

PEW SHEET

Stephen, Deacon & First Martyr

3rd August 2025

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

The Anglican Parish of Saint John & Saint Agnes

5 Finch Street East Malvern VIC 3145

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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

(Day-Off: Monday)

Associate Clergy

Fr Marc Billimoria

Fr Ken Hewlett

Bp Brad Billings

Fr Mick Potter

Fr Luke Hopkins

Churchwardens

John Hooper 0416 185 005

Anne Kerin 0411 587 180

Robert Buckmaster 0437 014 090

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

The flowers this morning have been given in loving memory of Ben Johnson.

The symbol ✠ indicates where the Sign of the Cross is customarily made.

Text marked with 🎵 is sung together by both congregation and choir at 9:30am.

The Mass Setting this morning is Philip Mathias.

Please stand when the bells are rung.

The Ministers and Choir enter while the Opening Hymn is sung.

OPENING HYMN

1. I'm not ashamed to own my Lord,
or to defend his cause,
maintain the honour of his Word,
the glory of his cross.
2. Jesus, my God: I know his name,
his name is all my trust,
nor will he put my soul to shame,
nor let my hope be lost.
3. Firm as his throne his promise stands,
and he can well secure
what I've committed to his hands
till the decisive hour.
4. Then will he own my humble name
before his Father's face,
and in the new Jerusalem
appoint my soul a place.

✠ 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.’

We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. Let us then run our race, laying aside every weight and bringing our sins to the Lord 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, *here it is customary to make a slight bow*
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, *here it is customary to make a slight bow*
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:
Here it is customary to bow for the duration of the words 'receive our prayer'
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High
Jesus Christ, *here it is customary to make a slight bow*
with the Holy Spirit,
in the ✠ glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT

We give you thanks, O Lord of glory, for the example of Stephen, the first martyr, who prayed for his persecutors, and looked to him who was crucified, your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **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 Second Book of Chronicles

[24.17-22]

Now after the death of Jehoiada the officials of Judah came and did obeisance to the king; then the king listened to them. They abandoned the house of the Lord, the God of their ancestors, and served the sacred poles and the idols. And wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs. Yet he sent prophets among them to bring them back to the Lord; they testified against them, but they would not listen.

Then the spirit of God took possession of Zechariah son of the priest Jehoiada; he stood above the people and said to them, 'Thus says God: Why do you transgress the commandments of the Lord, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the Lord, he has also forsaken you.' But they conspired against him, and by command of the king they stoned him to death in the court of the house of the Lord. King Joash did not remember the kindness that Jehoiada, Zechariah's father, had shown him, but killed his son. As he was dying, he said, 'May the Lord see and avenge!'

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

[31.1-8]

To you, Lord, have I come for shelter:
let me never be put to shame.

O deliver me in your righteousness:

incline your ear to me and be swift to save me.

Be for me a rock of refuge, a fortress to defend me:
for you are my high rock and my stronghold.

Lead me and guide me for your name's sake:

**bring me out of the net that they have secretly laid for me,
for you are my strength.**

Into your hands I commit my spirit:
you will redeem me, O Lord God of truth.

**I hate those that clutch vain idols:
but my trust is in the Lord.**

I will rejoice and be glad in your loving-kindness:
for you have looked on my distress
and known me in adversity.

**You have not given me over to the power of the enemy:
you have set my feet where I may walk at liberty.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

[6.8-10, 7.54-60]

Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke.

When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

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

Please stand and turn to face the Book of the Gospels.

GOSPEL

Alleluia, **alleluia.**

Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. **Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew. [10.17-22]

Here it is customary to trace three small crosses on the forehead, lips and heart

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

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, *here it is customary to make a slight bow*
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,
Here it is customary to make a low bow from the waist until '...became truly human'
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 *here it is customary to make a slight bow*
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

Incarnate Lord, you came down to earth from heaven to embrace the pain and sorrows of our sinful world, for the cause of truth. We pray for all Christians who are persecuted and for churches which exist under threats of violence or sedition.

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

Lord of all rulers and authorities, we pray for all who hold authority over people as political or religious leaders, that they may exercise their power with justice and for the common good.

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

Lord of peace, we pray that you would turn the hearts of those who use violence to silence their opponents. We pray for grace to witness to your truth with constancy and faith and to bear the cost of following your righteous ways.

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

Lord of compassion, we pray for those whose lives are overshadowed by pain, grief or failure. We pray for those amongst us who are in any need, particularly: Ali, Andrew, Liz, Cam, Christopher, Warwick, Daniel, and Sue.

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

We remember all who have gone before us looking for the vision of your heavenly glory. We rejoice in our communion with Stephen and all the saints and martyrs, whose hope was in you, the Word made flesh and with whom we for evermore are one. We remember in prayer especially those who have died recently, and those whose anniversary occurs at this time: Alfred Brian Turner, Harriet Ann Cook, Benjamin Arthur Johnson, Florence May Jones, Donald Herbert Bouma.

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

We are fellow-citizens with the saints and of the household of God, through Christ our Lord, who came and preached peace to those who were far off and those who were near.

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. Stephen, first of Christian martyrs,
Let the Church in hymns proclaim;
Following close the Saviour's passion,
Thus he won immortal fame:
For his foes he prayed forgiveness
While they stoned him unto death,
To the Lord his soul commending
As he yielded up his breath.

2. Holy Spirit, gift of Jesus,
Shed thy light upon our eyes,
That we may behold with Stephen
That fair realm beyond the skies,
Where the Son of Man in glory
Waits for us at God's right hand,
King of saints and hope of martyrs,
Lord of all the pilgrim band.

3. See him who went on before us
Heavenly mansions to prepare,
Who for us is ever pleading
By his wounds of glory there;

In that blessed home of splendour
Christ our Saviour reigns above,
Calling us to share his rapture
In the Father's boundless love.

4. Glory be to God the Father,
Glory to his only Son,
Dying, risen, ascending for us,
Who the heavenly realm has won;
Glory to the Holy Spirit,
To One God in Persons Three,
From the saints in earth and heaven,
Glory, endless glory, be. Amen.

Partly based on verses by Christopher Wordsworth 1807-85
NEH 201

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, *here it is customary to make a low bow from the waist*
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... It is customary when the bells ring at the elevation of the Sacrament to make the ☩ Sign of the Cross

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

♪ **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.**

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, 'Lapidabant Stephanum' by Claudio Monteverdi.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Notices may be given here. The priest prays the 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 pronounces this blessing:

God give you grace to be faithful witnesses, to see heaven opened and the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ; *here it is customary to bow, or genuflect on the left knee* 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. And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
On England's pleasant pastures seen?
And did the countenance divine
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
Among those dark satanic mills?

2 Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!
I will not cease from mental fight.
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
'Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land.

William Blake 1757-1827
TIS 416 (words from NEH 488)

The organist plays the Postlude.

Please join us for Morning Tea.

NEWS & NOTICES

CHORAL EVENSONG TONIGHT 6PM

Join us for Choral Evensong tonight at 6pm. Music includes the Introit 'O Taste and See' by Ralph Vaughan Williams, Canticles by Stanford in G, Preces and Responses according to the Durham Use, the Anthem 'O Taste and See' by John Goss and Organ Postlude the Sonata (op 98) in A minor (First Movement) by Josef Rheinberger. Followed by wine and cheese – all are welcome!

CHOIR SHOWCASE CONCERT – FRIDAY 19 SEPTEMBER AT 7PM

Save the date for the upcoming 'Showcase Concert' performed by our wonderful Parish Choir on Friday 19 September at 7pm in the church at Saint John's Finch Street. The theme this year is 'Folk Songs from the British Isles' including works by Holst, Ralph Vaughan Williams and a selection of songs by Robert Burns set to music and translated into German by Robert Schumann. Tickets are \$30.

PASTORAL CARE AND VISITING – PLEASE CONTACT THE VICAR

The Vicar is always pleased to offer pastoral care or to visit at home or in hospital parishioners or any others who may wish. This may be with Holy Communion, prayers and anointing with oil for healing, or just for a chat! A number of parishioners are also always ready to reach out for fellowship or friendship, as well as practical assistance through our Casserole Bank or any other helping hand. Please contact the Vicar (0431 308 703 or vicar@saintjohns.org.au) if you – or someone you know – would like a visit or may be in need of any care.

CARITAS MONDAY 4 AUGUST 8PM – 'A FLOATING DREAM' TALK

Monday 4th August at 8pm, Robin and David Richards will speak about "A Floating Dream". This refers to a cruise they enjoyed last year. Everyone is most welcome to attend, it will be held at the home of Robin and David. Please RSVP to Rosemary (0417 532 118) and also let her know if you need a lift.

CARITAS THEATRE NIGHT – THURSDAY 21 AUGUST 8PM

All are invited to the Caritas Theatre Night at the Malvern Theatre Company 29 Burke Road East Malvern, on Thursday 21 August at 8pm. Tickets are \$20pp. "The Humans" a poignant, award winning drama that, with humour and compassion explores the tensions and bonds in family life today. Set in New York when a family comes together for Thanksgiving. It is a warm, funny, uplifting and unsettling play. Everyone is welcome to join us, seats are limited so please get your order in soon to Rosemary on 0417 532 118 or rosemarywickett@gmail.com

ROSTER	3 August 2025	10 August 2025
8.00am Eucharist		
Welcomer	Jim Morse	Bev Kocsis
Server	Greg Thompson	Pat Syer
Readers	John Jobling Joel Ringrose	Greg Thompson David Richards
9:30am Eucharist		
Welcomers	John Stuckey Robin Richards	Don Heath Chris Martin
Sub-Deacon	Rick Burman	Jane Dwyer
Crucifer	Satoshi Okita	Anne Kerin
Acolytes	William and Manny	William and Manny
Gospel Bearer	Bella Ross	Bella Ross
Thurifer	TBA	TBA
Readers	Jenny Thomson Daniel Morshedi	Rosemary Wickett David Brennan
Intercessor	Robert Buckmaster	Anne Kerin
Organist	David Brennan	Tim Clarke
Post-Service Hospitality	Betty Ladbury TBC	Rosemary Wickett TBA
6.00pm		
Welcomers	Sebastian Harvey	--
Readers	Tim Clarke Roxane Hislop	--
Organist	Yi-Shuen Chan	--
Post Service Hospitality	Jane Fyfield	--
Weekly Duties		
Flowers (for the Sunday)	Gayle Arden	Ingrid Hogan & Robin Richards
Bins (for the week after Sunday)	David Richards <i>Garden & Garbage</i>	David Woods <i>Recycling & Garbage</i>



Saint John's Finch Street

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