



Bible Reading



8am & 9.30am:

Philippians 3: 17-4:1, Luke 13: 31-35

Response after Bible Readings

Leader: *Hear the word of the Lord*

Response: *Thanks be to God*



8am—Worship

Led by Roland Bryant and Clive Pearson

9.30am—Worship

Led by Sharon Underwood and Clive Pearson

KUCA Preschool,
Years K-2 & Years 3-6



6.45pm—Worship

Led by Daniel Gibb

Welcome to St. Matthew's Community Room.

Children are very welcome at St. Matthew's and that means their noise is welcome too. This room is here if you feel the need to step out of the service or would like some more privacy but still want to see and hear what's going on in the service.

OPEN FROM 9.30AM

Livestreaming

at all . **8am**
three . **9.30am**
worship . **9.30am**
services . **6.45pm**

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

What's happening this week at St. Matthew's

**MONDAY
14 MARCH**

**9am—Sorting and Pricing
for Op Shop** over hall

**SATURDAY
19 MARCH**

8.30am—Working Bee

**TUESDAY
15 MARCH**

9am-2pm—Op Shop
9.30am—Christian Meditation
in the church
10.30am—Lenten Studies
in the church
7.30pm—Lenten Studies
in the church

**SUNDAY
20 MARCH**

8am—Worship
9.30am—Worship
KUCA Preschool, Years K-2
& Years 3-6

**WEDNESDAY
16 MARCH**

9am-2pm—Op Shop

5pm—Shine

**THURSDAY
17 MARCH**

9am-2pm—Op Shop



**FRIDAY
18 MARCH**

**7pm-9pm—Alive
Youth Group** at the church

MINISTERS - EVERYONE

SUPPLY MINISTER

REV. CLIVE PEARSON **0409 523 024**
Email: minister@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

**CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS
MINISTRY WORKER**

DANIEL GIBB *Part Time*
Email: daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

SENIORS PASTORAL CARER

MICHAEL STRONG *Part Time*
Email: mike@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARIES:

ROBYN MORRALL AND LYNN SAMUEL

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 9AM-3PM MON-FRI

OFFICE : 9686 3003

LOCATION:

CNR CHARLES & EDGAR STREETS
BAULKHAM HILLS

POSTAL ADDRESS:

BAULKHAM HILLS UNITING CHURCH
PO Box 773 BAULKHAM HILLS 1755

WEB SITE: www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au

Weekly newsletter available on website

EMAIL: office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

FACEBOOK:

@stmatthewsunitingchurchbaulkhamhills

PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA

PO Box 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

EMAIL: director@stmatthewsps.net.au

Citizenship

There are some surprising twists in this week's reading taken from Luke. The first has to do with the warning that Jesus receives about how that 'fox', Herod, is planning to kill him. Our default position is to imagine that the Pharisees always seem to be ranged against Jesus, wanting him silenced, perhaps in more ways than one. And yet here is 'some Pharisees' who warn him of the threat to his life. The other surprise is bound with up with Herod's desire to have Jesus permanently removed: Herod is king of Galilee. He is the puppet ruler for the Roman Empire. Imagine the ruler of your own land wants you gone!

You turn your face to the centre of your national identity, your religious heartland, Jerusalem. This is the seat of the Temple which, through to 70AD when it was destroyed, was of more importance to the Jewish people than even the local synagogue. The way Luke tells the gospel the Temple looms large in the telling of the Jesus story. The gospel begins and ends in the Temple; Jesus is well used to making his way to Jerusalem for rites of passage (circumcision and purification of Mary) and festivals through his growing up years. He describes the Temple as 'my Father's house'. Herod's plot to have Jesus killed now comes after a number of parables, Jesus' saying to the crowds that they do not know how to discern the 'signs of the times'— and talk about the 'narrow door'. The Herod plot is tied to Jesus' lament over Jerusalem. Its name means 'city of peace' but like Herod, back in Galilee, it cannot tolerate the prophetic which calls for repentance, justice and a return to God.

The public ministry of Jesus, the kingdom of God, breaks into the normal routine of what we would see as politics and religion.

The Christian faith has a long tradition of men and women belonging to two cities. It is implied here with Jesus' standing in relation to Herod and his lament. It is much more explicit in the wonderful letter Paul wrote to the Philippians: they belong to an earthly and a heavenly city. It is assumed that there is scope for tension between the two when the call to imitate Christ is in conflict, for the Philippians, with imperial policy and what their neighbours who are not Christian expect of them for the well-being of the city. This tradition of the two cities would, in due course, be further developed by Augustine in his *The City of God* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_City_of_God) - or check Augustine out the Camden Theological Library at the Centre for Ministry). Later, Martin Luther would develop the Protestant understanding of the two kingdoms.

At its inception the Uniting Church placed itself inside this tradition of the two cities or kingdoms. Along with *The Basis of Union* it issues a 'Statement to the Nation': it is well worth a full read—it is not long.

(<https://assembly.uca.org.au/resources/introduction/item/134-statement-to-the-nation-inaugural-assembly-june-1977>). It finishes with these words:

Finally we affirm that the first allegiance of Christians is God, under whose judgment the policies and actions of all nations must pass. We realise that sometimes this allegiance may bring us into conflict with the rulers of our day. But our Uniting Church, as an institution within the nation, must constantly stress the universal values which must find expression in national policies if humanity is to survive.

We pledge ourselves to hope and work for a nation whose goals are not guided by self-interest alone, but by concern for the welfare of all persons everywhere — the family of the One God — the God made known in Jesus of Nazareth the One who gave His life for others.

In the spirit of His self-giving love we seek to go forward.

The Principles of a Just War

The Russian invasion of Ukraine inevitably raises the question has to when war is 'just'. The Christian faith has had a long history of seeking to think through what constitutes a 'just war'. It has done so not in order to justify going to war, but in seeking to limit its outbreak and excesses. This Christian tradition has deeply influenced international thinking. Today it is also accompanied by theories to do with a 'just peace' where the argument assumes that there can be no true peace if there is not justice.

The five principles of the just war theory are:

- having just cause,
- being a last resort,
- being declared by a proper authority,
- possessing right intention,
- and the end being proportional to the means used.

Yours in Christ,

Clive



PEOPLE NEWS BIRTHDAYS

Anne Oliver
Yee-Cheng Eldridge

Our very best wishes to all the St. Matthew's community who are celebrating their birthdays this week.

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

13-19 March

Scandinavia: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden

st. matthew's
BAULKHAM HILLS
UNITING CHURCH
growing together

Volunteers needed!

St. Matthew's play
group

The St. Matthew's play group would like to start back soon and we would appreciate having some volunteers to help oversee the running of the group. If there is anybody who would like to volunteer within this group or require more information, please contact Marijke Prinsloo. The play group has been a great asset to the wider community and we would like to see it grow again!

Currently we are looking at a Thursday group that will run between 9:30 - 11:30.

Email: marijkeprinsloo@gmail.com

Mobile: 0423641477

'With Love to the World'
a daily Bible reading guide
based on the Revised Common Lectionary
Volume 16, Number 10
Lent and Easter
14 February — 15 May 2022
is available in the foyer.
Please place **\$5** in offering bag
to cover costs.



A reminder to everyone if you would like to attend the Lenten Studies.

Beginning on **Tuesday 15 March at 10.30am and 7.30pm**, and continuing on **Tuesday 22 and 29**. It is preferable to register with the church office so that we can plan how many copies of the study to provide. Even if you do not register, you can still attend and bring a friend from outside St. Matthew's.

Please see the March In Focus for more details.

Being prepared for next week's worship:

Lent 3

Psalm 63: 1-8, Luke 13: 1-9

Theme: Whatever happened to sin?

Sometimes the way we understand Jesus represents a rather mild version of who he was. We thrive on the language of mercy, peace, love, joy, wisdom, forgiveness. And we should: they are part and parcel of the gospel. But there is another sound, a deeper tone as well. Sometimes there is a language of rejection; sometimes there is an abrupt apocalyptic message; sometimes there are stories like that of the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. This story – like that of the parable of barren fig tree – invites us to consider what is sin and what constitutes repentance. In some denominations the language of sin is played down: it is not popular! That this should be so presents a problem inasmuch Jesus proclaimed the forgiveness of sins; it also means that we fail to become aware of how sin can be seen to be as much a part of what it means to be human as is the idea of being made in the image of God. It is a tendency that ignores the most recent work done on sin from the perspectives of gender, genetics, race and abuse.

Working Bee



CHURCH WORKING BEE

Saturday 19 March

Please join us from 8.30am

We will be cleaning the church, windows, fans, air-conditioning units & timber work.

Morning tea will be provided.

*Many hands make light work,
even if you can only help for a little while,
it would be greatly appreciated.*

POST LINKS DINNER

Banquet meal at the **Thai Garden House**,
526 Church Street, North Parramatta.
(Cnr Factory Street).

I have made a tentative booking for
Saturday 2nd April, at 7.00 pm
in the courtyard. Restaurant is BYO Wine.
Nothing too spicy but always tasty.

Due to the monorail being built you will need to turn
into Ferris Street, right into Castle Street where it is
best to park near the top of Factory Street.

Please advise me by the 19th March if you wish to
attend so that I can give an indication of numbers to
the restaurant. I haven't worked out the price yet but
should be between \$30.00 and \$35.00/head.

Will advise prior.

Jane Jenkyn 0422149530

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR LAWN MAINTENANCE

The more people we
have then the less often
you will be required.



Earl Gray is working
with the Office to
organise a new roster.
Contact the Church
Office to volunteer.

CHRISTOPHER C. WALKER

DISCIPLESHIP: THINGS TO REMEMBER

SIX LENTEN STUDIES ON BEING A
FOLLOWER OF JESUS IN OUR TIME



THE AUTHOR

Rev Dr Christopher Walker is an ordained minister of the Uniting Church in Australia with a PhD in theology from Claremont University in California. Chris has served in a range of positions and places in the Uniting Church. Chris is an adjunct lecturer in the School of Theology, Charles Sturt University. He lives in Sydney with his wife, Dell. They have two adult children and three grandchildren.

Chris has written and edited over a dozen books, including *Thinking the Faith*, *Living the Faith: An Introduction to Christian Theology* (2017), *For Times Such as These*, *Commending the Faith in Australia Today: Eight Studies* (2018) and *Jesus Still The One, the Christian message for a postmodern world* (2019). Most recently, Chris has written two Advent Bible Studies in 2020 and 2021 and a Lenten Bible Study in 2021 published by MediaCom Education.

MediaCom
EDUCATION

Invitation to a series of 6 Lenten studies, to be led by the author, Rev Dr Chris Walker. We had a great group with Chris in Advent 2021, so Chris is back by popular demand!

What: Six-week Lenten study on the book: "Discipleship: Things to Remember".

Session 1: "Remember where you came from and what God has done for you."

Session 2: "Remember your citizenship is in heaven."

Session 3: "Remember to seek the Lord, recognising that God's ways are not our ways."

Session 4: "Remember you are a new creation in Christ, called to the ministry of reconciliation."

Session 5: "Remember the surpassing value of knowing Jesus Christ and press toward the goal."

Session 6: "Remember to have the same mind as Christ and serve him unashamedly."

Order the book NOW from MediaCom:
\$13.95 per copy

<https://www.mediacomeducation.org.au/shop/discipleship-things-to-remember-six-lenten-studies-on-being-a-follower-of-jesus-in-our-time/>

Why: To deepen your discipleship in life and specifically to prepare you to celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter.

Who: Anyone who feels called to deepen their faith.

When: 7.30-9.00pm 6 Mondays: 7, 14, 21, 28 March & 4, 11 April.

Where: The same Zoom link each time:
Topic: PNP Lenten studies with Chris Walker (see above)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/98886955795?](https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/98886955795?pwd=aXorT2RLRlMzdE1uSVkyclVUNcTpdz09)
[pwd=aXorT2RLRlMzdE1uSVkyclVUNcTpdz09](https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/98886955795?pwd=aXorT2RLRlMzdE1uSVkyclVUNcTpdz09)

Meeting ID: 988 8695 5795
Passcode: 506655

No need to register – just turn up on Zoom!
Please email Rob to say you're coming.

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