




Bible Reading 

8am: Luke 12: 13-21
9.30am: Colossians 3: 1-11
 Luke 12: 13-21

Response after Bible Readings
Leader: Hear the word of the Lord
Response: Thanks be to God



8am—Worship
Led by Clive Pearson
and Roland Bryant

9.30am—Worship
Led by Hugh Darling
and Clive Pearson

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



6.45pm—Worship
Led by Barbara Gibb
and Alexander Lawless

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 . **6.45pm**
services

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 1 AUGUST
9am—Sorting & pricing for Op Shop lower hall
12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool
7.30pm—Community Engagement Focus Group at the church

TUESDAY 2 AUGUST
9am-2pm—Op Shop open
9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation in the church
12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool

WEDNESDAY 3 AUGUST
9am-2pm—Op Shop
10am-12noon—In Stitches in upstairs hall
12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool

THURSDAY 4 AUGUST
9am-2pm—Op Shop & Mini Mart in lower hall
10am-12noon—Coffee & Discovery upstairs hall and church
12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool
7.30pm—Caring Focus Group at the church

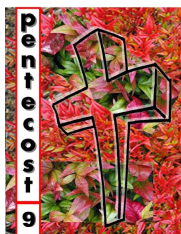
FRIDAY 5 AUGUST
12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool
5pm-7pm—Fusion Youth Group in upstairs hall

SATURDAY 6 AUGUST
9am-12pm—Op Shop & Mini Mart in lower hall
10am—Care and Prayer in the Church
10am-3pm—St. Matt's Endurance Series contact Brad Turner

SUNDAY 7 AUGUST
8am—Worship includes Communion

9.30am—Worship includes Communion and a Baptism
KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8

6.45pm—Worship includes Communion



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:
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PO BOX 773 BAULKHAM HILLS 1755

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On Being A Fool

It is probably easier to paint the subject matter of the parable of the rich fool than preach or sing on this text. It is hard to think of a song / hymn that picks up lines from this story; and, the preacher always finds himself / herself confronted with wondering what did the rich man do wrong to warrant this bad biblical press. It seems as if he did many of things that our contemporary culture approves of—though the 'eating, drinking and being merry' bit might be a little too much self-indulgence. The artist has repeatedly been able to set the parable into their own contemporary context; they have done so through the inclusion of the material things which a particular period thinks is necessary for the good life.

There is a very significant tradition to do with foolishness running through the Christian faith. It flows from the claim that God's foolishness is greater than human wisdom and that the cross is a folly to the Greeks. The word for folly here is the same word from which we get the word 'moron' and suggests that 'you're out of your mind', 'you're mad to believe this'. The theme of being a fool for Christ's sake has made its way down through the centuries and has been a badge proudly worn.

In this parable, though, being a fool is of a different order. This parable of the rich man is only found in Luke. It fits in with one of the great overarching themes of the whole gospel: it is likely that the church(es) for which this gospel were written were well-off. Luke appears to have a bias towards the poor. That is evident in other parables (Lazarus and Dives, also only in Luke) and also the way in which Luke mixes up his blessings and woes in his sermon on the plain. You might recall near the beginning of the year that we also had Luke setting the agenda for this gospel with Jesus reading from the scroll of Isaiah in the synagogue: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me: he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor ...". Mary's song—the Magnificat—has the same bias.

The way in which the parable is crafted is not a summons to 'class warfare' or political revolution, though. It is more like a warning tale. It is an illustration of how deceptive achievement and success can be. That is reflected in one of the paintings selected for this Sunday. Rembrandt's 'The Rich Fool' comes in the wake of his having become bankrupt. The scene he paints is of a rich man unaware of how fragile is his good fortune. The great twentieth-century mystic, Martin Buber, would simply say 'the world deceives'. The parable becomes, in a sense, a chance to reflect and re-evaluate how we have built our lives and was it as wise as we might have first thought.

The Colossians reading is dedicated new life in Christ. The writer of the epistle has already spoken of 'fullness of life in Christ' in the preceding chapter—and, before that, of how all things were made in, for and through Christ. Now he turns his attention to the renewal of life in Christ: the reference to thee being no longer 'Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free' is most striking. The temptation may well be to focus on that list of things that one needs to give away for the sake of this new life – but they are really incidental to the vision here. It is very inclusive: in and through Christ it is breaking through many boundaries and lines of hate and fear.

Online music:

Malcolm Gordon, 'Christ before me'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJD7HfhVMGc>

James Kilbane 'Christ be beside me',

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pv3Rb0Dz93U>

'Inspired by love and anger',

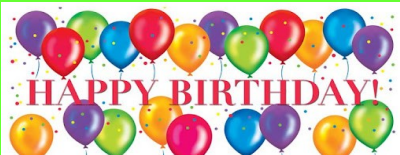
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D4ac0s0cH3s>

We cannot measure how you heal

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ygeK4XorRm4>

Yours in Christ,

Clive



PEOPLE NEWS

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

31 July — 6 August

Republic of Congo, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe



Being prepared for next week's worship:

7 August 2022

Pentecost 9

Theme:

Faithful Generations

7 August 2022 Sunday:

8am, 9:30am &

6:45pm

Bible Readings:

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Luke 12:32-40

The epistle to the Hebrews is not always the easiest book of the New Testament to preach upon. Our reading for this morning, though, is one of its best known passages. It is one that should appeal to all those in search of their Christian DNA through the spiritual equivalent of ancestry.com. The text looks back to Abraham and Sarah and how they set out in faith from their homeland. They will become the ancestors of many descendants in response to the promise of God. In the course of time the followers of three world religions—Jewish, Christian and Muslim—trace their origins from them. What is rather interesting to observe is how their journey is one of movement, uncertainty, 'living in tents' in a foreign land. The contrast that can be made is with city life! The city in *Hebrews* though is not a tourist destination, a

sporting mecca, a personal life-style choice. Its foundations and architect are God. Abraham and Sarah are characters in a drama much larger than their own lives. Through faith they belong inside a long line of forebears and descendants whose purpose and promise in life is found in God.

The reading from Luke follows on from the parable of the rich fool. It is addressed to a 'little flock'—a small body of followers of Jesus—who have stepped out into the unknown. In a way that loops back into the parable they sell their possessions rather than store them up; rather than 'eat, drink and be merry' they know in their heart where their true treasure lies. Rather than living a life of affluence and self-indulgence, they are alert, poised for the return of the son of man—unlike the rich fool who loses his life that very night.

Blacktown Regional Uniting Church



Administration & Office Support Part time (15 hours per week)

An excellent opportunity exists for a dynamic and motivated, part-time Office Administrator to support the ministry and leadership team of Blacktown Regional Uniting Church. The Office Administrator will provide a high level of administrative support to the ministry and leadership team across a broad and diverse range of activities. The successful applicant will need to demonstrate experience in an administrative support role. This position requires a high level of inter-personal and communication

skills, coupled with strong computer literacy in Microsoft Office applications. A strong commitment to the ethos and faith of the Uniting Church and an active involvement in the life of a mainstream Christian congregation are essential to the success of this position.

Position Description & Person Specification is available by contacting the Blacktown Uniting church office on 98314121 or via email at buoffice@gmail.com. Please forward applications via email, addressing the selection criteria to Pam Neale-Justins at buoffice@gmail.com

Closing date for applications: Monday 8 August
Confidential enquiries are welcome.

Please contacting Pam Neale-Justins on 0422370778 or Rev Laurel Barr on 0423152411