

# KEEPING CONNECTED TO OUR ST MATTHEW'S FAMILY

**Theme: CHRISTMAS - together where it counts.**

7th – 31st December – January 2021



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, but it probably doesn't feel like it. People have all sorts of plans, but circumstances and Government regulations are calling the shots. Just when we were about to throw our masks away, we might need to get new ones for the Christmas stocking!

The real Christmas story was just like this, Mary and Joseph on the move because of compliance, the Shepherds minding their own business and being interrupted by external forces and even on the other side of the world from a different culture and religion the Wisemen were finding themselves on the same page as those who found shelter in a stable, which doesn't seem a very wise place to have a child. This is definitely a series of plan B's! So perhaps we find ourselves closer to the Christmas Story than ever before. The nuisance and uncertainty, the frustration and disappointment, so it is a good time for us to look for the Star and find some fresh hope for the new year.

Our deep apologies for doing things differently but we are trying to be faithful to the idea of salvation and rescue, care and consideration that we stand for. Nothing is more sacred than human life and we are making deliberate efforts to safeguard our community. Just as in other pandemics we are suspending Holy Communion so that we can gather without that extra anxiety and in accordance with best public health practice we can offer. Many smaller Churches might well do things differently but St Matthew's leads in many issues affecting our society and it is our responsibility to do our best for the welfare of all.

All may not be very calm, things may not seem very bright, but somewhere hiding deep in the anxiety the light is shining for all people and it is **light** and **love** that will have the last word. Maybe our gift to ourselves and each other will be to share all the good stories of 2020 and count our blessings. And give thanks for our loved ones and all who are working so hard and selflessly in our community.

**For "Safety's Sake" in our Services there will be:** NO congregational singing, NO Communion, **NO** moving around, **NO** morning tea; and safe social distancing needs to be maintained at all times.

More than ever we need to share our generosity through donations as we continue to reach out to those most in need when everything else is closed. Both on Public Holidays and

in January we can still help those most in need by 'tap-n-go' electronically at the back of the Church or by Direct Debit to the St Matthew's account, as informed later in this newsletter and website. There continues to be a collection of food for the homeless to assist at Christmas and into the New Year.



## **ST MATTHEWS CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES**

**CAROL SERVICE** St Matthew's Albury YouTube

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

**4.00pm** Toddler Crib Service

**6.00pm** Family Christmas Service

**10:30pm** Carols followed by **11.00pm** Midnight Service

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

**9.00am** Family Christmas Service

For updates about services contact St Matthew's Office 10—12 Monday—Friday or see St Matthew's Noticeboard, website, and Facebook. Sites.

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH Service** will be inclusive with the Sunday 9:00 am Service Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH will resume 17<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 10:30 am.**

**PROCEDURE FOR ATTENDANCE AT CHRISTMAS SERVICES:** be patient with ourselves and with others – miracles are extra! If we are careful now, then we will have a lot more to celebrate at Easter.

- PRE-BOOKING for services NEEDS TO CONTINUE by phoning the Office 6021 3022, or by sending an email: [office@stmatthewsalbury.com](mailto:office@stmatthewsalbury.com)
- There will be strictly no more than 200 people in the Church, but there is room outside with speaker and screen.
- 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 Service through YouTube.

Please Note: you can watch all the livestream services on St Matthew's Albury YouTube at any time that suits you, after they premiere – can even watch time and time again!

**ST MATTHEW'S OFFICE WILL CLOSE** Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 12 noon and will reopen Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Any urgent requests please phone Victoria Chick 0412177335

Sunday Services will continue as normal commencing at 9:00am

Because of the recent outbreak of COVID-19 in Sydney, Communion will continue to be suspended until further notice.

Private Communion can be arranged.

**There will be NO Wednesday Service 30<sup>th</sup> December.**



## Retirement Village Services before Christmas: Welcome Back and Bringing Joy



Friday 11<sup>th</sup> Riverwood Retirement Village 10:00 am  
 Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> Dellacourt 11:00 am  
 Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Murray Gardens Retirement Village 11:00 am  
 Monday 21<sup>st</sup> Albury District and Nursing Home 10:30 am  
 Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Mercy Marianella Nursing Home 11:00 am  
 Borella House residents will be visited individually, at a date to be confirmed.



## Thoughts for Christmas:



'Every time we love, every time we give It's Christmas'. Dale Evans

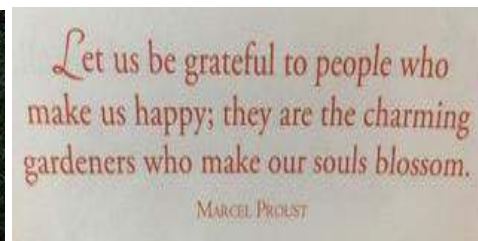
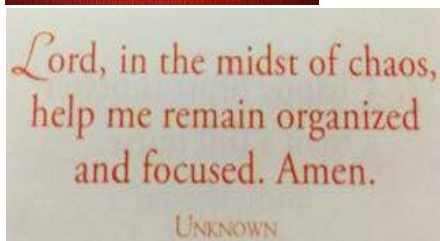
'It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.'

Mother Theresa

It is Christmas in the heart, that puts Christmas in the air' W.T Ellis

'From home to home, and heart to heart, from one place to another. The warmth and joy of Christmas bring us closer to each other.'

Emily Matthews



## IDEA:

### Put a 'Heart in the Window'

this Christmas as a message of warmth and human solidarity. It is a movement encouraging people to decorate their windows with hearts in the hope of raising a spirits during these challenging times.

## ST MATTHEW'S RETRO LANE OP SHOP MISSION STATEMENT



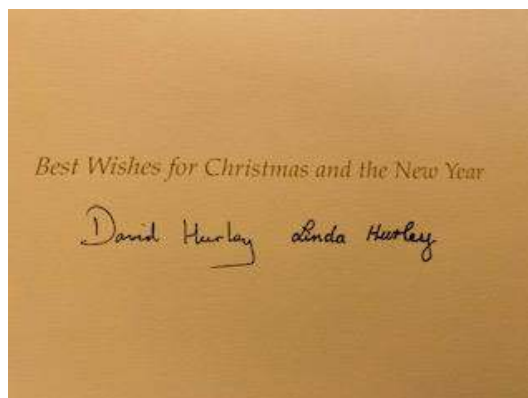
To raise funds for the work of St Matthew's Albury for the most vulnerable in our community, to provide cheap clothes and goods for sale and to offer a socially inclusive environment to volunteers regardless of race, sexuality, ability or beliefs. **New Op Shop Facebook page please like and share it.**

**The Retro Op Shop will close from midday 24<sup>th</sup> December – 4th January 2021**

## 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.

**Christmas Card from GG** – in appreciation for all we do in the community and particularly in providing musical opportunities through our Music Association.



**Governor General Medal  
for the**

**St Matthew's Music Association**

**And a special presentation will be  
made by Sussan Ley during the  
Advent 4 Sunday Service**

**20<sup>th</sup> December**

Message received: 30/11 Kiralee and Stevie: After attending re-opening service - 'Stevie was so excited. At the end of each day, I ask her at teatime what was your favourite thing today. Last night it was seeing all her friends and Father Peter. Can't wait till next Sunday.'

**\*'THANK YOU'** to so many for their lovely Christmas cards and wishes, and appreciation of the livestream services and Keeping Connected Newsletters throughout the year.

## CHRISTMAS HAMPERS







In addition to the help offered by Albury High School students and the generous donations of food from Trinity Anglican College there are many individual parishioners who assist every year. Thank you so much to all my willing helpers who assisted with the Christmas food hampers. Matthew Paul and Paul Hare loaded and unloaded food items onto the trailer. John Tucker and Jane Atkinson who counted out the hampers. Patricia, Helen and Helen who stacked goods into the food room. Kaye and Annette in the office doing a tremendous job. Father Peter thank you for helping to organise the whole hamper program. Everyone's help

is so much appreciated. Barbara

**Special thanks** to Barbara Hoodless for her continued hard work and wonderful organisation for the Christmas Hampers and hampers throughout the year.

If you know of anyone in real need, alone or isolated, who would appreciate a Christmas food hamper or a phone call over the Christmas season, please contact St Matthew's Office by email: [office@stmatthewsalbury.com](mailto:office@stmatthewsalbury.com) Or phone: 02 6021 3022 Hours: 10:00 – 12:00

Monday – Friday

**Food Room** – On-going needs: bottles of pasta sauce, boxes of tea bags, store bought jam, 1L long life milk, tins of fruit, sweet or savoury biscuits, canned salmon, pasta. Please deliver to St Matthew's Office Hours: 10:00 – 12:00 Monday – Friday Thank you in advance.

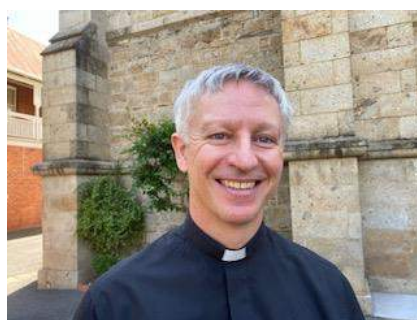


**Donations and Acts of Kindness** continue to come in.

Zaden and Tyson (photo 1)

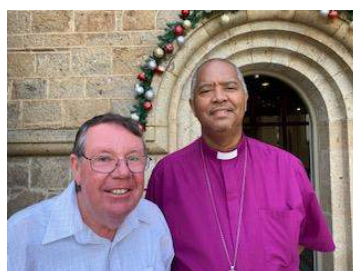
Fin and Oliver from Thurgoona (photo 2), bring gifts and donations of food to St Matthew's each year.

**St Matthew's reopened 29th November Advent One** - Many appreciated the great warmth of Bishop Clarence and Michelle adding to the friendliness of the Day.





## Sunday Service 13<sup>th</sup> December Advent 3 and Blessing the New Glass Door







## HAPPY Birthday wishes

to all celebrating a birthday in December and January 2021.

Dec 15<sup>th</sup> Sally Morris

Dec 17<sup>th</sup> Margaret Caton, Annie Snow

Dec 20<sup>th</sup> Robyn Coleman

Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> Stephanie Stephenson

Dec 24<sup>th</sup> Zeke Radcliff 25<sup>th</sup> Graham Steven 26<sup>th</sup> David Martin

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

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

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

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

Jan 31<sup>st</sup> Helen Voogt

**Good news is for sharing** - If you have some good news, please share with us by sending an email to St Matthew's Office: [office@stmatthewsalbury.com](mailto:office@stmatthewsalbury.com)

## OUT AND ABOUT



Fr Peter and Fr Martin



Kevin and Maureen Beattie



Helen Martin



Rick Allen



Ross Altass



Bishop Clarence, Thelma Bye



Sally-Anne Russell, Mario Dobernig



Norma Tanner



Eve Ross



Bert Williams





Gwen and Graham Rudd



Sunday musicians



Lindy and George Atkinson



Sandy Bobisch



Leanne Kohler



Buddhi



Annie Snow



Maureen Lewis



Belinda Wilkinson



St M garden



### **St Matthew's Craft Group Gifts for Christmas was a great success!**

Thank you to all for supporting the St Matthew's Craft Group.

Thank you to the St Matthew's Craft Group members for their talented work in making all the lovely gift ideas and setting up the craft stall these last 3 weeks.



Thank you to those who have brought in their lavender for the craft group to prepare and use in their crafts.

A very big **THANK YOU** to Sadie Moffit for her continued dedication to Coordinating the Craft Group for so many years and her great team.





### **PASTORAL CARE:**

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 contact Annette 0413 938 541. A visit can also be arranged.

**Christmas can be a difficult time, it is important we think of each other, and those who are sick and isolated, and pray for all.**



Our thoughts and prayers are with all who are sick or unwell during this time.

Also, remembering our loved ones whose years' mind is in December and those who have recently died – forever in our hearts.



**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 5:30 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)

### **Albury Chamber Music Festival**



The Albury Chamber Music Festival are pleased to announce a change of plans in response to the positive news of the borders opening and the return to live performances. Their Excellencies are currently working on a date for an Albury visit in the New Year on the occasion of a Live Festival Concert at St Matthew's.

Please check the Festival Website for updates.

We will shortly be announcing our St Matthew's Music Association Scholarships including a new Indigenous Music Scholarship.

Please consider making a Tax-deductible donation toward the future of one of the children of the border.



## TUNES ON TUESDAY 2021, first quarter performers:

January 13	James Flores (Organ)
January 28	Thomas Summerfield & James Flores (Piano)
February 9	Callum Knox (Organ)
February 23	Hamish Wagstaff (Organ)
March 9	Stephanie Johnston (Voice)
March 23	Arthur Hull (Voice)
April 6	Ethan Porter (Cello)



**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, Letourneau 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.

**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's so encouraging. If you haven't managed to Direct Debit, make an enquiry at your bank and it's surprisingly easy to organise. New technology whether it is YouTube, a new car, a sewing machine, or a lawn mower can be frightening to begin with, but surprisingly easy when given a go. I hoped that by making some financial sacrifices myself that the load would be a bit lighter and others would also help out, and that is exactly what is happening so 'thank you' again on behalf of myself and St Matthew's.

Bank details are:

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.

**REMINDERS - REGULAR UPDATES** - Please keep going to St Matthew's website, Facebook and YouTube.