



**Bible Readings**

Matthew 13:1-23

*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**

**9am—Combined Worship**

Led by Sharon Underwood  
and Daniel Gibb

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

**Followed by  
Church AGM  
Followed by lunch**

**5pm—Shine**

**6.45pm—Worship**

Led by Daniel Gibb  
and Ofa Foikau

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

**MONDAY 24 JULY**

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

lower hall

**TUESDAY 25 JULY**

**9am-2pm—Op Shop  
9.30am—Christian Meditation**

in the church

**7.30pm—Property Committee  
meeting**

**WEDNESDAY 26 JULY**

**9am-2pm—Op Shop**

**THURSDAY 27 JULY**

**9am-2pm—Op Shop**

**FRIDAY 28 JULY**

**5pm-7pm—Fusion**

in the upstairs hall

'Christmas in July'

**SATURDAY 29 JULY**

**No Scheduled Events**

**SUNDAY  
30 JULY**

**8am—Worship**

**9.30am—Worship**

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

Followed by

**Christmas in July  
Morning Tea**

**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.

# Lectionary Notes

## Pentecost 8

### July 23

#### **Genesis 28:10-19a**

Jacob has pushed too far in stealing his brother Esau's blessing and flees for his life, heading for the extended family in Northern Syria that Rebekah came from. And, alone on the hill country ridge, north of what would become Jerusalem, he falls asleep. With a rock for a pillow, he has a dream. It is a famous dream. "A ladder was set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending upon it." That is well known. But what comes next is not. "And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring." Did you get where God is? God is not at the top of the ladder, as so many think. Life is not climbing from earth to God's heaven. It is staggering to realise God stands on the earth with Jacob and promises to go with him. No wonder Jacob says when he wakes up, "Surely the Lord was in this place and I did not know it!" One wonders how often the Lord is with us and we do not know it.

#### **Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24.**

What an amazing statement about the relation of God to each of us. The Lord knows each of us in ways beyond that we can even conceive. The psalm begins and finishes with how close to each of us God is. "You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away." "Even before a word is on my tongue you know it completely. Truly such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it." We find out that while we live and act as if God were far away, we are living in the field of God's presence. The Lord is the one "in whom we live and move and have our being." (Acts 17:28)

#### **Romans 8:12-25.**

In this passage are amazing statements. If we put our mind on the Spirit, then "All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God."(14) As children, "when we cry "Abba, Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ- if in fact we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him."(15b-17)

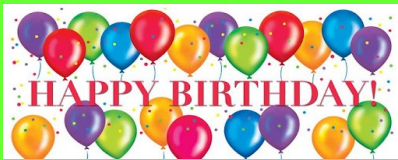
This then is followed by the spelling out of the cosmic implications. "We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now, and not only the creation, but we ourselves."(22) Now, however, the hope is given that God is working God's purposes out for the world. This is amazing chapter discloses how God is involved with the world. More to come next week

#### **Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

The parable of the weeds - another parable of the kingdom. The early church and the writer of Matthew were living through terrible times and momentous events. The Romans had obliterated the temple in Jerusalem. The early church in Israel had been decisively rejected by Judaism. It is not surprising that in the teaching of Jesus, this parable was so important. The parable addresses what it is like to live in such times. The Kingdom of heaven is like someone who sowed good seed in a field, but overnight, when all were asleep, an enemy sowed weeds among the wheat. How does one live in a world of betrayal and violence? The parable is clear, you cannot root out the violence without uprooting the good. Only at the harvest can they be separated. Despite what is happening, in God's time the good seed will be harvested. What a word of hope when all seems confused and even lost.

*In grace and peace,*

Dean



## PEOPLE NEWS

Elaine Cater | Alexander Lawless

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

## Ecumenical Prayer Cycle 23—29 July

Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda



## 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 be 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.**

**Please pick up a printed copy of the 'Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting 31st July 2022' from the church foyer in preparation for the AGM.**

## AUGUST SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

at the church

6 August - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm  
includes Communion

13 August - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

20 August - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

27 August - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

Live streaming morning services only

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](http://www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

Click on the metal dove image / publications or find in recent posts.

christmas  
**IN JULY**  
MORNING TEA

You are invited to a 'Christmas in July' themed morning tea after the 9.30am St Matthew's Baulkham Hills Church service.

JULY  
SUNDAY 30 10.30AM  
2023

If you would like to create a festive treat to share, please email  
Noni: nones81@gmail.com

## Welcoming everyone at St. Matthew's



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

We have a favourite coffee shop where the barista greets us with our names - and knows our coffee orders before we even mention them! This is so lovely!

If we were to translate this into a St Matthew's setting, I guess it would mean that we could name most people who come in the door. I'm can't always do this easily, but I have found that if I can recall something mentioned by the newcomer on a previous visit and I pick up on this, the response from them can be one of surprise or even delight! It could be as easy as "Did your son and his family come to visit yet?" Or "Did you have the holiday you were planning?"

Of course, these questions can only come when some interaction has occurred previously - which underlines another point that I believe is so important. If a welcomer is the very first to meet a newcomer, then the after-worship time is a very important time - to not only stay with them to introduce them to others, but to remember points of connection. And, of course, (and if appropriate), to say that we always like to email newcomers a welcome note....and then follow this with "Would you like to let us have your email address so that we can do this?" I have not ever had a 'no' to this question!

*Sandra Drayton*



## *A message to all groups and individuals using the Church property*

When using any part of the Church property at any time, please ensure that when you leave, you turn off all lights, fans, air con's and properly lock and alarm the premises if required.

Please ensure you correctly turn off the automatic door when you leave, it is easy to set it to the wrong setting and it has been left open a few times lately.

If you have used the automatic door for your group, you are responsible for ensuring that it is locked when you finish.

*Thank you*



### **Exodus Donations**

Please continue to bring in your food donations for the Bill Crews foundation. Canned goods including baked beans, tins of soup, tinned tuna and long life milk, just to name a few. Please leave them in the covered container through the lower door foyer. All your donations are a vital part of the foundation and keeps their running costs down.

*Thank you*

### **LOST PROPERTY BOX**

**PLEASE CHECK THE LOST PROPERTY BOX IF YOU HAVE LOST ANY ITEMS WHILE AT THE CHURCH.**

***THE LOST PROPERTY BOX IS LOCATED ON THE CABINETS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE STAIRS.***

### **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.***



## POSITION VACANT

### **Position: Office Administrator**

Term: Initially 12 months, starting from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023

Location: 35 Orchard St, Epping 2121

### **Join Our Team as an Office Administrator at West Epping Uniting Church!**

We seek a highly motivated and friendly person to fill the role of Office Administrator.

This 12-month position offers flexibility with negotiable 12 hours per week, allowing for a healthy work-life balance. While most work will be conducted at our office in Epping, there may be opportunities for remote work.

As an integral part of our team, the Office Administrator will contribute to the mission of our church. We seek someone with excellent organisational and communication skills, familiarity with Microsoft software packages (knowledge of Microsoft Publisher and PowerPoint presentations is a plus), and a willingness to learn new technologies.

West Epping Uniting Church values diversity, inclusion, and teamwork. Join us in positively impacting our community and supporting our shared values. This is an excellent opportunity to apply your skills and be a valued member of our team.

To apply for this position, please email your resume and a cover letter highlighting your relevant experience to [applications.weppinguca@gmail.com](mailto:applications.weppinguca@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

**For inquiries or more information, please contact Phil Chapple (0402 291 632), or Morris Ross (0404 043 713).**



### **The Galston Concerts**

**Virtuoso Violins  
 .... Strings Stars!**

Galston Uniting Church  
 11 School Road – Galston

Sunday 23 July 2023  
 1.30 prelude, 2 pm concert



#### **Violinist Evgeny Sorkin**

Russian-born, Moscow-trained but long term Sydney-resident violinist Evgeny Sorkin is a prolific prize-winner, recording concert performer. Mentored by the great Yehudi Menuhin Isaac Stern to concerts in the UK, USA & Europe, from Amsterdam, Evgeny is the first ever Doctor of Musical of Sydney University Conservatorium, where he now serves as lecturer. A master teacher/mentor Evgeny brings to three young talents from the Con's Rising Stars project, pianist Rachel Lin, in a program of virtuoso violin favourites passionate melodies, flying fingers & bows with Italian, Polish Russian, Spanish & Gypsy flair plus some jazzy Jerome Kern.



### **Organ Prelude 1.30 pm: Kian Chan (A.Mus.A & Rising Stars)**



Followed by Afternoon Tea  
 your chance to meet the  
 performers  
 and chat with friends

Bookings [trybooking.com](http://trybooking.com)  
 (search Galston)  
 or tickets at the door (cash only)  
 \$30 Adult  
 \$25 Seniors  
 \$10 Uni/Secondary students  
 FREE for 12 & under

