



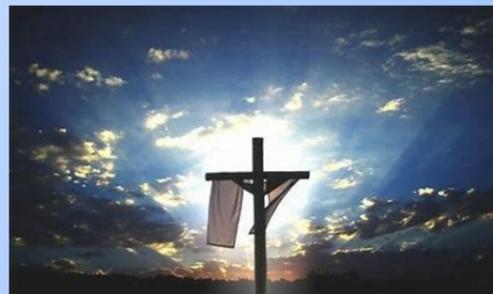
## Observing Easter

When I began my ministry across the ditch in Christchurch Easter was often looked upon as a time for weddings, sporting occasions, shopping sales – and a chance for a break away before winter arrived. The Good Friday services were modestly attended; the Easter Sunday ones drew more people to worship, including those who were on holiday from elsewhere. Over a period of time that changed. I remember one woman, Margaret, a senior figure who had done much in the life of the congregation over the years, saying that she would not go and visit her family in a nearby town until after the Easter services had run their course. It was as if Easter had regained its religious and spiritual place in the midst of so much competition.

The way had been carefully prepared. Over the years a substantial number in the congregation had participated in Lenten studies dedicated to understanding this season of the Christian year better. When the gospel of Mark came round we had had public readings of the whole gospel by a cast of characters drawn from the congregation. That happened on the evening of Palm Sunday and set the scene for 30 minute services in the church on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings of Holy Week. The service included prayers, meditative songs from the Taizé community, short reflections, and scenes from classical art that picked up the theme for the night. The number of people attending would grow from one night to the next until it was time of a service on Maundy Thursday – sometimes a *Tenebrae* service of shadows, sometimes a footwashing (as per the gospel of John), sometimes a eucharist imitating how Jesus on the night he was betrayed, broke bread and drank from the cup of wine. The Good Friday service would include some drama – and then on Easter Sunday, we observed the empty tomb, renewed our baptismal vows and participated in the Eucharist.

In a manner of speaking we were standing inside a long Christian tradition. Easter has been over time the primary Christian festival. It was a time when all baptisms took place and the baptized renewed their baptismal vows. The period between Good Friday and Easter Sunday was often marked by a three day vigil. I can remember attending a midnight Easter vigil as Holy Saturday gave way to Easter Sunday in Canterbury Cathedral. We started in the near dark and then there was a blast on the organ and a burst of light as all the lights filled the great cathedral.

That focus on baptism mentioned above is informed by a reading of Paul's epistle to the Romans. At 6:1-8 Paul likens our baptism to Christ's death on Good Friday and his resurrection on Easter Sunday. We die to our old self on the cross and then rise to new life. In the early days of the church all baptisms were seemingly held at Easter time and some of the most ancient liturgies show that everyone would renew their baptismal vows. This is not a second baptism: it is more of a reminder of who we are, how we belong to Christ and our calling to take up our cross and follow in our ever changing situations and contexts.



*Yours in Christ,  
Clive*

On Tuesday 2 March a group of 20 people worked together to place a large amount of rubbish and accumulative items left over from garage sales and fetes on the curb for a council clean up.

A **big thank you** to Peter and Rosemary Sexton, Chris and Phil Bunn, George Haines, Colin Stoner and Allan Watson who organised the council collection and what was needed to go out.

It only took an hour to place this amount of rubbish out and thankfully the rain held off for that period of time.

**Good job everyone!!!**

Barbara Gibb



## Easter Services @ St Matthew's



st. matthew's  
**BAULKHAM HILLS  
UNITING CHURCH**  
growing together

<b>Palm Sunday</b>	10th April 8.00am, 9.30am & 6.45pm
<b>Holy Week Reflections</b>	11th - 13th April 7.30pm Online via Zoom
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	14th April 7.30pm
<b>Good Friday</b>	15th April 9.00am & 7.30pm
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	17th April 8.00am, 9.30am & 6.45pm



It was great to see so many faces at the launch of the 2022 Coffee & Discovery season.

Just a reminder we will be continuing on the 1st Thursday of each month and will run from

March to December.

10am until 12 noon

**Our next meeting Thursday 7th April**  
Our speaker will be **Jeff Cameron**,  
Jeff's topic is  
**'Sydney Water and its untold Stories'** -  
speaking about his time working for Sydney Water.



*These informal morning gatherings include devotions, morning tea and guest speakers which cover a large range of interesting and informative topics.*  
\*\*\*\*\* ALL WELCOME \*\*\*\*\*



**On-line Holy Week Services**

Monday 11th, Tuesday 12th, and Wednesday 13th April

@7:30 pm.

Zoom details: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3602745736>

These services will last between 20 and 30 minutes. They include prayers, some music (including meditative seasonal chants from the Taizé community in France as well as a selection of works of art. There will be a short reflection of between 5 and 7 minutes on the theme set aside for the night.

- Monday: Judas / betrayal - Mary Pearson**
- Tuesday: Peter / denial - Michael Strong**
- Wednesday: Pilate / compromise - Roland Bryant**

**Holy Saturday**

On the Saturday between Good Friday and Easter Sunday why not test your memory. One of the exercises that we did in the recent Lenten Sunday was designed to check how much of the passion narrative (from the last supper to Jesus' death on the cross) we could remember without turning to the biblical text or our smartphone!



**Easter Quiz for Kids**

1. How did Judas show the soldiers which one in the garden was Jesus?
2. How many times did Peter deny that he knew Jesus?
3. Who was made to carry the cross for Jesus?
4. In whose tomb was the body of Jesus laid?
5. What was the name of the woman who thought the risen Jesus was the gardener?



"Come, all who labour and are heavy burdened and I will give you rest."

Care and Prayer  
10am, every first Saturday  
in the lower Church.  
**This month: 2 April**

**Women's Fellowship**  
**Wednesday 13 April**  
**@ 10am**

Please join us for a fun filled morning of making East Bonnets

Enquiries: Dulcie Duncum



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS END**  
**2AM SUNDAY 3RD APRIL**  
**Fall Back!**

Remember to move your clocks back one hour.




**CHRISTIAN MEDITATION**

You are invited to come along to the church on **Tuesdays at 9.30am—10.30am**  
**All are welcome**

" The important aim in Christian meditation is to allow God's mysterious and silent presence within us to become more and more not only a reality but the reality which gives meaning, shape and purpose to everything we do, everything we are"  
John Main.

[www.WCCM.org](http://www.WCCM.org)    [www.christianmeditationaustralia.org](http://www.christianmeditationaustralia.org)  
The World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM)

Katherine Pedersen. Facilitator of the Tuesday 9.30am sessions and for information.  
[kathped56@gmail.com](mailto:kathped56@gmail.com)

# SOTC 2022

Open 1-17 April  
10.00am – 4.00pm



**Station 15: Jesus is Raised to Life.**  
Greg Warburton is a 6 time finalist in the Archibald Prize. His works are represented in the National Portrait Museum



**Station 9: Jesus Falls the Third Time**  
Maddie Gibbs is an indigenous artist who grew up in Dubbo. She currently lives and works between Sydney and Kandos (country NSW). Both artist and activist, she examines dual histories – focusing on stories of past and present Aboriginal societies and spirit. She provided an artwork in the lobby of One International Towers (Barangaroo) to acknowledge National Reconciliation Week 2021.



**Station 2: Jesus Carries His Cross**  
Jenny Little has been involved in many solo or group art exhibitions, using a variety of media. She has won drawing prizes and has been a finalist in the Blake Prize and the Archibald where she won the people's choice award.

## Resilience and the Human Spirit

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Exhibition Opening    | Friday 1st April - 6pm curatorial tour, 7.00pm Opening |
| Guided Tours          | 2.00 pm on weekend days or by appointment.             |
| Wine and Cheese Night | Thursday 7th April at 7.00 pm                          |
| Eremos quiet Retreat  | Saturday 9th April from 10am-1.00 pm                   |
| Jazz Night            | Sunday 10th April at 6.00 pm                           |
| SOTC Lecture          | Wednesday 13th April at noon                           |
| Good Friday           | Friday 15th April at 9.00 am                           |

Exhibition Space, Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School, bottom end of Campbell Street Northmead. Information Northmead Uniting Church (02)9890 5814, Email: [nuchurch@bigpond.net.au](mailto:nuchurch@bigpond.net.au) Northmead CAPAHS (02)96304116

<https://www.facebook.com/NorthmeadSOTC>

### MONTHLY ACTIVITIES and REGULAR GROUPS

#### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP.....

Second Wednesday of this month  
Next event: **13 April at 10am**



Enquiries: Dulcie Duncum  
Meet in the upstairs hall and church

#### MEN'S MORNING TEA.....

Meet 3rd Wednesday of each month.  
Next Event: **20 April at 10am**



Contact: Alan Wright  
**Mckel's Café, Shop 14, Circa Boulevard Bella Vista.** We are allocated external seating to ensure compliance with current Covid restrictions.

#### CARE & PRAYER.....

Meet on the 1st Saturday of each month in the lower hall @ 10am All welcome  
This Month: **2 April**

Contact: Rosemary Sexton

#### CHRISTIAN MEDITATION.....

Tuesdays in the Church  
9.30am-10.30am



All welcome.

For more information or to express your interest in attending please contact Katherine Pedersen 043 777 2011.

#### OP-SHOP.....

Open Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9am-2pm and 1st Saturday of the month 9-12pm  
Pre-loved clothes & accessories, Books, Haberdashery, Bric-a-brac.

**Giving** From time to time, we receive questions on how someone can make donations to St. Matthew's Uniting Church Baulkham Hills, to further support God's work through the Ministry team and congregation, in the wider Community. To assist with this, we have set up the following account with Uniting Financial Services:

Account Name: Baulkham Hills Uniting Church – Giving Direct  
BSB: 634634  
Account Number: 100025924

If required a Direct Debit Request Form is available in the foyer or speak with Barry Gregory.

For your support of God's work here at St. Matthew's, a big thank you!

If you wish to find out more, please contact the Church Office.

### YOUNG FAMILIES

#### KUCA.....

@ 9.30am service during term for Preschool, Years K-2, and Years 3-8

#### YOUTH and YOUNG ADULTS

#### Fusion Youth Group.....

Years 3 to 8. Meet Friday evenings at the church during term time. 7pm–9pm  
Contact Daniel Gibb [daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto:daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

#### Alive Youth Group.....

Years 9 to 12  
Meet Friday evenings at the church during term time. 7pm–9pm  
Contact Daniel Gibb [daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto:daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

#### THRIVE BIBLE STUDY.....

year 11 up to the age of 25.  
Fortnightly  
Contact Daniel Gibb [daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto:daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

#### THRIVE SOCIAL GROUP.....

Contact Daniel Gibb [daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto:daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

#### SHINE.....

is a special needs social group for all ages from high school up. Meets Sundays fortnightly for dinner & fun. We are *still collecting in 2022* for their shoebox appeal supporting a school in the Philippines. **Donations of small educational items, soaps & combs are greatly appreciated.** Please place donations in the box provided at the top of the stairs in the church foyer.

### UPCOMING EVENTS & DATES

Please take note of all our Easter services and the On-line holy week reflections with Clive

**If you are interested in any of the above groups or activities please contact the church office.**

#### MINISTERS - EVERYONE

##### SUPPLY MINISTER

REV. CLIVE PEARSON 0409 523 024  
Email: [minister@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto:minister@stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

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

DANIEL GIBB *Part Time*  
Email: [daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto:daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

##### SENIORS PASTORAL CARER

MICHAEL STRONG *Part Time*  
Email: [mike@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto: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](http://www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

Weekly newsletter available on website

EMAIL: [office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto:office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

##### FACEBOOK:

[@stmatthewsunitingchurchbaulkhamhills](https://www.facebook.com/stmatthewsunitingchurchbaulkhamhills)

PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA

PO BOX 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

EMAIL: [director@stmatthewsps.net.au](mailto:director@stmatthewsps.net.au)

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★ To include your activity in the ★  
★ **MAY In FOCUS** ★  
★ **St. Matthew's Monthly Newsletter** ★  
★ please send details to Robyn and Lynn in ★  
★ the Church Office by **15 March.** ★  
★ Thank you ★  
★ Please check St. Matthew's weekly Newsletter for ★  
★ details of Worship on Sunday and last minute ★  
★ changes to scheduled activities. ★  
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**Maintaining contact with you and your family is very important to us.**  
We would be grateful if you change your address, phone/mobile or email details that you let us know by phoning and leaving a message on 9686 3003 or by email: [office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto:office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

# Calendar of Events for APRIL 2022

School Holidays

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

<p>st. matthew's UNITING CHURCH BAULKHAM HILLS growing together</p>	<p>growing together</p>		<p>Easter Services @ St Matthew's</p> <p><b>Palm Sunday</b> 10th April 8.00am, 9.30am &amp; 6.45pm</p> <p><b>Holy Week Reflections</b> 11th - 13th April 7.30pm Online via Zoom</p> <p><b>Maundy Thursday</b> 14th April 7.30pm</p> <p><b>Good Friday</b> 15th April 9.00am &amp; 7.30pm</p> <p><b>Easter Sunday</b> 17th April 8.00am, 9.30am &amp; 6.45pm</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>7pm-9pm—<b>Youth Group ALIVE</b> upstairs or lower hall</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>9am-12pm—Op Shop</p> <p>10am—<b>Care and Prayer</b> Meet in lower church</p> <p>10am-3pm—<b>St. Matt's Endurance Series</b> contact Brad Turner meet in the upstairs hall</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>8am—Worship includes Communion</p> <p>9.30am—Worship includes Communion <b>KUCA</b> Preschool, Years K-2 &amp; Years 3-8</p> <p>5pm—Shine</p> <p>6.45pm—Worship includes Communion</p> <p>Daylight savings ends today Remember to put your clocks back 1 hour</p>
<p><b>4</b></p> <p>9am—Sorting &amp; Pricing for Op Shop lower hall</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> <p>9.30-11am—Christian Meditation in the Church</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> <p>10am-12pm—Coffee &amp; Discovery</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>5pm-7pm—Youth Group <b>FUSION</b> Easter Eggstravaganza</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>No scheduled events</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>8am—Worship</p> <p>9am—Worship @ the Willow's</p> <p>9.30am—Worship <b>KUCA</b> in recess</p> <p>6.45pm—Worship</p>
<p><b>11</b></p> <p>9am—Sorting &amp; Pricing for Op Shop lower hall</p> <p>7.30pm—Holy week reflections Online via Zoom</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> <p>9.30-11am—Christian Meditation in the Church</p> <p>7.30pm—Holy week reflections Online via Zoom</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> <p>10am-12noon—Women's Fellowship in the upstairs hall and church</p> <p>7.30pm—Holy week reflections Online via Zoom</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>E A S T E R</b> Maundy Thursday</p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> <p>7.30pm—Worship Service</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>E A S T E R</b> Good Friday</p> <p>9am—Worship Service</p> <p>7.30pm—Worship Service</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>E A S T E R</b> Saturday</p> <p>No Scheduled events</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>E A S T E R</b> Sunday</p> <p>8am—Worship</p> <p>9.30am—Worship <b>KUCA</b> in recess</p> <p>6.45pm—Worship</p>
<p><b>18</b></p> <p>9am—Sorting &amp; Pricing for Op Shop lower hall</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> <p>9.30-11am—Christian Meditation in the Church</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> <p>10am-12noon—Men's Morning Tea at McKels Café Bella Vista. See back page for details</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>No scheduled events</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>No scheduled events</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>E A S T E R</b> Two</p> <p>8am—Worship</p> <p>9.30am—Worship <b>KUCA</b> in recess</p> <p>6.45pm—Worship</p>
<p><b>25</b></p> <p>ANZAC Day Public holiday</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> <p>9.30-11am—Christian Meditation in the Church</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>Youth Groups</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>No scheduled events</p>	<p>Easter Services @ St Matthew's</p> <p><b>Palm Sunday</b> 10th April 8.00am, 9.30am &amp; 6.45pm</p> <p><b>Holy Week Reflections</b> 11th - 13th April 7.30pm Online via Zoom</p> <p><b>Maundy Thursday</b> 14th April 7.30pm</p> <p><b>Good Friday</b> 15th April 9.00am &amp; 7.30pm</p> <p><b>Easter Sunday</b> 17th April 8.00am, 9.30am &amp; 6.45pm</p>