



Bible Readings

8am and 9.30am

**Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-7**

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

Led by Dean Drayton
and Jon Humphries
Followed by Morning Tea

9.30am—Worship

Led by Dean Drayton
and Jon Humphries

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

5pm—Shine

6.45pm—Worship

Led by Jon Humphries
and Alexander Lawless

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 27 May

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

7.30pm—Christian Meditation
NEW GROUP
All Welcome
in Community room and church

TUESDAY 28 May

9am-2pm—Op Shop

9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation
community room

7.30pm—Thrive Bible Study
lower hall

WEDNESDAY 29 May

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12pm—In Stitches
upstairs hall

THURSDAY 30 May

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 31 May

**2.30pm—Op Shop
Planning Meeting**
lower hall

SATURDAY 1 June

9am-12pm—Op Shop
9am-12pm—Garage Sale
lower hall

**SUNDAY
2 JUNE**

8am—Worship
includes Communion

9.30am—Worship
includes Communion
KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8
Followed by morning tea

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

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

PRESCHOOL 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 May



Trinity Sunday

Lectionary Readings:

Isaiah 6: 1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8: 12-17
John 3: 1-17

The Complexity of God: Triune – Three-In-One

This Sunday is Trinity Sunday. This is the only Sunday in the liturgical calendar which is focused on a doctrine, rather than a moment in the life of Jesus or a significant celebration. Doctrine means teaching. Trinity Sunday is a celebration that God, who is the one and only god, is experienced by us in/as three-persons. Like a lot of things in theology, our language and our human conceptualisation is limited and cannot fully describe God who transcends (goes beyond) our reality and our understanding.

Having arisen from our Jewish roots, Christianity, affirms that God is one. There is one god, who is and was and always will be. God the creator of time and space (or spacetime) exists beyond time and space. In our experience, within the limits of time

and space, God has been experienced throughout our faith history in different ways – as Word, angel, presence, shekinah/glory. However, when God personally entered into our existence, taking on our human being in the person of Jesus - the Christ, and then the disciples experienced God in the person of the Holy Spirit, and as Jesus used the triune naming of God as Father, Son and Spirit, the doctrine of the Trinity evolved. This is how we continue to experience God, for the most part.

Here is a quick three-and-a-half-minute introduction (or reminder) about the teaching of the doctrine of the Trinity. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0HMryr1ZlxQ&t=8s> It is helpful as it addresses the Trinity using the wording of language and grammar as a metaphor, or way, to speak well and correctly about God.

The triangular image of the doctrine of the Trinity also can be helpful. It is referenced in the video. It works through some of the three-in-one-ness of God. God is Father and the Father is God. God is Jesus and Jesus is God. God is the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit is God. They are all one, even though we experience them as three. The next part is where our language starts to reach its limits. The statements about “is not,” are about making it clear that the ‘persons’ of the Trinity are individual and differentiated. They are three persons, but not three people. The Father is not the Son. The Son is not the Spirit. The Spirit is not the Father. Yet, as we know from Scripture, and as the Celtic knotwork backing in the image suggests, the Father is in the Son and the Son is in the Father. (John 14:11) The Holy Spirit is a person of God in their own right, yet we know as well that God spoke about giving us “his Spirit,” such as in Ezekiel 36:27 where God tells the people, “I will put my spirit in you.” God is three persons in one and one God in three persons.

Continued next page



The Complexity of God: Triune – Three-In-One continued

At this point, whilst we are exploring the complexity of God, it might be helpful to note how God being spirit, as well as being the Spirit, relates to the gender of God. In principle gender relates to our sex as well as how we identify our gender. In recent years we have seen in Australia and other places an increased complexity around gender. This can be upsetting and disturbing when it goes against what we perceive to be normal. The same can be said when people apply a gender to God which goes against what we might be used to as normal. God is spirit. God has not gender. It could be argued that God identifies as male in the Bible, and in the person of Jesus is male. However, it can also be equally argued that God has not gender because God has no physical body (except in the specific instance of Jesus). The attributing of maleness to God can be said to be from Scripture, but is just as much to do with male dominance in cultures of the times of the Bible and the limits of such languages as English, which often translate feminine gendered words in Hebrew into male gender. The spirit of God, as described in Genesis, is one such example. Furthermore, the biological construct of gender is essentially related to reproduction. God has no need to reproduce, being eternally existing, thus has no need for gender. We gender our relationship to God because we relate to God as a person, or personally, and persons in our language have gender.

The Trinity is a complex doctrine which uses the idea of 'person' as modes of being. There are not three Gods, nor does this mean that God is three individual people. The idea is that we experience God in different ways and Gods work happens personally with us and in us in these different ways – which we name as 'persons' of God.

There is no explicit doctrine of the Trinity in the Bible. That is the word 'Trinity' does not appear there. Some people get hung up on this and get aggressive in the denunciation of the doctrine as being not Biblical - sometimes with good reason, whilst others get all defensive and dogmatic about this being the true nature of God. However, even though the word 'Trinity' is not mentioned explicitly in the Bible, there are trinitarian references to God in the Bible such as Matthew 28: 19. There are also passages such as Jn 15: 26-27 and 6:4b-15 where the tri-une [three-in-one] nature of God is described.

The reality is that God transcends our understanding. God exists outside of time and space and outside of our three-dimensional universe. We use inadequate language such as "God is spirit" to find words and concepts to describe who and what is indescribable using our human limitations. Having said that, God is actually like much of how we think of God. We use language like ἀγάπη (agápē) [love] to describe God because of how we have experienced God as love in the person of Jesus, as well as Creator and Spirit. So, God is how we think God is, or at least much like how we think God is, but always more than we can comprehend or describe. Like the diagram, God is also not exactly how we describe God to be, always being more than we can describe. The doctrine of the Trinity certainly gives us something to think about.

God bless.

Jon

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

26 May — 1 June

Angola, Mozambique

JUNE 2024
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES
at the church

2nd June - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm
includes Communion

9th June - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm
Community Meal

16th June - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm

23rd June - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm

30th June - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm

Live streaming at morning services



PEOPLE
NEWS

Barry Gregory

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



WCCM
MEDITATION & COMMUNITY



CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Weekly Sessions

@ St. Matthew's Uniting Church
Baulkham Hills

Cnr Charles and Edgar Street, Baulkham Hills

MONDAY EVENINGS

7.30pm

Starting 20 May

TUESDAY MORNINGS

9.30am-10.30am

Weekly
SYNOD SPOTLIGHT
Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

For Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter for last week please see link :

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



THANK YOU from the
Women's Fellowship Ladies

We would like to express our appreciation to everyone who assisted us in any way with our catering for the wedding afternoon tea for Daniel and Nicole with their family and friends.

Your help with supplying food was very much appreciated and a special thank you to Katherine for the elegant floral arrangements which enhanced the tables.

From The Catering Team



Christian Meditation Books

If you have borrowed any Christian Meditations booked from the table in the church please return ASAP. Also if you have taken any of the books for purchase, please give the money to Katherine. **Many thanks**



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

Op Shop Support Needed

People to help with:

- Sorting and Pricing 'trash and treasure' for the Garage Sales
- Washing pre-loved 'treasures'
- Sorting & Pricing second hand clothing
- Serving customers
- Creating shop displays

For more Information please contact the church office.



St Matthew's HAPPY HOUR!

At The Winston

170 Caroline Chisholm Drive, Winston Hills

7
JUNE

5 PM
FRIDAY



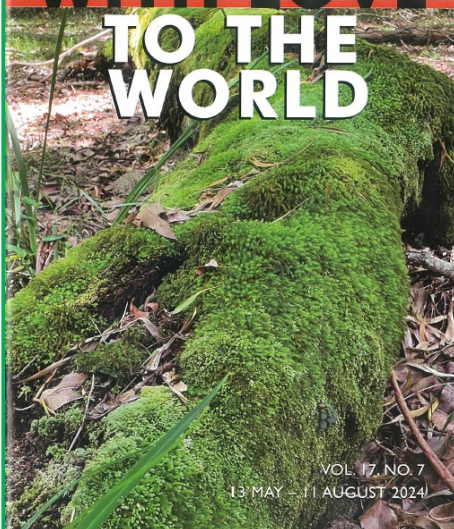
COME AND SHARE IN SOME HAPPY
CONVERSATION, A DRINK AND SOME FOOD
WITH FRIENDS FROM ST MATTHEW'S.

RSVP to Belinda or just come along
bdschuster@optusnet.com.au



PENTECOST

WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD



PENTECOST

**WITH LOVE
TO THE
WORLD**

a daily Bible reading
guide based on the
Revised Common
Lectionary

**Volume 17,
Number 7
13 May
To
11 August 2024**

is available
in the church foyer.

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

VOL. 17, NO. 7
13 MAY - 11 AUGUST 2024



Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

 **Cancer Council**
Australia's Biggest
Morning Tea



You can also
make a
donation by
clicking on the
link below or

Scan to Donate



Unique ID: 48251631

<https://www.biggestmorningtea.com.au/fundraisers/DulcieDuncum/biggest-morning-tea-nsw>

You are invited to join with us for
'Australia's Biggest Morning Tea'

being held at the home of
Dulcie & Peter Duncum
at 53 Sarah Crescent Baulkham Hills

Friday 31st May.

Everyone is welcome,
so please come and join with us

from 10.00 am

in support of the work and fundraising of
The Cancer Council and of our many friends who
have journeyed with cancer.

Bring your friends also.

We look forward to your company.

**We're hosting a
Biggest Morning Tea**

Please help us
support people
impacted by cancer!

Barry Gregory
0425 815 340
Dulcie Duncum
0417 070 848

ROSTERS

Worship Rosters for 8am and 9.30am,
for June, July and August 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 of 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.*



A message to all groups and individuals using the Church property

When using any part of the Church property at any
time, please ensure that when you leave, you turn off
all lights, fans, air con's and properly lock and alarm
the premises if required.

Please ensure you correctly turn off the automatic
door when you leave, it is easy to set it to the wrong
setting and it has been left open a few times lately.
If you have used the automatic door for your group,
you are responsible for ensuring that it is locked when
you finish. *Thank you*



Presents

Say Yes to the Dress Sale

- New Bridal Gowns • Pre-Loved Bridal Gowns
- Evening • Special Occasion • Formal Occasions
- Mother of the Bride • Groomsmen • Accessories

Sale Starts: Saturday 15th June 9am-12noon

Tuesday 18th June 9am-2pm, Wednesday 19th June 9am-2pm, Thursday 20th June 9am-2pm

**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.**