



Bible Readings

Romans 10: 8b-13
Luke 4: 1-13



Response after Bible Readings

Leader: *In this we hear the word of God*
Response: *Thanks be to God*



8am—Worship
 Led by Clive & Mary Pearson
 and Jon Humphries
Includes the baptism of Elishka McEwen Pearson. We welcome the family and friends of Elishka to worship today.

9am—Worship at the Willow's

9.30am—Worship
 Led by Albert Olley
 and Jon Humphries
Followed by morning tea

KUCA Preschool,
 Years K-2 & Years 3-8

6.45pm—Worship
Community meal
 Led by Nicola Lawless
 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 9AM

Livestreaming at
8am and 9.30am only

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 10 March

Church Office Closed

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

7.30pm—Christian Meditation
 community room and church

TUESDAY 11 March

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation
 community room and church

7-8.30pm—Lenten Studies
 In the church

WEDNESDAY 12 March

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12pm—Women's Fellowship
"Bring something old and talk about it"
 Upstairs hall and church

THURSDAY 13 March

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 14 March

10am—Community room in use
Set up for Wedding
Church Office Closed

SATURDAY 15 March

Wedding of Erin Mathewson and Sam Lam

SUNDAY 16 MARCH

8am—Worship

9.30am—Worship

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

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

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 WANIGESKERA
 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

9 March

LENT 1

Lectionary Readings:

Deuteronomy 26: 1-11

Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-16

Romans 10: 8b-13

Luke 4: 1-13

The Discipline of Lent

Lent is a 40-day period of fasting, prayer, and charity leading up to Easter. It's a time of preparation and penitence for Christians. According to the canonical gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus spent forty days fasting in the desert before the beginning of his public ministry, during which he endured temptation by Satan. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of this forty day liturgical period of prayer and fasting leading up to Lent.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday which derives its name from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of adherents as a sign of mourning and repentance to God. When someone died, or in situations of great anguish, the act of putting on sackcloth showed heartfelt sorrow for the loss of that person. People would also throw ashes on their head. To cover the head with ashes was a token of anguish or self-abhorrence and humiliation (2 Samuel 13:19; Esther 4:3; Jeremiah 6:26 etc.). The ashes signified desolation and ruin. In a similar vein it is a tradition in many denominations to mark ourselves with ash on Ash Wednesday.

The ashes used in Ash Wednesday are typically gathered after the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday are burned. This provides a symbolic link from one year to the next. There is symbolism of how in some ways our faith and discipleship may have dried up and turned to ash. It is also a recollection of how those who sang praise with palms and cried out "Hosanna!" for salvation [hosanna means, 'God save us'] later were probably in the crowd crying out, "Crucify him!"

Lent is a time of preparation for Easter, lasting forty days, not counting the Sundays, which ends at sunset on Easter Saturday. Easter itself lasts for fifty days from Easter Day to Pentecost, and so we have the 'Great Ninety Days'. In this time of preparation during Lent, we are encouraged through prayer, fasting and acts of generosity and compassion to reflect on the love of God for us. It is a time of a changing of our minds to re-orient ourselves to the Kingdom of God and God's will and way that we learn through God in the person of Jesus, the Christ.

Violet (or reddish purple) is the colour of Lent.

Various rites leading up to and carrying through Lent provide a firm focus on discipleship, and the love, grace and mercy of God which is manifest in the story of Easter.

Continued next page

The day before Ash Wednesday is known as Shrove Tuesday (or colloquially as Pancake Day). It is the feast before the fast, traditionally the time when all meat, dairy and egg products were consumed prior to Lent. Shrove means to hear one's confession, assign penance and absolve someone from their sin.

Lent is often a time for reflection upon our discipleship and the Christ that we follow. Are there things that you need to give up? Are there things that you need to take up? Are there things that might help you live better and love more deeply? Maybe this season of Lent God might be calling you to explore some of these things.

How is Lent observed?

- Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday.
- Some Christians give up certain foods, such as meat, fish, eggs, and dairy.
- Others give up something they enjoy, like chocolate or cake.
- People are marked with ashes on their foreheads during Ash Wednesday services.
- Almsgiving, or giving money or food to the poor, is encouraged.

People also take up more intentionally some spiritual disciplines such as prayer, reading scripture, Lenten Bible studies or meditation and contemplation.

Why is Lent observed?

- Lent commemorates Jesus's 40 days of fasting and temptation in the desert before he began his public ministry.
- The 40-day period of Lent connects Christians to important biblical accounts, such as Noah's 40 days on the ark.

Who observes Lent?

Lent is observed in many Christian traditions, including Catholic, Lutheran, Moravian, Anglican, United Protestant, and Orthodox. Some Anabaptist, Baptist, Methodist, and Reformed churches also observe Lent.

How will we use the time of Lent to move us deeper into faith and discipleship? What disciplines might we take up to help us in this? What might we need to let go of, repent of or stop holding on to, in order to better embrace the love, grace and mercy of God which we will celebrate at Easter? These questions, and the season of Lent, give us much to think about.

God bless.

Jon

PEOPLE NEWS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Norma Hillier
Alan Watson

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



Congratulations to

Erin Mathewson
and Sam Lam

on the occasion of their marriage
On Saturday 15 March 2025.

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

9 — 15 March

*Ireland, and United Kingdom: England
Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales*

Weekly
SYNOD SPOTLIGHT
Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter
For (28 February 2025) please see link to Synod weekly:
[New Insights](#) ([Synod Weekly](#))

We need your help teaching KUCA

**During the 9.30am service
Preschool, Year K-2 and
Years 3-8**

Please see Jon if you can help.

**Seniors Golf Day in
Seniors week put on by
Cumberland Council**

Dates:

- Monday 10 March Sefton Golf Course \$10 entry fee
- Thursday 13 March Woodville course

Free lunch
First in best dressed

Please contact Earl Gray

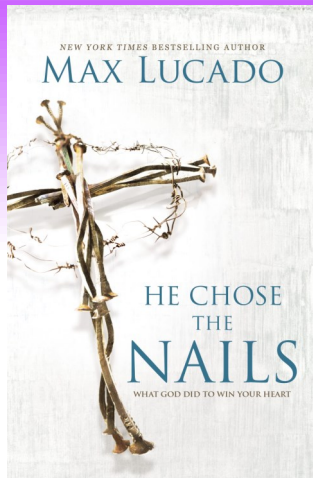
FUSION

Youth @ St Matts
Term 1, 2025

5-7PM FORTNIGHTLY ON FRIDAYS
Year 3-9 \$10 (includes supper)

WEEK 4 21 February Youth vs Leaders	WEEK 8 21 March Games Show Night
WEEK 6 7 March Park Night	WEEK 9 4 April Engineering Challenge

For more information contact Jon Humphries
jonestmatthewsuniting.net.au 9686 3003



Lenten Bible Study Max Lucado "He Chose The Nails"

Where: St. Matthew's UC in the Church

Time: 7pm-8.30pm

When: Tuesday nights

beginning 11 March to Tuesday 15 April

Everyone is invited to come along.

The Easter Experience 2025

**at Gordon-Pymble Uniting Church
Sunday 6th, Monday 7th, Tuesday 8th
& Wednesday 9th April**

**If you would like to take part please contact
Gordon-Pymble Uniting Church at info@gpuc.org.au**

The Easter experience staged each year with volunteer actors from Gordon/Pymble congregation and others, an outreach to the local primary schools (year 4) telling them the story of Easter.

lentevent

5 MARCH - 17 APRIL 2025

40 days of faith-filled
action for God's Creation

*"The impact of climate change
is very real in the lives of our
people in Tonga.*

*It means a lot to us that the
people of the Uniting Church in
Australia are standing with us,
through UnitingWorld."*

*-Rev Makoni Pulu, Free
Wesleyan Church in Tonga*



Take on a climate challenge! For 40 days, transform the way you eat, shop, travel or use energy. Set a fundraising goal and inspire your friends and family to sponsor you

Give generously to create a big impact. Your donation will support climate action led by people and communities on the frontlines of climate change.



Donate



Keep faith

Explore how your faith can inspire action, change lives and spread much-needed hope to face the climate crisis. We have great resources to inspire you on the journey.

\$20 can help our partners **plant trees** to stabilise landslide-prone areas and absorb carbon.

\$90 can help provide **seeds and tools** for a family to grow their own food.

\$200 can help equip local churches to lead **disaster preparedness and recovery** efforts.

\$500 can help supply **clean drinking water** to a remote community impacted by drought.

<https://donate.unitingworld.org.au/event/lent-event/resources>



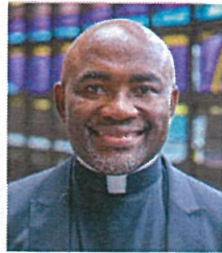
Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of NSW & ACT
Stamp Committee
Sales For 2024 \$ 23,088.00

Delivery of Stamp Material– All material can be sent to our postal address
Po Box A2178, Sydney South, 1235, NSW or hand delivered to UCA Synod
reception, level 10, 222 Pitt Street Sydney, Monday-Friday 9am-4pm

St. Matts are collecting your old stamps, Please place them in the box marked stamps that can be located in up stairs foyer.

Parramatta Community Uniting Church
GLOBAL MUSIC & WORSHIP GATHERING
...for worship leaders, musicians
and fellow enthusiasts!

with Rev Dr Mikie Roberts, World Council of Churches



Saturday 15 March: 10am -12 noon
(arrive 9.30 for Morning Tea)

@ PCUC Centenary Church, cnr Sorrell and Fennell Sts; North Parramatta.

NB: Onsite parking is available at Centenary, and the site is also a short walk from the Fennell Street Light Rail stop on Church St, Parramatta. The Centenary site is fully accessible.



You are invited to an opportunity to gather for worship and learning about global ecumenical songs with Rev Dr Mikie Roberts from the World Council of Churches. Rev Dr Mikie Roberts brings a passion to help congregations have an embodied experience of belonging to the wonderfully diverse world church. He will draw on prayers and music from the WCC's 11th Assembly held in Karlsruhe in 2022, on the theme: *'Christ's Love Moves the World to Reconciliation and Unity'*. The gathering on 15 March will include a time of sharing stories, prayers and learning new songs from the global church that you can teach your own community or congregation. *We look forward to seeing you!*

To help us cater for morning tea, please register your interest in attending by emailing:
Rev Dr Helen Richmond: Helen.richmond@pcuc.org.au or send a text to 0439257575.



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.

Seniors Festival Expo

Hills Community Care

Thursday, 13 March
10am – 3pm

Balcombe Heights Estate, Building 15
92 Seven Hills Road, Baulkham Hills

Your one stop shop for support services available to Hills seniors.

We are excited to announce the upcoming **Seniors Festival Expo**, a must-attend event for seniors, caregivers, and anyone looking to explore resources and services specifically tailored for the senior community.

This year's expo offers a **one-stop shop** where you can discover a wide range of **services, products, and resources** designed to enhance wellness, improve your lifestyle, and enrich everyday living. Whether you're interested in **health and wellness, technology solutions**, or simply looking to learn more about ways to improve your quality of life, you'll find valuable solutions at this year's event.



For more details scan the QR code or visit www.thehills.nsw.gov.au and search Seniors Festival Expo