



Bible Readings

Genesis 21:8-21
Matthew 10:24-39



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



8am—Worship

Led by Vivienne Strong
and Clive Pearson

9.30am—Worship

Led by Sara Wienand
and Clive Pearson

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

6.45pm—Worship

Led by Daniel Gibb
and Clive Pearson

**Livestreaming at
8am & 9.30am only**

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 26 JUNE

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

**11am—Service of Thanksgiving
for the Life of Rosalie Cameron**
at the church

TUESDAY 27 JUNE

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

7.30pm—Thrive Bible Study
lower hall

WEDNESDAY 28 JUNE

9am-2pm—Op Shop
7.30pm—Elders Meeting
at the church

THURSDAY 29 JUNE

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 30 JUNE

No Scheduled Events

SATURDAY 1 JULY

9am-12pm—Op Shop
9am—12pm—Mini Mart
in the lower hall

**SUNDAY
2 JULY**

8am—Worship
includes Communion

9.30am—Worship
includes Communion
KUCA in recess

6.45pm—Worship
includes Communion



**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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PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA
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Thank you to all who have
contributed to this publication.

Friction

Pentecost 4

Genesis 21:8-21 Matthew 10-24-39

The readings for this Sunday are far from straightforward. They assume a sharp edge to religious difference and the way in which that difference can cut through the lives of families. Some of you will belong to a generation that can remember how (not so very long ago) how there was a very strong sense of 'us' and 'them' that divided Roman Catholics and Protestants. Some years ago now the former television news media executive and presenter Peter Manning (ABC and Channel 7) reviewed that history in Australia and reckons it became replaced by an equivalent divide between Christian and Muslim in more recent times.

Our first reading from Genesis speaks into this more contemporary unease. Both the Christian faith and Islam, like Judaism, look back to Abraham (who was, of course, a 'wandering Aramean'). For Muslims the 'genealogical' line goes back to Abraham not through Isaac and Sarah, but through Ishmael, the son of Hagar, an Egyptian slave woman. In the Qur'an Ishmael is a prophet: the early Muslims were descended from the 'twelve tribes of Ishmael'. Abraham becomes Ibrahim and Ishmael and Ibrahim build the *kabba*.

In the Genesis reading the two boys—Isaac and Ishmael (who is the older)—are 'playing together'. Abraham is clearly fond of the boy and distressed at Sarah's request Ishmael (along with Hagar) should be cast out. There is an irony here. It had been Sarah who had insisted some time before that Abraham lie with Hagar for the sake of an heir. The issue at stake for Sarah is one of the right to inheritance. In the book of Genesis the legacy of Abraham is a promise—as many descendants as there are 'stars in the sky'. In this episode God informs that nations shall arise from both offspring. Ishmael does not die of thirst as a child in the wilderness: he lives and will stand in the line of a 'great nation'. In the purposes of God there is room for both Isaac and Ishmael—which brings us to the gospel reading.

Matthew 10 begins with the sending out of the apostles and words of warning to do with forthcoming persecution. At face value our section of the chapter (verses 24 through to 39) seems to represent a mix of instructions loosely held together under a textual lead-in that specifies that 'a disciple is not above a teacher, nor a slave above a master'. It invites us to consider the world as it is, not to be afraid, to heed the example of Christ ('the teacher'), and that being 'worthy' depends upon how the call to take up one's cross and love/acknowledge Jesus takes priority over love of family. In the midst of these instructions is the rather disturbing image that Jesus does not come to bring peace, but a sword.

Let us try and link this passage from Matthew now with the account of Hagar and Ishmael in Genesis. We live in a time where there is much about to which to be fearful: Scott Bader-Saye wrote a wonderful book on *Following Jesus in a Culture of Fear*. Near the beginning he says there are two types of fear: good fear (that is, a healthy fear that we should heed) and a bad fear (that we should seek to overcome). Sometimes we become fearful of another's culture or religion. It can be easy then 'to take up the cross' and justify that fear in a number of ways. Sometimes it might happen through distancing ourselves from the other; sometimes it might be through allowing ourselves to be influenced by the bias and prejudice of others; sometimes it might take a more extreme form.

As a matter of fact the cross has a history of leading armed forces into war. That all began with a dream that the Emperor Constantine had before the battle of the Milvian Bridge in 311. At the time he was a pagan but dreamt that if his forces displayed the cross, then they would be led to victory. It must count as one of the most important dreams in human history as it led to the Christian faith becoming the religion of the Roman empire rather than a marginal sect often persecuted. The cross would acquire the capacity for a more militant bearing and that was nowhere more evident than in the 5 great crusades launched against Islam between 1096 and 1291. The word crusade comes from words in several languages meaning 'marked by the cross'—which brings us back to family matters.

In the course of the 5th crusade Francis of Assisi made his way to Egypt to meet Sultan Malik Al-Kamil. There was armed conflict all about. Francis is sometimes described as 'the second Christ' given the way in which he sought to imitate the life of Jesus. He knew well what it was like to prioritize the teaching of Jesus over the duties and responsibilities of his family: he had disowned his father's wealth and earned his disapproval in order to serve Christ. Francis made his way to Egypt in a mission of peace, horrified at the loss of life and encountered a generous descendant of the nation of Ishmael. They did not end the crusades but through this gesture they showed what it can be like to take a risk and step out into unknown territory for the sake of overcoming a deep-seated difference between 'us' and 'them'. Francis took no sword as he ventured forth into the Sultan's camp—only a metaphorical sword of peace and compassion.

Music:

Malakai Bayoh

singing 'Pie Jesu' (Fauré) on 'Britain's Got Talent'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6K5XD84Mf-o>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqVRAE9xFLc>

Resistance Revival Chorus

'This joy .. the world didn't give it to me'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1TbDPwA09Bc>

Delvyn Case

Perichoresis

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GoHEXKMJLk>

The Chosen Gospel Singers

'One-Two-Three'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5rVMhqURqk4>

Prayer of Francis of Assisi.

(Aled Jones)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67HczAyQKqM>

Narrative / film:

Francis meets the sultan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SgphHf31jZw>

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

Clive



PEOPLE NEWS

Christine Haines
Brayden Bell

Jane Cole
Annette Watson

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

25 June—1 July

Kenya, Tanzania

Prayer Days for St. Matthew's

Please take some time on Wednesdays to pray for St. Matthew's during our time of transition. Knowing that we are all praying together on this one day is an uplifting experience. The church will be open for anyone who would like to pray onsite.

A time of prayer

Thank God for his generosity by answering our prayers and leading Jon to our church.

We give thanks for the members of the JNC Committee for their faith, commitment, and time as they trusted you to lead them to your vision for St. Matthew's - Karen, Helen, Alexander, Mike, Dean & Eulalie, for Grant and Carmel.

For Jon as he transitions from Chaplain to Congregation minister. As he says 'goodbye' to the people and routines that are familiar. His work colleagues, students, and parents with whom he has made connections. We pray for our Congregation as we navigate the next few months without a minister.

We give thanks for the guest preachers and lay ministers who will share with us in our worship services during this time.

Pray for the Worship Oversight committee as they continue to find ministers and lay preachers to fill our preaching rosters.

Continued growth for all church groups and their faithful committed leaders.

Prayers for our church family members who have recently lost loved ones. Help them to feel loved and supported at this time.

Barbara and Christine

Sympathy to
Jeff Cameron and family
on the death of Rosalie Cameron
on Sunday 18th June.

A Thanksgiving Service
for the Life of Rosalie
will be held at St. Matthew's
26th June at 11am
Followed by refreshments
in the upstairs hall.

If you will be attending the service for Rosalie on Monday 26 June at 11am and would like to bring a plate of food it would be greatly appreciated.

A big **thank you** to the people who helped out at the working bee on Saturday the 17th June. Hugh Darling, Bruce Court, Peter Jenkyn, Earl Gray, Katherine Pederson and Amanda Manson. Much was achieved. We worked as a great team.

Jane Jenkyn

Property Committee

THROWS

THE OP SHOP STAFF ARE DONATING A COUPLE OF THROWS TO BE USED BY ANYBODY FEELING COLD AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO USE THEM.

JULY SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

at the church

2 July - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm
includes Communion

9 July - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

16 July - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

23 July - 9am Combined
followed by AGM

23 July - 6.45pm

Live streaming morning services only



CHURCH AGM SUNDAY 23 JULY

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 23 July following a combined 9.00am service.

This is a great opportunity to catch up with friends from all worship services and to keep up to date with what is happening at St. Matthew's.

This will be an opportunity to hear from our Focus Groups and our finance Committee. There will time of fellowship after the meeting with a shared meal. If you are interested in staying for lunch, please provide a plate of ready to serve finger food to share.

Planned Giving Envelopes are ready to be collected from the mail tray in the church foyer from this Sunday.

Thank you

Barry Gregory.

Insights—Winter 2023

Please pick up a copy from the church foyer.



Blankets for Refugees

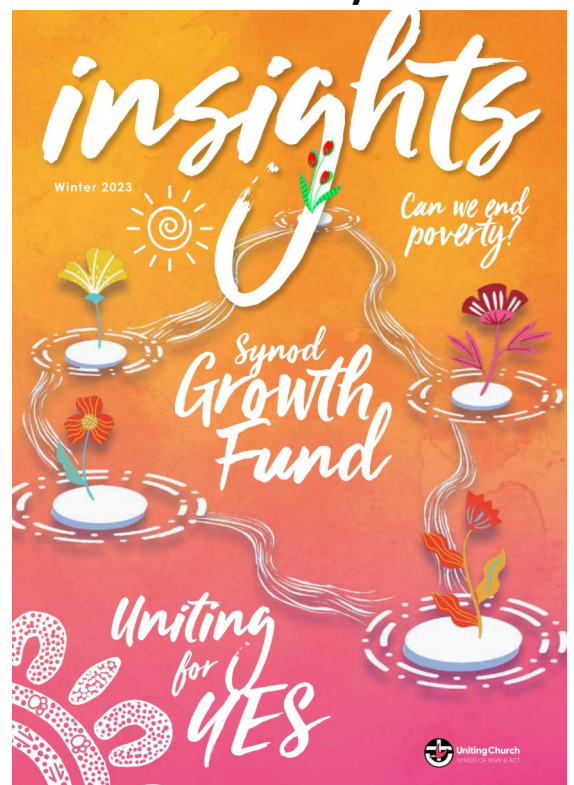
We are collecting blankets for Ukrainian refugees, some who have arrived in Australia and some who are in Poland. A lady whose family in Poland is supporting the refugees is organising a shipment of clothes and would like to include blankets.

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



Congregation Meeting Update

It is with great pleasure that I announce the result for our congregation meeting on 4 June. Members in attendance voted to endorse the recommendation of the Joint Nominating Committee (JNC) to call the Rev Jon Humphries to ministry at St. Matthew's.

Thank you to the members of our JNC, Karen Vandenberg, Dean Drayton, Mike Underwood, Helen Olley, Alexander Lawless and Eulalie Herat as well as the two Presbytery representatives, Rev Grant Atkins & Rev Carmel Ieraci for their faith, gifts, and commitment to this very complicated process. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped with collecting and counting the votes, serving morning tea, and preparing communion.

Jon and his wife Linda will be joining us at all three worship services on Sunday 11 June. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet them both as we begin our journey together. There will be time after each service to share together at morning tea.

Volunteers are required for morning tea for both morning services.

Barbara Gibb

Chairperson
Church Council
St Matthew's Uniting Church
Baulkham Hills



Uniting in Prayer – National Prayer Chain

During the 26 days between Pentecost and the Uniting Church's anniversary on 22nd June, the Uniting church is encouraging all members to join together in prayer for the whole Uniting Church.

One important aspect of Uniting in Prayer is a national prayer chain in which local congregations are paired up in order to pray for each other.

As part of this prayer chain, we are invited to pray for two Uniting Church congregations in Launceston South Esk Parish and Seaford Uniting Church.

As we continue to pray for one another, we hope that this national prayer chain will be a powerful expression of our national Church: as we live out our mission and ministry in unique ways, we are held by a common tradition and part of one community of Christ.

For more information regarding Uniting in Prayer and the National Prayer Chain visit <https://www.act2uca.com/unitinginprayer>

St Matthew's Op Shop,

Cnr Edgar & Charles Streets,
Baulkham Hills

Do you have a stash of knitting
yarn or unused handbags
that you would like to declutter?



St Matthew's Op Shop currently needs donations of

- knitting yarn, especially 8 ply
- handbags that are in good condition

Donations can be left in the lower church hall, 9am
to 2pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays

*Thank you for your support of
St Matthew's Op Shop.*



to join an Australian
Learning Community

Journeying through the
Climate Pastoral Care Course

between

World Environment Day and the Season of Creation
(June - September)

Wednesday nights (8pm AEST) on Zoom
with Jessica Morthorpe, course co-author

RSVP to climatepastoralcare@gmail.com

**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
image / publications.**