



ST GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, MALVERN

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

14th December, 2025

8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., and 5:00 p.m.

*Before the service, speak with God; during the service, let God speak to you;
after the service, speak to one another.*

SETTING AT 10 A.M.

Parish Eucharist Michael Dudman (1938–94)

*The service begins on p. 119 of **A Prayer Book for Australia**;
seasonal material for Advent is to be found on p. 147*

Opening Hymn: 11 vv. 1, 2, 3 & 4

At the end of the third verse, the third candle on the Advent wreath is lit. We then say:

At 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., once the clergy enter, we say:

Celebrant: Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle:

All: to you be praise and glory for ever!

Celebrant: Your light has shone in our darkened world
through the child-bearing of blessed Mary:
grant that we who have seen your glory
may daily be renewed in your image
and prepared like her for the coming of your Son,
who is the Lord and Saviour of all.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

At 10:00 a.m., we then sing the fourth verse.

SENTENCE

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.'

Isaiah 35:3–4

*Following the opening prayer, we move to p. 120 of **APBA** for the Kyrie (said or sung).*

This introduces the Confession and Absolution.

During Advent, instead of the Gloria, we say together:

**Holy God,
holy and mighty,
holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY AND SEASON

Sustain us, O God, with the power of your love
on our journey to meet the One who is coming:
strengthen our weak hands, make firm our feeble knees,
and open blind eyes to the dawning of your kingdom,
so that our hearts may rejoice as we behold the majesty of our God.
We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came among us
in great humility:
that, on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1–10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

‘Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.’

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Song of Mary (Magnificat)

Luke 1:46b–55

(at 8:00 a.m.). Response: My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.

46. My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
47. My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
48. For he has looked with favour on his lowly servant;
from this day all generations will call me blessed.
49. The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. **R.**
50. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.
51. He has shown the strength of his arm;
he has scattered the proud in their conceit. **R.**
52. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
and has lifted up the lowly.
53. He has filled the hungry with good things
and the rich he has sent away empty. **R.**
54. He has come to the help of his servant, Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy.
55. The promise he made to our forebears:
to Abraham and his children for ever. **R.**

(at 10.00 a.m.): Sung as the Gradual Hymn, see below.

SECOND READING

James 5:7–10

A reading from the letter of James:

Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord.
The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth,
being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.
You also must be patient.
Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.
Beloved, do not grumble against one another,
so that you may not be judged.
See, the Judge is standing at the doors!
As an example of suffering and patience, beloved,
take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.
Hear the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2–11

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing,

he sent word by his disciples and said to him,

‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’

Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see:
the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed,
the deaf hear, the dead are raised,

and the poor have good news brought to them.

And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.’

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John:

‘What did you go out into the wilderness to look at?

A reed shaken by the wind?

What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes?

Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.

What then did you go out to see? A prophet?

Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

This is the one about whom it is written,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way before you.”

Truly I tell you, among those born of women

no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist;

yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.’

For the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon.

After the sermon, silence is kept before the liturgy continues with the Creed on p. 123 of APBA.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For the Anglican Church

The Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil; The Anglican Church of Australia; Christ Church, Brunswick; St Chad's and St Aidan's, Longreach; St Augustine's, Mentone; St Stephen's, Werribee; and Melbourne Anglican Diocesan Schools Commission.

For all in need

We pray for: Alison; Ann; Coral; George; Josie; Katherine; Murray; Neil (and Cynthia and family); Roger (and +Kate and family); Vilma; Will and family; the Baxter, Elmes and Gooch families in their mourning; and those we name before you in the silence of our hearts.

For the Faithful Departed

We remember those who have died recently: Mary Baxter; Sharon Mulready; and Pollard Tangbawan; and those whose anniversary of death which occurs at this time: Lorna Hope Wroughton Fulton; Colin Harris; Gladys Lewis; and George Christian Baird Matthews.

The Peace (p. 127) is shared, followed by

Offertory Hymn: 161

The Great Thanksgiving (p. 148) begins.

During communion at 10 a.m., the choir will sing:

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now,
and at the hour of our death.*

Words: Luke 1:41–43

Music: *Nous voyons que les hommes*, Jacques Arcadelt (1507–68)
arr. Pierre-Louis Dietsch (1808–65)

After communion, silence is kept, before we offer a final prayer (p. 148)

Notices are then given followed, at 10 a.m. by

Final Hymn: 187

Postlude: Improvisation No 7 in A minor
Camille Saint-Saëns (1835–1921)

Scripture Readings next week:

I Kings 8:22–24, 27–30
I Peter 2:4–10

Feast of Dedication

Psalm 84
Matthew 7:24–29

Roster for today: Third Sunday of Advent 14 December 2025		Roster for Next Week: Feast of Dedication, 21 December 2025	
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist		Combined 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist	
Sides-person	Venetia Patchett	Sides-persons	Robyn Whitehouse Len Whitehouse
Acolyte	Ravi Renjen	Acolytes	Judy Mallinson Jenny Weller-Newton
Eucharistic Assistants	Simon Dickie Jenny Weller-Newton	Eucharistic Assistants	Clergy
Intercessor	Jenny Robertson	Intercessor	Leigh Mackay
Readers	Simon Dickie Betty Renjen	Readers	Gavin Watson Muriel Porter
Morning Tea	Sandra Morgan Ewan Morgan	Christmas Eve 11:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist	
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist		Sides-person	Miriam Cherry
Sides-persons	Melissa Carson Grant Rowlands	Acolytes	Ravi Renjen (TH) Pam Felgate Malcolm Tadgell
Acolytes	Pam Felgate Jenny McPherson	Eucharistic Assistants	Ray Lester Judy Mallinson
Eucharistic Assistants	Ewan Morgan Geraldine Powell	Readers	Robyn Waterhouse Leonie Bird
Intercessor	Meg Winter	Christmas Day Combined 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist	
Readers	Jenny McPherson Riley Brooks	Sides-persons	Geraldine Powell David Powell
Morning Tea	Robin Barrett Sibella Guest	Acolytes	Meg Winter Malcolm Tadgell (TH)
Thursday 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist		Eucharistic Assistants	Ewan Morgan Leigh Mackay
Sides-person Reader	Andrea King Andrea King	Readers	Meg Winter Suzie Hill

The Week Ahead

Morning Prayer

8:30 a.m., Monday – Saturday

Meeting ID: 709 867 2691; Passcode: 630283

<https://zoom.us/j/7098672691?pwd=TFBBSGYxb2lhcUI3RWRldmIXWDQ4Zz09>

Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m., Monday – Saturday

Meeting ID: 709 867 2691; Passcode: 630283

<https://zoom.us/j/7098672691?pwd=TFBBSGYxb2lhcUI3RWRldmIXWDQ4Zz09>

Reflections on the Lections

7:30 p.m., Wednesday

Meeting ID: 868 9252 3142; Passcode: 744866

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86892523142?pwd=MlczZlJRempKL0hrQThORXBFeFFBdz09>

Notices

We are in need for more servers/acolytes at the **10:00 a.m.** services. Thank you to those who have already volunteered. If any others would be interested in contributing to the worshipping life of the parish in this way, please speak with Gregory or let Jenny Robertson know.

This afternoon, at 2:00 p.m., Stonnington Brass returns to St George's for another offering of Christmas Carols and Music, supported by members of St George's Choir. This was a marvellous occasion last year, with a full church of family and friends of the brass players. Why not come along and enjoy this fun afternoon and show a welcome to those who come to sit and hear in our Church?

A Working Bee to clean the Church in preparation for **Dedication Festival** and Christmas will take place on **Saturday December 20 from 9:00 a.m.** Why not come for Morning Prayer before we start the polishing, sweeping and other cleaning? Morning tea will obviously occur!

NEXT Sunday, December 21, we will welcome **Bishop Garry Weatherill**, Bishop of Ballarat, who will preside and preach at a special **Feast of Dedication** in a combined service at **9:30 a.m.** This will be followed by a buffet luncheon in the Hall. Please ensure that you are here, and invite any past members and all friends of the parish who are able to come, to join with us to celebrate this wonderful milestone in true St George's style.

Please sign up if you are coming, and indicate if you are able to provide a salad or a dessert. There will be a \$25 donation at the door to cover meat and beverages.

Sunday December 28 will be Fr Jeremy's final Sunday with us. We will have one service that morning (at **9:30 a.m.**) followed by a Festive Morning Tea at which we will have the opportunity to thank him most sincerely for his faithful and sterling ministry among us. If you would like to **donate** for a farewell present to Fr Jeremy, please leave money in the envelopes provided, or make an electronic funds transfer to the parish. Please mark either envelope or Fund Transfer as "For Fr Jeremy".

Of your charity, **please continue to pray** for those in long term need or sickness:
His Majesty the King; Ann; Geoff; Ivan; Jane; Joan; Liza; and Simon.



The Melbourne Anglican Cultural Organisation (MACO)

MACO is an organisation to which tax deductible donations can be made to support the 'Cultural' activities and areas at St George's. Parishioners will know that we have a continuing account with MACO to support the work of the choir, and we established another one to facilitate donations for the Restoration of the stained glass windows, classified as "of great cultural significance, in their depiction of the gospel's spread 'From Nazareth to the Pacific'."

Owing to the breadth of definition associated with this second account, it is completely acceptable to use funds donated there for the restoration work of the walls in the North and South Transept: after all, if the walls supporting the windows fall down, the restoration of the windows will have served little purpose.

It was always envisaged that donations through MACO for restoration works would be the preferred option for parishioners, with the National Trust appeal (which has a better 'name') for the wider community. The chief reason for this is that MACO offers donors the same tax deduction status, but the 'cut' it takes to run the fund-raising is considerably below that taken by National Trust – more money goes directly to the church.

As discussed at last week's Annual Meeting, therefore, parishioners are warmly encouraged to donate to MACO to assist with the costs of restoration, if you have not already done so (or even if you have!). Such donations will be most warmly welcomed.

To donate please go to St George's website. Select the "Prayer and Worship" tab which will lead you to the "Support & Donations" page: <https://www.stgeorgesmalvern.org/support-donations>

The red **Donate Now** button takes you to the donation page.

For donating to St George's restoration:

Under 'I. Select a Program in MACO', scroll down and select St George's Malvern – Windows Restoration complete the details required then click on "**Go to Payment**" Button

Pledge Giving: An important message from Parish Council

St George's is reliant on the generous giving of all parishioners to ensure its ongoing financial viability. **The Parish is entirely self-funded.**

Figures for the month of October reveal the stark reality:

Total income: \$22,430 and Total expenses: \$35,244

This is a significant deficit of \$12,914.

You will note that since publishing these figures we have had a negative trend in each month.

This reinforces the need for the pledge request that the Parish Council is making.

Looking to the future the Parish has substantial repairs and maintenance to undertake on the church building to address damp issues.

It is also committed to taking on an Assistant Curate next year.

These will add extra costs to the Parish.

For this reason, Parish Council is requesting that all current pledge givers consider their current pledge undertakings and look to increase them in a substantive way. We also request that those who have not yet made an annual pledge and are contributing via the open plate to consider seriously committing to our annual pledge programme. (Offerings are then payable weekly/monthly/quarterly or annually in advance). These contributions are critical to the financial management of the Parish. We are forecasting total expenses for next year of **over \$800,000**. Whether you attend weekly or less often Parish expenses remain the same.

We are richly blessed by the foresight and generosity of many who preceded us here.

They have provided a beautiful church in which to worship every week, with gardens, grounds and other buildings.

We all enjoy a wonderful Parish with outstanding ministry led by the vicar, Father Gregory, and wonderful pastoral care and companionship.

Unfortunately we need to recognise that maintaining all of this costs money.

Therefore please give this request serious consideration.

Please speak to or email Geraldine Powell, Thanksgiving Co-Ordinator, (dgp3934@icloud.com) to indicate your increased amount or new pledge commitment.

Geraldine will be very pleased to discuss all payment options with new and existing pledge givers.

*Ray Lester
Parish Treasurer,
on behalf of Parish Council*



CHRISTMAS SERVICES ST GEORGE'S, MALVERN

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

WITH STONNINGTON CITY BRASS

Sunday 14 December at 2pm

CHRISTMAS EVE

5 pm

10:30 pm

11 pm

CHILDREN'S SERVICE

CAROLS IN THE CHURCH

FIRST COMMUNION OF CHRISTMAS
("MIDNIGHT MASS")

CHRISTMAS

9:30 am

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS SERVICE

PARISH DIRECTORY

296 Glenferrie Road, Malvern, VIC 3144



VICAR

The Reverend Dr Gregory Seach

Phone:

9822 3030 Option 3 (w);

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

Email:

vicar@stgeorgesmalvern.org

Day off:

Saturday (*for this week only*)

ASSISTANT PRIEST

The Reverend Fr Jeremy Cavanagh

Phone:

9822 3030 Option 4 (w);

0427 264 329 (m)

Email:

stgeorgesassistantpriest@gmail.com

Days in parish:

Sunday, Tuesday, Friday

HONORARY ASSOCIATE PRIEST

The Reverend Fr Matthew Dowsey

0412 852 697

CHURCH OFFICE

Adrian Chong

Monday-Friday

Phone:

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

9822 3030 Option 2

Email:

office@stgeorgesmalvern.org

WARDENS

Malcolm Tadgell

0400 799 030

Robyn Whitehouse

0409 707 117

Vicar's Warden to be appointed

CHILD SAFE & SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Leonie Bird

0409 860 026

*We acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong peoples
of the East Kulin nations
as the Traditional Custodians of the land upon which we meet:
land which was taken, not ceded.*

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