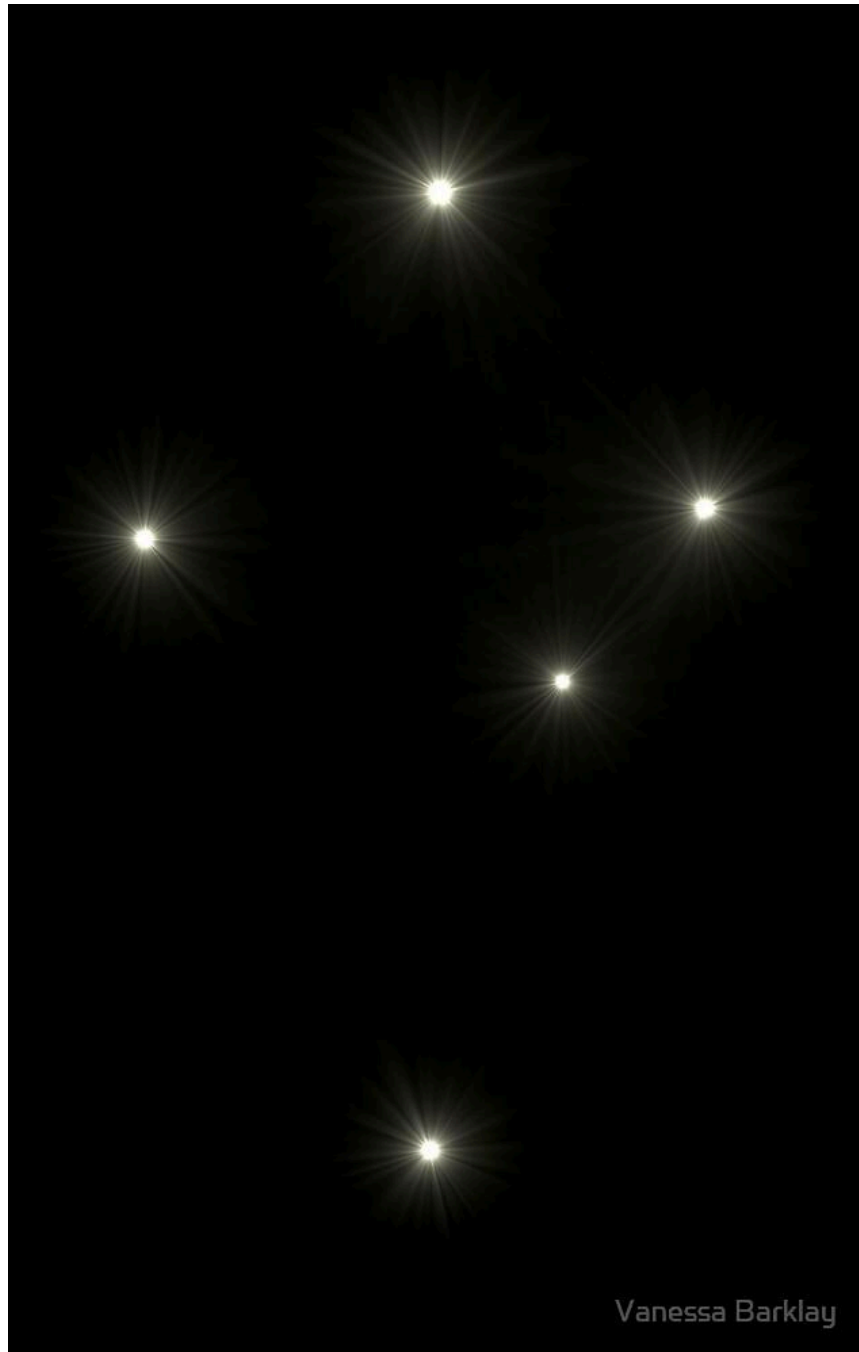




St George's Anglican Church, Malvern

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 25 JANUARY 2026

Liturgical Commemoration of Australia Day



Vanessa Barklay

The Southern Cross – a sign for all in this land

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

We stand to sing the following hymn:

1. Where wide sky rolls down and touches red sand,
where sun turns to gold the grass of the land,
let spinifex, mulga and waterhole tell
their joy in the One who made everything well.
2. Where rain-forest calm meets reef, tide and storm,
where green things grow lush and oceans are warm,
let every sea-creature and tropical bird
exult in the light of the life-giving Word.
3. Where red gum and creek cross hillside and plain,
where cool tree-ferns rise to welcome the rain,
let bushland, farm, mountain-top, all of their days
delight in the Spirit who formed them for praise.
4. Now people of faith, come gather around
with songs to be shared, for blessings abound!
Australians, whatever your culture or race,
come lift up your hearts to the Giver of grace.

Words: Elizabeth J. Smith (1956–)

Music: 'Hanover' melody prob. by William Croft (1678–1727)

President: Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All: Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The President welcomes the congregation, then this formal welcome is read:

Today we stand in footsteps millennia old.

We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri peoples of the Kulin nation, traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we meet, whose culture and customs have nurtured and continue to nurture this land since men and women woke from the great dream.

**We honour the abiding legacy of these ancestors
who reside in the imagination of this land and whose
irrepressible spirituality flows through all creation.**

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

We say together:

**Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
 we worship you, we give you thanks,
 we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Let us pray.

The people pray silently, and then the President 'collects' the silent prayer:

Bountiful God,
we give thanks for this ancient and beautiful land:
 a land of despair and hope,
 a land of wealth and abundant harvests,
 a land of fire, drought and flood;
above all, we give thanks for those who nurtured this land
for millenia beyond counting,
and those who came to find a home of peace and hope.
We pray that your Spirit may continue to move in this land
and bring forgiveness, reconciliation and an end to all injustice;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Deuteronomy 8:5–14a

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy:

Know then in your heart that as a parent disciplines a child so the Lord your God disciplines you. Therefore keep the commandments of the Lord your God, by walking in his ways and by fearing him. For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you.

Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

Hear the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm 125

- 1 Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides for ever.
- 2 As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the Lord surrounds his people,
from this time on and for evermore.
- 3 For the sceptre of wickedness shall not rest
on the land allotted to the righteous,
so that the righteous may not stretch out
their hands to do wrong.
- 4 Do good, O Lord, to those who are good,
and to those who are upright in their hearts.
- 5 But those who turn aside to their own crooked ways
the Lord will lead away with evildoers.
Peace be upon Israel!

Second Reading

Hebrews 11:8–16

A reading from the book of Hebrews:

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, ‘as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.’

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

1. God of mercy, God of grace,
Show the brightness of your face:
Shine upon us, Saviour, shine,
Fill your Church with light divine;
And your saving health extend
Unto earth's remotest end.
2. Let the people praise you, Lord;
Be by all that live adored:
Let the nations shout and sing,
Glory to their Saviour King;
At your feet their tributes pay,
And your holy will obey.
3. Let the people praise you, Lord;
Earth shall then its fruits afford;
God to man his blessing give,
Man to God devoted live;
All below, and all above,
One in joy, and light, and love.

Words: H. F Lyte (1793–1847)

Music: 'Heathlands', Henry Smart (1813–79)

Gospel

Matthew 5:1–12

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have been made free indeed, through the gospel of the Lord.

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 Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter
all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be
glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they
persecuted the prophets who were before you.

For the gospel of the Lord,
praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All sit.

The Sermon

Silence is kept

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Creed for Australia

We believe that this ancient land with its unique creatures
is a precious gift from a loving God whose mercy is over all creation.

We believe in God’s care for the people who treasured it
through un-numbered generations;
the One who grieves in their suffering
and rejoices in every noble aspiration.

We believe in God’s compassion for the patchwork of refugees
who for over two hundred years have come to this continent
looking for a place to call their home.

We believe in God’s steadfast love for this nation and all its children;
that God is creating a new people from many races, colours and gifts,
to fulfil a high destiny.

We believe the best way forward is the way revealed by Christ
of faith, hope and love, where no needy person is neglected
and no bidding of the Spirit ignored.

source: Bruce D. Prewer

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For the Anglican Church

The Anglican Church of Chile; The Diocese of Sur – Iglesia Anglicana de Chile; Mission Agencies of the Anglican Church of Australia; Anglican Media; St Matthew's, Endeavor Hills; and Church of the Ascension, Burwood East.

For all in need

We pray for: Coral; David; George; Gregory, our Vicar; Josie; Katherine; Murray; Cynthia (and family); Roger (and +Kate and family); Susan, +Peter and family in their mourning; 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: Roger Hollingworth;
And those whose anniversary of death occurs this week: Esther Hazel Atkinson;
Alan Baxter; Charlotte Bayley; James Cable; George Elliot; George Graham Findlay;
Maxwell Glover; Peter Jackson; Mona Kingsmill; Caroline Leonard; John McDonald;
Ethel Manning; Edward Newton; Isabel Ann Osborn; Valentine Price; Lloyd Slattery;
and Winifred Wilkinson.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Christ the Son of God has been revealed as a light to the nations, and in the Cross that fills the night skies of this Great Southern Land.

Silence is kept.

Let us bring our darkness to his light, confessing our sins
of ignorance, prejudice and complacency
in penitence and faith, confident of God's forgiveness:

Merciful God,
**our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The President pronounces Absolution, and the people respond
Amen.

All stand

THE GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

We greet one another with an appropriate sign of God's peace.

We sing the following hymn, as the table is prepared:

1. Here we adore you, hidden Saviour, Lord,
who in your Sacrament are living Word;
both flesh and spirit at your presence fail,
yet here your Presence we devoutly hail.
2. O blest memorial of our dying Lord,
who living bread to all you here afford!
O may our souls on you for ever feed,
and you, O Christ, for ever precious be.
3. Fountain of goodness, Jesu, Lord and God,
cleanse us, unclean, with your most cleansing blood;
increase our faith and love, that we may know
the hope and peace which from your Presence flow.
4. O Christ, whom now beneath a veil we see,
may what we thirst for soon our portion be,
to gaze on you, unveiled, and see your face,
the vision of your glory and your grace.

Words: St Thomas Aquinas (1227–74)

tr. James Woodford (1820 – 85), alt.

Music: 'Adoro Te', plainsong melody, mode v

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The gifts are set on the altar and the President offers this prayer:

Generous God of Holy Dreaming,
through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.
Blessed be God for ever.

The President then begins the Great Thanksgiving Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour, thanks and praise,
be yours now and always, Lord of every time and place,
God beyond our dreaming.

We give you thanks that from the dawn of creation
your Spirit has brooded over this ancient land:
you spoke and the gum tree grew.
In the vast desert and dense forest
and in cities at the waters' edge,
creation sings your praise.

Your presence endures as the rock at the heart of our Land.

In the fullness of time you revealed your Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ,
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.

When Jesus hung upon the tree
you heard the cries of all your people
and became one with your wounded ones:
the convicts, the hunted, the dispossessed, the refugees.
We give you thanks that in him
you have revealed to us your presence

in the vastness of this land,
your love in its fruitfulness,
and your purpose in its cycles of death and renewed life.
The sunrise of your Son colours the earth anew,
and bathes it in glorious hope.

And so, with angels and archangels,
with people from every nation, country,
tribe and language,
and with the Church throughout the ages,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Merciful Father, we thank you for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that we who eat and drink them
in obedience to our Saviour Christ,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
may be partakers of his body and blood,
and be made one with him, with each other,
and with all who set foot on this country, in peace and love.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

As we eat and drink this holy sacrament,
renew us by your Spirit
that we may be united in the body of your Son
and serve you as a royal priesthood
in the joy of your eternal kingdom.

Receive our praises, Father,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom and in whom,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

Silence is kept.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray:

Our Father in heaven,
**hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

As the President breaks the bread, the following is said:

As this broken bread was once many grains
which have been gathered together and made one bread:

**so may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth
into your kingdom.**

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
grant us your peace.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

All are invited to receive the sacrament.

After Communion, silence is kept.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

All stand and the President prays:

God of Holy Dreaming,
we thank you for this simple community meal
we share together on this day of mixed emotions;
a meal that brings the spirit and reality of Christ into our hearts
and brings us closer to you and closer to each other.
May our lives be lit up by your love,
and may your love light up others through us.

Father,
**we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

1. Almighty God, lift up our eyes;
inspire us all with visions brave;
from mountain heights' grey driven skies,
to cities hemmed with sunlit wave,
from bushlands green to desert plain,
recall us to your truth again.
2. We do not seek the power, O Lord,
to wing swift death with greater speed;
but love, to be your love's reward,
your love, to match our spirit's need –
grant this; but human wrath repeal,
and all the troubled peoples heal.
3. Let not our land a tyrant know,
nor shackled freedom give us shame;
strongholds of selfishness o'erthrow:
God, light in us your Spirit's flame –
now fire this nation's heart and will
your mighty purpose to fulfil.

Words: William Courtenay Saunders Johnson (1907–87) *alt.*
Music: 'Melita', John Bacchus Dykes (1823–76)

THE BLESSING

Life is short;
we do not have much time to gladden the hearts
of those who travel the way with us.
So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind,
and the blessing of the One who made us and loves us
and goes before us be upon you and all those whom you love,
this day and always
in the name of the God of Holy Dreaming,
and of Jesus Christ his Son, our elder, and of the Creator Spirit.
Amen.

National Anthem for Australia

Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are one and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing:
Advance Australia Fair.

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross
We'll toil with hearts and hands
To make this Commonwealth of ours
Renowned of all the lands;
For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share;
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing:
Advance Australia Fair.

Go, walk gently on country, learning to love and serve our God.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Thanks to all those, ably led by Ewan Morgan and Malcolm Tadgell, who set up for the lunch to follow.

We look forward to sharing time together over lunch under the trees in the garden or the hall.

Scripture Readings next week

Malachi 3:1–4
Hebrews 2:14–18

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Psalm 24
Luke 2:22–40

The Week Ahead

	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Tuesday	John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, teacher (d. 407)
Wednesday	Thomas Aquinas, theologian (d. 1274)
Friday	Charles, King of England (d. 1649)

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=TFBBSGYxb2lhcUI3RWRIbmIXWDQ4Zz09>

Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m., Monday – Saturday

Meeting ID: 709 867 2691; Passcode: 630283

<https://zoom.us/j/7098672691?pwd=TFBBSGYxb2lhcUI3RWRIbmIXWDQ4Zz09>

Reflections on the Lections

in recess until early February

Roster for today: Commemoration of Australia Day 25 January 2026	Roster for next week The Presentation of Christ in the Temple 1 February 2026
	8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
	Sides-person Bryan Elmes Acolyte Malcolm Tadgell Eucharistic Simon Dickie Assistants Bryan Elmes Intercessor Malcolm Tadgell Readers Lorilae Garcia David Sheppard
9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist	10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Sides-persons Ewan Morgan Sandra Morgan Acolytes Alison Canty Malcolm Tadgell Eucharistic Miriam Cherry Assistants Simon Dickie Intercessor Leigh Mackay Readers Suzie Hill Vincent Amos	Sides-persons Philip Jenkins Melissa Carson Acolytes Pam Felgate Jenny McPherson Eucharistic Ray Lester Assistants Meg Winter Intercessor Judy Wright Readers Jenny McPherson Grant Rowlands
Thursday 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist	Thursday 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Sides-person Miriam Cherry Reader Miriam Cherry	Sides-person Judy Wright Reader Judy Wright

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; and Sarah.

Notices

Our regular collections for St Alban's will recommence this week, the fourth Sunday of the month. Please give generously (cash or shopping vouchers) to assist the parish of St Alban's in providing food for those in desperate need in these difficult times in a part of Melbourne where many struggle to eat.

Callum Dawson, our soon-to-begin Assistant Curate, will be made a deacon on **Saturday 7 February at 10:30 a.m. in St Paul's Cathedral**.

All are welcome to attend that service.

Also to made a deacon that day will be **Andrew Murray**, our student here in 2024.

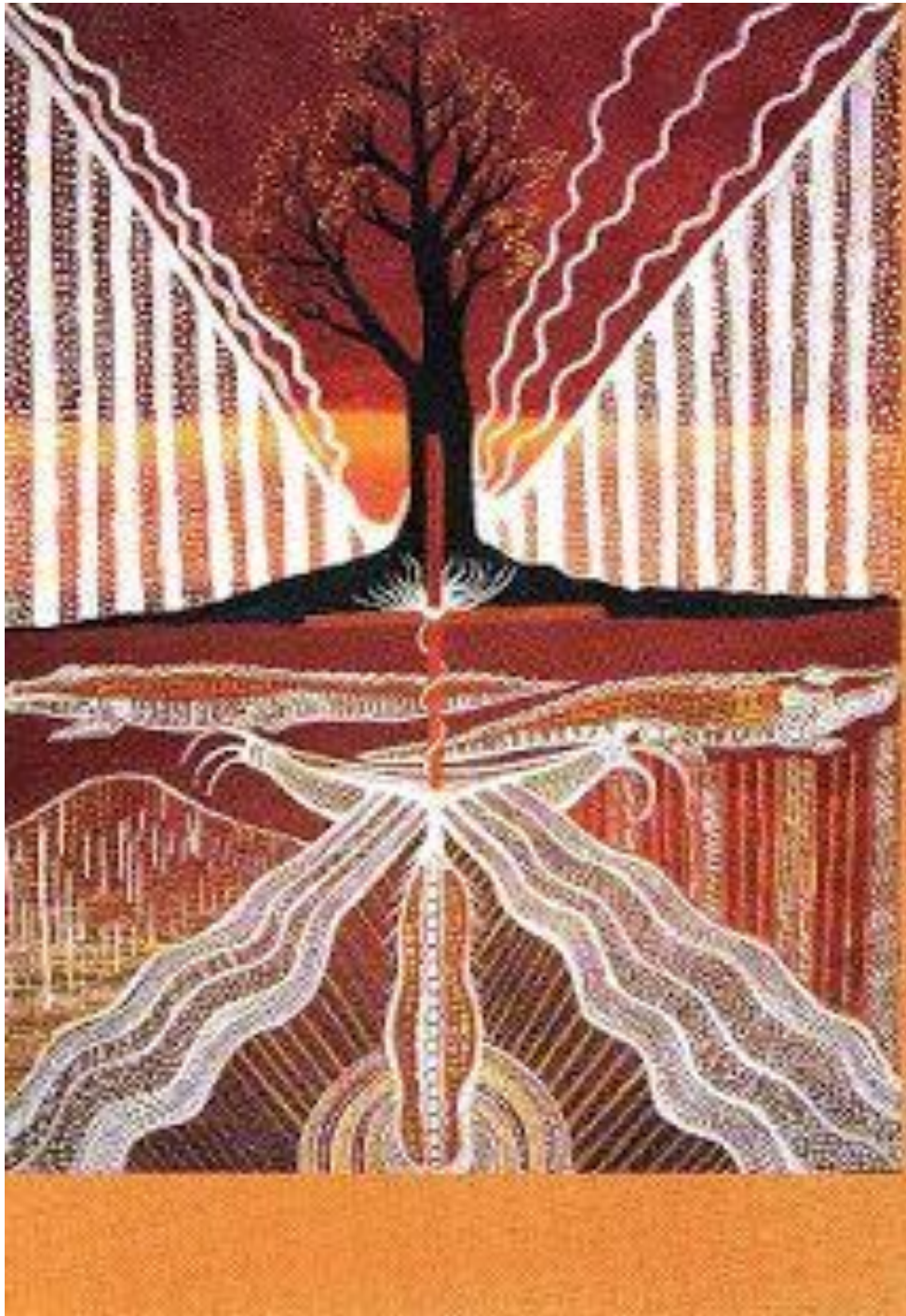
While Callum is having a small family gathering (and will be welcomed in the parish on Sunday **February 8**), Andrew is inviting all from this parish to a **post-Ordination party** from 1:30 p.m. at **St Mary's, North Melbourne**, 430 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne. If you wish to contribute finger food/small cakes for the party, please contact Susan Gribben on sgribben@ozemail.com.au or 0410 479 736.

Book club will start meeting again this year on Monday 9 February in the North room at 2.00 p.m. We will discuss the book *The Benevolent society of Ill-Mannered Women* by Alison Goodman. All welcome, contact Sandra Morgan 0448 884 306.

Lenten Quiet Day with Dr Paul 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.



Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann, *Tree of Life* (1982),
St. Mary's Cathedral, Darwin

The Christian artist, Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann, is an Aboriginal elder from the Daly River region who was named Senior Australian of the Year in 2021.

“There are deep springs within each of us.

Within this deep spring, which is the very Spirit of God, is a sound.

The sound of Deep calling to Deep. The sound is the word of God – Jesus.”

- Dr Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann AM

PARISH DIRECTORY

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VICAR

The Reverend Dr Gregory Seach

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Day off:

Friday

HONORARY ASSOCIATE PRIEST

The Reverend Fr Matthew Dowsey

0412 852 697

CHURCH OFFICE

Adrian Chong

Monday-Friday

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Phone:

9822 3030 Option 2

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office@stgeorgesmalvern.org

WARDENS

Malcolm Tadgell

0400 799 030

Robyn Whitehouse

0409 707 117

Vicar's Warden to be appointed

CHILD SAFE & SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

to be appointed

*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.*