



Bible Readings

Isaiah 55: 6-9
Luke 13: 1-9
Psalms 32
Luke 15: 11-32



Response after Bible Readings

Leader: *In this we hear the word of God*
Response: *Thanks be to God who speaks to us as spirit.*



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 Jon Humphries
 Followed by morning tea

9.30am—Worship
 Led by Clive Pearson
 and Jon Humphries
Includes the Baptism of Eila Aukusitino.
We welcome the family and friends of Eila to worship today.
 Followed by morning tea

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

6.45pm—Worship
 Led by Nicola Lawless
 and Jon Humphries

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 31 March

Church Office Closed

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

7.30pm—Christian Meditation
 community room and church

TUESDAY 1 April

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

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

11.30am—Care & Prayer
 Community room & church

7-8.30pm—Lenten Studies
 In the church

WEDNESDAY 2 April

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12noon—In Stitches
 Upstairs hall

THURSDAY 3 April

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12noon—Coffee & Discovery

FRIDAY 4 April

5pm—Fusion Youth Group
Church Office Closed

SATURDAY 5 April

9am-12pm—Op Shop

9am-12pm—Garage Sale
 lower hall



SUNDAY 6 APRIL

Remember to put your clocks back

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:
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Thank you to all who have contributed to this publication.

Something to think about

30 March

LENT 4

Lectionary Readings:

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The Discipline of Discipleship

Discipline is not always a popular word. For many it draws them to thinking about punishment and punitive actions. This is unfortunate in many ways, because to live well and to have wellbeing requires discipline. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to be disciplined in our living and undergo a discipline in order to learn, grow and live better as followers of God, who was incarnate as Christ. So, if you haven't picked up on it already, discipline, like much to do with faith, has a complexity to it if we are to understand it well and put it into practise in helpful ways.

Disciples

We are disciples of Jesus, if we choose to follow him and look to him as the embodiment of God's love and grace and the means of our redemption and salvation from our tendency to fall short of living and loving well. If you do an Internet search of the meaning of discipleship, you will like with most searches end up with a range of results. A disciple is one who is a follower or pupil of a teacher, leader, or philosopher.

Μαθητής [mathetes (Ma-thay-tays)] is the Greek word often translated as disciple. It means disciple, student, follower; a committed learner and follower. Hence the translation. However, disciples are not just students or learners, but are followers who seek to apply their learning from the one that they follow and emulate in their own way the meritorious traits and practices of the one they are disciplined to. To be a learner, and someone who applies what is learnt in an intentional way requires discipline.

Discipline

Discipline can mean the punishments or punitive consequences for undesirable behaviour. However, at its roots discipline is about a moral framework or scaffolded guide for behaviour that we take on ourselves and apply to our living because we see benefit in it. Discipline usually places boundaries and limitations on our actions and behaviours as well as setting certain ways of behaving and acting. There are usually set forms or processes as well as skills and understandings which need to be learnt and developed as well as being applied. This body of knowledge usually comes from a wisdom base from those who have themselves undergone learning and reflection and have developed ways which are seen to be exemplary in achieving the goals which the discipline seeks to meet. So discipline is about training. It is the way into which we are trained as well as the way of training we receive, and this can include both reward and punishment in some situations and circumstances.

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Self-disciplined

In faith we have freedom to make our own choices. This is the blessing of God in the form of free will, but for every action there is a consequence or reaction. How we live and behave impacted the living and behaviour of others as well as having impact on our own lives and the world. In grace we are free. In love we are called to a discipline of living. In the Uniting Church we call this “ordered liberty.” It is a term particularly applied to the leadership of Church service of which we as the Uniting Church has developed guided forms. However, people once they understand the reasons for, the wisdom and the understandings and theology which underpin and underly the forms, can have freedom in being creative in how they apply them in our Church services. We have an order for our services which is recommended discipline and even set as required forms to be adhered to by those who in good faith are commissioned to lead the people that they have accepted a responsibility to serve. However, we have the liberty to creatively and with integrity to the discipline of the forms, adapt and apply them in ways which help and nurture people in faith and discipleship in their context and as is relevant to the community and its situation and circumstances. Ordered liberty requires that people accept the trust that is placed on them and exercise self-discipline to ensure that they discharge their duty in a way which is not simply self-focused or chaotic and unfocused.

This is also true of our discipleship as we seek to follow the way of God in Jesus, the Christ. We are free to live as we choose, but we are encouraged to make what God

considers good choices and live out the love of God as we have learnt through God’s love embodied in Jesus. As the Apostle Paul writes, “I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God’s mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.” [Romans 12:1-2] Of course having discerned what the will of God is, then we have to not only choose to do it, but be self-disciplined in putting it into our living, being resilient in our faith and determined and sustained in our action.

Discipline of Discipleship

If we are seeking to be disciples of Jesus we therefore have to accept the discipline of discipleship. We are free to choose how to live, but discipleship provides a discipline to shape that form. Self-discipline requires will power and will power, like most things to do with our wellbeing requires disciplined training and practice. Lent is a time set as an invitation each year to renew, restore, reinvigorate or remain in our discipline. The idea of Lenten disciplines such as fasting or self-denial of certain indulgences, like prayer and Bible study, meditation, contemplation and works of service are not just for Lent. They are just like special spiritual fitness sessions which augment and enhance what we should be doing all the time as disciples. How we take up the invitation to be better disciplined in our faith and discipleship is thus something to think about in Lent and all seasons of the year and our lives.

God bless

Jon

PEOPLE NEWS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Ray Philip
Darren Cameron
Michael Hill
Marion Bindley

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

Weekly
SYNOD SPOTLIGHT
Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

For (21 March 2025) please see link to Synod weekly:


[Spotlight 2025](#) [Synod Weekly](#)

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

30 March —5 April



Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia



Please pick up the latest *insights* magazine Autumn 2025 from the church foyer



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.



Thursday 3 APRIL
10am-12pm

How long until the Next Bus?...and other transport secrets

Guest Speakers: **Warren & Colleen Finnan**

Warren and Colleen have over 45 years experience in the bus and transport industry. Join them to discover just what makes the system work.



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



Youth @ St Matts
Term 1, 2025

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

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



For more information contact Jon Humphries
jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au 9686 3003

We Would Love to Hear From You

We would love to share in your gifts. If you would like to lead our services through liturgy or preaching there is always opportunity to become involved, beyond reading the Bible and leading in prayers or other duties. We are blessed to have people willing to share their insights and wisdom and lead us into thought and reflection as we seek as a congregation to listen for and attend to what God may be saying to us. We would love to hear from you as well.

Here is a link to a survey form where you can sign up to preach or lead the liturgy. You can elect to do it as a once-off or nominate the pattern of your preferred involvement.

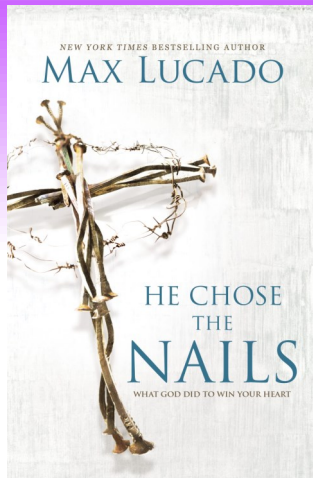
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**We Would
Love You**



**To Preach or
Lead the liturgy**





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.

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.

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>

Trinity Worship

3.4.25



7 PM

Prayer and Praise Night
Young Adults

Cnr Cook St and Windsor Rd
Baulkham Hills

A young adult band called Trinity Worship, comprising of members from a number of churches across the Hills District. Our hope is to gather and encourage young adults to come together to worship in community our great God.

Our first event is being held at Holy Trinity Anglican Baulkham Hills next ***Thursday night 3 April***