www.saintagnes.org.au.

The Anglican Parish of Saint John & Saint Agnes

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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@saintagnes.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 to the Mass Setting by Michael Dudman. Please stand as the bells are rung.

OPENING HYMN

1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
is 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 blessèd 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.

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 said.

Holy God,
Holy and mighty,
Holy and immortal,
Have mercy on us.

This prayer is said as the fourth candle on the Advent Wreath is lit

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

Holy God,
**Holy and mighty,
Holy and immortal,
Have mercy on us.**

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.

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 proclaims the greatness of the Lord:
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

**Who has looked with favour on his lowly servant:
from this day all generations will call me blessed.**

The Almighty has done great things for me:
and holy is his name.

**God has mercy on those who fear him:
from generation to generation.**

The Lord has shown strength with his arm:
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

Casting down the mighty from their thrones:

and lifting up the lowly.

God has filled the hungry with good things:
and sent the rich away empty.

**He has come to the aid of his servant Israel:
to remember the promise of mercy,**

The promise made to our forebears:
to Abraham and his children for ever.

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. A Gradual hymn is sung

GRADUAL HYMN

**1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

Rejoice! rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

3. O come, O key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high
and close the path to misery.

Rejoice! rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

5. O come, O dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

*Anon., Latin, 18th cent. or earlier
based on Antiphons from 9th cent. or earlier
tr. John Mason Neale 1818-66 alt
TIS 265*

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

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.

Prayers are offered for the Church and for the world. Each petition ends with...

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

The final petition for all the faithful departed ends...

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

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 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 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 for ever. 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.*

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, 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

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 Postlude

Please join us for Morning Tea.

At the conclusion of Sunday morning please ensure all candles are extinguished, lights are off, doors are locked and the childcare toilets door is locked. Thank you!



SAINT  AGNES'
GLEN HUNTLY

www.saintagnes.org.au

JOIN US FOR
CHRISTMAS
CHRISTMAS EVE MASS
& CAROLS

9PM TUESDAY 24 DECEMBER

Followed by festive supper
& refreshments

Holy Communion
every Sunday 9:30am

