



Bible Readings

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22



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



8am—Worship
Led by Jon Humphries

9.30am—Worship
Led by Dean Drayton
and Jon Humphries

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

5pm—Shine

6.45pm—Worship
Led by Jane Cole
and Alex Lawless

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**

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 23 OCTOBER

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

TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop
9.30am—Christian Meditation
in the church
7pm—Thrive lower hall
**7.30pm—Property Committee
Meeting** upstairs hall

WEDNESDAY 25 OCTOBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop
7.30pm—Elders Meeting
in the Church

THURSDAY 26 OCTOBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 27 OCTOBER

**5pm-7pm—Fusion Youth Group
“Movie Making”** in the upstairs hall

SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER

7.30pm—Trivia Night
All Church property

**SUNDAY
29 OCTOBER**

8am—Worship
9.30am—Worship
KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8

6.45pm—Worship



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

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Thank you to all who have
contributed to this publication.

Something to think about

Pentecost 21
21st Sunday After Pentecost
October 22nd

Lectionary Readings:

Exodus 33:12-23, Psalm 99

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, Matthew 22:15-22

In the classic '90s song by Joan Osborne, 'One Of Us?' she asks the following:

*If God had a name what would it be?
And would you call it to his face?
If you were faced with Him in all His glory
What would you ask if you had just one question?*

*...If God had a face what would it look like?
And would you want to see
If seeing meant that you would have to believe
In things like heaven and in Jesus and the Saints
And all the prophets?*

What would it be like to see God? In the Exodus reading Moses has the boldness to ask to see God. God shoves him in a crack and Moses gets to see the back of God's glory – or is it God's goodness. Is there a difference anyway? What would have that been like? Why is Moses the only one who gets this kind of experience? Why can no one see the face of God and live? What would be like and how would it change us? So many questions to ponder – or maybe not.

Of course, for us, Jesus is God as a human, and so we know what God is like. However, it is interesting to think that there are no surviving accounts of Jesus's appearance in the Bible. We just have to struggle to imagine, and to strip away all the white-faced Jesuses that we have before us in so much of the artwork throughout history. Or, of course again maybe we shouldn't be too worried about what Jesus looked like, at least other than he was more likely a Middle-Eastern Jewish man, than a white blonde-haired, blue-eyed man, and he didn't speak English.

Why do we get caught up in wondering what Jesus looked like. It is probably partly, because that we want Jesus to be like us. This has been suggested why so many images of Jesus reflect the race and culture of the person painting his likeness. This is understandable.

We want Jesus to be relatable as the face of God. Yet, although this can be helpful sometimes, the reality is that Jesus is alien to us. Even to his peers at the times, although his appearance was probably not notably dissimilar to other Jewish men of the day, his actions and thinking were so often out of step with religion and culture, not only for Jewish people, but other cultures he encountered such as Roman and Samaritan. Jesus was consistently provoking people to thought and challenging traditional understandings and ways of being. It is not what Jesus looked like that was important, but what and how he was like that should get hold our attention.

Jesus blew people's minds by what he said and did, so it makes some sense that seeing God in person, or more accurately in God's full God-ness, would blow our minds completely. Yet, in all this, there is something that we are missing. We often tend to focus on appearances. God though is not. It is not appearances that matter to God. It is how we are being. It is what we do and say which is ultimately important. This brings us to the challenge and dogmatic trap that the disciples of the Pharisees and the followers of King Herod (the Herodians) tried to get Jesus with. In the end Jesus draws their attention to the image of the emperor on a coin and says, Give to Caesar what is Caesars and give to God what is God's." What is God like and what does God like? They should be more important questions for us. God is more concerned about how we seek to be like God than our understanding of what God's appearance. Giving to God God's due is a big question. What is God's if not everything? However, we who claim to be God's people should give ourselves to God, and that requires us working out what that is, particularly, and then doing what God wants from us.

So, as we come to the end of the liturgical year, the readings are taking us to the story of the cross, and this is likely no accident. The word liturgy comes for the Greek word translated as 'the work of the people.' We who are God's people, have God's work to do. In this twenty-first Sunday after we celebrated Pentecost and what it means to be the Church – the people of God who follow God in the person of Jesus with the guidance of God who is the Holy Spirit and who is always with us - we should be thinking back over all the months that have been since that time and reflecting on how well we have been able to do God's work. How well have we given to God what is God's, or have we gotten too much in keeping up appearances? That is something to think about.

God bless.

Jon



PEOPLE NEWS

Melanie MacWilliam
Terry Oliver

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle 22—28 October

The Caribbean; Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Kitts-Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago



Defibrillator Training

Monday 30 October @ 7pm

in the upstairs hall at St. Matthew's

Please RSVP your attendance to the church office by Thursday 26 October

Open to everyone, even to those who wish to review their skills.

NO COST

Contact Jeff Cuff: 0466825190



Welcoming everyone at St. Matthew's



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

Many people have extended a welcome to me over the years in a variety of churches and it is always appreciated. It isn't pleasant to turn up and feel invisible! New situations can be daunting, but seeing a happy smile, receiving help finding a seat plus introductions to some church members makes the process easier. You may be a visitor or looking for a new church community and the type of welcome received will be remembered. I hope all find a warm welcome awaits them here at St. Matthew's Church, for new friends, for old friends and for visitors. Everybody here is a welcomer, not just the people at the doorway.



Barbara Fiedler

Thank You. A very big thank you to everyone who contributed with food for the afternoon tea following Jon's Induction Service.
From the Women's Fellowship.

Church Diary for 2024

A note to all group leaders — If your group is planning to use a part of the church property please ensure the area is available before finalizing your program.

Please send your 2024 programs to the church office ASAP.

The **8am and 9.30am** **Worship Roster Non-availability Form for December 2023, January & February 2024**

have been emailed. If you do not have email or would like a hardcopy please collect them from the church foyer or outside the church office.

Please return your Roster Non-availability Form to the blue mail tray, church office or via email by 29 October.

Many thanks

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.

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



Guest Speaker

**Chris and Margo
Hebbard**

Thursday

2 November

10am—12noon

FRANK HEBBARD and the LOST PHOTOS OF WW2

Margo is the narrator and Chris will speak his fathers actual words which were written down in the last months of Franks life. They tell of how Frank came to make a photographic record of his WW2 Australian Army Hospital unit, 2/5 Aus General Hospital, and how he and another 168 members of his unit volunteered to stay with critically wounded soldiers as the Germans overran Greece.

He continued to take photos behind enemy lines while helping to attend over 2,800 wounded allied POWs for the next 8 months. Some 600 of these photos were eventually printed for the first time in 2011, a full 70 years after they were taken.

After the history, (about 20 minutes) photos will be shown on the screen and then members are invited to inspect a range of Frank's memorabilia.

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

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

**OCTOBER SUNDAY
WORSHIP SERVICES**
at the church

22 October - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm
29 October - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

Live streaming morning services only

**NOVEMBER SUNDAY
WORSHIP SERVICES**
at the church

5 November - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm
includes Communion

12 November - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm
Community Meal

19 November - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm
26 November - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

Live streaming morning services only

MJC Margaret Jurd College
193 followers
1w • 📷

As Christmas is fast approaching, we are starting to collect donations for our Christmas Hampers, these hampers are provided to our families who need a bit of extra cheer during the festive season.

If you would like to get involved, please reach out to us at donate@mjc.nsw.edu.au.

MJC
MARGARET JURD COLLEGE

Christmas Hamper Fundraiser

DONATE FOR 2023

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN, MJC IS FUNDRAISING FOR CHRISTMAS HAMPERS FOR OUR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY

BANK TRANSFER | CASH | RECEIPTS PROVIDED

For more information, please email the Wellbeing Team at Donate@mjc.nsw.edu.au or call on 0249517314

Op Shop

st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
9am-2pm

and
the first Saturday of the month
9am-12noon

which also includes a
Mini Mart in the lower hall

Pre-loved clothes & accessories
Books, Haberdashery, Bric-a-brac

Mini MART

Saturday
4th November
9am-12pm

Pre-loved
Household Items,
Electrical, Toys & Books
Christmas Items (Fiction, Non-fiction & Children's Books)

St. Matthew's Lower Hall

The Galston Concerts

Sunday 5th November
Galston Uniting Church, 11 School Road - Galston

Starting 1.30pm in lieu of our traditional organ prelude. Robert will 'launch' our 2024 concerts line-up with news of performers and programs. Plus musical interlude appetisers by J S Bach, George Gershwin, maybe Henry the 8th and maybe a tango.

2pm

Galston's favourite pianist, Hornsby-resident, internationally acclaimed Tonya Lemoh, returns with a program by Top Ten composers (and maybe a Top Twenty) Beethoven, Mozart and their favourite mentor Josef Haydn of the Classical era. Dances by Chopin and 'songs' by Tchaikovsky in Romantic style. Bonus waltzes from Sierra Leone deserving 'Top' status.

Galston Concerts co-director, violist Robert Harris, joins Tonya to celebrate love's joy, loves sorrow, and love's magical power.

Followed by afternoon tea

Tickets available at www.trybooking.com - search Galston or cash at the door

Adults \$30.00 Seniors \$25.00 HS/Uni \$10.00 Children Free
Enquiries Galston Uniting Church 9653 2039