



ST GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, MALVERN

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY OR SEXAGESIMA

8 February, 2026

8:00 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.

*The service begins on p. 119 of **A Prayer Book for Australia**;*

SENTENCE

‘Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.’

Matthew 5:16

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

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Faithful God,
you have appointed us your witnesses,
to be a light that shines in the world:
let us not hide the bright hope you have given us,
but tell everyone your love,
revealed in Jesus Christ the Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:1–12

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah:

Shout out, do not hold back!
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.
Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practised righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God.
'Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?'
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day,
and oppress all your workers.
Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such
fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.
Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?
Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rearguard.
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.
If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger,
the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

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

PSALM 112

Response: Light shines in the darkness for the upright.

1 Alleluia!

Happy are those who fear the LORD,
and have great delight in his commandments!

2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

R.

3 Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last for ever.

4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
The righteous are merciful, and full of compassion.

R.

5 It is good for them to be generous in and lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.

6 For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

R.

7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumours;
their heart is pure, they put their trust in the LORD.

8 Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

R.

9 They have given freely to the poor,
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;
they will hold up their head with honour.

10 The wicked will see it and be angry;
they will gnash their teeth and pine away;
the desires of the wicked will perish.

R.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 2:1–16

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Church in Corinth:

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

‘What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
 nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him’—

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

For what human being knows what is truly human
 except the human spirit that is within?

So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world,

 but the Spirit that is from God,
so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are discerned spiritually. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

‘For who has known the mind of the Lord
 so as to instruct him?’

But we have the mind of Christ.

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

“I am the light of the world,” says the Lord;
“those who follow me will have the light of life.”

Alleluia!

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

On the mountain, Jesus continued to teach his disciples, saying:

‘You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste,
how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything,
but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

‘You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden.
No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket,
but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.
In the same way, let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

‘Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets;
I have come not to abolish but to fulfil.

For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter,
not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.
Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments,
and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven;
but whoever does them and teaches them
will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes
and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

For the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Please sit.

The Sermon.

After the sermon, silence is kept.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For the Anglican Church

Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui (The Anglican Church in Hong Kong); The Diocese of Willochra; St Martin's, Belgrave Heights and Holy Trinity, Upwey with St George's, Monbulk; Archdeaconry of Stonnington; all those made Deacons yesterday morning, including Callum Dawson, our new Curate.

For all in need

We pray for: Coral; David; George; Jenny; Josie; Katherine; Murray; Roger (and +Kate and family); Philip, Katharine, Christopher and the Raymont family in their grief; Susan; Sarina; Sophie; and those we name before you in the silence of our hearts.

For the Faithful Departed

We remember those who have died recently: Monnie Raymont; and those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time: Lydia Constance (Connie) Checcucci; Alfreda Cruth; Cassandra Duffield; Ninette Duncan; Catherine Horne; Elise Marie Moss; Violet Newton; Geoffrey Parsons; Anna Shepherd; and Jessie Willers.

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

The Great Thanksgiving (p. 148) begins.

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

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Deuteronomy 10:12–22

Psalm 119:1–8

I Corinthians 3:1–9

Matthew 5:21–37

The Week Ahead

Saturday	Cyril (d. 869) and Methodius, bishop (d. 885) missionaries to the Slavs
----------	---

A reminder that the Daily Offices (Morning and Evening Prayer) are prayed in St Martin's Chapel each Monday – Saturday at 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. respectively, and can be joined via Zoom at:

Morning Prayer

8:30 a.m., Monday – Saturday

Meeting ID: 709 867 2691; Passcode: 630283

<https://zoom.us/j/7098672691?pwd=TFBBSGYxb2lhUI3RWR1dmIXWDQ4Zz09>

Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m., Monday – Saturday

Meeting ID: 709 867 2691; Passcode: 630283

<https://zoom.us/j/7098672691?pwd=TFBBSGYxb2lhUI3RWR1dmIXWDQ4Zz09>

Reflections on the Lections

resumes this Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

Meeting ID: 868 9252 3142; Passcode: 744866

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86892523142?pwd=M1czZIJRempKL0hrQThORXBFeFFBdz09>

Roster for today FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 8 February 2026		Roster for next Sunday SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 15 February 2026	
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist		8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist	
Sides-person	Miriam Cherry	Sides-person	Campbell Paine
Acolyte	Christopher Miles	Acolyte	Bryan Elmes
Eucharistic Assistants	Leigh Mackay	Eucharistic Assistants	Simon Dickie Curate
Intercessor	Jenny Robertson	Intercessor	Leigh Mackay
Readers	Betty Renjen David Sheppard	Readers	Miriam Cherry Charles Tegner
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist		10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist	
Sides-persons	Geraldine Powell David Powell	Sides-persons	Melissa Carson Philip Jenkins
Acolytes	Meg Winter Alison Canty	Acolytes	Meg Winter Judy Mallinson
Eucharistic Assistant	Lyn Beaumont	Eucharistic Assistant	Ray Lester
Intercessor	John Stewart	Intercessor	Muriel Porter
Readers	Robyn Whitehouse Gavin Watson	Readers	Gavin Watson Suzie Hill
Thursday 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist		Thursday 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist	
Sides-person	Miriam Cherry	Sides-person	Andrea King
Reader	Miriam Cherry	Reader	Andrea King

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

NOTICES

Today we welcome Callum Dawson, our Assistant Curate. Please make Callum, and his wife Alexandria, very welcome!

Lent is nearly upon us. Tuesday, February 17 is “Shrove (or ‘Pancake’) Tuesday”, (Carnivale in Italian; *Mardi Gras* in French). Please come, and share pancakes with us in the Vicarage garden (weather permitting – or the hall if it rains) from 6:00 p.m.

Please also bring with you your palm crosses from last year, which will be burned to prepare ashes for Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday, on Wednesday February 18 will see Eucharist with imposition of ashes at 8:00 a.m., noon, and 6:00 p.m.

Lenten Study

There will be another book available for Lenten Studies this year; and at least two occasions on which those studies will take place. Please speak with (or email) the Vicar in the coming week if you are interested in participating in a Lenten Study.

A message from Archbishop Ric Thorpe:

Dear People of the Marmingatha Episcopate,

Louie and I are looking forward to meeting you, hearing your stories and, over the coming months, seeing first-hand the faithful ministry happening across our parishes, chaplaincies and communities.

This year, I am inviting the Diocese into a season of listening, as together we seek what the Spirit is saying to the Church. Lent offers a timely opportunity for this “Listening in Lent” focus, creating space for prayer, conversation, and shared discernment across our ministries.

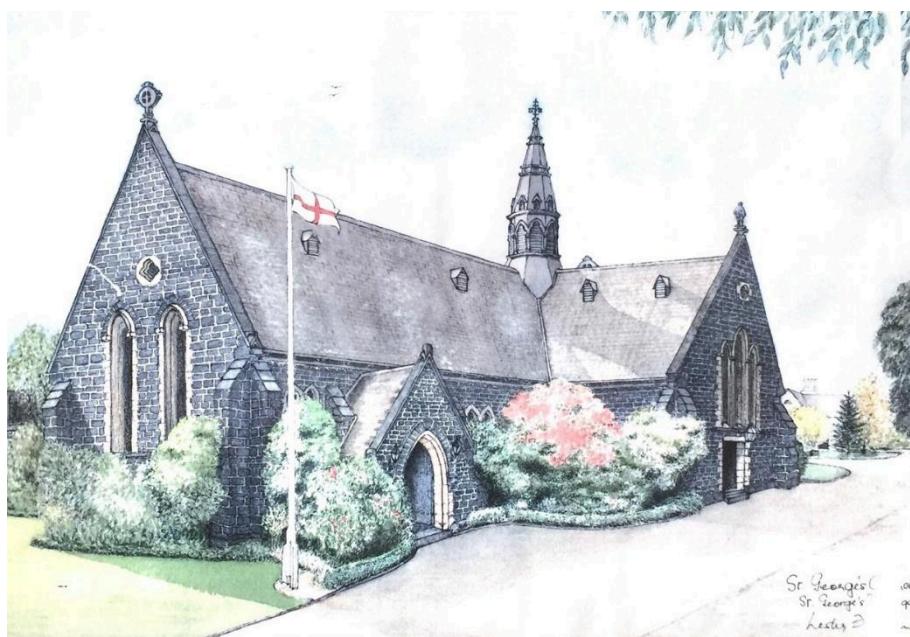
We will share more of our own story, and introduce “Listening in Lent”, when we gather with you at St George’s Malvern.

With thanks for our partnership in the Gospel,
+Ric Melbourne

The meeting the Archbishop mentions is on **Thursday, 19 February** at 2.30 p.m.–4:00 p.m. in the hall. If you wish to come, please let Adrian know and he will ‘register’ your attendance. Also, if you are able to assist in providing tea or coffee to those attending, please speak with Sandra Morgan.

Lenten Quiet Day with Dr Paula Gooder on Saturday, 14 March will be a time for silence, prayer and quiet reflection, along with a series of talks from Dr Gooder at particular intervals during the day. There will be a Eucharist in the Chapel at midday and opportunity for attendees to enjoy the grounds at Trinity College. Dr Paula Gooder is a speaker and writer on the Bible, particularly on the New Testament. Please register for this free event by referring to instructions on flyers located on the service counter.

We will be holding a series of fundraiser concerts in 2026. The first will be on **Saturday 9th May at 2pm** in our Hall. **Featured artists: Shu-Cheen Yu and her Lotus Wind Choir.** Put the date in your diary now and encourage others to attend! Further information and bookings will be available early next year. Possible date for our second concert, Saturday 25 July with a Christmas theme.



REFLECTION ON TODAY'S READINGS

At first, today's readings from Isaiah and Paul appear to be completely contradictory. "Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet!", God says to Isaiah. This is how I want you to speak to my people and call them to repent. Perhaps Paul skipped this lesson at preaching school, because he reminds the Corinthians that when he came among them, he "did not come proclaiming the mystery of God in lofty words or wisdom." And, he goes on, "my speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom...".

Of course, deeper and longer reading of the two passages makes clear they really aren't that different after all. Isaiah is called to remind people that what they *think* is the right way of pleasing God – in effect, playing nice religious games – really is about 'serving their own interests'. It is about making themselves feel good, so they can say to God with a certain pained self-justification, 'why don't you see or notice all the things we're doing for you?' Paul also makes clear that what *humans* consider is wise and religiously plausible is not what impresses God, nor is it God's way of showing wisdom and power. Both make clear that Christian faith – faith in the God revealed in God's dealings with Israel, and most potently in the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus – is not about play-acting at piety; nor attempting to seem wiser than anyone else. It is about learning to be heart-broken with love and care and longing for the world, as God is.

That is, Christian faith is not just, certainly not primarily, about ourselves, but about our participation in God's work in and for the world. Of course, God's work has been done fully and completely in Jesus' life, death and resurrection. But as those who have come to believe in that life as revealing God, we need to shine the same light – the light that is Jesus – in the world.

Perhaps that's why Matthew has Jesus tell his disciples (that's us) that we are (and are to be) the light of the world. And, as Isaiah makes clear, and Paul shows, we are to let that light shine – yes, to see our good works, but not for the sake of glorifying us, making us feel good about ourselves. But to 'give glory to our Father in heaven'.

As we welcome a newly ordained deacon this morning, we pray that he (together with those ordained with him yesterday) will indeed "Shout out and not hold back!"... in helping us to see the world, and feel for it, as God does. And let us not neglect, ourselves, to do all we can do to build together a community, a people, whose communal life reflects the very nature of God: to be, indeed, the light of the world wherever we are. Then, indeed, the Lord will guide us continually, so that we become 'like a watered garden, a spring of water', for those around us.



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, not least our heritage-listed building. 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.

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> or scan the QR Code

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



For donating to St George’s restoration:

Under ‘1. 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

For donating to St George’s music:

Follow the instructions above, with the following changes:

Under ‘1. Select a Program in MACO’, scroll down and select St George’s Malvern - Music Fund complete the details required then click on “**Go to Payment**” button

PARISH DIRECTORY

296 Glenferrie Road, Malvern, VIC 3144



VICAR

The Reverend Dr Gregory Seach

Phone:

Email:

Day off:

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

vicar@stgeorgesmalvern.org

Friday

ASSISTANT CURATE

The Reverend Dr Callum Dawson

Phone:

Email:

Day off:

9822 3030 (w) Option 4

TBD

Saturday

HONORARY ASSOCIATE PRIEST

The Reverend Matthew Dowsey

0412 852 697

CHURCH OFFICE

Adrian Chong

Monday-Friday

Phone:

Email:

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

9822 3030 Option 2

office@stgeorgesmalvern.org

WARDENS

Malcolm Tadgell

Robyn Whitehouse

Vicar's Warden *to be appointed*

0400 799 030

0409 707 117

CHILD SAFE & SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

to be appointed

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, land which was taken, not ceded.

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.