

PEW SHEET

Second Sunday in Lent

1st March 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

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: Evensong & Benediction
(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
Archdeacon Colleen O'Reilly
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 together by both congregation and choir at 9:30am. The Mass Setting this morning is the 'Missa Brevis' by Palestrina. At 9:30am the Lent Prose is sung.

LENT PROSE

**Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have sinned against thee.**

2. O thou chief Corner-stone,
Right Hand of the Father:
Way of Salvation, Gate of Life Celestial:
cleanse thou our sinful souls from all defilement.

**Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have sinned against thee.**

*Attende
NEH 507*

Please stand when the bells are rung. The Ministers and Choir enter while the Opening Hymn is sung.

OPENING HYMN

1. Father of heaven, whose love profound
a ransom for our souls has found,
before your throne we sinners bend;
to us your pardoning love extend.

2. Almighty Son, incarnate Word,
our prophet, priest, redeemer, Lord,
before your throne we sinners bend;
to us your saving grace extend.

3. Eternal Spirit, by whose breath
the soul is saved from sin and death,
before your throne we sinners bend:
to us your quickening power extend.

4. Thrice holy – Father, Spirit, Son,
mysterious Godhead, Three in One,
before your throne we sinners bend;
grace, pardon, life to us extend.

Edward Cooper 1770-1833

TIS 131

✠ 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.

At 9:30am the priest sprinkles the people with Holy Water as the 'Asperges Me' is sung

Cantor

All

Pu - ri - fy me, O Lord, with hys - sop and I shall be clean:

Fine

wash me, O Lord, and I shall be whi - ter than snow.

Cantor

Have mer - cy on me, O God, in your en - du - ring good - ness:

All

ac - cor - ding to the fulness of your compassion blot out my of - fen - ces.

Wash me tho - rough - ly from my wick - ed - ness:

Cantor

and cleanse me from my sin. Glo - ry to God:

All

Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Spi - rit: as in the be - gin - ning so now,

Repeat antiphon

and for e - ver. A - men.

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.’

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled and wandered far off. Let us then ask for mercy, 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.

♪ Kyrie eleison.	Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.
Christe eleison.	Christ, have mercy.	Christ, have mercy.
Kyrie eleison.	Lord, 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 COLLECTS

Remember, O Lord, what you have wrought in us and not what we deserve, and, as you have called us to your service, make us worthy of our calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made, and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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 Book of Genesis.

[12.1-4a]

Now the Lord said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

[121]

I lift up my eyes to the hills:

but where shall I find help?

My help comes from the Lord:

who has made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer your foot to stumble:

and he who watches over you will not sleep.

Be sure he who has charge of Israel:

will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord himself is your keeper:

the Lord is your defence upon your right hand;

The sun shall not strike you by day:

nor shall the moon by night.

The Lord will defend you from all evil:

it is he who will guard your life.

The Lord will defend your going out and your coming in:

from this time forward for evermore.

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

[4.1-5, 13-17]

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.’ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, ‘I have made you the father of many nations’)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

GOSPEL

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

[3:1-17]

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.’ Jesus answered him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.’ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?’ Jesus answered, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, “You must be born from above.” The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can these things be?’ Jesus answered him, ‘Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?’

‘Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the

serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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

Lord, increase our faith that we may trust in you. May we move forward knowing that you are with us and before us. Give to your people a vision of their dignity and worth and fill them with a knowledge of their vocation. Give hope to those moving into new lands, those who are migrating or resettling. Release those who are unjustly bound and empower all people to work for a more caring and peaceful world.

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

Lord, teach us to love the world with the great love that you have for the world. Guide all leaders of peoples, strengthen the good, lead us in the ways of peace. Grant sensitivity to politicians and bureaucrats and all who affect our future. Spark with creativity all research workers and inventors, all who influence our lives and minds, that they may build up the common good.

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

We pray this day for all who are fearful of the future, those who are seriously or terminally ill, for all who await a doctor's diagnosis, all who await operations or treatment. We ask you to strengthen all who are despairing, to encourage and hearten all who have lost hope, as we pray particularly this day for: Ali, Andrew, Warwick, Harriet, Diane, Geoffrey, Lorraine and Bev. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all who have passed through death and reached the fullness of your promised future. We rejoice in their fellowship and their triumph. We offer ourselves, our neighbours and our loved ones to your unfailing love. Receive into your gracious love all those who have died, Roger Prowd, priest, and those whose anniversary of death occurs this week: Alice Comis Reid, May Cove, William Brian Treyvaud, David Larsen. 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

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace.

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. O love how deep, how broad, how high!
it fills the heart with ecstasy
that God, the Son of God, should take
our mortal form for mortals' sake.**

2. He sent no angel to our race
of higher or of lower place
but wore the robe of human frame
himself, and to this lost world came.

3. For us he was baptised, and bore
his holy fast, and hungered sore;
for us temptations sharp he knew;
for us the tempter overthrew.

4. For us he prayed, for us he taught,
for us his daily works he wrought,
by words and signs and actions, thus
still seeking not himself but us.

5. For us to wicked hands betrayed,
scourged, mocked, in purple robe arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death;
for us at length gave up his breath.

6. For us he rose from death again,
for us he went on high to reign,
for us he sent his Spirit here
to guide, to strengthen and to cheer.

7. To him whose boundless love has won
salvation for us through his Son,
to God the Father, glory be
both now and through eternity.

Attrib. Thomas à Kempis 1379—1471
tr. Benjamin Webb 1819-85 alt
TIS 194

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:

During the 'Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus' it is customary to make a low bow

♪ Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth,
pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

♪ Benedictus ✠ qui venit
in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis

**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

♪ Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.

**O Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**O Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**O 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, 'Remember not, Lord, our offences' by Henry Purcell.

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 the blessing

Christ our Saviour draw you to himself, that you may find in him crucified a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope and the assurance of sins forgiven; *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. God is love, let heav'n adore him;
God is love, let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him,
and exalt him with one voice.
God, who laid the earth's foundation,
he who spread the heavens above,
and who breathes through all creation
God is love, eternal love.
2. God is love, and gently enfolding
all the world in one embrace,
with unfailing grasp is holding
every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then they find that selfsame aching
deep within the heart of God.

3. God is love, and, though with blindness
sin afflicts our human hearts.
God's eternal lovingkindness
holding, guiding, grace imparts.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain;
God is love, so love for ever
o'er the universe must reign.

Timothy Rees 1874-1939 alt
TIS 153

The organist plays the Postlude

Please join us for Morning Tea.

NEWS & NOTICES

CHORAL EVENSONG TONIGHT 6PM

Join us this evening at 6pm for our monthly service of Choral Evensong – prayer, Scripture and song led by our wonderful Parish Choir. Music tonight includes the introit ‘Vexilla Regis’ by Anton Bruckner, Preces and Responses according to the Ferial setting, Canticles by Sumsion in A, the anthem ‘Solus ad Victimam’ by Kenneth Leighton and a premiere organ postlude composed by our own Bruce Fether titled ‘Lenten Ordeal’! Followed by cheese and wine.

CARITAS MONDAY 2 MARCH 8PM

Glenis and Don Heath will speak at the next Caritas meeting on Monday 2 March at 8pm on the topic ‘Estonia a Gem in the Baltics’. Everyone is welcome to attend at the home of Janet and Alan Bell, but please RSVP to Rosemary on 0417 532 118 so we have an idea of numbers for seating and hospitality.

LENTEN STUDIES – WEDNESDAYS 6:30PM AT ST AGNES’ HOUSE

The Lenten programme for this year has been published and includes details of the Lenten Study being offered this year focusing on ‘The Way of Blessedness’, reflecting on Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, led by Fr Marc Billimoria. All are welcome to join on Wednesday evenings in Lent at 6:30pm at Saint Agnes’ House, 116 Booran Road, Glen Huntly.

LENTEN REFLECTIONS - ‘CALLED TO CARE’ & ‘HOLY HABITS’

Two ‘self-guided’ resources for your Lenten reflections are commended this year. ‘Called’ to Care’ produced by Anglican Overseas Aid, whom the parish has supported as a mission partner, features a series of weekly Scripture readings, reflections and questions for pondering. It is available in booklet form at the back of the church. ‘Holy Habits’ is an online daily reflection by Episcopalian nun and unlikely TikTok personality Sr Monica Care. You can access it using the QR Code featured on the Lent 2026 poster.

PALM CROSS FOLDING – SUNDAY AFTER SERVICES

Welcome back to the “fold” all Palm Cross folders (and any new interested ones). You are welcome to join a quick folding class after the Sunday morning services. Saint John’s has a tradition of supplying fresh, green Palm Crosses on Palm Sunday for our parishioners and many other parishes and schools in the Melbourne Diocese. To join contact Mark 0422 430 893 or Robin 0412 545 002.

SAINT JOHN'S



FINCH STREET

CHORAL EVENSONG

A service of music, prayer and Scripture led by our outstanding Parish Choir, followed by wine and cheese

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 6PM



Saint John's Finch Street and Saint Agnes' Glen Huntly

Ash Wednesday - 18 February

9:30am at Saint Agnes' and 6pm at Saint John's

'Way of Blessedness' Lenten Study

Wednesdays at 6:30pm at Saint Agnes' House

Lenten Taize Evening

Tuesday 17 March, 7pm at Saint Agnes'

Lenten Labyrinth Meditation

Friday 27 March, 5pm at Saint Agnes'

Daily Office Challenge - 9:15am and 4:45pm

Daily throughout Lent at both churches

'Called to Care' by Anglican Overseas Aid

Self-guided weekly study

'Holy Habits' with Sr Monica Clare

Self-guided daily reflections online use QR



Lent 2026

SAINT JOHN'S



FINCH STREET

PALM CROSSES LENT 2026

An act of tactile
Prayer and Devotion through Lent

Each year parishioners of Saint John's Finch Street fold up to 5,000 palm crosses which are supplied to churches across Melbourne and beyond. Folding workshops are held throughout Lent and all are encouraged to participate in this simple act of Lenten dedication.

Something tangible - prayer that we may touch and hold onto.

Something devotional - an act of piety and prayerfulness.

Something simple - recalling us to the simple straightforwardness of our hope in the Cross.

WWW.SAINTJOHNS.ORG.AU

ROSTER	1 March 2026	8 March 2026
8.00am Eucharist		
Welcomer	Jim Morse	David Richards
Server	Pat Syer	Sue McMahon
Readers	Greg Thompson David Richards	Roxane Hislop Sally Wallis
9:30am Eucharist		
Welcomers	John Stuckey Oscar Yas	Rosemary Wickett John Stuckey
Sub-Deacon	Sebastian Harvey	Jane Dwyer
Crucifer	Anne Kerin	Sebastian Harvey
Acolytes	William and Manny	William and Manny
Gospel Bearer	Bella Ross	Bella Ross
Thurifer	TBA	TBA
Readers	Robin Richards Jenny Thomson	Don Heath Anne Kerin
Intercessor	Robert Buckmaster	Jane Fyfield
Organist	David Brennan	Tim Clarke
Post-Service Hospitality	Sue Lockey Betty Ladbury	Chris Martin Glenis Heath
6.00pm		
Welcomers	Sebastian Harvey	--
Readers	Gayle Arden Chris Martin	--
Organist	Bruce Fethers	--
Post Service Hospitality	Philip Amery	--
Weekly Duties		
Flowers (for the Sunday)	No Flowers in Lent	No Flowers in Lent
Bins (for the week after Sunday)	Chris Martin <i>Garden & Garbage</i>	David Richards <i>Recycling & Garbage</i>



Saint John's Finch Street
www.saintjohns.org.au