



Bible Reading



8am & 9.30am:

Philippians 3: 4b-14, John 12: 1-8

Response after Bible Readings

Leader: Hear the word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God



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**

8am—Worship

Includes Holy Communion

Led by Roland Bryant and Clive Pearson

9.30am—Worship

Includes Holy Communion

Led by Clive Pearson

KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8



5pm—Shine

6.45pm—Worship

Includes Holy Communion

Led by Jane Cole and Clive Pearson

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

**MONDAY
4 APRIL**

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

**TUESDAY
5 APRIL**

9am-2pm—Op Shop
9.30am—Christian Meditation
in the church

**WEDNESDAY
6 APRIL**

9am-2pm—Op Shop

**THURSDAY
7 APRIL**

9am-2pm—Op Shop
**10am-12pm—Coffee &
Discovery**
Speaker Jeff Cameron

**FRIDAY
8 APRIL**

**7pm-9am—Fusion
Youth Group** at the church
Eggstravaganza

**SATURDAY
9 APRIL**

No Scheduled Activities

**SUNDAY
10 APRIL**

8am—Worship
**9am—Worship @ the
Willow's**
9.30am—Worship
KUCA in recess for school
holidays
6.45pm—Worship



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

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SONALI WANIGESEKERA
PO Box 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

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Anointing

Ever since the first Sunday in Advent we have been in the company of Luke's gospel: this week we are in for a change of script. It is time to turn to John. The writer of this gospel has composed a gospel very different from the other three. It is full of 'I am' sayings and possesses a different cast of characters.

The reading set aside for this week has to do with Mary anointing Jesus and Judas taking exception to this generous act on the grounds that the perfume could have been sold and the money given to the poor. This Mary is the Mary of Mary and Martha fame: she is the sister of Lazarus whom Jesus has just raised from the dead. This act of anointing now takes place in Lazarus' home – but, according to John, trouble is brewing. Read John 11:45-57!

The raising of Lazarus provokes the chief priests and Pharisees into action. The raising of Lazarus has been reported to them: they meet in the council. They are concerned that too many people will now follow Jesus because of the 'signs' he is performing." What are we to do?". They fear that Romans will end up destroying the Temple and the nation: Caiaphas determines that it was better for one man to die than have the whole nation destroyed. The chief priests and elders now plan to have Jesus put to death; they are afraid that Jesus will stir the crowds up during the Passover festival. Put yourself in their shoes!

This act of anointing seems rather like an intimate domestic scene. It is an extravagant gesture around which are associated themes of health, perfume and the honouring of a guest. In the setting of what is to follow this anointing anticipates the death of Jesus: he is being anointed as a messiah or king would be; very word messiah means 'the anointed one'. The body of the deceased would also be anointed with oils. And yet – at another level – this domestic scene is situated inside the geopolitics of first century Palestine.

We have become used to political leaders whose time has come of sometimes anointing their successors. It is a metaphorical usage of the term. None of our former Prime Ministers go round anointing their successors with expensive perfume! In the context of John's gospel the raising of Lazarus has seemingly put the well-being of the nation at stake: the leaders of the day are only too well aware of the only global power known to them and which is occupying their country. In this gospel we might say the Jewish leaders are making a decision to have Jesus permanently removed on the basis of a political decision and an overriding concern for that much used word today - security. In the actual scene in Lazarus' home Judas throws into the mix a social justice concern: what about the poor?

Faced with this big picture – and Judas' accusations against her – Jesus comes out in Mary's favour. It is almost a #MeToo moment! Way back in 591 Pope Gregory preached a sermon on this text and made a mistake that has endured for centuries. He identified the Mary with Mary Magdalene and also the unnamed woman in Luke 7 who likewise anoints Jesus: she is called a 'sinner' and Pope Gregory's legacy is that Mary Magdalene is often seen as a woman who has been a prostitute. It is about time we defended the honour of Mary Magdalene. She has been ill-used.

So much flows out of this incident that John records - but which is not found in Luke in this form.

Yours in Christ,

Clive



PEOPLE NEWS BIRTHDAYS

Lynn Toovey
Darren Cameron
Michael Hill

Marion Bindley
Henry Fiander

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

Being prepared for next week's worship:

Palm Sunday

Philippians 2: 5-11, Luke 19:28-40

Theme: The Palm Sunday protest

It is not uncommon these days for crowds to gather for a march or protest. They can often be noisy and visually alive with placards. The size of crowds seems to matter: the strength of the protest or march is likely to depend upon numbers. It may seem strange to say, but Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday is a form of protest. It represents an alternative kingdom to the one of the Roman invasion, the religious establishment, and ways of life which have exploited the poor and vulnerable. Jesus' mode of entry on a colt is a protest as it signifies something other than a military commander entering a city in triumph at the head of a conquering company. The reading from Philippians puts this protest into an interesting perspective. The reading is an ancient hymn – it is probably the oldest Christian hymn we have. It describes the humiliation of Christ, though a few verses before it invites the Philippians to let their lives be worthy of the gospel. It is a hymn / reading that privileges the virtue of humility. In a loud and noisy world where many are so keen to advance their opinions we might reflect on what role humility might play. The Palm Sunday protest is a protest of humility.



Next meeting Thursday 7th April 10am-12noon

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

All Group Leaders and Others

Please remember to **ALWAYS** lock and activate the security alarm at the conclusion of your gatherings at the church.

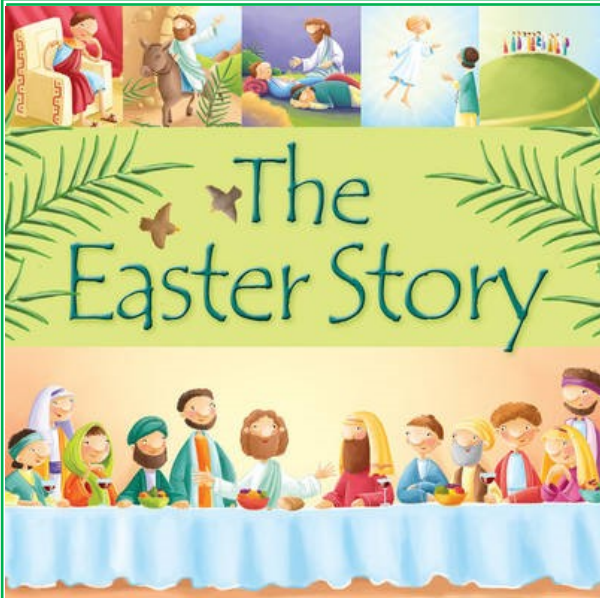
Please also turn off all lights, close windows, turn off air-conditioner and fans.

And leave the space neat and tidy ready for the next group. *Thank you.*

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

3 –9 April

**Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina,
Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North
Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia**



Easter Slide show

As part of our Easter worship services, we are looking to create a slideshow with some images that show the various aspects of the Easter story. We are looking to include as many images as we can and would love your help.

We are looking for images that depict each individual part of the Easter story. It doesn't have to be a literal recreation, feel free to get creative.

If you would like to be involved, please contact Daniel via email:

daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

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

ST. MATTHEW'S BAULKHAM HILLS
CHURCH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE
AS AT 1 DECEMBER 2021.

CHAIRPERSON: Barbara Gibb

SECRETARY: Terry Oliver

TREASURER: Alastair Burn

ELDERS Chairperson: Helen Olley

ELDERS Secretary: Melissa Gibson-Darling

Co-Opted members: David Neideck

Karen Vandenberg (Staff HR Liaison/support)

To Contact CC Executive: please email Barbara - barbara.gibb@bigpond.com