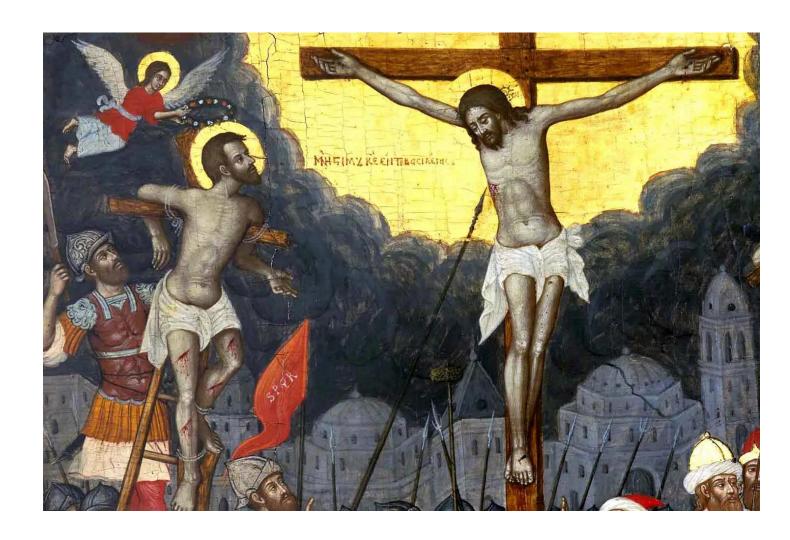
CHRIST THE KING

(LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST)



"Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." (Luke 23:42)

REFLECTION ON THE LECTIONS

On this last Sunday of the Church year, we keep the Feast of Christ the King (or the Reign of Christ, or 'Jesus Christ our Universal King', to use its more formal title). It is a relatively recent and modern feast – recent, at least, in church history. It was introduced for observance by Pope Pius XI in 1925. It began to spread more widely after the Second World War and made its way to Anglican and other churches in the 1960s and 70s.

Given the 'speed' at which innovation and change normally comes to the Church (or doesn't! – "Like a mighty tortoise, moves the Church of God; brothers, sisters we are treading where we have already trod", as the hymn parody has it), it is interesting that this observance "took off" so relatively rapidly. It was initially a response to the horrors witnessed not only in World War I, but in the claims made by various governments in the names of the kings and emperors of Europe in the origins of that conflict. At the time, Pope Pius was also somewhat concerned by the Italian political scene, and the rise of Mussolini – *II Duce* (which is simply Italian, as *Führer* is German, for the Leader), as he styled himself. The Pope wished to draw attention to a vision of a different kind of leadership from that the world had experienced through the dreadful bloodbath of the War; and from what he, and others, were beginning to see emerging in Italy. The call was for the Church to recall the mode of leadership, lordship, rule that the Lord Jesus offered.

Today's readings might, on a superficial reading, simply be making that fairly standard point that Christ's kingship and authority are a challenge to most human understandings of power. That is a good and important point, and one that needs making repeatedly, since we don't, on the whole, either want to hear it, or take Jesus as the 'yard-stick' (to use an old-fashioned term) by which we assess human leadership in politics, or business, or sport or... virtually anywhere.

But as the Year of Luke – Year C comes to an end, we hear today readings that offer quite a bit more: not least because each of them makes it abundantly clear *why* the 'rule', the kingship that Jesus offers, really is 'good news'. In each of today's lessons, we hear that the kingship that Jesus offers is for our sake! The prophet Jeremiah rebukes the earthly rulers who certainly haven't been 'good shepherds' of God's people; so, God will come to be the shepherd of his people personally. The joining of 'king' and 'shepherd' imagery clearly recalls Israel's 'ideal king', David: except, as we discussed on Wednesday evening, when we read the story of David, we find even he wasn't *that* ideal. So God makes clear it will be someone who is a 'branch' of David, but who will bring in the reign of righteousness David never quite established.

Zechariah also alludes to David, but points out that this 'coming of the Lord' will be to bring God's people, living in 'darkness' and the 'shadow of death' both 'light' and 'knowledge of salvation'. Likewise, the Colossians, long before they hear the remarkable hymn of the splendour of Jesus, are assured that this "kingdom of God's beloved Son" is precisely *for us*: that we may be 'rescued from the power of darkness', 'made strong' and 'able to share in the inheritance of the saints in light'. Most directly, simply, and affectingly, we hear Jesus say to the thief who recognises firstly who Jesus is, and secondly, his own wrong-doing, "Today, you will be with me in Paradise." A kingdom, and a king, who comes solely for the sake of his people: now *that*'s leadership worth celebrating and following!

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Setting: Christ Church Mass Philip Matthias

We stand to sing

- Crown him with many crowns,
 The Lamb upon his throne;
 Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
 All music but its own:
 Awake, my soul, and sing
 Of him who died for thee,
 And hail him as thy matchless King
 Through all eternity.
- Crown him the Virgin's Son,
 The God Incarnate born,
 Whose arm those crimson trophies won
 Which now is brow adorn:
 Fruit of the mystic Rose,
 As of that Rose the Stem;
 The Root whence mercy ever flows,
 The Babe of Bethlehem.
- 3. Crown his the Lord of love!
 Behold his hands and side,
 Rich wounds, yet visible above
 In beauty glorified:
 No angel in the sky
 Can fully bear that sight,
 But downward bends his burning eye
 At mysteries so bright.
- Crown him the Lord of years,
 The Potentate of time,
 Creator of the rolling spheres,
 Ineffably sublime.
 Glassed in a sea of light,
 Where everlasting waves
 Reflect his throne the Infinite!
 Who lives and loves and saves.

Words: Matthew Bridges (1800–94) Music: 'Diademata', George Elvey (1816–93)

President: Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All: Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The President welcomes the congregation, then this sentence of Scripture is read:

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey.

Zechariah 9:9

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.

We sing together:

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. 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.

Let us pray.

The people pray silently, and then the President 'collects' the silent prayer:

Eternal God, you exalted Jesus Christ to rule over all things, and have made us instruments of his kingdom: by your Spirit empower us to love the unloved, and to minister to all in need, then, at the last, bring us to your eternal realm where we may be welcomed into your everlasting joy and may worship and adore you for ever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and for ever. **Amen**.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Jeremiah 23: 1–6

A reading from the prophecy of Jeremiah:

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD.

Therefore, thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them.

So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD.

Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them,

and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply.

I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

Jeremiah 23: 1–6

Hear the word of the Lord, thanks be to God.

SONG OF ZECHARIAH (Benedictus)

BLESSED be the LORD God of Israel:

for he hath visited, and redeemed his people;

And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us:

in the house of his servant David;

As he spake by the mouth of his holy Prophets:

which have been since the world began;

That we should be saved from our enemies:

and from the hands of all that hate us;

To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers:

and to remember his holy covenant;

To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham:

that he would give us;

That we being delivered out of the hands of our enemies:

might serve him without fear;

In holiness and righteousness before him: all the days of our life.

And thou, child, shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest:

for thou shalt go before the face of the LORD to prepare his ways;

To give knowledge of salvation unto his people:

for the remission of their sins;

Through the tender mercy of our God:

whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us;

To give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death: and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end.

Amen.

A reading from the letter to the Church in Colossae:

Brothers and sisters, may you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.

He has rescued us from the power of darkness

He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven,

Hear the word of the Lord, thanks be to God.

by making peace through the blood of his cross.

All stand

Gradual Hymn

I. King of glory, King of peace,

I will love thee;

And that love may never cease,

I will move thee.

Thou hast granted my request,

Thou hast heard me;

Thou didst note my working breast,

Thou hast spared me.

- Wherefore with my utmost art

 I will sing thee,
 And the cream of all my heart
 I will bring thee.

 Though my sins against me cried,

 Thou didst clear me;

 And alone, when they replied,

 Thou didst hear me.
- 3. Seven whole days, not one in seven,

 I will praise thee;
 In my heart, though not in heaven,
 I can raise thee.

 Small it is in this poor sort

 To enrol thee:
 E'en eternity's too short
 To extol thee.

Words: George Herbert (1593–1632) Music: 'Gwalchmai', John David Jones (1827–70)

Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessèd is he who inherits the kingdom of David our father; blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him,

And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!'

The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!'
But the other rebuked him, saying,

'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds,

but this man has done nothing wrong.'

Then he said,

'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

Luke 23: 33-43

For the gospel of the Lord, praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Please sit.

A sermon is preached.

The Nicene Creed

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

All stand

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For the Anglican Church

The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean; The Diocese of Willochra (especially its recently elected new Bishop, Jeremy James); Christ Church, Melton; Christ Church, Ormond; St James the Less, Mount Eliza; Korowa Anglican Girls' School.

For all in need

May all who are in trouble, in need or sickness find peace and refreshment in you, especially we pray for: Ann, Coral, Keith, Erica, Peter, John, Margaret, Joan, +John Parkes, +John Stewart, Ron, Stephen and those who have been bereaved recently, especially the Wischer family.

For the Faithful Departed

Those whose anniversary of death occurs this week: Irene Bailey; Nina Lucy Benson; Noel Brown; Norman Coles; Lilian Crameri; Patricia Crowl; Patrick William Grutzner; Pearl Hazewinkel; Frances Sefton; Richard Sexton; Winifred Slattery; Emily Whitbourne; Walter Yencken.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Jesus says, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand."

Silence is kept.

Let us then turn away from sin and turn to 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.

The President pronounces Absolution, and the people respond

Amen.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

To crown all things there must be love, to bind all together and complete the whole. Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Hymn

- 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 descendeth,
 Our full homage to demand.
- 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 descendeth
 From the realms of endless day,
 That the powers of hell may vanish
 As the darkness clears away.
- 4. At his feet the six-wingèd seraph; Cherubim with sleepless eye, Veil their faces to the Presence, As with ceaseless voice they cry, Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya, Lord Most High!

Words: Liturgy of St James (c. 4th century), Tr. Gerard Moultrie (1829–85) Music: 'Picardy', French Carol (c. 17th century)

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

During the hymn, the people's gifts are brought forward, and the elements placed on the altar.

The President offers prayers, to which the people respond:

Blessed be God for ever.

The President then begins the Great Thanksgiving Prayer

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 President continues with a prayer appropriate to the season, concluding with:

... 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 President continues the prayer until:

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The President continues the prayer, which concludes:

...we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

Silence is kept

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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

As the President breaks the bread, the following is said:

As this broken bread was once many grains which have been gathered together and made one bread.

So may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

We sing

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.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The people and ministers receive the sacrament.

A reminder that Communion continues to be offered in both kinds. In accordance with health advice, 'Intinction' (the 'dipping' of the host into the chalice) is **not** permitted.

During communion, this Anthem is sung by the choir:

Lift up your heads, O ye gates,
And be ye lift up ye everlasting doors,
And the King of glory shall come in.
Who is this King of Glory?
The Lord strong and mighty
The Lord mighty in battle.
The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

Words: Psalm 24:7–10 (Coverdale BCP translation) Music: William Mathias (1934–92)

After Communion, silence is kept.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

A prayer is offered by the President, which ends

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.

Notices (briefly) are given

Hymn

- I. The head that once was crowned with thorns
 Is crowned with glory now:
 A royal diadem adorns
 The Mighty Victor's brow.
- The highest place that heaven affords
 Is his, is his by right,
 The King of kings and Lord of lords,
 And heaven's eternal light;

- The joy of all who dwell above,
 The joy of all below,
 To whom he manifests his love,
 And grants his name to know.
- 4. The cross he bore is life and health,
 Though shame and death to him;
 His people's hope, his people's wealth,
 Their everlasting theme.

Words: Thomas Kelly (1769–1854) Music: 'St Magnus', Jeremiah Clarke (c. 1673–1707)

THE BLESSING

The President pronounces a blessing, to which all respond

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord: In the name of Christ. Amen.

Postlude: Chorale Prelude on *The Old 104th* ('Disposer Supreme') by C. Hubert H. Parry (1848–1918)

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: ADVENT I

YEAR A (Year of Matthew) begins

Isaiah 2:1–5 Romans 13:9–14 Psalm 122 Matthew 24:36–44

NOTICES

Annual General Meeting of the Parish takes place this morning, immediately after refreshments, at which we will celebrate George Wuchatsch's 90th Birthday (yesterday). Please return to the church building as soon as you have enjoyed some refreshments, for the meeting to begin promptly.

Next Sunday is Advent Sunday, the start of the church's year. To mark this, please join us for a Festal Choral Evensong at 6:00 p.m.

Spiritual Cafe 29 November

Father Walter McEntee will be entertaining us with an address entitled 'The young Walter, my life as a monk'.

As usual, the speech follows dinner, which begins at Giorgio's at 6:30 p.m. For bookings, please email the Vicar (vicar@stgeorgesmalvern.org)

Orders for the Australian Anglican Church Calendar are still being taken, but only today. Please leave your name on the list at the back of the church, indicating how many calendars you would like. They will be a maximum of \$15.00 each (+postage), depending how many we order as a parish. Lectionaries are also available to be ordered: they begin next Sunday. Ideally, place an order here:

https://www.bookroom.stpeters.org.au/product-page/an-anglican-lectionary-2023. The Vicar will take orders, however, if the internet is too hard to navigate.

Advance Notice

30th Anniversary of Ordination of Women

We are celebrating 30 years of the ordination of women to the priesthood in the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne. The Archbishop has invited us all to join him at St Paul's Cathedral.

to celebrate this anniversary, the details are:

Date: 13 December, 6:00 p.m. Venue: St Paul's Cathedral

Celebrant: The Right Reverend Kate Prowd (ordained in St Paul's 30 years ago)
Preacher: The Most Reverend Kay Goldsworthy AO (ordained deacon in St Paul's,

31 years ago)

On the **fourth Sunday of Advent** (**December 18**) we will have a service of Carols and Readings looking towards Christmas – a chance to reflect on the season of Advent, and ahead to the Feast of the Nativity (i.e. Christmas.) This will be in the evening at a time to be confirmed.

On Christmas Eve, there will be a special service for children and families at 5:00 p.m. Midnight Mass will be at 11:30 p.m., and there will be one eucharist at 9:30 a.m.) on Christmas Day.

This Wednesday, the memorial of St Clement of Rome (November 23) is **the 20th anniversary of Fr Gregory's ordination as a priest**. Please pray for and with him as he celebrates the joy of these 20 years, and as he endeavours to continue faithfully the priestly ministry to which, by God's grace, he has been called.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Weekdays Monday – Saturday	9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer
<u>Day</u>	Morning Prayer in Chapel and by	Evening Prayer Zoom (details below)
Monday, 21 November	Psalm 50 Zechariah 14:1–11 Revelation 11:1–14	Psalm 119:41–64 Wisdom 8:5–18 Mark 1:29–39
Tuesday, 22 November	Psalm 51 Zechariah 14:12–21 Revelation 11:15–19	Psalms 52; 53 Wisdom 8:21–9:18 Mark 1:40–45
Wednesday, 23 November Clement of Rome (Ember Day)	Psalms 54; 55:1–12 Malachi I Revelation 12:1–6	Psalm 55:13–28 Wisdom 10:15–11:10 Mark 2:1–17
Thursday, 24 November Ember Day	Psalms 56; 57 Malachi 2:1–16 Revelation 12:7–18	Psalms 60; 61 Wisdom 11:15–12:2 Mark 2:18–3:6
Holy Eucharist at 10:15 a.m.	Revelation 18:1–2; 21–19:9a	Psalm 100; Luke 21:20–28
Friday, 25 November James Noble, first Indigenous Australian ordained (Ember Day)	Psalms 62; 63 Malachi 2:17–3:12 Revelation 13:1–10	Psalms 64; 67 Wisdom 12:12–21 Mark 3:7–19a
Saturday, 26 November Ember Day	Psalms 65; 70 Malachi 3:13–4:6 Revelation 13:11–18	Psalm 66 Wisdom 18:14–24 Mark 3:19b–35
Next Sunday, 27 November	8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
I st Sunday in Advent	9:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
	6:00 p.m.	Choral Evensong

Morning Prayer

9:00 a.m., Monday - Saturday

Meeting ID: 709 867 2691; Passcode: 630283

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7098672691?pwd=TFBBSGYxb2lhcUI3RWRIdmIXWDQ4Zz09

Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m., Monday - Saturday

Meeting ID: 709 867 2691; Passcode: 630283

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7098672691?pwd=TFBBSGYxb2lhcUI3RWRIdmIXWDQ4Zz09

N.B. No Reflections on the Lections this week

PARISH DIRECTORY

296 Glenferrie Road, Malvern, VIC 3144



VICAR

The Reverend Dr Gregory Seach

Phone: 9822 4662 (h); 0408 505 646 (m)

Email: vicar@stgeorgesmalvern.org

Day off: Friday

HONORARY ASSOCIATE PRIEST

The Reverend Matthew Dowsey 0412 852 697

Acting ORGANIST & DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Claire Sheppard and John Mallinson with thanks to them both as they assist in the vacancy.

CHURCH OFFICE is now closed until the appointment of a new Parish Administrator

Phone: 9822 3030

(advice as to relevant contact. numbers will be provided.)

Email: office@stgeorgesmalvern.org

Emails will be monitored; but **not** daily. Please be patient.

WARDENS

 Jenny Weller-Newton
 9570 7731

 Judy Mallinson
 0414 752 957

 Ravi Renjen
 0412 399 897

We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation as the Traditional Custodians and Owners of the land upon which we meet.

We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, acknowledge their continuing spiritual connection to Country, and affirm our commitment to walk together the path of reconciliation.