

PEW SHEET

Baptism of Our Lord

11th January 2026

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
03 9571 6616
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)

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 Luke Hopkins

Churchwardens

John Hooper 0416 185 005
Jane Fyfield 0412 543 545
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 symbol ✠ indicates where the Sign of the Cross is customarily made. Text marked with 🎵 is sung by the congregation to the Mass Setting by Michael Dudman. Please stand when the bells are rung.

OPENING HYMN

1. Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
heralds of creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
*come and worship Christ, the new-born King,
come and worship, worship Christ,
the new-born King.*

2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching over flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant Light:
*come and worship Christ, the new-born King,
come and worship, worship Christ,
the new-born King.*

3. Wise men, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star:
*come and worship Christ, the new-born King,
come and worship, worship Christ,
the new-born King.*

4. Though an infant now we view him,
he shall fill his Father's throne,
gather all the nations to him:
every knee shall then bow down:

*come and worship Christ, the new-born King,
come and worship, worship Christ,
the new-born King.*

*James Montgomery 1771-1854 alt
TIS 309*

✠ 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.’

Christ the Son of God has been revealed as a light to the nations. Let us bring our darkness to his light, 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 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

Almighty God, who anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son: inspire us, your children, who are born again of water and the Spirit, to surrender our lives to your service, that we may rejoice to be called your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

[42:1-9]

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
I am the Lord, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;

before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

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

PSALM

[29]

Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven:
ascribe to the Lord glory and might.

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name:

O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters:
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord upon the great waters.

The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation:

the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar-trees:
the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.

He makes them skip like a calf:

Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord divides the lightning-flash:
the voice of the Lord whirls the sands of the desert,
the Lord whirls the desert of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord rends the terebinth trees,

and strips bare the forests:

in his temple all cry ‘Glory.’

The Lord sits enthroned above the water-flood:
the Lord sits enthroned as a king for ever.

The Lord will give strength to his people:

the Lord will give to his people the blessing of peace.

SECOND READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

[10:34-43]

Then Peter began to speak to them: ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right

is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

GOSPEL

Alleluia, **alleluia.**

A voice came from heaven, saying, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’ **Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew. [3:13-17]

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.’ Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the

water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

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

We give thanks to you O God for our baptism in the name of the Father,
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. We give thanks for those who brought
us to faith, who inspired us by word and example. May your church ever
reach outward to reach all who are unbaptised and all who have never heard
the Gospel clearly. Enable preachers, prophets and priests who might reveal
and make known your presence.

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

We pray for all who are involved in providing us with our needs – farmers
and agriculturalists, providers of food and security. Encourage during this
time particularly our police and ambulance services and keep them safe in
the performance of their duties and free from abuse from those they serve.

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

We remember before you our parents and our godparents and pray for our
children and godchildren, that they may grow into the fulness of Christ. May
the Spirit of God rest upon all those places we ourselves were baptised, and
bring the spirit of peace to all who live by the river Jordan.

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

Lord we pray for all who have lost hope and those in our world who despair.
May they know that they abide in you and in your love. Hear our prayers for
all who are in trouble or sickness and those who have asked for our prayers:
Ali, Andrew, Warwick, Harriet, Diane, Niki and Greg.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We rejoice that we have been baptised into your death and resurrection, and
we pray for all the faithful who have departed this life: for those who have
recently died, Katie Allen, and those whom we remember this week:
Margaret Kathleen Littlejohn, Denis Frederick Hamilton Mowlem, Marilyn
May McLeod, Richard Ormond Cherry, Keitha June Winston, Ailene
Bachelor Bouma Goetz, John Heyliger Dewhurst, Florence Esna Atkinson,
Lottie Bennett, Gwynellen Clara Milligan, Simon Edwin Garing, James
Edward Bonwick, Amy Emma Bonwick.

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

God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge
of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia.

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. 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. 4th century
tr. Gerald Moultrie 1829-85 alt
TIS 497*

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.

Notices may be given here, after which please stand. 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.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The priest pronounces this blessing:

May Christ the Son of God be manifest to you, that your lives may be a light to the world; *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. Hail to the Lord's anointed,
great David's greater Son;
hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to let the captive free,
and take away transgression,
and rule in equity.

2. He comes with help and mercy
to those who suffer wrong,
to raise the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong,
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls condemned and dying
were precious in his sight.

3. He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth;
before him on the mountains
shall peace the herald go,
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.

4. Kings shall fall down before him,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him,
his praise all people sing;
to him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.

5. O'er every foe victorious,
he on his throne shall rest,
from age to age more glorious,
all blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand for ever,
that name to us is love.

James Montgomery 1771-1854 alt
TIS 275

The organist plays the Postlude

Please join us for Morning Tea.

NEWS & NOTICES

VICAR ON LEAVE DURING JANUARY

The Vicar will be on leave in January from Monday 5 to Monday 12 inclusive, including Sunday 11 January when Archdeacon Colleen O'Reilly will be at Saint John's and Fr Ken Hewlett at Saint Agnes'. Fr Marc will also be away during all of January, returning 6 February. Please direct pastoral requests during this time to secretary@saintjohns.org.au and for other needs contact the Churchwardens.

JOINT PARISH EUCHARIST JANUARY 18 2026

On January 18 2026 there will be no services at Saint John's Finch Street and instead the whole parish will gather at Saint Agnes' Glen Huntly at 9:30am for a Joint Parish Eucharist to mark our observance of Saint Agnes' Day. Please join us as we celebrate our shared life together as one parish!

ROSTER	11 January 2026	18 January 2026
9:30am Eucharist		
Welcomers	Marg Garing Jim Morse	NO SERVICE AT SAINT JOHN'S FINCH STREET – INSTEAD ALL GATHER FOR A JOINT PARISH EUCHARIST AT SAINT AGNES' GLEN HUNTLY FOR THE FEAST OF SAINT AGNES
Sub-Deacon	Rick Burman	
Crucifer	Tim Clarke	
Acolytes		
Gospel Bearer		
Thurifer	NA	
Readers	David Reece Roxane Hislop	
Intercessor	Anne Kerin	
Organist	David Brennan	
Post-Service Hospitality	Anne Kerin Chris Martin	
Weekly Duties		
Flowers (for the Sunday)	Gayle Arden	NA
Bins (for the week after Sunday)	David Richards <i>Recycling & Garbage</i>	John Jobling <i>Garden & Garbage</i>



Saint John's Finch Street

www.saintjohns.org.au