



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS 
 growing together

Weekly Newsletter

21 May 2023

Ascension Sunday
 Easter 7

Bible Readings

Acts 1: 6-14,
 John 17: 1-11

Response after Bible
 Readings

Leader: Hear the word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God



8am—Worship
 Led by Pamela Leslie
 and Ini Foiakau

9.30am—Worship
 Led by Hugh Darling
 and Ini Foiakau
 KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8

5pm—Shine

6.45pm—Worship
Includes Communion
 Led by Alex Lawless
 and Clive Pearson

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
 8am & 9.30am only**

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 22 MAY

9am—Sorting & Pricing for
 Op Shop lower hall

TUESDAY 23 MAY

9am-2pm—Op Shop
 9.30am—Christian Meditation
 in the church
 7.30pm—Church Council
 Meeting

WEDNESDAY 24 MAY

9am-2pm—Op Shop
 10am-12pm—Men's Morning Tea
 Mckel's Café, Shop 14, Circa Boulevard
 Bella Vista. (moved to today from last week)

THURSDAY 25 MAY

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 26 MAY

10am—Biggest Morning Tea
 53 Sarah Cres Baulkham Hills
 5pm-7pm—Fusion
 "Movie Making"

SATURDAY 27 MAY

No Scheduled Events

SUNDAY 28 MAY

8am—Worship

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

6.45pm—Worship



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

Thank you to all who have
 contributed to this publication.

Ni sa bula vinaka, or in short, *Bula* (mboola)



Bula is a Fijian greeting, it is more than a 'Hi'. It translates as 'life', and is usually said with a biggest smile, a life giving greeting. I am Ini Foiakau, from Leigh Fijian Congregation of Parramatta City Uniting, and humbled to be invited by Rev'd Clive Pearson to preach this Sunday.

My family moved to Australia from Fiji about 23 years ago, and in response to hospitality offered we joined Leigh Fijian. I now call myself an Australian-Fijian, I am a wife, a mother of two 2nd Gen young wo-men, and a Lay Leader. I was recently elected as one of the Deputy Chairs for the Presbytery, and I am still navigating my way through that. Australia has a lot to offer for latter migrants like me, personally, it is a celebration, it is also an on-going challenge to live in plural worlds. In most things I do, I am toggling between these worlds. My third identity, which is in Christ is the one that holds my other two worlds together.

Prayer Matters in John 17:1-11

This Sunday is the 7th Sunday of Easter, the last Sunday of the Easter season.

This season we have celebrated Resurrection and the Ascension of Christ, affirming what we recite in the Apostles Creed, '*He ascended to heaven*'

Next week, is Pentecost, the pouring of the Holy Spirit. How enriching, and sacred are these significant events, even if we don't celebrate it as such, it holds a place in history and the life of the Church.

For the readings this week, the gospel reading of John 17:1-11 speaks out, though complicated and challenging. These few chapters in John, particularly from Chapter 14-17, is part of the Farewell Discourse, a connection between Jesus and his impending departure.

There is a build up of His teachings about His death, there is foot washing, Peter's denial of Jesus, Jesus talking to his disciples that he is the WAY, the TRUTH and the LIFE. He is the TRUE VINE. His giving the new commandment, Love each other just as I have loved you. This marks them as His disciple.

The reflection briefly looks at the following themes:

Does this Prayer Matter. It does because this is Jesus Prayer to His Father

Does this Prayer Matter. It does because it is an expression of God's Love

Does this Prayer Matter. It does because Jesus prays for His Disciples

Does this Prayer Matter. It does because it encourages us to respond, in love and prayer.

There are many ways we can express our love to others, it can be through prayer, and/or service. Jesus did both. As we look forward to the week of Pentecost, let this prayer – Jesus prayer remind us of Jesus Way, and His way is the way of love.

Ini Foiakau

Notice:
Congregation Meeting
4th June 2023 at 10:00am

The Joint Nominating Committee has been busy over the past few months in conversation with a possible minister for St. Matthew's.

The JNC has asked the Church Council to call a Congregation Meeting on the 4th June following a single Church Service to be held at 9:00am on that day.

All Church members are requested to come along to Church and the meeting on that day to vote to issue a Call to the candidate.

Terry Oliver

Church Council Secretary



**PEOPLE
NEWS**

Jane Jenkyn

Christopher Gibb

Trevor Leslie

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

Sympathy to

**Bruce & Kim Bills and family
on the death of Alison Bills
on Thursday 11th May.**

**A service of Memorial and
Thanksgiving for Alison's Life
will be held at St. Matthew's
on Wednesday 31 May at 2pm.**

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle
21— 27 May

*Indian Ocean Islands: Comoros,
Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius,
Seychelles*

**MAY SUNDAY
WORSHIP SERVICES**
at the church

7 May - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm
includes Communion

14 May - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

21 May - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

28 May - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

Live streaming continues for 8am & 9.30am services only

WELCOMING ALL NEWCOMERS

Imagine you are new to St. Matthew's

- * **How would you like to be welcomed if you were a newcomer today?**
- * **How can we improve the way we look after all our newcomers?**
- * **All your ideas and suggestions can help, the more the better.**

Please either text your replies to Judy on M: 0414 591 548 or email Judy at judyruthmann@gmail.com

Thank you

Judy - a recent 'newcomer'



**Blankets
for Refugees**

We are collecting blankets for Ukrainian refugees, some who have arrived in Australia and some who are in Poland. A lady whose family in Poland is supporting the refugees is organising a shipment of

clothes and would like to include blankets. Her group is also supporting refugees who have arrived in Australia. If you have any spare woolen blankets that you would like to donate please drop them in to the Op Shop. They can be in any condition as they can be washed and mended if needed.

Contact Pamela Leslie 0404 023 588 or
Amanda Manson 0407 221 374



Welcome to
Coffee & Discovery

The Art and Science of Rowing and the Spirituality

Presented by a master's competition rower
who learnt to row as an adult in Canberra.

Guest Speaker
Judy Mann
Thursday
1 June
10am until 12noon



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

***** ALL WELCOME *****

Open Garden at the Pedersen's

Here is another fundraising project that
is open to the whole community at
various times throughout the year.

This is an amazing private garden on the
edge of the bush between Baulkham Hills and
North Rocks being opened to our
community for inspection on the dates
listed.

Those that have seen this garden are lost
for words as to the detail and quality of
the garden.

Don't miss this opportunity while the
weather is warm, light refreshments are
provided.

\$10 adults 18 years and over includes drink
and sweet or savoury offering of the day.

\$5 school children to 18 years includes
drink and sweet or savoury offering of the
day.

For bookings and enquiries, please contact the
owners, Gary and Katherine
Pedersen, kathped56@gmail.com



Dates for May
Wednesday mornings
9.30am - 12noon 31 May

Dates for June

Thursday mornings: 9.30am - 12 noon
8, 15, 22 & 29 June

Sunday mornings 9.30am - 12noon
4, 11, 18 & 25 June

During June most of the camellia japonicas will
be flowering and the maples will be changing
colour and losing their leaves.

Autumn happens a bit later
down here.

Closed during July & August.

Reopening September and October
for Spring. Where there will be pots
of tulips, ranunculus, daffodils,
blossoms and wisteria in flower.



We're hosting a
Biggest Morning Tea

Please help us
support people
impacted by cancer!



Barry Gregory
9639 4700 - Mob 0425 815 34
Dulcie Duncum
9639 6014 - Mob 017 070 848



Cancer Council
Australia's Biggest
Morning Tea

You are invited to join with us for
'Australia's Biggest Morning Tea'

being held at the home of
Dulcie & Peter Duncum
at 53 Sarah Crescent Baulkham Hills

Friday 26th May.

Everyone is welcome,
so please come and join with us
from 10.00 am

in support of the work and fundraising of
The Cancer Council and of our many friends who
have journeyed with cancer.

Bring your friends also.
We look forward to your company.

You can also make a donation by clicking on the link below
<https://www.biggestmorningtea.com.au/fundraisers/DulcieDuncum/biggest-morning-tea-nsw>

The St. Matthew's
Uniting Church weekly
Newsletter is available
to view at the end of
each week for the
upcoming Sunday

on the
St. Matthew's
website

www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au

Click on the metal dove
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