




Bible Readings
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Matthew 25:31-46



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 Albert Olley
and Jon Humphries

**Followed by
Elections of Elders**

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

**10.45am-12.30pm
St Matthews Preschool
Completed Renovation Works
Open Day and BBQ
All Welcome**

6.45pm—Worship

Led by Abby Sim
and Jon Humphries

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 27 NOVEMBER
9am—*Sorting & Pricing*
for Op Shop lower hall

TUESDAY 28 NOVEMBER
9am-2pm—*Op Shop*
9.30am—*Christian Meditation*
in the church
11.30am-12.30pm
Preschool Nativity in the church

WEDNESDAY 29 NOVEMBER
9am-2pm—*Op Shop*
10am-12pm—*In Stitches*
upstairs hall

THURSDAY 30 NOVEMBER
9am-2pm—*Op Shop*
11.30am-12.30pm
Preschool Nativity in the church

FRIDAY 1 DECEMBER
No Scheduled Events

SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER
9am-12pm—*Op Shop*
and Garage Sale
in lower hall

**SUNDAY
3 DECEMBER**

8am—Worship
includes Communion

9.30am—Worship
includes Communion

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

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.

Something to think about

26 November
26th Sunday after Pentecost
Christ the King Sunday

Lectionary Readings:
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 100
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:14-30

Do The Right Thing

So, we come to the end of the Liturgical Year. This week is Christ the King Sunday. Next Sunday begins a new Church year with the Season of Advent. The theme for St Matthews this Sunday is 'Do the Right Thing.' This of course for those who have been around a while has been the core of an Australian campaign about not littering. It has a simple message which is aimed at triggering our conscience. Of course, the words don't just stand by themselves, but are accompanied by a logo of a person throwing rubbish in a bin or waste receptacle. What I hadn't really noticed before was the green circular arrow that goes around the logo. This I assume is to indicate that having done it once we should continue to do it over and over again. It is a very clever and simple design and we will come back to the idea of the arrow in a bit.

'DO THE RIGHT THING'



Over the last month we have been exploring a series of troubling and enigmatic parables that seem to all be bunched around a theme of being about the 'end times.' Daniel Gibb reminded us, in his sermon last Sunday night, that these are known as Jesus' eschatological parables. Eschatological is the big theological name for teachings/doctrine about the 'last things' which include such things as the second coming of the Christ, immortality of the soul, rebirth, resurrection, migration of the soul, and the end of time, as well as the fulfillment of the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven. It comes from the Greek word ἔσχατον (eschaton) which literally means 'last' or even 'least.' It is a common word and we see it used in describing the last shall be first and even in the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant where that servant is locked away until every last shekel has been paid of the debt which was reinstated when they failed to forgive another servant in the way that they had been forgiven.

This idea of last or least, I think is the key thing that we often miss in our trying to understand what Jesus meant. Too often, like the people in Jesus' times, we get caught up in trying to work out when the ends times will be and what signs might help us work out that they are coming. When we consider all the parables Jesus puts forward, and his actual explicit teachings about the last or end times, I think that the emphasis is on that this is the last thing that we should be thinking about and the least important thing to be worrying about. The fact that Jesus will return to close and complete all things is important, but his message seems to be consistently quite clear, that there is no way to know when that will be and no real point in worrying about it. In fact, why should we care? It will happen when it happens, and if we are just wanting to know what signs to look out for, so that we can rush to clean ourselves up at the last minute so that we don't get caught out? then we have missed the point and are effectively wanting to cheat the system. The point in all this seems to be that we should just do the right thing, and not be worried about if we are going to be caught out doing the wrong thing.

We should do the right thing because it is the right thing to do. Jesus seems to frame the right thing as loving God with all our being, after all God loves us with all God's being, and this is indistinguishable from loving our neighbour as ourselves. This is the way of God which we learn in its fullest through God as the person of Jesus, the Messiah/Christ, who is the Word of God (at least as John 1 describes it). The way of Jesus is the way of the cross. It is about following the Servant King, by serving others. It is about laying down our lives for others as God, as Christ, lay down his life for us. It is about forgiving others as we have been forgiven. It is about discipling others as we have been discipled. It is about joining in the work of God, because God is already at work and waiting and wanting us to join. It is about loving others as we have been loved by God – this is the greatest thing of all, because God is love and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them.

At the end of the liturgical year, we are reminded not only of the return of Christ the King, both eschatologically and in the Nativity, but also how it is the last thing to worry about. We are called to faith and discipleship and all the work that this involves. The most important and first thing that we are called to do is the right thing, and then do it again and again and to keep doing it, just as the green circular arrow in the logo reminds us to. How we go about doing it and what that means for each of our individual lives and for our life as a community called the Church, well, that is what we will have another year to help us continue to learn and think about. This week, thought, the Parable of the Sheep and Goats sets out some fairly explicit and practical ways to walk in the way of Jesus and not get caught out (not being caught out is something to worry about, because if we are doing the right thing then there is nothing to worry about if and when all things come to an end).

God bless.

Jon

'DO THE RIGHT THING'





PEOPLE NEWS

Sandra Drayton
Bruce MacWilliam

Pamela Leslie

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

Sympathy to Rev Ray Longmuir and family on the death of his wife Lois Longmuir on Sunday 19th November. Rev Ray Longmuir was a minister at St. Matthew's. A funeral service will be held on Thursday 30 November at Tea Gardens Uniting Church @ 11.30am. Livestream link is below.

<https://www.endlessmemories.com.au/longmuir-lois-elaine>

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle 26 November — 2 December

Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore

DECEMBER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES at the church

3 December - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm
includes Communion

10 December - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm
Community Meal

17 December - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

24 December - 9am (combined)

31 December - 9am (Summer)

Live streaming morning services only

Weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

For Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter for 17 November 2023 please see link :

[New Insights \(uca.org.au\)](http://uca.org.au)

Elders Elections

Elders voting will be held after a **combined 9am service on Sunday 26th November.**

Elders Nomination Forms are located in the upstairs foyer and Nominations close on Friday 10th November.

A list of nominees will be available from Sunday 12th November.



UNITINGCARE
ST MATTHEWS PRESCHOOL

COMPLETED
RENOVATION WORKS
OPEN DAY
& BBQ

SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2023
10.45AM – 12.30PM

LOCATION
St Matthews Preschool
ST MATTHEWS LANE
BAULKHAM HILLS

You are invited to visit the preschool to see the recent renovation works that have been completed.

The works include a new roof, entrance/reception area and staff room / library area.

The Open Day includes a BBQ with the St Matthews Church Community



Volunteers needed to help organize and cook the BBQ on the day. If you can help contact the church office.

The downstairs foyer and hall are getting a makeover.

New floors, a bit of paint and the removal of the compactus storage unit from the kitchens. The new floor will be laid on 16 January so the old floors need to be removed before this can be done.

Monday 8 January will be the start of the demolition and then we move onto to the painting.

If you are free anytime during this week to help, please contact David Porter.

This will give St. Matthew's downstairs foyer a welcoming and update look and feel.

Thank you in advance of your support and help.

Barbara Gibb

Reign of Christ Sunday



The Christmas Bowl of Remembrance

Today is the first Sunday of the 2023 Christmas Bowl. Since it was founded by Rev. Frank Byatt in 1949, the Christmas Bowl has brought together committed Australian Christians with dedicated local partners around the world, to give hope to people uprooted by conflict and disaster. By joining together through the Christmas Bowl, you are helping build a world where all people have a safe place to belong. **Thank you.**



CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

Enjoy Gardening?

The Property Committee are asking for help with the watering, weeding, pruning and general care of the whole perimeter of the church and preschool property. Please reply to the Garden Maintenance team on the committee.

George Haines 0478 693 245
Katherine Pedersen 0437 772 011

All ages can apply and no need to be a member of St. Matthew's, neighbours etc please apply to talk with us about the possibility of joining the team.

Garage

SALE

Christmas Items

Saturday

2nd December

9am-12pm

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

St. Matthew's Lower Hall

St. Matthew's
Evangelical Lutheran Church
growing together



Help Required to teach SRE at Jasper Road on Tuesday Mornings in 2024

Speak to Daniel Gibb for more details

The Church Council and Elders are working with Jon to gather some feedback about how we can continue to grow ways nurture people in faith and discipleship. There is a survey that we are asking you to complete. It also asks for feedback about some of the new things that Jon has introduced in recent times.

You can scan the QR code below or use the link below.



<https://forms.office.com/r/EV8b6YqQmY>

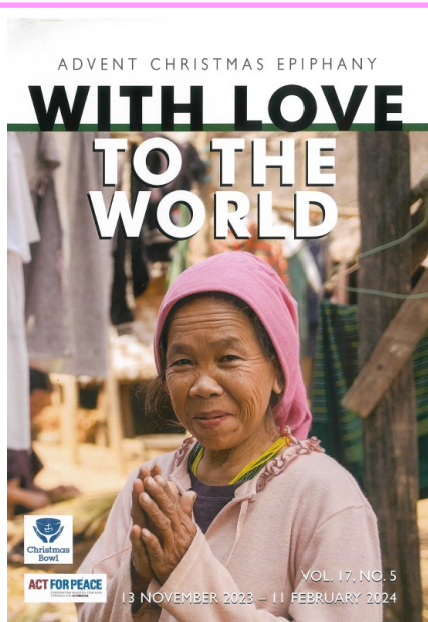
ROSTERS

Worship Rosters for 8am and 9.30am,
Christmas and Summer services.
for December 2023,
January and February 2024
have been emailed.

If you do not have email or would like an A3 copy please collect a copy from the table in the church foyer.

**If you are able
to help with any on the gaps
please contact the church office.**

Thank you to everyone who has helped on the last 3 month roster and to those who have been able to help on this roster.



ADVENT CHRISTMAS EPIPHANY WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD

a daily
Bible reading
guide based
on the
Revised
Common
Lectionary

Volume 17, Number 5

13 November 2023

to

11 February 2024

is available in the church foyer.

Please place \$7 in offering bag to cover costs.



JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL
ST BERNADETTE'S PRIMARY, LALOR PARK

CHRISTMAS MARKET

FRIDAY, 1ST DECEMBER 2023
GATES OPEN AT 3:30PM - 8PM
ST BERNADETTE'S PRIMARY, WHEELER ST, LALOR PARK

MARKET STALLS • FOOD TRUCKS • BBQ • RAFFLE & PRIZES
GAMES • CHRISTMAS PHOTO SCENE AND MUCH MORE

TO BOOK A STALL OR FOR MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE EMAIL SBLPFUNDRAISING@GMAIL.COM