



**Bible Readings**

**8am and 9.30am**

**Romans 6: 1-4**  
**John 16: 19-24**

*Response after Bible Readings*

**Leader:** *In this we hear the word of God*

**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 Roland Bryant and Dean Drayton

**9am—Worship @the Willows**  
 Led by Shamali Perera

**9.30am—Worship**  
 Led by Dean Drayton  
 Includes Baptism  
 We welcome the Baptism family and friends to worship today.  
**KUCA** in recess for school holidays  
 Followed by Morning Tea

**6.45pm—Worship**  
 Community Meal

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

**MONDAY 15 July**  
**9am—Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop & Garage Sale** lower hall  
**7.30pm—Christian Meditation**  
**All Welcome**  
 community room and church

**TUESDAY 16 July**  
**9am-2pm—Op Shop**  
**9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation**  
 community room and church

**WEDNESDAY 17 July**  
**9am-2pm—Op Shop**  
**10am-12pm—In Stitches**  
*upstairs hall*  
**10am-12pm—Men's Morning Tea**  
 McKels Café Bella Vista

**THURSDAY 18 July**  
**9am-2pm—Op Shop**

**FRIDAY 19 July**  
**No Scheduled Events**

**SATURDAY 20 July**  
**No Scheduled Events**

**SUNDAY  
 21 JULY**

**8am—Worship**

**9.30am—Worship**  
**KUCA** in recess for School holidays  
 Followed by morning tea

**6.45pm—Worship**



**MINISTER**  
 REV JON HUMPHRIES  
 Email: jon@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:**  
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Thank you to all who have contributed to this publication.

# Something to think about

## 14 July

### 8th Sunday after Pentecost

#### Lectionary Readings:

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

Psalm 24

Ephesians 1:3-14

Mark 6: 14-29

#### The Uniting Church and Our First Nations Peoples

This week has marked NAIDOC Week. As this is my first year at St. Matthew's I am not sure what has been done in the past to honour, and even celebrate, this part of our lives in our national Australian calendar. However, I have come from my former place in schools where this is a thing (usually celebrated after the fact because it usually falls in the school holidays) and in congregations where it was marked. So, I am going to plough ahead in the way I am accustomed to.

The theme set for our upcoming Assembly is "Threads of Love: Weaving Christ's Love across Cultures and Boundaries." We are a multi-cultural and intercultural Church. We seek to celebrate and honour the diversity of our people. The Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Council is the body of our church which represents our First Nations brothers and sisters in Christ in the Uniting Church. They have invited us to celebrate their cultures with them as we weave their being part of us into who we are as a Church.

Christ called us to love each other as he loved us, and there are explicit references in Scripture where we should especially love our brothers and sisters in Christ, who are also our neighbours.

From Sunday 7 July until 14 July, Australians across the country in schools, local councils and other organisations mark NAIDOC Week. NAIDOC stands for National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee, originally National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. NAIDOC Week is an opportunity to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This year, NAIDOC Week coincides with two significant milestones in the Uniting Church's own journey of reconciliation, 30 years of the Covenant with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, and 15 years of the Preamble to the UCA Constitution.

If we are to be a Church in our community, which is truly welcoming and which truly grows together in Christ, then getting involved in things like NAIDOC week is important. If we seek to reach out to our community as a place where people can connect with God, we literally have to reach out to our community. This is not usually easy. Reaching out sometimes, or often, involves a stretch. We may have to move outside our comfort zone. However, that is what the love of God consistently calls us to. If we truly are the people of God, then we cannot help love the neighbour we can see. We need to lay down our lives for others, as Christ laid down his life for us. We will be sent, like the disciples, into new places and new people, and not always prepared for what might happen, but always knowing that we bear the light of Christ which is the love of God.

Continued next page

Here are five ways the Assembly is suggesting that we can get involved with NAIDOC Week this year in our community and beyond. Even though this is the end of NAIDOC Week, many of these we can still explore doing.

### **1. Explore the Assembly's resources for the 30th Anniversary of the Covenant**

To celebrate the past and future of the Covenant and mark the 30th Anniversary, the Assembly has released an interactive Prezi about our journey together and two new editions of the Covenanting and Preamble posters. [Go here for the resources.](#)

### **2. Choose a resource from Living the Covenant Locally and discuss it as a group**

Living the Covenant Locally is a grass roots Uniting Church movement, made up of congregations, faith communities, schools and agencies, who are growing in understanding, encouraging others, connecting with UAICC and/or other First Nations Peoples locally and becoming equipped to take action. [Find resources](#) to learn more, dive deeper into theology and to take action.

### **3. Find and support your local NAIDOC Week event**

Searchable list of local NAIDOC events [here](#).

### **4. Display the official 2024 NAIDOC Week Poster**

The [2024 NAIDOC Week poster](#) is by artist Deb Belyea, Torres Strait Islander woman of the Samuawgadhagal people. It is titled 'Urapun Muy', meaning 'One Fire' in the Kalaw Kawaw Ya dialect of the Top Western Islands of the Torres Strait. The title pays homage to Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people everywhere who all have that one fire: passion for culture.

### **5. Learn about the traditional owners of the country you live or worship on**

The [AIATSIS map of Indigenous Australia](#) can help you find out about the traditional lands you live on, and is a visual reminder of the richness and diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australia. Following your research, you might like to engage with local Traditional Owners and your local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community.

You can find more information about this on the Uniting Church National Assembly website. <https://uniting.church/naidoc-week-2024/>

Our Church at St. Matthew's Uniting is intercultural. We celebrate the people from many different cultures in our congregation. However, we can do more to be more inclusive and welcoming, but more importantly, more loving towards our neighbour. This is not just what we are called to do, but it is also essential if we are to be truly connected to our community, whose increasing diversity is not represented by our Church community. Opportunities such as NAIDOC Week give us much to think about. God bless.

*God bless.*

*Jon*





## PEOPLE NEWS

Susan MacWilliam  
Daniel van Kruyssen  
Ida Batten

Frances Courts  
Chris Bunn

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

## Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

14—20 July

Djibouti, Somalia

## Weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter for last week (5 July 2024) please see link :

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

Please return completed forms by 28th July

## Volunteer Form

Assisting with Morning Services



September, October & November 2024

Have been emailed or collect a copy from the foyer.

### NEW HELPERS WELCOME



Please return forms to the blue mail tray or church office.

UNITING CHURCH BAULRHAM HILLS



Please pick up the latest *insights* magazine for Winter 2024 from the church foyer.



## NAIDOC WEEK

### KEEP THE FIRE BURNING! BLAK, LOUD AND PROUD

7-14 JULY 2024

#NAIDOC2024  
#BLAKLOUDPROUD

@naidocweek

@naidocweek

facebook.com/NAIDOC

Urapun Maly by Deb Belyea

SAMUJAWADHAGAL, TORRES STRAIT

Urapun Maly, from the Kowak Kowak Ya district of the Top Meriam Islands of the Torres Strait, means 'One Fire'. The title of this work pays homage to Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people everywhere, as we all have that one fire, our passion for our culture. In the work of our artists, we see the beauty of our ancestors that have courageously respected a burning ember on to drive this. This ember has led us to identify, identify the flame, and coordinate with the new fire. The linear detail shows the energy and power of cultural knowledge is transferred from our ancestors to us today. Culture is the fire that gives us knowledge, wisdom and purpose. It is our responsibility to maintain, protect, and care on our fire for future generations. Always. Culture leads us Blak, Loud and Proud.

Aboriginal flag designed by Mr Harold Thomas. Torres Strait Islander flag reproduced by kind permission of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, designed by the late Mr Bernard Namu.



naidoc.org.au

Request for donations of used floral bowls.



If anyone has any of these floral bowls, would you please bring them in and leave them with the Op-shop. They will be used for a special project later in the year.

Thank you



# Op Shop Morning Tea



**All Welcome**

**Saturday  
27th July**

Starting at 10:30am

**St. Matthew's  
Uniting Church**  
lower church hall

*Come and join our  
friendly volunteers and  
Op Shop customers for  
a special morning tea  
get-together.*

*Everyone is asked to  
bring a small plate of  
food. Tea and coffee  
will be provided.*

To follow us on **Facebook** search: 'St Matthews Op Shop Baulkham Hills'

To follow us on **Instagram**, search: StMatthewsOpShopBH

To contact Op Shop by email, go to: [stmatthewsopshopbh@gmail.com](mailto:stmatthewsopshopbh@gmail.com)

*Coffee  
and  
Discovery*

## celtic REGIONS

**-facts  
and  
other  
stuff**



**Thursday  
1st August  
10am - 12pm**

Guest Speaker: **Alan Wright**

**The history of Celtic regions  
in Northern Europe dates  
back over many hundreds of years.  
Each has a unique set of traditions,  
some ancient, some relatively modern.  
This presentation is a look at some of the  
customs and practices of six of these  
regions and includes a wee bit of history  
and some other stuff.**

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

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

**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](http://www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au)**

**Click on the metal dove image / publications or find in recent posts.**