



**Bible Readings**

8am and 9.30am Services  
Isaiah 40:21-31  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23  
Mark 1:29-39



**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 9AM**

**Livestreaming at  
8am and 9.30am only**

**8am—Worship**  
Led by Jon Humphries  
Includes Communion

**9.30am—Worship**  
Led by Hugh Darling  
and Jon Humphries  
Includes Communion

**KUCA** Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8  
**Resumes for 2024**

**6.45pm—Worship**  
Led by Jane Cole  
and Jon Humphries

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

**MONDAY 5 FEBRUARY**

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

**TUESDAY 6 FEBRUARY**

9am-2pm—*Op Shop*

9.30am-11am—*Christian Meditation*

Community Room

11.30am—*Care and Prayer*

Community Room or church

7.30pm—*Thrive Bible Study*

lower hall

7.30pm—*Property Committee*

Meeting upstairs hall

**WEDNESDAY 7 FEBRUARY**

9am-2pm—*Op Shop*

10am-12pm—*In Stitches*

upstairs hall

7.30pm—*Finance Committee*

Meeting upstairs hall

**THURSDAY 8 FEBRUARY**

9am-2pm—*Op Shop*

**FRIDAY 9 FEBRUARY**

5pm-7pm—*Fusion*

*Youth Group*

upstairs hall

**SATURDAY 10 FEBRUARY**

2pm-5pm—*Learn About Healing Prayer Ministry*

in the church and community room

For more information see advert page 5

**SUNDAY  
11 FEBRUARY**

8am—*Worship*

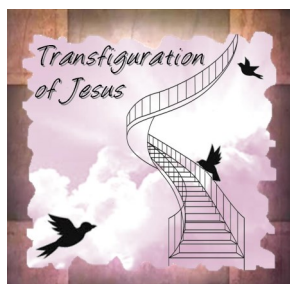
9am—*Worship @ the Willows*

9.30am—*Worship*

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

6.45pm—*Worship*

Includes Community Meal



**MINISTER**

REV JON HUMPHRIES

Email: jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

**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

Email: office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

**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

**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

4 February  
5th Sunday of After Epiphany

## Lectionary Readings:

Isaiah 40:21-31  
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23  
Mark 1:29-39

## Knowing God

We are in the second last week of the liturgical season of After Epiphany. It is good to remember that epiphany means an appearance or manifestation especially of a divine being; a usually sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something; an intuitive grasp of reality through something (such as an event) usually simple and striking; or, an illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure. However, I think that an epiphany can also be a slow burn process and an arriving to an understanding over time. After, all that is what the season of After Epiphany is essentially about, given that it is over several weeks and happens every year. Thus, our spiritual work in this season, remembering that liturgy means at heart, 'the work of the people,' is to better seek to grasp and understand what it means that God is with us.

God entered into humanity in such a profound way in the person of Jesus, and is always with us and working within us and all things as the Holy Spirit. Our epiphanic work is to first understand this conceptually and then come to understand it in our spirits/hearts that we might have [metanoia] which is a changing of our minds which works a change in our being and living. This is the difference of knowing about God and knowing God. In Biblical Greek there are

two main ideas for knowing. The first is οἶδα [oida] which is a cognitive knowing. This is where we understand something in our head as a concept.

In last week's Gospel reading, Mark 1:21-28, a demon in a man knew Jesus. It cried out, "I know who you are, the Holy One of God." This was a knowing about Jesus. It understood who Jesus was, but this was not a personal relationship kind of knowing. Paul talked about this kind of knowledge in the reading that we had in 1 Corinthians 8:1-13. However, he wisely notes, "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by God. Here Paul also uses the word [gnosis (silent 'g') where we our word knowledge comes from]. However, he is clearly making the distinction from one form of knowing and another even though like many languages words can be used interchangeably at times. What is important is that knowing about something or someone, especially God, is not the same or as knowing them personally.

Here is a helpful explanation about this deeper form of knowing:

"The primary Hebrew term for knowledge, yada, means "to know by experience," including such things as afflictions (1 Kings 8: 38), loss (Isa. 47: 8), disease/grief (Isa. 53: 3), and judgment (Ezek. 25: 14). Also, since both ] יָדָא [yada] and γινώσκω [ginosko] also designate sexual intercourse on the part of the husband (Gen. 4: 1, 17, 25; Matt. 1: 25; Luke 1: 34) and the wife (Num. 31: 18, 25; Judg. 21; 12), it implies that "to know" does not simply mean to have theoretical knowledge of an object and its nature.

**Continued next page.**

## Knowing God continued

Rather, it refers to a personal relationship between the knower and the object known, a relationship characterized by care, concern, and importance.” - Dr. Davey Naugle, Dallas Baptist University, Summer Institute in Christian Scholarship, ‘What is Knowledge? Biblical/Hebraic Epistemology.’ [https://www3.dbu.edu/naugle/pdf/devo\\_7.pdf](https://www3.dbu.edu/naugle/pdf/devo_7.pdf)

So, we can know about something, but that is not the same as knowing it. We can know a theory of how to do something, but there is a great difference from knowing how to do it and knowing how to actually do it without error. We can know about something like grief, but it is something very different to know grief through experiencing it. We can know about someone, through reputation or from how others describe them, but it is not until we meet them in person and literally get to know them, that we can say that we know them. The same is true about God. We can know about God but not know God, like the prophet Samuel did as a boy when he ministered to God but did not know God (1 Samuel 3: 1 & 7).

We have several main ways for knowing God

- *Scripture*
- *Experiences of God*
- *Living the love of God to others*
- *Contemplative Prayer and meditation*

The last of these is one that we may not be as familiar as we might be. Contemplative prayer in this way is not so much about talking to God, but listening for God. Prayer in this way is well described by Father

Richard Rohr. He explains it this way, “it is really a different form of consciousness. It is not saying prayers, It is living in constant unitive union with God and everything around you so that whatever you do is prayer.” Here is a link to a video in which he talks about contemplative prayer. In this he suggests that the way that Jesus went into a lonely place to pray was contemplative prayer. <https://youtu.be/b0o5J0-8OA0?si=aMkcl0-15ehmSyAa>

The other way of knowing God, at least according to Saul/Paul is the manifesting the Fruit of the Spirit. If these speak to the nature of God, then when we practice these things then we come to know through our experience what God is like. It is when we exercise each of what is listed as Fruit, then we know what God is like as we have to work to make these things which are part of our being into part of our being. The best simple definition of contemplation that Richard Rohr can give is “a long loving look at the Real.” This he says leads us to the threshold of contemplation and a deeper knowing of God.

Spending more effort and doing more work to know God instead of just knowing about God is something epiphanic to think about.

God bless.

Jon



## PEOPLE NEWS

Margaret Bell

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

## Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

4—10 February

Angora, Italy, Malta, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Vatican City

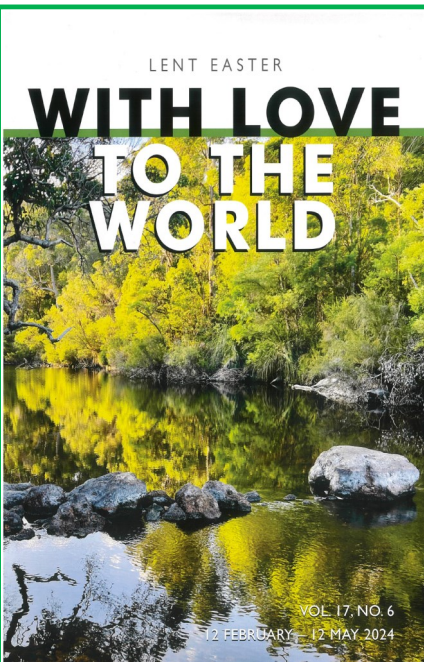
## Worship Leader Needed

After numerous years of service Warren Arthur has retired from leading the 9am Uniting Church Worship @ the Willows service.

The Willow's community is extremely appreciative for having this service each month and would greatly like it to continue.

***If you can help and use your worship leader talents to run the once a month, service please speak with Jon Humphries.***

Worship @ the Willows is held at 9am, once a month on the second Sunday, at The Willows 226 Windsor Road, Winston Hills.



### LENT EASTER

### WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD

a daily Bible reading guide based on the Revised Common Lectionary

**Volume 17,  
Number 6  
12 February  
to  
12 May 2027**

is available in the church foyer.

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

## COMMUNITY CONTACT LIST 2023

The community directory is now available - those that have entered their family details are welcome to have a copy by email (please request from the church office by email) OR get a printed copy by calling into the office. The information will not be published on any website or sent out in bulk.

Need to update, fix an error or add your family? Version 1.2 is now open – please click [HERE](#) . Thanks

David Neideck

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.



st. matthew's  
UNITING CHURCH  
BAULKHAM HILLS  
growing together

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

# Learn About Healing Prayer Ministry

While following scripture we begin to see that Jesus, and Father God's true nature are revealed. Jesus never turned away from anyone in need. He was always thanking the Father, compassionate and ready to heal. Because we know God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow we need to work on our own childlike trust and receive wise instruction to follow Jesus and his clear directions to his disciples to heal the sick in his name.



- \* Recorded talks by Rev. Mike Endicott
- \* Rev. Dean Drayton will guide us about the necessary focus on the Kingdom of God
- \* Care and Prayer members will share their own experiences in carrying out this Ministry

We hope you can join us for these 2 sessions Saturday afternoons in the church at St. Matthew's.

**10<sup>th</sup> February and 17<sup>th</sup> February - 2pm to 5pm**

Session 1

Session 2

RSVP : The Church office on 9686 3003 or [office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto:office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au)



Cnr Edgar and Charles Sts Baulkham Hills



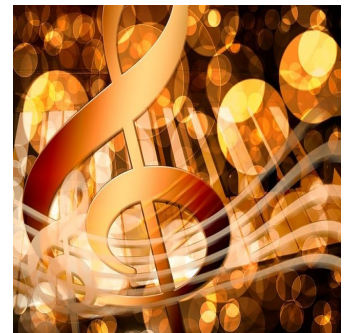
Thursday  
**7th  
March**

**10am—12noon**

*Entertainers*

**NOELEEN & DAVID  
NEIDECK**

Noeleen and David will present some keyboard duets and oboe solos, and we are very excited to welcome back a **guest vocalist Henry Wilden** who performed with Noeleen & David some 10 years ago at St. Matthew's. Henry will choose some show tunes and ballads in the style of Anthony Warlow and Josh Groban. All will be very welcome.



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

\*\*\*\*\* ALL WELCOME \*\*\*\*\*