



Bible Readings

Matthew 21:23-32

Response after Bible Readings
Leader: Hear the word of the Lord
Response: Thanks be to God



8am—Worship
includes Communion
 Led by Mike Strong
 and Dean Drayton

9.30am—Worship
includes Communion
 Led by Hugh Darling
 and Dean Drayton
KUCA in Recess

6.45pm—Worship
 Led by Nicola Lawless
 and Abbey Sim

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

**8am & 9.30am
 only**

**DAYLIGHT
 Saving Starts**



Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 2 OCTOBER

Public Holiday

3pm—Care and Prayer
 at the church

TUESDAY 3 OCTOBER

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

WEDNESDAY 4 OCTOBER

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

THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop
10am-12pm—Coffee & Discovery Speaker Alan Wright
'Parochial stuff—transcending borders'
 in the upstairs hall and church

FRIDAY 6 OCTOBER

No Scheduled Events

SATURDAY 7 OCTOBER

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

**SUNDAY
 8 OCTOBER**

8am—Worship
9am—Worship @ the Willow's
9.30am—Worship
KUCA in Recess
6.45pm—Worship
includes Communion



MINISTER

REV JON HUMPHRIES

**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.

Heavenly Invasion

Pentecost 18

October 1st

Exodus 17:1-7 **Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16**
Philippians 2: 1-13 **Matthew 21: 23-32**

Exodus 17:1-7 The privations continue. Journeying further, Moses named a particular place "Massah (test) and Meribah (quarrel) because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not.'" It is not the last time that has been said! They camped where there was no water. And Moses is on the receiving end of a familiar refrain. "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" "It is your fault Moses. If the Lord was among us this would not be happening." The lack of water is a serious predicament. Moses is blamed and fears for his life. "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." Moses is told to go on further to Horeb with some of the elders and there at a place, where God is standing, he is instructed to strike a rock with the staff, and water pours out. In this account there is some difference between Mt Horeb and Mt Sinai, where in other places in the O.T. they are seen to be the same. Some commentators see Horeb as the general mountain range and Mt Sinai as one particular mountain within it. Other later commentators see this as a result of the different traditions held within Israel that were woven together at the time of writing. See Numbers 20 for a second and different account of Massah and Meribah. In any case, Moses strikes the rock and water pours forth. Once more the God of the exodus shows that God is the Lord among them. Was it a miracle, with water pouring from a rock? Or did they have to travel to find a place where there was a water bearing rock? Much ink is spilt writing about such matters. Once again, until the next crisis, the Israelites discover again that they are the Lord's people, not Moses' people!

Psalms 78:1-4,12-16 When one makes the connection, it is amazing how often the psalms celebrate the events of the exodus. The first four verses underline the importance of informing the coming younger generation of the things heard and known, the glorious deeds of the Lord. Verses 12-16 directly recall the events that brought the nation into being, the marvels God wrought in crossing the Red Sea and the way they were led and provided for in the wilderness. Verse 15 refers directly to the Exodus 17 passage. "He split rocks open in the wilderness, and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep. He made streams come out of the rock, and caused waters to flow down like rivers."

Philippians 2:1-13 There are three remarkable sections in this passage. In the first, Paul asks that his joy may be complete by the Philippians being a community knit together in full accord with the same mind and love, where members do not look to their own interests but to the interests of others. The second section begins with the words, "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." The next six verses portray the wonder of the mind that was in Christ Jesus. Many scholars believe this is an early Christian hymn. Each word in each verse is filled to the brim with the profoundest statements of who he is. Jesus who "though he was in the form of God", "emptied himself", "taking the form of a slave". He "humbled himself and became obedient to the point

of death, even death on a cross". God exalted him and "gave him the name that is above every name so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth". The third section begins with a "therefore" that is so relevant to all who read this hymn, to each community of faith. His command "to work out your own salvation with fear and trembling," leads into the most amazing assertion, "for it is God who is at work among you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure." The you here is a plural you, for Paul has in mind the group in Philippi. But he has so written it that it applies to any group who meet in Christ. How are we in Baulkham Hills working out our salvation with fear and trembling? Do we recognise how God is at work among us, enabling us to do what God wills for his amazing mission to the world? Is it the time to share with each other how we see God at work in our midst.

Matthew 21:23-32 In Matthew, the day after Jesus entered Jerusalem and cleansed the temple, the chief priests and elders came to him and asked him by what authority he had done these things and who had given him this authority. It is the obvious question to ask Jesus who amazingly is there in the temple teaching. Yet it is asked in a way that leaves out any reference to his message of the kingdom of heaven over the previous three years. Jesus answers the question with a question, and then tells a parable that hammers home their response.

First the question, Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin? They could only answer they did not know, because they were caught in a cleft stick. If John's baptism was from heaven why did they not believe him, and if it was of human origin, they were afraid of the crowd who believed it was from heaven. And implicit in the question is the status of Jesus baptism also. They clearly did not believe it was from heaven - because they asked him who had given him this authority. Jesus declined to tell them what was the obvious answer. Second, he told a story about a father of two sons. He goes to one of his sons and asks him to work in the vineyard. This son at first said "No" and then changed his mind and went. The father then goes to his other son and asks him to work. The second son says "Yes", but then changed his mind and did not go. Then comes the critical question. Jesus asks the chief priests and the elders, 'Which of the two did the will of his father?' They answer, 'the first'. Jesus raises the question of both his and John's teaching of the kingdom of heaven, the issue that the chief priests and elders have not acknowledged or dare to acknowledge.

Jesus points out that the tax collectors and the prostitutes who first said no to the will of the Father, like the first son, changed their mind on hearing John the Baptist. They are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. You chief priests and elders did not believe John came in the way of righteousness, but you saw the tax collectors and prostitutes believe, and still you did not change your minds.

In Matthew's reading next week Jesus takes the vineyard conversation further. He raises the stakes even higher by describing what tenants did to the son of a vineyard owner. The telling conclusion "The kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom." No wonder the confrontation escalated further in that last week!

Dean Drayton



PEOPLE NEWS

David Short
David Neideck

Lee Anderson

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

1—7 October

Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela

OCTOBER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

at the church

1 October - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm
includes Communion

8 October - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

15 October - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

22 October - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

29 October - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

Live streaming morning services only

Children and Youth Table

You may have noticed something new in the church foyer. This Children and Youth table has some activity sheets for all ages that help the younger members of our congregation engage in the worship services in a more meaningful way. Along with the activity sheets, we have included some fidget items that can be used to help focus.

This table will also be used to keep the wider church community up to date on what is happening amongst the various Children and Youth ministries at St. Matthew's.



This table is a work in progress that we will be constantly updating as we continue in ministry with Children and Youth at St. Matthew's. Daniel Gibb

Rev Jon Humphries Induction Service

3pm Sunday 15 October

St. Matthew's Uniting Church

Light refreshments will be served by the Women's fellowship after the service.

If you will be attending and would like to bring a plate of food it would be greatly appreciated.

Please join Jon as he begins his ministry with us.

Welcoming everyone at St. Matthew's

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



The Welcomer is, more often than not, the first face we see when we come to Church. As Welcomers, we are in the ideal position to make a good first impression. Everyone likes to feel that you are happy to see them, whether they are a first-time visitor, or the longest-serving member of St. Matthew's. A cheerful welcome puts us all in the right frame of mind to enter into worship. Of course, you don't have to be an official Welcomer to be the one to make someone's day.

Proverbs 15:13 The Message says, "A cheerful heart brings a smile to your face."

Sandra Gordon



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.



THE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD PROJECT

Preschool is inviting members of the congregation to support Operation Christmas

Child (OCC), a global project to fill up shoeboxes with gifts that will be distributed to disadvantaged children at Christmas time. For children living in poverty, the shoebox is usually the first gift they have ever received.

You can pick up an empty shoebox along with a brochure, which provides more information on the gifts to pack, from the **Preschool Office between 9am – 3pm Monday - Friday.**

The shoeboxes are available now for collection.

Please note that we will need all the boxes returned to the Preschool Office by latest Friday 21st October.

A Donation of \$12.50 per box is essential to cover shipping costs. Payment details are on the brochure. Thank you for your helping us support the wider community!

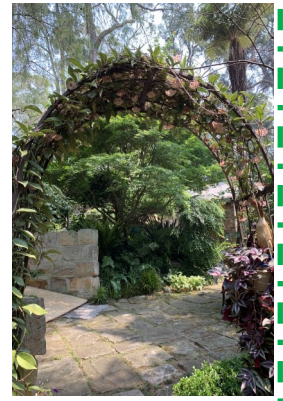
Please note that the Preschool will be closed for holidays from Monday 25th September till Friday 6th October.

Warmest Regards

St Matthews Preschool

Dear Friends of the St. Matthew's community.

Bundaleer will be open on several days from 10am to 4pm within the next 3 weeks then closed to St Matthews visitors. The garden is blooming and the temperature is pleasant for a visit relaxing among the trees and by water and having a drink and something to eat.



If you missed coming in autumn this is your last chance.

Please consider visiting by yourself or with a friend or group to enjoy the peace and beauty of this place.

For inquiries or bookings email Katherine at kathped56@gmail.com

Last Dates

Time: 10am- 4pm.

October 1; 4; 6; 7; 8

Time: 10am- 4pm

All donations go to the Roofing Fund.

Church Working Bee



St. Matthew's

Saturday 14 October

8.30am-11.30am

Many hands make light work.

Please come along on Saturday and lend a hand.

ST MATTHEW'S UNITING CHURCH,
BAULKHAM HILLS

TRIVIA
NIGHT

Tables of 8
\$15 per person

SATURDAY | 28 OCTOBER, 2023

7:30 PM

More Info
daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

Recycling Appeal

Thank you to everyone who has participated in the Recycling initiative. The funds raised so far will be passed on to various organisations

Collecting for the 2023 Appeal will finish at the end of October.



We appreciate all the donations so far and hope to continue this initiative sometime next year.

Thank you

Marijke Prinsloo

Help Required

We require help this **Wednesday the 4th October** with the setting up for the next Mini Mart which will be held on **Saturday 7 October.**

If you are available to help on **Wednesday** please let **Pamela Leslie** know, **ASAP.**

Thank you

PASIFIKA EMPOWERED 2023

A Community Event for Climate Justice and Cost of Living



With **CHRIS BOWEN**
Minister for Climate Change and Energy

Saturday, **7th** October
Nexus Meeting Room
Pullman Hotel

9 OLYMPIC BOULEVARD
SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK NSW 2127

1pm - 4pm | Followed by Fiji Day celebrations nearby!



NEW LOCATION!

REGISTER NOW



Uniting

Uniting Church Hawkesbury Zone.

TWILIGHT JAZZ

ON THE BANKS OF THE HAWKESBURY RIVER

8th OCTOBER 2023

4.00PM TO 8.00PM

A PERFORMANCE BY
HARMONIX BIG BAND

AND SUPPORTED BY
WARRAWEE PUBLIC SCHOOL
STAGE BAND

ON THE LAWNS OF
EBENEZER CHURCH

BRING A PICNIC, CHAIRS, BLANKET & BYO
BBQ, TEA, COFFEE & CAKE AVAILABLE

TICKETS \$20 EACH

CONTACT REBECCA ON 0439 309 303

TICKETS SOLD ON NIGHT IF NOT SOLD OUT.

Find us on Facebook

Ebenezer Uniting Church - Twilight Jazz

FUNDS RAISED GO TO THE WEST PAPUAN DEVELOPMENT COMPANY - FOR CLEAN WATER WELLS.