

# KEEPING CONNECTED TO OUR ST MATTHEW'S FAMILY

## THEME: PEACE ON EARTH AND CHRISTMAS ANGELS

December 2023



### O Holy Child of Bethlehem!

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to-night.*

*O holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us to-day.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
Oh, come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!*

This wonderful hymn was written by Phillip Brooks following a horseback journey from Jerusalem to Bethlehem on Christmas Eve. During its long history Jerusalem has been destroyed twice, besieged 23 times, attacked 22 times and captured 44 times and the Holy Land continues to be a place of conflict in our own day. This Christmas is probably closer to the original feeling of the Christmas Narrative. At a time of Roman occupation vulnerable individuals being ordered around when housing was at a crisis and the future unclear. Our own Christmases surely take up some of these themes.

Thank you to all who reach out to others in this Holy season, and nothing is holier than discovering that God is with us when we are up against it. The themes of Advent are about looking forward and a series of new beginnings being born in every community and in every heart as we look for them. We think about the children of today but don't forget the children who have grown old many of our older Australian had much simpler hopes for Christmas than the current generation. Their Christmas lists were much more modest. Think of the orange in the Christmas stocking, rather than a huge TV and the latest iPhone. The horse and the reindeer have probably bolted on managing consumer expectations but maybe we could think about doing things in a more connected way, thinking about kindness and others particularly when some of our seniors struggle to communicate and to keep in touch. Perhaps we could help them to reconnect with some special people in their lives at Christmas and share memories about being cared for, being special and valued.

The children of St Matthew's with our brides and community members are our greatest Christmas treasure. Please be in touch if you know of an older person who would appreciate a visit or a card from us and we will be glad to step forward. If you know someone who is isolated or needing special support, we will see if we can find a Christian Angel from St Matthew's to come to a series of rescues.

### **NOTICE OF PARISH ANNUAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of Parishioners is intended to be held at St Matthew's Church on **Sunday 10 December 2023** following the 9.00am Service for the purpose of an Annual Meeting in accordance with the provisions of the Parish Governance Act 2019.



### **ST MATTHEW'S ADVENT SUNDAY SERVICES**

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December     9.00am **Advent Sunday Service** and  
St Matthew's **Craft and Cake Stall**  
5.00pm **Advent Lessons and Carols**

*Please note: this Service replaces the monthly Choral Evensong.*



### **CHRISTMAS EVE 24th December**

**9am** Sunday Eucharist Service  
**4.00pm** Toddler Crib Service  
**6.00pm** Family Christmas Service  
**10.30pm** Carols followed by  
**11.00pm** Midnight Service with Holy Communion

### **CHRISTMAS DAY 25th December**

**9.00am** Family Christmas Service with Holy Communion



### **ST MATTHEW'S MEMORY TREE**

Remembering our loved ones no longer with us but so close and precious in our hearts.

Or remembering someone you are unable to be with during the festive season. In memory, write their name/s on the gift tags with the tree and hang on the White Christmas tree near the candle lighting in the Church. The tree will remain during Advent.

### **ST MATTHEW'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

'Real Help for Real Needs' St Matthew's Christmas Appeal acknowledges the tremendous support that people in need are already getting across our community. We do give hundreds of hampers and not just at Christmas but every day of the year. We also provide emergency accommodation, clothing, individual help and even assistance into rehabilitation for local people. Please consider giving to our Christmas Crisis Care Appeal where every cent goes to addressing need, nothing on administration and we are careful to see that real need is met with real help and a huge thank you to all those who already support this vital work in our community.



Our Christmas Appeal also extends to the special **Songs of Hope & Prayers for Peace & Goodwill** inviting all faith groups and community leaders with celebrated international star Melinda Schneider joining with Paul Gibbs an St Matthew's Choir and Lux Alba Chamber Choir with proceeds shared with Country Hope for Cancer Kids. This Children's Charity helps local children and their families who are walking the challenging road of cancer diagnosis and treatment.



Join us for a heartwarming evening of music and community spirit at **"Songs of Hope & Prayers for Peace & Goodwill."**

**Featuring** the incredible talents of Melinda Schneider, Paul Gibbs, the Lux Alba Chamber Choir, and St Matthews Choir, this event promises to be a memorable celebration of the Christmas season.

**Date: Sunday, December 17th**

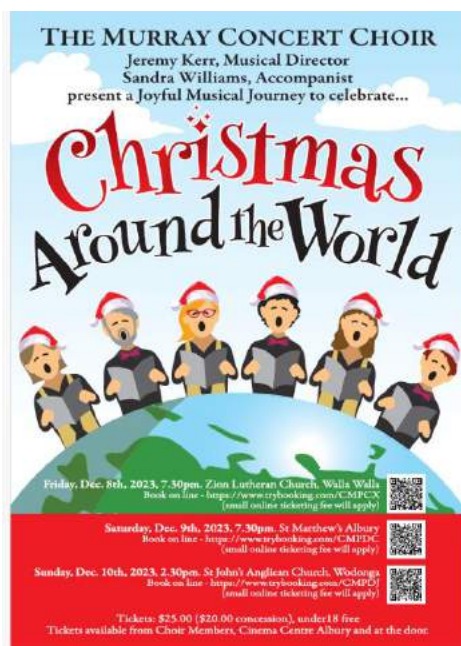
**Time: 5:00 PM**

**Location: St Matthew's Albury**

This is a community event open to everyone!

**Entry by donation** – come and be part of something special!

Let's come together for an evening filled with music that uplifts the soul and brings us closer in hope, peace, and goodwill.



## Murray Concert Choir

This year, the **Murray Concert Choir** is taking you on a musical journey to showcase the celebration of Christmas in different countries around the globe.

Under the baton of talented young local musician and teacher, Jeremy Kerr, we will treat you to Christmas carols and songs from summertime in Australia and the heat of Africa, to the ice and snow of Europe and the Americas. TryBooking for tickets or tickets will also be available from choristers, the Cinema Centre Albury and at the door.

Don't miss this Christmas treat for the whole family - see you there! Also, for those of you who might have missed the performance of "Gloria!", this year's Three Choirs Festival in September, here is a link to a recording of the performance in Wangaratta.

Gloria' - 3 Choirs Festival 2023: [https://youtu.be/2xBGW\\_FxrUg](https://youtu.be/2xBGW_FxrUg)

Only two weeks to go until the Murry Concert Choir performs "Christmas Around the World": Friday 8 December, 7.30pm, Zion Lutheran Church, Walla Walla. Saturday 9 December, 7.30pm, St Matthews, Albury, Sunday 10 December, St John's Anglican Church, Wodonga



### PRAYER FOR UKRAINE and THE HOLY LAND

God of peace and justice,  
 we pray for the people of Ukraine and the Holy Land today.  
 We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.  
 We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,  
 that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.  
 We pray for those with power over war or peace,  
 for wisdom, discernment and compassion  
 to guide their decisions.  
 Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,  
 that you would hold and protect them.  
 We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.  
 Amen.  
 (Anglican Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell)



### St Matthew's Services

**Sunday Eucharist Service 9:00 am each week.**  
**Wednesday Eucharist Service 10:30 am each week.**  
**Evensong is the first Sunday each month at 5pm.**  
**Children's Church third Sunday each month at 10:30 am**



**Sunday Service** - We now have rosters for Eucharist Assistants (EAs) and Presenting Gifts. Rosters have been emailed to those involved, if you have received a roster, please take note of the dates you are rostered on for each month. If you are unable to attend the date given, please organise a swap with someone else on the roster.

You can continue to keep connected via the St Matthew's website: [www.stmatthewsalbury.com](http://www.stmatthewsalbury.com) and Facebook. If you have a SMART TV you can tune in to St Matthew's Sunday Service through YouTube.

**Update: watching St Matthew's Services on St Matthew's website:**

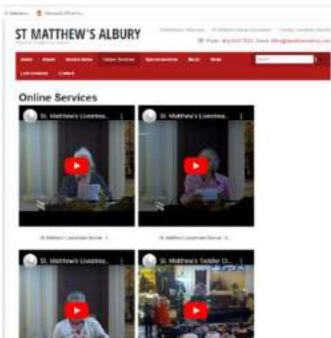
*There is a new page on the website called 'Online Services' which makes it easier to find existing videos of the services.*

If you need help connecting to YouTube or your Smart TV, please contact St Matthew's Office 6021 3022 and we will be happy to assist.

The **Keeping Connected to our St Matthew's Family Newsletter** is a two-monthly production and is also available on the St Matthew's website:

[www.stmatthewsalbury.com](http://www.stmatthewsalbury.com) on homepage, News and Events. If you have any news or articles that you would like featured in the monthly Keeping Connected Newsletter, please email to [nettie.gorham@gmail.com](mailto:nettie.gorham@gmail.com) **If you would like to donate towards the production, printing and mailing cost of the newsletter, please donate by Direct-debit and state it is for the newsletter or bring to St Matthew's Office and inform it is for the Newsletter.**

**Contact details:** If you have recently changed your email address or have a new email address, or a new mobile number, please inform St Matthew's Office 6021 3022.







**Office Team Meetings** are held every 3 months to keep informed, updated and ensure the Office is running as smoothly as possible.

**Our next Team Meeting is Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024, 2 pm in the Meeting Room at the Rectory.**

**St Matthew's Office will be closed from 12 noon 22<sup>nd</sup> December – reopening Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024**

## ST MATTHEW'S OP SHOP



**St Matthews Op Shop officially opened for business on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> of July at 10 am.**

**The Op Shop is open from 10 am until 2 pm on weekdays and until 3pm on Tuesdays.**

### ST MATTHEW'S OP SHOP MISSION STATEMENT

To raise funds for the work of St Matthew's Albury for the most vulnerable in our community, to provide cheap clothes and goods for sale and to offer a socially inclusive environment to volunteers regardless of race, sexuality, ability or beliefs. **Op Shop Facebook page please like and share it.**

**St Matthew's Op Shop will be closed from 2pm, 22<sup>nd</sup> December – reopening Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024**



**ALBURY CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL 2023 - A huge success!**

**SAVE THE DATES 2024  
Tickets now available  
9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024**







At the Sunday Chamber Service the 2023/24 St Matthew's organ scholar: Zhiyuan Shen, a year 7 student at Xavier High School, and Miss Aurora



Flores a lifetime music teaching award were announced.

Nance Grant's world has been a rich tapestry of musical and operatic performances, in the company of many great singers, producers, musicians and conductors, renowned both in Australia and internationally. *Nance Grant: A life of curtain calls* breathes life into this world, taking us behind the curtain and onto the stage to share Nance's singing and performing triumphs and to honour the many people who made her performing life such a bounteous one.



Looking forward to **Cathy Carden's Ordination to the Priesthood** St Matthew's Albury, (Cathy's and Marks home parish) will be there with bells on! and giving thanks for her ministry over many years leading to her priestly ordination and her family's distinguished history of faithful ministry and leadership to the Anglican Church of Australia! Remembering our dear friends Bishop Ken and Gloria Short and the Begbie family, and the blessing they have been to so many.

Donations are welcome for the Ordination Chasuble Robe as CATHY Carden is ordained to the Priesthood. Donations can be given at the Office, or to Vicki Chick.





## CHILDREN'S CHURCH



## DECEMBER Children's Church

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December  
at 10:30 am**

**Theme: 'CHRISTMAS'**



### Thoughts for the month:

- *Somehow not only for Christmas but all the long year through, the joy that you give others is the joy that comes back to you. John G Whittier*
- *Lord, in the midst of chaos, help me remain organised and focused. Amen. Unknown*
- *Love is an image of God. Martin Luther*
- *When you are filled with joy, it will spill over to those around you.*
- *'It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving' Mother Theresa*
- *Somehow not only for Christmas but all the long year through, the joy that you give others is the joy that comes back to you. John G Whittier*
- *'It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air' W.T. Ellis*
- *Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas. Dale Evans*



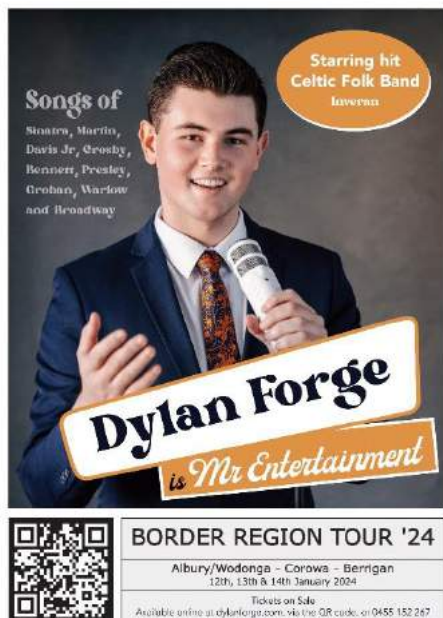
## SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

**Sharing the vouchers!** If you have any spare vouchers for the tip, they would be greatly appreciated please drop into the retro op shop or St Matthew's Office 10 – 12 Monday – Friday. Thank you in advance. The Ute Brigade continues to bring practical help wherever they are needed and have a good time doing it. Thank you!

**Emergency Food and personal Room needs:** 1 litre long life milk, store bought jam, bottles of pasta sauce, packets of pasta and sweet/savoury biscuits.

**Thanks** so much for the continued support for our Emergency Food Program. There has never been a great need than in these current times. Barbara

**Christmas Food Hampers** - Christmas hampers will be arriving at St Matthew's early December. The Office team have been getting names for recipients. Recipients will collect them from the food room between 10 - 12 noon on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December, Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Barbara will be there each day to distribute them.



## Upcoming Concert: 'Dylan Forge is Mr Entertainment'

**DATE: Friday 12th January 2024**

**Venue:** The Performing Arts Centre of Wodonga Senior Secondary College (Woodland St Entry)

**Show commences at 2pm doors open from 1:15pm**

There is another concert in Corowa on Sat 13th Jan, and one in Berrigan on Sun 14th Jan.

Each ticket includes afternoon tea which will be provided at a 20-minute show interval.

*Border singing star Dylan Forge presents a show of crooning classics and Broadway's greatest hits. Dylan wishes to share the hits of his idols, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr, as well as modern ballads from Michael Bublé and Elvis Presley. This blend of crooning classics will also highlight Dylan's impressive baritone texture through show tunes from Broadway's biggest blockbusters. Supported by the incredibly talented Celtic folk band Inveran!*

Tickets can be bought through [www.dylanforge.com](http://www.dylanforge.com)



## MOFF-IT - IT Specialists

470 Swift Street Albury

Phone Aaron or George

0417 080 872

For all your mobile phone, iPad, computer problems.



**Tower photo taken during visit from Hobart Bellringers**

## Congratulations

to Barbara Hoodless who recently received her official 'Bellringers' brooch.

## BAPTISMS



## Recent Baptisms:

Liam Viggor, Odin Boon, Novalea Boon, Helena Miller,



## WEDDINGS - Recent Weddings:

6<sup>th</sup> October Brittany Evans and William Blomeley

28<sup>th</sup> October Lucy Grundy and Luke Thomas

2<sup>nd</sup> November Kiera Hayes and Andrew Richardson

24<sup>th</sup> November Isabella Mandie and Will Dungey





11<sup>th</sup> November  
Iris Jackson-Jones  
and Kevin Wolter



25<sup>th</sup> Nov  
Renee  
And  
Leigh  
Stavros

### Upcoming Wedding Congratulations to Todd Banko and Lexie Michael

5<sup>th</sup> January at the Port of Echuca overlooking the mighty Murray and the Paddle Steamers followed by a Paddle Steamer cruise, before reception. Followed by a Honeymoon in Hong Kong and Vietnam.

**Congratulations** to Cath and Mick McGlone who celebrated 40 years of marriage on 26<sup>th</sup> November 40 years



### Memory - Jim and Diane Williams Wedding Day St Matthew's Albury 5<sup>th</sup> March 1960



Jim at St John's  
Whorouly  
1945 - 1950

With Revd. Joseph Thomas Ross Border, with family - Ruth Wood, Mary Williams, Jim, Diane, Walter, Claire



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY wishes TO ALL

#### celebrating a birthday in December:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Julie Scott                   | 8 <sup>th</sup> Stevie DeAthrige, Erica Grimes |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> Amanda Lovekin, Michelle Wood |  |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> David Murray                 |  |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> Nance Grant, Peter Knight    |  |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> Sally Morris                 | 20 <sup>th</sup> Robyn Coleman                 |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> Stephanie Stephenson         | 24 <sup>th</sup> Zeke Radcliff                 |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> Graham Steven                | 26 <sup>th</sup> David Martin                  |





## HAPPY BIRTHDAY wishes TO ALL

### celebrating a birthday in January:

1<sup>st</sup> Carol Wallace

2<sup>nd</sup> Barbara Argall

3<sup>rd</sup> Jenny Prince, Lyn Winnell

6<sup>th</sup> Sandra MacLeod-Miller

16<sup>th</sup> Kathy Cherry, Necia Searle

18<sup>th</sup> Margaret Wright, Cody Wright

19<sup>th</sup> Rosie Satchell

21<sup>st</sup> Cathy Carden and Janet Joyce (twins)

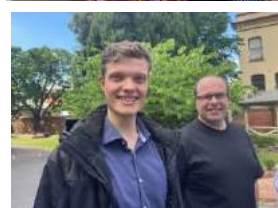
23<sup>rd</sup> Barry Barton

24<sup>th</sup> Julie Ling

28<sup>th</sup> Kerrie Wilkinson, Bennet Coyle

31<sup>st</sup> Helen Voogt

## OUT AND ABOUT







## St Matthew's Craft Group

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month, at members' homes.

**Next meeting: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December from 1-4 pm.**

## CRAFT and Cake STALL Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December Advent Sunday Service 9am



New members who are interested in craft and who would like to join our happy friendly group are most welcome but please contact Jill on 0408109726 so that we can provide you with a chair & a cuppa! The get-togethers are fun and constructive. Parishioners who are craft minded, but not able to attend group meetings, may consider making things at their leisure and provide some items to sell on our craft stalls. Suitable items can also be displayed in the craft cupboard in the Church Narthex for sale throughout the year! All proceeds going to the Church.

The 'Spring Collection' Cards were a great success, thanks to all who purchased them. We will have more cards available for sale in the New Year.



## PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral Care Team meet the first Wednesday of each month at the rectory (except January). We continue to stay connected phoning and visiting friends in our Parish and community. The 'Phone Tree' is a great way to keep in touch. If you would like one of our team to phone you, or if you know of anyone who would appreciate being contacted, please phone Annette 0413 938 541. A visit can also be arranged.

If you know an older person who would like Christmas Communion or even a visit, maybe someone who hasn't been

to St Matthew's for a long time, or maybe Covid or mobility has changed things, please be in touch. We would love to give them a pre-Christmas Visit.

If you know of anyone who is sick or in hospital, please phone Annette so a visit from Fr Peter can be arranged.

A huge **'Thank You'** to all our lovely knitters and crocheters who have recently donated several kindness rugs, already been so warmly received people's day when not well.

**A big Thank you to the Pastoral Care Team** – Fr Peter, Robin Wellard and Karen Buchner for their commitment and caring in helping so many people in our parish and community. If you or someone you know is in need Disposable Realift Underwear – Men and Women, we have a large supply that have been donated in the Rectory.





**GIVE YOUR FAMILY PEACE OF MIND**

*The information provided on this form is to assist the Police and Bureau (including the Forensic Unit) in your search for your missing person. Personal information is not required.*

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Child's surname) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Full name (surnames/children) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Where he/she spent during the previous holidays \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_  
 If he/she includes nationality, date of arrival \_\_\_\_\_  
 (if available) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Father's name \_\_\_\_\_  
 (if available) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mother's maiden name \_\_\_\_\_  
 (if available) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Wife \_\_\_\_\_  
 (if available) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of children by birth \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (if available) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 My wife is held by \_\_\_\_\_

© 2006 of this document has been given up. and it is kept.

**‘Give Your Family Peace of Mind’** An updated and improved version of the ‘Give Your Family Peace of Mind’ form is available to assist with planning your wishes for your Funeral/Memorial Service. The information in this form assists the Priest, your family and the Executor/s of your estate. It is not compulsory, and not all sections have to be completed. It is something for all of us to think about – young and old. It is a great help to family member at the time of death and a comfort to them knowing they are fulfilling your wishes. If you would like help completing this information or would like to compose your life story/ eulogy, please contact Annette so this can be arranged. This form is also on the St Matthew’s website. If you would like St Matthew’s to keep a copy of your completed form, please email to the Office ‘Attention Annette’ and it will be saved on the computer and printed and placed in a special folder, or alternatively you can bring your completed copy to the office to be copied and

**Our treasured friends in Riverwood, Murray Gardens, Marianella and Borella House**







## CHRISTMAS SERVICES RETIREMENT VILLAGES AND NURSING HOMES DECEMBER



Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Estia Thurgoona - 3pm
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> and 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Riverwood 10am
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Yallaroo 11am
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Marianella 11am,
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Dellacourt 3:30 pm
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Borella House 3pm
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Murray Gardens 11am

**Please Note:** We will continue services in Aged Care in January, usual times.



***Our thoughts and prayers  
are with all who are sick or unwell at home, or in hospital.  
Also, remembering our loved ones whose years' mind is in  
December and January.***

***We remember with love those special people who have recently  
died.  
Forever in our hearts.***

**Recent Funerals:** Rylee Wright 11th November, Carolyn Simpson 16<sup>th</sup> November,  
Basil Bilney 19<sup>th</sup> November

## TUNES ON TUESDAY Fortnightly Lunchtime RECITALS



Tunes on Tuesday have been an outstanding success with growing numbers enjoying great quality and friendship. We look forward to even greater things in 2024.

Thanks so much to James Flores for the coordination as well as some thrilling music from our heroic Pipe Organ.

### **Upcoming Recitals 2024**

January 30 — Samuel Giddy (Organ)  
February 13 — James Flores (Organ)  
February 27 — Ethan Porter (Cello)



## A Christmas Prayer

By Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)

*Loving Father,  
Help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the  
angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds,  
and the worship of the wise men.  
Close the door of hate  
and open the door of love all over the  
world.  
Let kindness come with every gift  
and good desires with every greeting.  
Deliver us from evil by the blessing  
which Christ brings,  
and teach us to be merry with clear  
hearts.  
May the Christmas morning  
make us happy to be Thy children,  
and the Christmas evening bring us to  
our beds  
with grateful thoughts,  
forgiving and forgiven,  
for Jesus' sake. Amen.*

## PARISH FINANCES:

St Matthew's is looking to the future and working out how we can continue to service the community without going into a financial panic. A huge 'thank you' to the increasing number of people who are making a regular donation to the work of St Matthew's it is so encouraging. If you haven't managed to Direct Debit, make an enquiry at your bank and it's surprisingly easy to organise.

**Bank details are:** Bank: Westpac  
BSB: 032736 Account no: 392189

Account name: St Matthews Church Albury  
Reference: 'Giving' and your name.



**Please help us reach all our Parish Members:** If any of your friends have recently got an email address, could you please send an email to St Matthew's Office, with their name and email address, so we can add it to our emailing list. Share the news and connection by emailing the Keeping Connected Newsletter to family and friends.

**REGULAR UPDATES** - Please keep going back to the website, includes Livestream links, Facebook and YouTube.

**JOIN US at St Matthew's Albury EACH SUNDAY 9:00 am or on our website, Facebook, or YouTube.**



**"May the Joy, Love and Peace of the Christ Child  
be God's Gift to you and yours this Christmas  
and throughout the coming year."**