



Bible Reading

8am & 9.30am:

Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16

Luke 12: 32-40



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 . 6.45pm
services

8am—Worship includes Communion
Led by Clive Pearson

9.30am—Worship includes Communion
Led by Daniel Gibb and Clive Pearson
Includes the Baptism of
Liliana Belle Joy Pickering.
We welcome the family and Friends
of Liliana to worship today.
KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8

6.45pm—Worship includes Communion
Led by Daniel Gibb and Clive Pearson

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 8 AUGUST

9am—Sorting & pricing for

Op Shop lower hall

12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool

TUESDAY 9 AUGUST

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation
in the church

12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool

WEDNESDAY 10 AUGUST

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am—Women's Fellowship

in the upstairs hall and church

7.30pm—Church Council Exec

7.30pm—Finance Meeting

THURSDAY 11 AUGUST

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool

FRIDAY 12 AUGUST

12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool

5pm-7pm—Fusion Youth Group

in upstairs hall

SATURDAY 13 AUGUST

No Scheduled Events

**SUNDAY
14 AUGUST**

8am—Worship

9.30am—Worship

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

6.45pm—Worship



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

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@stmatthewsunitingchurchbaulkhamhills

PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA

PO BOX 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

EMAIL: director@stmatthewsps.net.au

The Line of Abraham (and Sarah!)

The Hebrews reading is designed to furnish examples of how the biblical tradition bears witness to faith over many generations. Our text fastens upon Abraham, his setting out not knowing where he was to go, and the promise made to his descendants. The missing verses (4-7) refer to Abel, Enoch, and Noah. Though Abraham and Sarah are 'as good as dead' there comes a line to which Jews, Christians and Muslims lay claim. The way in which these three religions seek to relate to one another today is often through conversations surrounding Abraham: they are the Abrahamic faiths.

The Luke reading follows on from the parable of the rich fool. It offers an alternative understanding of how to live from the fool who was rich in wealth but poor to God. Jesus bids his hearers not to worry about the basics of life: food, shelter and clothes. In a link back to the parable he declares that worrying cannot add an extra span to your life. He invites them to store up their treasure in heaven and be ready for the son of man who comes like a thief in the night. Once again the comparison can be made with the rich fool: he set himself up 'to eat, drink and be merry' but that very night he died.

Some History:

The Christian faith has a long and fascinating history. It is probably the case that most churchgoers these days are fairly unfamiliar with that past and how it can assist us in the present. Rather than get bogged down in a particular period it can be an interesting task to take time over a readable survey. One such book is Tom Holland's *Dominion: How the Christian Revolution Remade the World* (New York: Hachette Books, 2019). It dips into the past with a lightness of touch and presents a human face to conflicts, controversies and hopes. Over the next few weeks I will introduce you to some of the characters he writes about.

One of those early figures was **Irenaeus**. He lived in Lyon (in France) during the second century. The period in which he lived was initially free of the persecutions that had troubled an earlier generation. It was true that those who bore the name of Christ had to deal with the gossip and 'fake news' of their fellow citizens who believed all sorts of strange things that happened in church circles. And then—in 177—the relative peace was ruptured as Christians seemed reluctant to take part in civic rituals of sacrifices to Caesar. Some were thrown into prison; some into the amphitheatre to face wild animals. In reply to every inquiry as to who he was by the interrogators, one man simply repeated 'I am a Christian'.

But the contemporary situation could often give rise to some strange ideas within those who were seeking to follow Christ in tough times. One woman, Blandina, was sure that Jesus on the cross had somehow been spared and a passer-by had died in his place. Others wondered whether the Old Testament / Hebrew Bible was really needed in the yet-to-be finalized Christian Scriptures. And there were those in the east who sought to convert the Christian faith into the likeness of the mystery religions found in the Greek-speaking world

In response to what was happening Irenaeus realized the need for members of the church to have a clear understanding of what is the gospel and be able to refute ideas that were not worthy. One of the most important books of the early church was his *Against the Heresies*—the Greek word for heresy means 'a choice'. It was a rejection of the beliefs of those who laid claim to a 'secret wisdom' that would become the preserve of those who thought of themselves as 'knowing ones' (gnostics), a spiritual elite. Irenaeus helped preserve 'the rule of faith'—that is, the basic outline of Christian belief that has lasted through to this day. In the face of the challenges of his day Irenaeus declared that Christ had come for 'all men [and women] who feared and loved God ... [and wished. to] act justly'.

We are indebted to him: Pope Francis declared him to be a 'doctor of the church' on the 21 January 2022.

Listen into:

'Rock a my soul in the bosom of Abraham'

<https://www.youtube.com/watchv=eoWNGvxWBik>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WI_V1hfPGwU

<https://www.youtube.com/wath?v=GVJyyOqZ40s>

2021 Abraham Conference: Women Leaders in the Abrahamic Traditions. Role Models for Our Time'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8tLqfaNAwQ0>

Yours in Christ,

Clive



PEOPLE NEWS

Alison Bills
Ann Cotterill

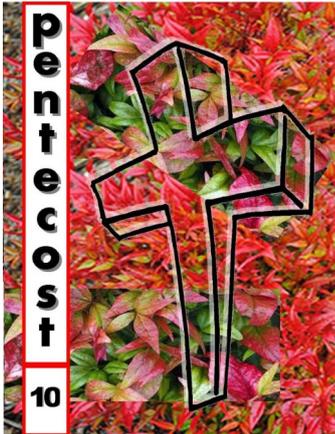
Jesse Cameron

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

7—13 August

**Cameroon, Central African Republic,
Equatorial Guinea**



**Being prepared for
next week's worship:**

14 August 2022

Pentecost 10

“ Signs of the Times”

14 August 2022 Sunday:

8am, 9:30am &

6:45pm

Bible Readings:

Hebrews 12:1-2

Luke 12:54-56

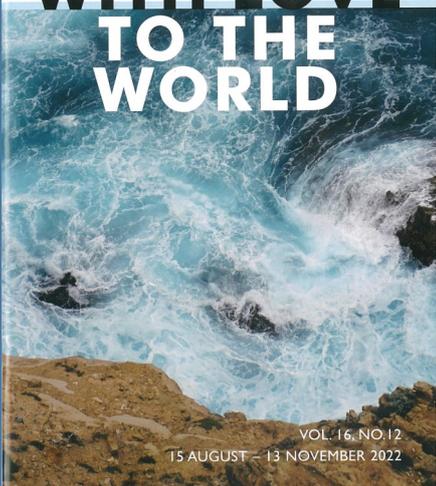
The Hebrews reading begins with that familiar reference to a ‘great cloud of witnesses’. It is referring back to those characters prior to Jesus who were examples of faith. It is like a survey of Old Testament history—though told in a patriarchal way. The turn of phrase is interesting. Stanley Hauerwas has been a notable Christian ethicist / thinker about what it means ‘to be’ a church. He was asked about how his understanding of faith had been formed and referred to a ‘testament of friends’. Some he knew in person, some he did not. Some had lived well back in the past but he was conscious that he stood in their line and their witness had helped shaped him, perhaps in a way he did not realize. The passage continues with the metaphor of being in a race: at face value the cloud of witnesses might also suggest a crowd at a sporting spectacle. It is not a sprint. It requires perseverance. Jesus is deemed be the ‘pioneer’ and ‘perfecter’ of this faith. The word for pioneer in Greek

can also be translated as prince or captain.

The gospel reading follows in from some rather fiery language and conflict within the household. This Jesus is the cause of division. We have here the only weather report in the gospels. Living in the Middle East the people know what to expect if the wind comes from the south or the west. In ancient times it was often thought that weather was the ‘gift’ of God. If the weather was fine, then you were blessed; if the weather was stormy you must have done something wrong. Our understanding of weather and climate is now more professionalized and mathematically based. Jesus believes that the crowds know how to read the weather but not the signs of the times. The word for times here is *kairos*. It is not the same as *chronos* from which we get chronology and an understanding of time broken up into hours, days, weeks etc. *Kairos* time is different: it is the time, the opportune time, God’s time.

PENTECOST/SEASON OF CREATION

WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD



a daily Bible reading guide based on the Revised Common Lectionary
Volume 16, Number 12
15 August to 13 November

is available in the church foyer.
Please place \$5 in offering bag to cover costs.

VOL. 16, NO. 12
 15 AUGUST - 13 NOVEMBER 2022

Service of Closure for the St. Marys Congregation to be held at the church on **August 27 at 2pm.**
 There will be a catered afternoon tea following the service.

PLEASE RSVP your numbers by August 21
 Kevin Burchell kevinburchell@hotmail.com

HELP NEEDED

Person with car to transport bags of clothing from lower hall to clothing charity bins once a week. Must be able to lift 20 kgs. The Op-shop donates any excess clothing to charity bins. Please contact Pamela on M: 0404023588 or Christine on M: 0401344800.

Church Property News Update

Program and status of works. Attached is Contractors program of works. Contractor is owed some wet weather EOTs. 17 Oct 2022 is still targeted PC date.

Status:

Roofing Update

- Stage 1 Roof Completed over Kindergarten
- Stage 2 - Tiger tails installed to power lines ready for scaffold erection
- Stage 2 Roof over Church booked for the 15th of August. Scaffold to be installed the week prior.

Kindergarten Update

- Water Meter Relocated so excavation and demolition works could commence
- External bulk excavation complete
- Internal strip out of old library and staff roof completed
- Demolition of external wall complete

Look ahead program (Works in August) include

- installation of structural steel components,
- continuation of demolition and excavation under old staff room
- as well as underpinning works.

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 bucoffice@gmail.com

Please forward applications via email, addressing the selection criteria to Pam Neale-Justins at bucoffice@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