



Bible Readings

Corinthians 12: 1-11
John 2: 1-11



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

9am—Worship
 Led by Michael Strong
 and Jon Humphries
Followed by morning tea
KUCA in Recess for school holidays

6.45pm—Worship
 Led by Alexander Lawless
 and Jon Humphries

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 20 January

Church Office Closed

9am—Sorting & Pricing

7.30pm—Christian Meditation

community room and church

TUESDAY 21 January

8am-2.30pm—Church Office Open

7.30pm—Christian Meditation

community room and church

WEDNESDAY 22 January

8am-2.30pm—Church Office Open

THURSDAY 23 January

8am-2.30pm—Church Office Open

FRIDAY 24 January

No Scheduled Activities

Church Office Closed

SATURDAY 25 January

No Scheduled Activities

SUNDAY
26 JANUARY

Australia Day 

9am— Summer Worship
 Followed by morning tea

KUCA In Recess

5pm—Shine

6.45pm—Worship



MINISTER
 REV JON HUMPHRIES
 Email: jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARY:
 LYNN SAMUEL

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 8AM-2.30PM
 TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

OFFICE : 9686 3003
 Email: office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

LOCATION:
 CNR CHARLES & EDGAR STREETS
 BAULKHAM HILLS

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WEB SITE: www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au
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FACEBOOK:
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Thank you to all who have contributed to this publication.

Something to think about

19th January

Epiphany 2

Lectionary Readings:

Isaiah 62: 1-5

Psalms 36: 5-10

1 Corinthians 12: 1-11

John 2: 1-11

Uniting Church Day of Mourning

John Marsden, a famous Australian author, wrote 'Tomorrow, When the War Began' and the six other books in the series. The basic plot is that Australia is invaded by a foreign force and is taken over. The protagonists are young people who were swimming in a country water hole and get back to find that Australia is not as they had known it.

The plot gets us thinking about what it would be like for us if someone came and took over the country. What would it be like if we were forced to leave our homes and go and live in camps established by the invaders? What would it be like to be separated from loved ones, especially if children were taken to another place to be reprogrammed into the new culture of the invaders? What would it be like not to be able to speak English and be forced to learn a foreign language? What would it be like to not be allowed to practise our religion? It would be a hard and troubling time, with little hope that things might ever return to 'normal'.

It is a hard concept to entertain, and our hope is that such a thing might never happen. However, many people throughout the history of humanity have held such hopes, only to have reality shatter that with the invasion of foreign countries. We saw it in World War II with Germany's invasion of neighbouring countries. Yet, that was just one of many invasions throughout history. There have been: Cambodia: Invaded by North Vietnam in 1970; China: Invaded by the Eight-Nation Alliance in 1900, and by Japan in 1931; East Timor: Invaded by Indonesia in 1975; Manchuria: Invaded by Japan in 1931; South Vietnam: Invaded by North Vietnam in 1972, and by the Soviet Union in 1968; Czechoslovakia: Invaded by the Soviet Union in 1968; Ethiopia: Invaded by Somalia in 1977, and by Al-Shabaab in 2022; Tanzania: Invaded by Uganda in 1978. And then there are other countries that have been invaded which include: Cyprus, Georgia, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, and more recently Palestine and Ukraine.

In all of the above list there is one, which is sensitive to us, which has not been listed, which is our land. For our First Nations People, they experienced an invasion with the colonisation of the British Empire. The word invasion can be touchy for some of us, but the truth is that this in essence is what happened. Great Britain colonised what is now called Australia in many locations under the auspices of the falsehood of 'Terra Nullius' – which is Latin and means 'land belonging to no-one.' Terra nullius was the legal concept used by the British government to justify the settlement of Australia based on the premise that this country was legally deemed to be unoccupied or uninhabited. This of course was simply untrue.

Continued next page

Uniting Church day of mourning continued

Whilst not appearing as an invasion, as such, at first the settlement of the land which is now known as Australia – something that was not the case at the time as the land was known as New Holland (The New South Wales Governor Lachlan Macquarie endorsed the name Australia to replace New Holland in a dispatch to the Colonial Office in London in December 1817) – soon resulted in the displacement of Aboriginal people. In the 1880's to 1890's "Protection" and segregation policies began to be introduced. In June 1883 the Aborigines Protection Board was established. The Board, consisting of five men, controlled the lives of the 9000 or so 'full-blood' and 'part-Aboriginal' people who lived in New South Wales. Indigenous survivors of frontier conflict were moved onto reserves or missions. At the end of the nineteenth century, various State and Territory laws were put in place to control relations between Aboriginal people and other Australians. Under these laws, protectors, protection boards and native affairs departments segregated and controlled a large part of the Aboriginal population. It has been estimated that the Aboriginal population during the 1920s had fallen to only about 60,000 from perhaps 300,000 or even one million people in 1788.

Then, based on assimilation policies, in Australia, between 1910 and the 1970s*, governments, churches and welfare bodies forcibly removed many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families. These children became known as the Stolen Generations. Their removal was sanctioned by various government policies (AIATSIS 2022a), which have left a legacy of trauma and loss that continues to affect First Nations communities, families and individuals today.

God calls us to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God – the God who we know in the person of Jesus, the Christ, who was the way, truth and life. We are called by God as the person of Jesus to love our neighbour as ourselves. It is with this as our theology and moral compass that we who are the Uniting Church in Australia have undergone a metanoia as we journey with God in truth and justice with our First Nations People. In 1994 the Uniting Church in Australia formally entered into a Covenant

with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress so that together we may contribute to a more just church and nation. You can read more about it on the National Assembly Website using this link <https://uniting.church/covenanting/>.

In 2009 the Assembly of the UCA passed a resolution to revise the Preamble to the Constitution, acknowledging: Aboriginal and Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia; the tragic colonial history of injustice, violence and dispossession of First Peoples and the Church's complicity in this history; that the First Peoples had already encountered the Creator God before the arrival of the colonisers; and that the Spirit was already in the land revealing God to the people through law, custom and ceremony. You can read the preamble using this link: <https://ucaassembly.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/137>

Since 2019 the Uniting Church has marked a Day of Mourning on the Sunday before 26 January to reflect on the dispossession and ongoing injustices faced by Australia's First Peoples, acknowledge our shared history and renew our commitment to justice and healing. This is in keeping with our faith and discipleship's call to justice which has an expression in our commitment to the covenant with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) of the Uniting Church. You can read more about the Uniting Church Day of Mourning here <https://uniting.church/day-of-mourning-2025/>. The Day of Mourning has not been part of the life of St. Matthew's yet. However, as we seek to better engage more actively in mission as we seek to grow together as a people of God, we might begin a journey of learning to understand how the wider Church, which we are a part of, invites us to live out our faith in our life and witness as a congregation. This may be a journey of epiphany for us as we ask God in faith, "What do you require of us, Lord?" God's response as Spirit, in Scripture and through our tradition may give us much to think and pray about.

God bless

Jon

PEOPLE NEWS

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



Helen Olley
Alastair Burn
Jeff Cameron

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

19— 25 January

Arabian Peninsula-Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

Please note the Lectionary Bible Study will resume in February 2025.

St Matthews Pre school Closure dates

St Matthews Pre School will be closed from Friday 20 December and we re-open for a pupil-free staff only day on Friday 31 January 2025.

Classes begin from Monday 3 February

Optus customers

As you be aware congregation members who are Optus customers are not receiving emails sent by the Church office. This is a problem that cannot be fixed and we have been advised that people who have Optus.net accounts change to alternative email providers, whether that may be Gmail, Outlook etc. If this effects you, please advise the church office when you make any changes *Thank you*

Garage

SALE

**Saturday
1st February**

9am-12pm

Pre-loved
Household Items,
Electrical, Toys & Books
(Fiction, Non-fiction & Children's Books)

St. Matthew's Lower Hall

ST. MATTHEW'S
UNITING CHURCH
growing together



Please pick up the latest

insights

magazine
Summer 2024

from the
church foyer

Please return completed forms by 26 January

Volunteer Form

Assisting with Morning Services



March, April, May 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.

BAUTING CHURCHES
growing together

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.



Christmas Bowl Thank you

Together this Christmas we responded to give to those suffering and in need in crisis part of the world.

We gave \$823 through envelopes given in, a further \$831 through a special Christmas Bowl Website and \$692 in the Christmas Day service, for a total of \$2346.00.

As well many gave directly to Act for Peace through the letters sent to them. Last year I asked Act For Peace for an estimate of that amount and they said about \$1,000.

On behalf of those who will benefit because we joined together to make an important difference in their lives in the name of Christ.



St. Matthew's Uniting Church Baulkham Hills Contemplative Spirituality SPIRITUALITY IN A SECULAR AGE

The Monday evening 7.30-8.30pm and Tuesday morning 9.30-10.30am

Christian Meditation groups will be listening to 7 short talks by Laurence Freeman OSB as part of the hour sessions from

**January 13th to February 25th,
2025.**

You are welcome to join to listen to these important talks and experience being in community in the silent presence of the Spirit of Christ.

If you wish to find out more please contact Katherine Pedersen on 0437772011 or Rosemary Sexton at morning worship.



WORLD DAY of Prayer 2025 Focus country: The Cook Islands

**7.30pm
Friday 7th March**

**Holy Trinity Anglican Church
295 Windsor Road, Baulkham Hills.**

Join your local one-hour prayer service

Calendar of Events for January 2025

School Holidays

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1 New Years Day Public Holiday 	2 Church Office Closed No scheduled events	3 Church Office Closed No scheduled events	4 No scheduled events	5  9am Summer Worship Includes Communion Followed by Morning Tea KUCA in recess 6.45pm Worship Includes Communion
6	7 Church Office Reopens 9.30-11am Christian Meditation Community Room	8 No scheduled events	9 No scheduled events	10 No scheduled events	11 No scheduled events	12  9am Summer Worship Followed by Morning Tea KUCA in recess 9am—Worship @ the Willows 6.45pm—Worship Community Meal
13	14 9.30-11am Christian Meditation Community Room 7.30pm Thrive Bible Study lower hall	15 9am—Op Shop/ garage sale sorting day 10am-12noon In Stitches Upstairs hall 10am-12noon Men's Morning Tea 7.30pm Elders meeting upstairs hall	16 No Scheduled events	17 No Scheduled events	18 No Scheduled events	19  9am Summer Worship Followed by Morning Tea KUCA in recess 6.45pm—Worship
20	21 9am—Set up for Op-Shop 9.30-11am Christian Meditation Community Room	22 9am—Set up for Op-Shop	23 9am—Set up for Op-Shop	24 No scheduled events	25 No scheduled events	26  Australia Day 9am Summer Worship Followed by Morning Tea KUCA in recess 5pm—Shine 6.45pm—Worship
27	28 7.30pm Christian Meditation Australia Day Public Holiday  9am-2pm Op Shop RE-OPENS 9.30-11am Christian Meditation community room 7pm-9pm Bible Study church or community room	29 9am-2pm Op Shop 10am-12noon In Stitches Upstairs hall	30 9am-2pm Op Shop 	31 5pm-7pm Fusion Youth Group		