



Bible Readings

8am and 9.30am Services

1 John 1: 1-2: 2
John 20: 19-31

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



8am—Worship
Includes Communion
Led by Vivienne Strong
and Jon Humphries

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

KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8
Followed by Morning Tea

11am-12pm Christian Meditation
Introductory Course Week 1
in the church

6.45pm—Worship
Includes Communion
Led by Daniel Gibb
and Jon Humphries

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
and
9.30am
only



Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 8 April

9am—Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop
lower hall

TUESDAY 9 April

9am-2pm—Op Shop
9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation
community room **Includes**
Introductory Course Week 1

WEDNESDAY 10 April

9am-2pm—Op Shop
10am-12pm—Women's Fellowship upstairs hall & church

THURSDAY 11 April

9am-2pm—Op Shop
10am-12pm—Coffee and Discovery
Guest speaker:
Dr Meredith Gresham
"Dementia and Brain Health"

FRIDAY 12 April



SATURDAY 13 April



SUNDAY
14 APRIL

8am—Worship
9am—Worship @ the Willow's
9.30am—Worship
KUCA in Recess
Followed by morning tea
11-12pm Christian Meditation
Introductory Course Week 2
in the church
6.45pm—Worship
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

7 April

Second Sunday in Easter

Lectionary Readings:

Acts 4:32-35

Psalms 133

1 John 1:1-2:2

John 20:19-31

What's in a Name?

We use names all the time. Sometimes we don't think a lot about them. It is said that sticks and stones can break bones, but names can never hurt us. Anyone who has ever been bullied by name-calling, knows that names can hurt our spirit and our emotional wellbeing. Even those who are highly resilient can be affected by repeated name-calling. Furthermore, our name is synonymous with our reputation. To have a good name doesn't refer to our actually personal label, but refers to having a good reputation. Having a bad name is having a bad reputation. In some cultures names are not just personal labels but are given to shape the character and trajectory of a person's life.

Jesus was called 'Immanuel' at his birth. This both named his character and shaped the trajectory of his life. At the end of the Gospel reading for this week in the Revised Common

Lectionary, which is the end of the Gospel of John, it is written, "these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name." The name of Jesus is important. We use it all the time. We wear it as our religious title - 'Christians' or the Church, 'the Body of Christ.' We should think carefully about the name we bear and how it should shape our character as a community and as individuals. We should also think about it as to how we bear it shapes whether or not Jesus has a good name or bad reputation in the wider community or world because of us. We should not be giving God a bad name.

Someone who is given a bad name in our faith tradition is Thomas. He is known as 'Doubting Thomas.' This is so deeply entrenched in our culture that it is then used to tease or label others who might doubt about something when others call them a 'Doubting Thomas.' Whilst it is true that Thomas did doubt, he was not the only ones. The disciples who ran to the tomb seemed to doubt what they had seen or at least did not seem to understand it, but we don't call them the 'Confused.' The two men on the road to Emmaus doubted. Peter was someone who we often remember at Easter time as the one who denied Jesus three times, but we don't call him "Denying Peter" or "Peter, the Denier." So, it is a bit unfair that Thomas has been labelled as "Doubting" in a way which gives him a bad name.

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In fact, doubting is a natural thing, and can actually be a healthy mindset at times. We shouldn't just accept everything that we are told. Of course we shouldn't doubt everything or everyone either. Doubt is appropriate when truth needs to be ascertained in important situations. Jesus was proclaimed as being risen from the dead, and that was an astounding thing to happen. The disciples claimed to have experienced it, but Thomas, for whatever reason, needed to share in the same experience to believe in the same way. To me that seems fair-enough. We sometimes overlook that the disciples believed because Jesus had appeared to them and proved his physicality and the reality of his resurrection, even though he could literally appear and disappear. It seems justifiable that Thomas, who may have felt cheated because he missed out, wanted to have the same experience.

I think that we need to be careful with names. Thomas was a believer. In fact he was the one who named Jesus, "My Lord and My God." Literally, in the Greek, he names Jesus, "Ὁ Κύριός μου, καὶ ὁ Θεός μου" (ho kyious mou kai ho theos mou) – the Lord of me and the God of Me. That is quite an important statement, because it not only names Jesus, but it links Jesus to Thomas as the Lord and God of him. That changes Thomas' trajectory in life, and in fact for all of us. We can also overlook that Jesus breathed the Spirit on the disciples in his appearance to them (again Thomas missed out at that time) which is the Pentecost moment in the Gospel of John. This comes with the command or mandate, as the Father has sent me, so I send you. Jesus, who was sent (ἀπέσταλκέν apostalken – has sent forth – from the word apostolos which means send/sent, and from which we get the name 'apostle'), then sends the disciples. They now are not just

disciples, but apostles. Being apostolic is not just being sent, but as God sent Jesus as the incarnation of God and the embodiment of God's love, so we are apostles, sent by God to be the Body of Christ and embody the love of God to all.

We need to be careful with the names we use. Thomas, did doubt, but he was also the believer. He is the one who helps us understand that Jesus is God with us and the risen, crucified Christ is the one who we look to as our lord. The Samaritan man who helped the man attacked by robbers on the road to Bethany was 'good' but was not a 'good Samaritan' which implies all others are bad. He was the loving neighbour, who helps us understand what it means to love our neighbour as ourselves, which is what Jesus, the Christ – Immanuel, God with us – described as the most important commandment, for it is the full expression of our love for God with all that we are. God is the one who is love and who loves us with all that God is, becoming human in the person of Jesus, who was not just the 'Son of God' but was one with the Father. It is this God whose name that we bear. It is this God, in the person of Jesus, the Christ, that we are sent into the world to bear the love of God because that is what it means to bear the name of God.

Names are important. They can set for us the nature of our character and the trajectory of the way that we live. They carry with them the reputation of not only ourselves, but the one and ones who we share the name with. In this time of Easter, as we reflect on the meaning of the death and resurrection of Jesus, it is good to work to understand what this means for us as the Church. We who bear the name of Christ and the People of God need to think about what that means for us and for others.

God bless

Jon



PEOPLE NEWS

Eulalie Herat

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

7—13 April

Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania

Weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

For Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter for 28 March 2024 please see link :

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

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

st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

OP SHOP



Open Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9am-2pm and 1st Saturday of the month 9-12pm
Pre-loved clothes & accessories, Books, Haberdashery, Bric-a-brac, Pot Plants.

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=PLrbTNDyBOXk2dkUv3rEIPPGrEY5Wa8DLA>

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



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

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!

**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.**