

# The Anglican Parish of Avon



## **CELEBRATING ST MARY & THE SPIRIT OF MUNRO**



## **St Mary's, Munro**

Sunday 11 October 2026

8:30am

## **St Mary's Church Munro 104 years on**

On 23rd April, 1922, the dedication of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Munro was held. After fifteen years of planning and saving, the outer shell, not yet painted and not quite furnished became a house of worship. The Bishop conducted the service assisted by Rev. S.T. Ball and the Rev. A.E. Adeney. A strong choir from the other churches of the parish attended. Over one hundred present packed into a building designed for fifty. Provision had been made for adding a chancel and vestry later! The windows had been given by the Vestry of Holy Trinity, Stratford. Munro had suffered in regular church services during the war years with the readers from the Divinity Hostel at Sale enlisting for war. As soon as necessary arrangements were made it was decided to work Munro as part of a new Parochial district lying between Bairnsdale and Stratford. Munro therefore for the next fifteen years was not part of the Parish (Gibson T., 2016 pp 43,44)

The little church stands out as a visible sign of Christianity in Munro. It was dedicated by Bishop Dr. G.H. Cranswick and the Rector was Rev. Allan Adeney, Rector of Stratford. Records indicate St Marys had an active ladies guild in 1925. Although there were periods when funds were short, fundraising was very successful, and the church was generously supported by the Anglican families in the district. In the 1940's the congregations were 20-30 people and in 1961 to 64, some 40 children attended Sunday School.

Today very little remains of the township, but the little church lives on with a congregation of 6 to 10 dedicated parishioners (Luxford B. cited Luxford D. Sap in their Veins).

St Mary's has been, and may it continue to be a source of solace, comfort, spiritual refreshment and strength for all who come to lay down their burdens and worship their God; for all who come for Baptism or Holy Matrimony and all who come to give thanks for the lives of departed loved ones.

You who read this today are part of that journey in faith.

## Opening Hymn

- 1 God in the beginning,  
God along the way,  
you alone have brought us  
to this festal day.  
All our past achievements,  
all our struggles, too,  
show how you have taught us  
to depend on you.
- 2 God of small seeds planted,  
God of generous growth,  
yours alone the harvest  
from well-tended earth.  
Seeds of mercy scattered,  
shoots of faith revealed,  
fruits of holy living  
are your garden's yield.
- 3 God of hope and challenge,  
God of risk and change,  
you alone can help us  
in times new and strange.  
Gifts of love and courage,  
gifts of truth and prayer  
shape us for the mission  
we are called to share.

*Words:* Elizabeth J Smith (b. 1956)

*Tune:* Camberwell

*Together in Song 231*

## Gathering in God's Name

### Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians

#### Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **Welcome**

### **Sentence of the Day**

Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

See 1 Peter 2:5

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.**

### **The Collect of the Day**

Let us pray,

#### **Bountiful God,**

**to whose glory we celebrate the Spirit of Munro,  
we praise you for the many blessings  
you have given to those of this community.  
We pray that this community may filled with the Holy Spirit,  
and become a living temple acceptable to you,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Please sit*

## The Ministry of the Word

A Reading from the First Book of the Kings

[8:22-23a, 27-29]

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven.

He said, "Will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built!

Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, 'My name shall be there,' that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place."

Hear the word of the Lord,  
**thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke [1:46-55]  
**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

And Mary said,  
"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.  
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name;  
indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his child Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

For the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Early Talk**

**Homily**

**Discussion**

## **The Prayers of the People**

Let us pray for the world and the Church.

*Prayers follow*

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us 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.**

## Prayer of Confession

Christ our Passover Lamb has been offered for us, therefore we come to celebrate the festival.

*A short silence follows*

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, with a sincere and a true heart.

**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 Absolution

Almighty God,  
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:  
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,  
strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## 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.**

*You are invited to offer a sign of peace with those around you*

## The Great Thanksgiving

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.**

Blessed are you, Lord God,  
our light and our salvation;  
to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the beginning you have created all things  
and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.  
In the fullness of time you made us in your image,  
the crown of all creation.  
You give us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels  
and all the powers of heaven  
we may find a voice to say your praise.

**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.**

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.  
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,  
you embraced a people as your own.  
When they turned away and rebelled  
your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,  
to be the living bread,  
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners,  
and with a love stronger than death  
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,  
he came to supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.  
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,  
he gave you thanks, and said:  
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

**Father, we plead with confidence  
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;  
we remember his dying and rising in glory,  
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.**

**Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you  
these gifts of your creation;  
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.**

**As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,  
form us in the likeness of Christ,  
and build us into a living temple to your glory.**

**Remember, Lord, your Church in every land,  
Reveal her unity, guard her faith,  
and preserve her in peace.**

**Bring us at the last with all the saints  
to the vision of that eternal splendour  
for which you have created us;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
by whom, with whom, and in whom,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise.**

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

## **The Breaking of the Bread and the Communion**

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.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.  
Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood  
of Christ in remembrance that he died for us,  
and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*All are welcome at the Lord's Table, and to receive Holy Communion*

### **Prayer after Communion**

Eternal God, giver of life,  
in the breaking of the bread we know the risen Lord.  
May we who celebrate this holy feast  
walk in his risen light and bring new life to all creation.

Most loving God,  
**you send us into the world you love.**  
**Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage  
in the power of your spirit.**

### **Final Hymn**

1 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
his holy name - the Lord, the Mighty One.

3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

4 Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!

*Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926-*

*Comp: Walter Greated*

*Tune: Woodlands*

*Together in Song 161*

## **Sending out of God's People**

Go forth into the world in peace;  
be of good courage;  
hold fast that which is good;  
render to no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the faint hearted;  
support the weak;  
help the afflicted;  
give honour to all;  
love and serve the Lord,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go, walk gently on country to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**





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