



Bible Readings

Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42



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
8am & 9.30am only

8am—Worship

Led by Dean Drayton
includes Communion

9.30am—Worship

includes Communion
Led by Daniel Gibb
and Dean Drayton

KUCA in Recess

6.45pm—Worship

Led by Jane Cole
and Abbey Sim

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 3 JULY

9am—Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop
lower hall

3pm—Care and Prayer
in the church

TUESDAY 4 JULY

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

WEDNESDAY 5 JULY

9am-2pm—Op Shop
10am-12pm—In Stitches
upstairs hall

THURSDAY 6 JULY

9am-2pm—Op Shop
10am-12pm—Coffee & Discovery
Speaker: Yee Cheng Eldridge

FRIDAY 7 JULY

No Scheduled Events

SATURDAY 8 JULY

No Scheduled Events

SUNDAY 9 JULY

8am—Worship

9am—Worship @ the Willow's

9.30am—Worship
KUCA in recess

6.45pm—Worship
includes Community Meal



**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.

Pentecost 5

The Lectionary Readings

The Lectionary Readings provide four readings for each Sunday of the Christian Year, one from the Old Testament, one from the Psalms, one from the Letters in the New Testament and one from the Four Gospels. These readings cycle through three years with Years A, B and C. In 2023 we are in year A. In the season of Pentecost week by week for the most of June, July and August we have readings from Genesis, Romans, and Matthew, and selected Psalms. Not all of these books are read but only particular sections of them.

As you can see there is a wealth of material each week on which a service and a sermon is focused. It is not possible to cover each passage. Usually a particular passage is chosen for proclamation and worship. Sometimes this is related to the other passages and sometimes not. The lectionary is a suggested way to bring the riches of the Bible record to a congregation over the three years. Sometimes a passage not in the lectionary is chosen. Generally in the Uniting Church the lectionary forms the basis for most weeks. In this way an overview of God's dealing with us is presented.

This Sunday July 2nd we have the Genesis 22:1-14 account where God tests Abraham directing him to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on a mountain in Moriah. With Isaac bound on top of the altar, Abraham reaches out with a knife to kill his Son. At this critical moment an angel of the Lord stops him. Instead he is directed to a ram caught in a thicket nearby that then becomes the sacrifice. This stark account is often taken to be an illustration of the obedience of faith. The mountain is reputed to be the mountain on which the Temple was built in Jerusalem.

The passage has raised many questions. By many it is seen to be the forerunner of the cross, where it is God who gives up his own son, for the purification of the world.

In Romans Paul moves on from last week's first eleven verses of Chapter 6. There, we are baptised into the death of our Lord; therefore we must consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to Christ.

Today in verses 12-23 Paul asks should we let sin control our lives? And answers, no we are not slaves to sin but slaves to righteousness. He finishes with the passage "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. The sermon today revolves around this verse. It is not always appreciated that it is not about sins, but sin. Here sin is a power that enslaves and gives rise to sins. Paul points to an alternate intriguing reality - that we should be slaves to righteousness.

In Matthew 10:40-42 is the culmination of last week's reading about disciples being sent like sheep among wolves. Those who proclaim the kingdom of God will receive an appropriate reward. As one gives one receives.

Next Week

Genesis 24: selected verses give the account of the servant who finds Rebekah, a wife for Isaac.

Romans 7:15-25a. Who will rescue me from this body of death, bound to sin.

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30. Come to me all you who that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

In grace and peace,

Dean



PEOPLE NEWS

Jacinta Bell
Callum Wood
Peter Sexton

Julie Kolosowski
Kathryn Longmuir

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

Welcoming everyone at St. Matthew's

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. (Romans 15:7)



When I think about the times when I feel most warmly welcomed as I enter church each Sunday, it is those times when someone greets me at the door, even outside the door if possible, with a hearty "Good Morning, Sandra," a sincere smile, and eye contact. We don't necessarily have to be the "official" Welcomer or Door Steward, we are all free to greet one another with sincerity and enthusiasm. It makes such a difference to how I worship when I feel I am among friends who know me and care about me. Wouldn't it be great if we became known in our community for the warmth of our welcome.

Sandra Gordon

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 Chaplin 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.

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

2—8 July

Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda

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

30 July - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

Live streaming morning services only

Planned Giving Envelopes are ready to be collected from the church foyer from this Sunday. *Thank you*

Barry Gregory

THROWS

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

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO USE THEM.

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



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.

insights
Winter 2023

Can we end poverty?

Synod Growth Fund

Uniting for YES

Uniting Church
SYNOD OF NSW & ACT

Insights—Winter 2023
Please pick up a copy from the St. Matt's church foyer



Growing up in Singapore

Yee Cheng will present various aspects of her life experiences while growing up in her birth country of Singapore before arriving in Australia in 1984.



Guest Speaker

Yee Cheng Eldridge

Thursday

6 July

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 *****

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 or find in recent posts.