

# Keeping Connected to our St Matthew's Family

Theme: Christmas - God with us

December 2021



This year is a special year when we can take a closer look at the real gifts of Christmas and appreciate the wonder of God being with us. Our world is carrying the scars of separation and in a strange way our world has a common understanding of our greatest need of connection. How interesting that this newsletter started around that need and so many unexpected gifts have grown as a result. Connection, companionship, friendship, love and belonging have suddenly risen to the top of our list which is just not for Christmas but for the whole year. We are increasingly mindful of those whose access to this most basic and precious treasure is limited through their circumstances and how we might share this opportunity more broadly. Our seniors probably know more about recycling and sustainability than the younger folk with all the banners. Think about the recycled gifts, restored toys, handmade practical decorations and food of previous generations and the enormous Christmas landfill inspired by the current generation expectations of everything new, big, and now. The simple and safe joys of Christmas are never needed more than now and is our privilege to continue to share them at St Matthew's as we have done for more than 170 years. A huge and sincere Thank You to our volunteers and supporters who enable the good news for all people to be shared all through the year.

Happy, Holy and healthy Christmas to all.

*We are all unique, we are better together each of us has a gift. Every act of unity increases the power of our collective gift. Keep connecting!*



## **ST MATTHEW'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES**

Carols and Lessons 19th December 5.00 pm

### **CHRISTMAS EVE FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

4:00 pm Toddler's Service

6:00 pm Family Service

10:30 pm Carols

11:00 pm Midnight Service with Holy Communion

### **CHRISTMAS DAY SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

9:00 am Family Christmas Service with Holy Communion

### **SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

9:00 am Sunday Service The Feast of Stephen

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 10:30am Theme: Christmas**



### 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 a blue tag and hang on the small silver tree in the Church. The tree will remain during Advent.

### INFORMATION FOR JANUARY

Sunday 9:00 am Services – will continue each week.

Wednesday 10:30 am Holy Communion Service - **service resumes 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022**

The **Office** will be closed from midday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2021 – 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**Pastoral care, Emergency care, weddings and funerals** will continue, again through contact via email or our website.

**Emergency needs please send an email:** [office@stmatthewsalbury.com](mailto:office@stmatthewsalbury.com)

Please check Facebook and website for updates, and we thank you for your continued support.

**St Matthew's Retro Op Shop** will re- open 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022.



### Celebrating the Good News without putting Covid in our Santa Sack

Christian communities are committed to sharing the true joys of the Season but we are trying not to share a Virus that could put our children, adults and older people in danger.

St Matthew's Parish Council has cooked up a Christmas recipe so that we can all stay safe, stay out of hospital and harm's way for the New Year. All people can continue to get practical help from St Matthew's Emergency Care by simply sending a message through our web site or Facebook.

For the health and safety of St Matthew's congregation and the community you must have proof of double vaccination to attend the Church building at any time.

QR Code check in is still required for Places of Worship, the wearing of masks is encouraged as a sign of our care for friend and stranger and not put more pressure on Health care workers.

If you wish to attend the Christmas services and you are not vaccinated, the Screen will be mounted on the outside wall where you can watch the service. Chairs will be provided.

We ask that you leave the Church grounds before the Congregation departs the Church. Alternatively a recording of all services can be seen through St Matthew's Albury YOUTUBE a couple of days after.

A huge thanks to everyone for their support as we navigate through these challenges into a brighter, safer New Year.

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 Livestream Sunday Service through YouTube. 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.

**Please Note:** you can watch all the livestream Sunday Services on St Matthew's Albury YouTube at any time that suits you – can even watch time and time again!

The **Keeping Connected to our St Matthew's Family Newsletter** is a 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)

**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.



### MOTHER'S UNION STUDY, PRAYER, AND SUPPORT GROUP

Meet every Friday at the Martin Centre, Cahill Place from 9:30 am – 12 noon. Everyone most welcome.

MU - Mothers Union are planning a picnic in the Botanical Gardens on Tuesday January 18th. An invitation is extended to all of the parish. Time to be confirmed. Bring chair food etc.





### Thoughts for the month:

*When you are filled with joy, it will spillover to those around you.*

*Rejoice! Be glad! Celebrate!... joy is one of God's gifts. Ellen Sanna*

*'It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.' Mother Theresa*

*Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom. Marcel Proust.*

*God loves you endlessly. Remember to pass this love to others in your daily life.*

*Jesus your light, is always with you, and you can get through the darkest, scariest moments by knowing that He is right by your side.*

*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 Greenleaf Whittier*

*Lord in the midst of chaos, help me remain organised and focused. Amen. Unknown*



**ST MATTHEW'S RETRO LANE 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.**

### **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.

**Emergency Food Room Thank you** - A huge thanks to all parishioners who have contributed with food and donations during the year. So very generous and so gratefully received.



### **CHRISTMAS FOOD HAMPERS 2021**

A ray of colour decorating hampers ready for distribution last week.

\* 14/11 from Robin Wellard: Morning Nettie, just when I thought the Keeping Connected couldn't get any better, yesterday was amazing. Congratulations on a job well done. I appreciate how much work goes into it. And the photos of the flowers just gorgeous. It had a happy Spring, uplifting feel about it.

\* From Julie Scott: Hello Annette, another excellent 'Keeping Connected, lots of exciting things happening! Especially Great that Tom Summerfield is going to Melb. Uni Music faculty next year, are we collectively proud!! Also Cathy Carden to be Ordained Deacon next year, lots of great things happening at St. Matthews despite Covid!! Take care and well done with K C !!

\* 17/11 - letter from Dianne Heath Lankan Creek Jingellic - Dear Fr Peter, I am able to watch Virtual Church, Church Service and Quiet Communion between 1 and 7 am, off peak, we don't have satellite to watch other times. I appreciate all who make Church available online for those unable to meet in the flesh. Keep abiding in faith, hope and love constant in prayer, reading the scriptures so that we are about helping and looking out for others.

\* 14/12 phone call from Angela Braybrooks - To express her pure delight with our Sunday service she just saw on YouTube. She said it was wonderful and couldn't be better -the music, the bishop and the look of the church and all that was going on.

\* We wish Kevin, Joyce and Atara Wanambiro all the very best for their move to Wollongong and we wish them well.



Happy 90 years ABC local broadcasting.

Fr Peter and Gaye Pattison



Lyn Gardner's Artwork on display  
Robin accompanied Lyn to Gigs a couple of weeks ago where the TAFE displayed the artworks of their students.



**MOFF-IT**

has moved to  
470 Swift Street Albury  
Phone Aaron and Riley on:0417 080 872

**BISHOP CLARENCE celebrates 25 years Ordained 12<sup>th</sup> December**  
and so lovely to be celebrating at St Matthew's



**BABY Congratulations**  
to Budi and Kabita  
on the birth of their  
beautiful baby boy Reyansh

**BAPTISMS November and December:**  
Evie Prescott, Travis Lewis-Antis, Florence Maclure, Benji Lewry.



**CONFIRMEES December:**  
Travis Lewis-Anstis, Todd Banko, Carl Rogalski, Belinda Wilkinson,  
Aprile Horne, Adelaide Horne, Dexter Horne, Amelia Belgrave-Chick.



**Engagement Congratulations**  
Saturday 13th November Fergus Little and Meaghan Powell  
announced their engagement at Manly.  
*Alice Glachan and Nicholas Little's son.*  
*Helen Glachan's Grandson*

**WEDDINGS November/December:** Carley Dodds and Jamie Watts, Leonora Semprun and Malcolm Miles

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**



**Fr Scott and Kate Jessup**  
**12<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary**  
  
they met and married at  
St Matthew's  
12/12/2012



## 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

Lyn and David Dynan

17<sup>TH</sup> December 2021



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY wishes TO ALL

celebrating a birthday in DECEMBER and JANUARY:

**December:** 1<sup>st</sup> Julie Scott      8<sup>th</sup> Stevie DeAthridge, Erica Grimes

9<sup>th</sup> Amanda Lovekin – 50<sup>th</sup>, Michelle Wood – 50<sup>th</sup>

11<sup>th</sup> David Murray      12<sup>th</sup> Nance Grant – 90<sup>th</sup>

15<sup>th</sup> Sally Morris      17<sup>th</sup> Annie Snow

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

#### January:

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

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

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

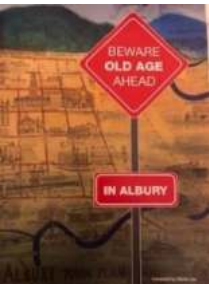
18<sup>th</sup> Margaret Wright      24<sup>th</sup> Julie Ling

28<sup>th</sup> Kerrie Wilkinson      31<sup>st</sup> Helen Voogt



Special happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday wishes Nance Grant

**Sylvia's 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December at Riverwood Hostel**



### Fundraiser book for St Matthew's - makes you laugh and might even 'save your sanity'!

'Beware: Old Age Ahead in Albury' is a unique take on steering family members or yourself through the complicated realities of getting older, by Marie Lee. The book includes a wealth of easy-to-read information, local resources and wonderful illustrations,

100% of the proceeds go to the church's Homeless Fund.

Be quick: limited copies on special for only \$20.00, Available at St Matthew's Office (10 – 12) and Retro Op-Shop (10 – 2).



*From Kerrie Wilkinson, for Christmas:*

#### **What is Christmas?**

It's more than a day at the end of the year.

More than a season of you and good cheer.

Christmas is really God's pattern for living.

To be followed all the year by unselfish giving.

For in giving to others and in being kind

We find the joy and peace of mind

And peace on earth will come to stay

When we live Christmas Every day. *Helen Steirner Rice*

# OUT AND ABOUT



Andera and Steve Beitzel



Norma, Fr Peter



Carol Wallace



Vicki, Annette



Stevie, Kirrilie



Judy, Jim Guilmartin



Shirley, Kevin Monte



Margaret, Annette



Betty White



Stevie



Jenny, Paul Heinjus



Lyn Collin



Mildred



Vicki



Mark, Robyne, Vicki



Gwen Rudd



Billy, Vicki



Stafford, Denise



Sue Fyfe



Sussan Ley, Vicki



Steve Bowen, Bishop Clarence



Bec



Vicki, Robin



Ray



Iris



Cathy, Mark



Budi



Kaye



Tom, Arthur



Noela Murphy



Fr Peter

## St Matthew's Craft Group

The St Matthew's Craft Group meet the first Wednesday each month 1:00 —4:00 pm if you are interested in joining the group, please contact Sadie Moffitt 0438 610 740.



**Craft Stalls:** 5th December – after the Advent Carol Service 4:30 pm  
12th December – after Confirmation Service  
19th December – before and after Carols and Lessons at 5pm. A great collection of suitable gift items will be available.



**PASTORAL CARE** -The Pastoral Care Team meet the first Wednesday of each month at the rectory. 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 of anyone who is sick or in hospital, please phone Annette so a visit from Fr Peter can be arranged. **There will be no Pastoral Care Meeting in January.**



Special thanks to Rowena and Fr Bill Ginns for their many years of service and contribution to pastoral care at St Matthew's and the wider community. We wish you more relaxed days in retirement.



**Prayer for Christmas:**  
 Help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
 that we may share in the song of the angels,  
 the gladness of the shepherds,  
 and worship of the wise men.  
 open the door of love all over the world.  
 Let kindness come with every gift  
 and make us happy to be your children. **Amen**

Mandatory Requirement for going into Retirement Villages and Nursing homes: Clergy and volunteers need to provide a copy of influenza and Australian Government COVID-19 digital certificate fully COVID-19 vaccinated. *Please note: Your second dose vaccination must be received at least 14 days prior to your visit.*

**COVID-19 Certificate Immunisation:** the number to call if you need to get a hard copy for proof of your vaccination certificate is: 1800 653 809.

**Our friends in Murray Gardens and Dellacourt**



**December Christmas services in Retirement Villages and Nursing homes:**

14th Marianella - 11am, Dellacourt 3pm  
 16th Murray Gardens 11am  
 20th Yallaroo 11am 21st Borella House 3:30 pm  
 22nd Riverwood 10 am

**No village services in villages in January.**



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

**Funerals November and December:** Dorothy (Dotti) Simmons, Noelle Dye, Dennis Armstrong, Nicolae Ticaci, Les Langford, Colin Bradley



**MEDITATION** across the world and in Albury we are using new ways to stay in touch. There are growing numbers using ZOOM to connect with a meditation group at 6:15 each Thursday. At a time of great stress and isolation this could be just the tonic we need! Connect with Michelle and Paul on: Zoom: [www.quietcommunion.org](http://www.quietcommunion.org)

## TUNES ON TUESDAY RECITALS at St Matthew's resume February 2022



**SWELL VOX** is a small ensemble of musicians from Albury, NSW, Australia. They primarily focus on repertoire featuring the organ and voices, including both sacred and secular music. Their goal is to provide high quality music and anecdotal entertainment, primarily in the online music space.



**Silver Celebration** James Flores, organist and St Matthew's Organ Scholar is pleased to announce the release of a CD to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the St. Matthew's, Albury, Létourneau organ.

Own a part of Albury's history by ordering a CD! Buy for \$20.00

<https://silvercelebration.jamesfloresorganist.com/>

**St Matthew's Letourneau Pipe Organ** – John Scott has written detailed information about the St



Matthew's Letourneau Pipe Organ, available on the St Matthew's website. Great Organs of Australia *Masterworks at St. Matthew's* Sydney organist David Drury Premiere Recording of the Letourneau Organ. Limited copies of this CD available at reduced price of \$15.00 **Every cent raised from the sale of these CD's goes into the Organ Fund.** Purchase from St Matthew's Office or from the Church organists: David Luxon, Malcolm Halford or John Scott.

## Albury Chamber Music Festival 2021 - **POSTPONED until March 2022**

### 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

Account name: St Matthews Church Albury

BSB: 032736

Account no: 392189

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.**

**This is a GREAT WAY of keeping the action alive and looking to the future.**