



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

Weekly Newsletter

31 March 2024

Easter Sunday

Bible Readings

8am and 9.30am Services



John 20: 1-18

1 Corinthians 15: 1-11

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 and 9.30am only

8am—Worship

Followed by morning tea

Led by Michael Strong

and Jon Humphries

9am—Worship @ the Willow's

9.30am—Worship

Led by Daniel Gibb

and Jon Humphries

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

Followed by morning tea

6.45pm—Worship

Led by Jon Humphries

And Daniel Gibb

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 1 April

**Public
Holiday
Easter Monday**

TUESDAY 2 April

9am-2pm—Op Shop

9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation

community room

11.30am—Care & Prayer

community room & Church

7.30pm—Thrive Bible Study

WEDNESDAY 3 April

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12pm—In Stitches

upstairs hall

THURSDAY 4 April

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 5 April

5-7pm—Fusion Youth group

SATURDAY 6 April

9am-12pm—Op Shop

9am-12pm—Garage Sale

lower hall

SUNDAY
7 APRIL



8am—Worship

Includes Communion

9.30am—Worship

Includes Communion

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

Followed by morning tea

**11-12pm Christian
Meditation Introductory
course week 1**

In the church

6.45pm—Worship

Includes Communion



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

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LOCATION:

CNR CHARLES & EDGAR STREETS
BAULKHAM HILLS

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Thank you to all who have
contributed to this publication.

Something to think about

31st March

1st Sunday in Easter

Lectionary Readings:

Acts 10: 34-43
Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15: 1-11
John 20: 1-18

Easter and Resurrection

Have you ever wondered why Easter is called 'Easter'? I hadn't thought about it until I was teaching Religious Education and students asked me why it was called Easter. I was surprised to think that I'd never thought about it. I assumed that I knew, but on reflection I really didn't know. So, I hit the Internet to research what seemed what should have been a simple thing to find out. However, to my surprise no one seems really sure why Easter is called Easter.

There is no mention of Easter in the Bible. I had just assumed that's where it came from or something like that. There seems to be no consensus as to how the name Easter came about for the celebration of Christ rising from the dead – of course including also the events of Good Friday and the season around Easter Sunday. There are a couple of theories as to how the name came about. They seem related and can seem to make sense, but there isn't one that everyone agrees on or which is based on incontrovertible evidence.

A popular theory comes from the Venerable Bede who wrote in the 8th century, that it derived from Eostre, or Eostræ, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring and fertility. She was celebrated in Spring which is the season of new life in the Northern Hemisphere. As Christians engaged in mission it is thought that the missionaries transformed the tradition to be about Jesus as God with us rising to new life and giving us the gift of new life. Another theory is that it is derived from the Old German word Ostern which means Eastern from the Proto-Germanic austron - "dawn". So, as the Sun rises in the East, we celebrate the rising of the Son of God at daybreak on Easter Sunday.

The Encyclopedia Britannica suggests that it derives from the Christian designation of Easter week as "in albis," a Latin phrase that was understood as the plural of alba ("dawn") and became eostarum in Old High German, the precursor of the modern German and English term. In albis, or alba, more simply means white, which is where the connection with dawn comes from with its breaking forth of light. Of course, in the end it doesn't really matter exactly how the name came to be. Many things in society and religion evolve or devolve from other things. Christmas is another prime example of this. What comes to be and how we celebrate them ends up being the most important thing and what its meaning is to us.

Continued next page

Easter and Resurrection continued

That is where all this round about thinking can be helpful. In this uncertainty about something which at first consideration should be simple, straight-forward, and well-understood there is a reminder to us that we sometimes we think that we know and understand things, but actually don't really. This makes us just like people throughout the world and throughout the ages. The people of Jesus' time thought they understood the meaning of his entry into Jerusalem on a donkey. The religious leaders thought that they had the right understanding of God's way and will, which Jesus was upsetting. For us, then, Easter becomes a chance to renew our understanding of what the life, death and resurrection means for us. It is about finding deeper meaning in the story and deeper ways of honouring it and giving right-glory to God.

Jesus consistently challenged the orthodox way of thinking (remembering that ὀρθός (orthos) δόξα (doxa) is literally right-glory in Biblical Greek). Jesus consistently challenged our way of being and the way of religion. In Jesus being God who died and rose back to life whole notion of resurrection challenges our orthodox understanding of death and life. The rising of Jesus is a very perplexing mystery. We can just take it in faith, but even faith seeks understanding. Faith seeking understanding is a well-held beginning definition of theology. Jesus is not just the son of God, but God incarnate. We may never fully get our heads around that, but we do have to begin to answer and keep learning to answer the questions of who do

we say Jesus is and what does he want from us? Our theology is important and it can't just be second-hand. We have to do the work for ourselves lest we just hold the wrong idea, and in holding the wrong idea end up doing the wrong things.

Easter is the full expression of God and God's love. Love which lays oneself down for others. One which suffers at the hands of others yet persists in loving-patience, and loving-kindness, and costly grace. The promise of resurrection is only borne in the reality of death. Jesus rises transformed, and in many ways transfigured, but at the same time wounded and scarred. There is hope and healing in God but, as it is said, love leaves a mark – both on the one who is loved and the one who does the loving. It is this love that we are called to. It is this love which Christ mandates as a new commandment. It is this love which is described as the greatest of all commandments. It is this love then which becomes the way of giving right -glory to God, as we bear the image of God and wear the name of Jesus as the Body of Christ – the Church.

Easter is so much more than just a name or a word. As Easter people who are the people of God we are given much to think about and some important work to

God bless.

Jon



PEOPLE NEWS

Ray Philip
Darren Cameron

Michael Hill
Marion Bindley

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

31 March—6 April

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia,

Weekly
SYNOD SPOTLIGHT
Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

For Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter for 22 March 2024 please see link :

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

Easter Services

at St. Matthew's

Palm Sunday
24 March
8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

Maundy Thursday
28 March 7.30pm

Good Friday
29 March 9am

Easter Sunday
31 March
8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

APRIL 2024 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

at the church

7th April - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm
includes Communion

14th April - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm
Community Meal

21st April - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm

28th April - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm

Live streaming at morning services

New AED (Automated External Defibrillator) at St. Matthew's Preschool



Last year, St Matthew's Preschool received a grant from Heart of the Nation and Castle Hill RSL for an AED to be available 24 hours a day, attached to the preschool. The device was installed on Tuesday. This allows the preschool and church to access an AED, as well as the general public at any time. There is an attached photo to help you locate it. The church AED has been moved downstairs, to be more accessible during the week for the hours the church is open.

The new AED is fitted with an alarm to notify if someone is opening the box, and the AED is fitted with a tracker so it can be traced if used.

AEDs are designed to be very simple to use. There are a number of videos on this site with information about this life saving device and the Heart of the Nation program. <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLrbTNDyBOXk2dkUv3rEIPPGGrEY5Wa8DLA>

Thank you to David Porter and St Matthew's Preschool for allowing this initiative and to Roderick Schuster for installing it. I am very happy to answer any questions you may have.

Belinda Schuster
bdschuster@optusnet.com.au

Smart debit regular giving

Do your own direct debit direct to St Matthew's

1. Login to your online banking
2. Create a schedule to 'Pay Anyone' from your acct
3. Create St Matthew's as a payee
BSB 634-634
Acc 1000 25924
4. Use reference :
Offering 8.00 or 9.30 or 6.45
5. Set the amount and frequency as you wish – weekly/monthly
6. Done!

- ✓ Similar to Pushpay but uses your savings accounts not credit card
- ✓ More flexible than a direct debit form lodged at a branch
- ✓ Start/vary/stop as you choose
- ✓ No fees
- ✓ Regular recurring gifts allows St Matthew's to budget more accurately

Thankyou to all St Matthew's regular givers whatever method – cash, envelopes, direct debit and Pushpay!



INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

YOU ARE INVITED TO A SIX WEEK COURSE

ST MATTHEW'S UNITING CHURCH BAULKHAM HILLS
Corner of Charles St & Edgar St, Baulkham Hills

CONTACT:
Phone: (02) 9686 3003
Office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

This course provides an opportunity for those interested in finding out about Christian Meditation to experience the practice in a small group, to learn about its origins and to discover its relevance as a form of prayer for the contemporary world.

SUNDAY MORNINGS

11.00am-12 noon
(Weekly for 6 weeks)
From 7 April – 12 May

TUESDAY MORNINGS

9.30am-10.30am
(Weekly for 6 weeks)
From 9 April – 14 May

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.