



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS 
 growing together

Weekly Newsletter

13 October 2024

Pentecost 21

Bible Readings

8am & 9.30am



Hebrews 4:12-16
 Mark 10: 17-31

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 9AM

Livestreaming at
8am and 9.30am only

8am—Worship
 Led by Pamela Leslie
 and Jon Humphries

9am—Worship @ the Willow's
 Led by Warren Arthur

9.30—Worship
 Led by Jon Humphries
KUCA in recess
 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 14 October

9am—Sorting and Pricing for Op Shop and Garage Sale

lower hall

7.30pm—Christian Meditation

community room and church

TUESDAY 15 October

9am-2pm—Op Shop

9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation

community room and church

7pm—Netball AGM

upstairs hall

7.30pm—Thrive Bible Study

lower hall

WEDNESDAY 16 October

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12pm—In Stitches

upstairs hall

10am-12pm—Men's Morning Tea

McKels Café Circa Norwest

THURSDAY 17 October

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 18 October

5pm-7pm—Fusion Youth Group

upstairs hall

SATURDAY 19 October

9am--12pm

Vintage Fashion Sale

lower hall

9am-12pm—Op Shop

SUNDAY 20 OCTOBER

8am—Worship
 Includes Elders Election

9.30am—Worship
 Includes Elders Election

KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8
 Followed by morning tea

6.45pm—Worship
 Includes Elders Election



MINISTER

REV JON HUMPHRIES

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Thank you to all who have
 contributed to this publication.

Something to think about

13th October

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Readings:

Job 23:1-9, 16-17
Psalm 22:1-5
Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10: 17-31

Focus passage for our Service:

Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10: 17-31

Questions for God

In the Gospel reading for this week a person comes to Jesus and asks what they have to do to inherit eternal life. "What shall I do that I might inherit eternal life?" is an interesting question as well as an important one. We might wonder why they said, "inherit" rather than just gain or have. We might even wonder if they weren't looking to earn eternal life because they were asking what to do. Inheritance usually doesn't require us to do anything. Rather, we just have to be someone, that is be related to someone, in order to receive an inheritance. However, we who would claim eternal life as our inheritance because of faith, should know only too well that faith without works is dead. Yes, we are saved by faith, being the

children of God, but there is plenty in the Scriptures which link being with doing. If we are God's, then we should be living God's way.

So, whilst how we gain eternal life is primarily a question of being, there is no question that being results a correlated doing. Thus, the question of what we might have to do to inherit eternal life has some validity. What do we have to do as the people of God who are inheritors of eternal life? Ultimately, like the person in the story, God is the source of the best answer to the question. Thus, like the person in the story, I thought that I would bring my questions to Jesus, who is God incarnate, and who intercedes for us (Romans 8:34). The following is the prayer which resulted.

Jesus, I have Questions Too.

(Praying with Mark 10:17-21)

Jesus,

I know you are God,

God who is Creator and Spirit,

Yet, we call you Son of God.

Does that ever bother you?

Jesus,

You are a good teacher,

When you said that no-one is good but God,

Were you suggesting that you weren't good

Or you weren't God,

Or were you just correcting someone's theology in general?

Continued next page

Questions for God—Continued

Jesus,
That person who asked what they need
to do to inherit eternal life,
Was that a strange question for you?
Did you notice that inheritance has to do
with being not doing,
That inheritance is normally a result of
who you are not what you've done?
When you answered the one who had
great wealth did you also have the
parable of the prodigal Father in mind?

Jesus,
What must I do to gain eternal life?
Must I who also have great wealth give it
all away to the poor?
Isn't it by faith that I am saved?
Yet, what works should faith result in so
that it not dead?

Jesus,
How wealthy is wealthy,
Or what do you mean by rich?
I am not a billionaire or even a millionaire,
But I know that I sit amongst the rich in
the world.
Have I just answered my own question?

Jesus,
How can anyone keep all the command-
ments?
How much grace do you have for those
who break them repeatedly or continual-
ly?

Jesus,
The one who came and asked you about
eternal life seemed self-deluded.
In your truth how deluded am I am how
good I am and how well I live as a
disciple?

Jesus,
What was the end of the story?
We know the wealthy one went away
sad, but did they do as you suggested?
Did they end up as one of your
disciples?

Jesus,
What does it really mean to have
treasure in heaven?
Do you not just take us as we are?
Were you just using metaphors which
speak to our greed?

Jesus,
How hard is it for wealthy people like me
to enter into the Kingdom of God?
What does it take and what do you have
to do to get them in?

Jesus,
I have so many questions.
Will you answer them for me?
Yet, I suspect that, given your enigmatic
way of teaching using parables,
I have to do the work of listening to you
and doing my own thinking.
Will you help me, though, as Spirit?
These questions and this I ask in prayer.
Amen.

The question of what we must do to
inherit eternal life gives us something to
think about. God bless us in our thinking
about it and our doing something about
it.

God bless

Jon

PEOPLE NEWS

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



Ted Page
Geoff Benoit
Sandra Gordon
Phil Bunn
Jiwon MacWilliam
Michael Strong

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

13—19 October
Belize, Guatemala, Honduras,
Mexico

**OCTOBER 2024
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES**
at the church

6th October - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm
includes Communion

13th October - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm
Community Meal

20th October - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm

27th October - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm

Live streaming at morning services

Volunteer Form

Please return completed forms by 27 October

Assisting with Morning Services



December 2024, January, February 2025

Have been emailed or collect a copy from the foyer.

**NEW HELPERS
WELCOME**



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



Elders Elections

Elections will take place on **Sunday 20 October** at all 3 worship services.

To find out what's happening at St. Matthew's during October click below:



Or go to the St. Matthew's website.
www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au

To be included in the November edition of In FOCUS please send your articles and group activities to the church office by **15 October**.

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.



LECTIONARY READINGS

Everyone is invited to come along.

We will be Focusing on the Lectionary readings from the previous Sunday.

First readings— 20 October 2024.

Start Date: Tuesday 22 October 2024

Where: St. Matthew's Church or Community room

Time: 7pm-9pm (last half hour will be supper)

Weekly: On a Tuesday night until 17 December 2024 (excluding 10 December)

Will restart weekly from Tuesday 28 January 2025.

Led by Jon Humphries and Alastair Burn.



THE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD PROJECT

Please note that we will need all the **boxes returned by latest Sunday 13th October (today)**. Please return boxes to area marked **SHOEBOXES RETURNED HERE** in the church foyer.

A Donation of \$12.50 per box is essential to cover shipping costs. You can pay the \$12.50 through the website or by filling out the form on the brochure and enclosing the money it in your shoebox.

Thank you for your generosity, care, and participation!

Warmest Regards

St Matthews Preschool

The Galston Concerts Sunday 27 October 2024

a pre-concert chat c. 1.40, the concert (& players' relaxed comments) 2 till 3.15ish, then 'meet the musos' afternoon tea, in **Galston Uniting Church**, 11 School Road, Galston

Founders Farewell Gala

Stars return: **Louise Johnson** (Sydney Symp Principal Harp alumna); **Evgeny Sorkin** (Sydney Con violin virtuoso) with pianist **Rachael Lin**; prize-winner organist **Samuel Giddy**.

Adult \$40, Conc&Senior \$30,
Students \$10,
Children 12u free

A farewell to artistic directors **Robert Harris & Dorit Herskovits**, with great music by Bach, Handel, Brahms, Gershwin, Grainger, Russia, France & Spain - wonderful!



Bookings advised on trybooking.com (search *Galston 27 October*)
Cash-only sales at the door on the day.

Enquiries phone 9653 2039



FROCK UP



Vintage Clothing Sale

from the 1950's, 1960's,
1970's, and 1980's

in the lower hall
Edgar St Baulkham Hills

Starts

Saturday 19 October 9am to 12pm

Then

Tuesday 22 October 9am to 2pm

Wednesday 23 October 9am to 2pm

Thursday 24 October 9am to 2pm

OVARIAN
CANCER
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
OP SHOP

Op Shop News:

'Frocktober' is a fundraising event for the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation.

To celebrate, Op Shop is having a Vintage Fashion Sale this month.

We will be trading on an extra **Saturday on 19th October** from 9am to 12 noon. We will also have a display of vintage fashions for sale in the lower hall on 19th October and for the following week.

Op Shop will be raising funds for the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation.

The amount of the donation will be 10% of the Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday Op Shop income for the four weeks of October (excluding the two Saturday trading days).

Come and join us at the Op Shop from 19th October to celebrate Frocktober!

