



Bible Readings

Matthew 13: 44-52

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 Judy Mann
and Bruce Slater

9.30am—Worship

Led by Albert Olley
and Bruce Slater

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

Followed by

Christmas in July Morning Tea

6.45pm—Worship

Includes Communion
Led by Alexander Lawless
and Dean Drayton

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 31 JULY

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

TUESDAY 1 AUGUST

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

WEDNESDAY 2 AUGUST

9am-2pm—Op Shop
10am-12pm—In Stitches upstairs hall
**7.30pm—Finance Committee
Meeting** at the church

THURSDAY 3 AUGUST

9am-2pm—Op Shop
10am-12pm—Coffee & Discovery
Speaker: John Donahoe
in the upstairs hall and church

FRIDAY 4 AUGUST

No Scheduled Events

SATURDAY 5 AUGUST

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

**SUNDAY
6 AUGUST**

8am—Worship
Includes Communion

9.30am—Worship

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

**11.30am-2pm
Picnic at Caber Park**

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](https://www.facebook.com/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 9

July 30

Genesis 29:15-18

Isaac wanted his son Jacob to marry into the extended family back in Haran. It was there his father Abraham had heard God's call, and subsequently where he sent his servant to find Isaac's wife Rebecca. In this next generation it happened in a very different way. When Jacob fled from his angry brother Esau this was the one place he could go. He headed north to the land of Haran and offered to work there for his relative Laban. Laban had two daughters, Leah the elder with lovely eyes, and Rachel the younger who was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel and offered to work for Laban seven years for her hand. He did and the seven years "seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her." But crafty Jacob is dealing with devious Laban, and the morning after the wedding, he finds he has married Leah. Lots of unanswered questions there! After waiting another week he is then given Rachel. One can imagine the tensions in this new family. And from this family come the twelve sons who become the leaders of the twelve tribes of Jacob, (or Israel as he is later renamed).

Psalm 119:129-36

Here are another 8 lines derived from one letter in the Hebrew Alphabet. "Your decrees are wonderful: therefore my soul keeps them"; "Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your custom toward those who love your name"

Romans 8: 26-39

Unique in any of the world's religions is this statement and experience of a creation groaning in labor pains with God is at work in it, to give birth to the children of God. In the midst of the bondage and decay of this creation the adopted children of God hardly know how to pray. We read, "The Spirit intercedes to help us in our weakness"

praying with "sighs too deep for words". And as children of God "We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." And then come the words so often read at funerals in times of greatest sorrow, "Who will separate us from the love of Christ; will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" Paul declares that nothing in all creation "will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus".

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

There are at least six descriptions of the way the kingdom of heaven is present in our midst; like a mustard seed that grows, like yeast that leavens flour, like treasure hidden in a field, like finding a pearl of great value, like the catch of a net thrown into the sea, and like the master who brings out the treasures of the household. If one hears what is being said, the kingdom of heaven can be disclosed in a seed in the creation, in the work of making bread, in the surprise of discovering treasure, in the search for the most precious, in the gathering of the fruits of creation, and in a master who brings out what is precious. In many ways is the kingdom of heaven experienced.

The last four of these parables are found only in Matthew. The parables are instances of the way God is at work in life in the midst of the hopes and fears of these Jewish Christians in a time of crisis and persecution. The six parables for this Sunday, with the parables of the last two weeks readings resound with a deep affirmation. In particular the kingdom perspective of the sower, and the weeds in the field, and this week, the last parable of the final sorting of the fish in the net, point beyond the crisis that dominated their life and future. Despite what was happening, the goodness of God was at work to bring into being God's final culmination of all. A word for the early Jewish church, and a word for us today.

In grace and peace,

Dean



PEOPLE NEWS

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

The Op Shop are in need of a replacement vacuum cleaner. If you have a spare lightweight stick vacuum cleaner that you could donate to the Op Shop they would be very appreciative.

Please contact the church office.

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

30 July—5 August

Republic of Congo, Gabon, Sao Tome & Principe

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

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*

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

ST MATTHEW'S PICNIC IN CABER PARK

When: Sunday 6th August 11.30am-2pm
Where: Caber Park Winston Hills
Who: EVERYONE from St Matthew's is welcome!
What to bring: A picnic lunch, picnic chairs, rug, tennis racquets, balls, scooters etc.

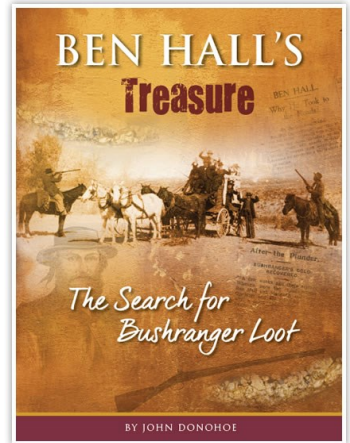
Contact Noni: nones81@gmail.com for more information

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.

Coffee and Discovery at St. Matthew's

Ben Hall's Treasure

Through his interest and research into Australian Bushranger History and as author of 'Ben Hall's Treasure—The search for the Loot', John will enlighten and intrigue us with his accounts of the escapades and mysteries surrounding the infamous Ben Hall. John will have books he has written for sale.



Guest Speaker

John Donahoe

Thursday
3 August
10am—12noon



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

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



Organ & Strings Benefit Concert

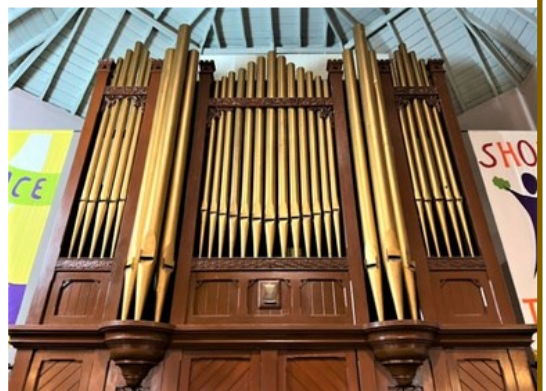
Sun 20th August 2:30pm

Leigh Memorial Church,

119 Macquarie St, Parramatta

Tickets \$20 each or \$50 Family (2 adults & 2 children)

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO



Sydney Organs Group is arranging and producing a benefit concert featuring Organ and Strings at Leigh Memorial Uniting Church, Parramatta, to raise funds for its associated Parramatta Mission. Parramatta Mission provides assistance to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our communities to assist them in transforming their lives.

The concert program is in two parts: In Part One an octet featuring string **students from primary and high schools** will be accompanied by organ in a selection of sacred music by Bach, Franck, Mozart and Schubert. A soprano will join the octet in the Schubert and Franck pieces. In Part Two, solo organists will perform one or two short pieces each by a variety of composers, including Clarke, Lemmens, Bach, Bruhns, Charpentier, Boellman, Attride and Collins.

A complimentary afternoon tea will be served in the Parramatta Mission coffee shop following the performance.

Seating is limited Tickets on sale July 17th



To purchase tickets, scan the QR code or visit <https://events.humanitix.com/winter-classics-concert>