



**Bible Readings**

**Acts 5: 27-32**  
**John 20: 19-31**



**Response after Bible Readings**

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



**EASTER 2**

**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 Albert Olley  
 and Jon Humphries  
*Followed by morning tea*

**KUCA** in Recess

**5pm—shine**

**6.45pm—Worship**  
 Led by Abbey Sim  
 and Alexander Lawless

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

**MONDAY 28 APRIL**

**7.30pm—Christian Meditation**  
 community room and church

**TUESDAY 29 APRIL**

**9am-2pm—Op Shop open**

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

**Lectionary bible study on break**

**7.30pm—Property Committee meeting** upstairs hall

**WEDNESDAY 30 APRIL**

**9am-2pm—Op Shop**  
**10am-12pm—In Stitches**

**THURSDAY 1 MAY**

**9am-2pm—Op Shop**

**10am-12noon—Coffee & Discovery**  
**Guest Speaker: Alan and Pam McEvoy**

**FRIDAY 2 MAY**

**5-7pm—Fusion Youth group**  
**"Movie Night"**

**SATURDAY 3 MAY**

**9am-12pm—Op Shop**

**9am-12pm—Garage Sale**  
 lower hall

**SUNDAY  
 4 MAY**

**8am—Worship**  
*Includes communion*

**9.30am—Worship**  
*Includes communion*

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

**6.45pm—Worship**



**EASTER 3**

**MINISTER**

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

**PASTORAL CARE WORKER**

SARA WIENAND

**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

**PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR** 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA  
 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

27 April

2nd Sunday of Easter

## Lectionary Readings:

Acts 5:27-32  
Psalm 118:14-29  
Revelation 1:4-8  
John 20:19-31

## Resurrection is Not Happily Ever After

Resurrection is not happily ever after. Resurrection is a joyous reality which presents us with the power of transformation and redemption, not only of our souls but also of our hardships and suffering. However, resurrection is a difficult and painful process, at least as we read in the Scriptures. It does not miraculously return things to as they were. Jesus, as God with us, rises transfigured and transformed. He has scars and wounds which are a testament to his suffering. He brings peace, and grace and love, but also teaching, challenge and a calling.

Have you considered the pain of resurrection. In my convalescence and recovering from RSV, my thoughts about Easter have been less triumphant than in past years. This has been a blessing in some ways. It has taken me into the side of Easter which sometimes seems to get pushed aside in all the joyous celebrations.

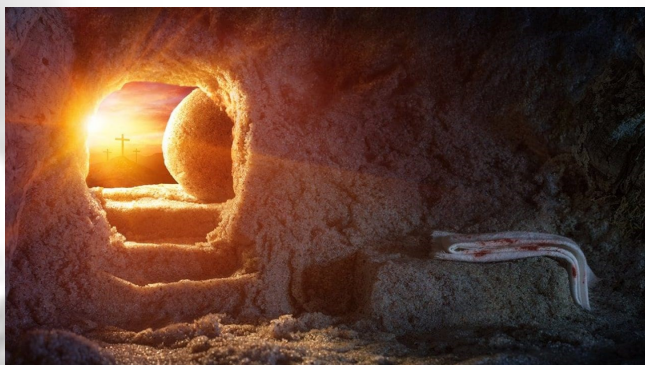
*Here is a prayer that I wrote as a reflection on what pain resurrection must have been for God.*

## The Pain of Resurrection

What pain is there in resurrection!  
In proclaiming you risen,  
God who is Christ,  
We too often assume in our joy that all is happy,  
easy and well.  
Easter Sunday passes.  
We proclaim ecstatically that you are risen.  
Yet, we seem to miss the point,  
Ignore the story,  
And overlook the detail.  
Surely, there was pain in resurrection.  
How does one come back to love those who  
strive to mortally wound your way,  
And have not really changed;  
Who still do not know what we do?  
How much pain comes in the healing of  
wounds and the forming of scars?  
What hurt is there to find not belief but  
disbelief,  
And fear, mingled thickly with doubt running  
amuck?  
What ache remains having done so much, to  
know that so much still has to be done?  
How sore the wounds of forgiveness must be:  
Those that will be made raw again and again  
and again and again in humanity's seeming  
ceaseless need for your grace?  
And, there in your hands and feet and in your  
side are scars and wounds which have not gone  
away.  
There is pain in resurrection.  
There is hope and healing.  
There is new life,  
Sprung eternal.  
Yet, there is pain.  
Ask any who have passed through grief.  
Ask any who have overcome injustice.  
Ask any who have triumphed beyond abuse and  
suffering.  
Resurrection is real and powerful.  
It is potent and possible.  
Yet, resurrection comes with pain.  
The cross must be endured.  
Death must be passed through.  
All that was cannot be what is,  
But what is, is more than can seem possibly to be.  
Help us to understand,  
And bear the pain of resurrection,  
  
*We pray.  
Amen.*

Continued next page

Easter is a season of fifty days. It is not about happily ever after. It is a time of metamorphosis. It is a time where we hear stories of encounters with the risen Christ, but they are framed with the confusion, uncertainty, doubt and disbelief of the disciples. Each encounter seems to bring hope but also seems to present a challenge or a call. Slowly, the story builds up and more and more people encounter Jesus, that the sad and disheartened group of followers and disciples is slowly transmuted into what will be birthed as the Church at Pentecost. Here, we are reminded again that resurrection isn't happily ever after, but us just the next step on the way of the cross and the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven.



Resurrection is an important reality, but it is not the end of the story, nor is it the resolution of the narrative. In fact, resurrection leads to redemption of key characters, the opening of new possibilities, the beginning of the next phase of the mission of God, as the work of God as Spirit begins and the disciples are called and commissioned

to the taking on of the work of the one to whom they were disciples to. Christ ascends, the Spirit is released in us as the Church, and we are commissioned as the Body of Christ to help God continue to break through the Kingdom of Heaven. The work of the mission of God keeps unfolding.

So, here we are in Easter. It is not over. The eggs may be gone or going, but there is work to be done. We are Easter people and we have learning to do in resurrection. Resurrection is not happily ever after, but an important threshold in the way of the cross into entering the Kingdom of Heaven. We have work to do, a liturgy (work as the people) to prepare for what Pentecost will call us to. Easter is fifty days of readying to welcome anew the work of God as Spirit as we are called into ministry to join in the mission of God. What are we learning? How are we being changed by resurrection? What will be our calling? What is to come next? These are things to think about.

*God bless  
Jon*

PEOPLE NEWS



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Melissa Gibson Darling

*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 ( 18 April 2025) please see link to Synod weekly:**

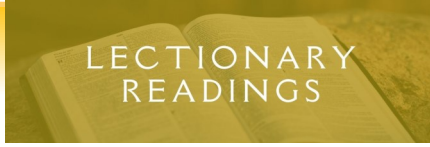
[Spotlight 2025](#) [Synod Weekly](#)

**Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**

27 April —3 May



*Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia*



LECTIONARY READINGS

**Tuesday Evenings Bible Study**

*Will be in recess for a few weeks following Easter.*

**Please return completed forms by 27 April**


**Volunteer Form**  
 Assisting with Morning Services



**June, July, August 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.**



**OPEN GARDEN and STUDIO**

- this weekend **27th**
- come and see **April**
- make a donation

**ALL FUNDS TO PARRAMATTA MISSION**

*plants and paintings for sale*

at

40 Bulli Rd  
 Toongabbie

**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**

<https://www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au/>

**Click on the metal dove image / publications.**

# ***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.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfldKABmIR2pNfGp4j-VozmlE4cVFAM4ZOoU67EAb-ft6yP2A/viewform?usp=sharing>

**We Would  
Love You**



**To Preach or  
Lead the liturgy**



## Wednesday afternoon ONLINE Meditation Group

An Online meditation group catering for teachers, parents, carers.

Others are welcome to join.

Time: 4.25pm to 5pm

If you require a chat or introductory session. This is available from 4pm. Please contact Penny on 0409 309 344

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85087024028?pwd=SUNFTjk5QIRLS21sQ3l5cGw4VXd1dz09>

Meeting ID: 850 8702 4028

Passcode: 042924

Christian Meditation  
Monday night @ 7.30pm and Tuesday morning @ 9am

During May at all Christian Meditation sessions at St. Matthew's there will be a 15 minute session of teachings preceding the time of Meditation named;

### ***Christian Life in the Light of Christian Meditation***

#### ***1: Discipleship By Laurence Freeman OSB***

***Fr Laurence defines discipleship as being on the way to becoming one with Christ, and presents meditation as a way to discipleship. In the practice of Christian meditation we take our attention off ourselves and turn wholeheartedly to Christ dwelling in our hearts—we leave self behind. This shift from habitual self-fixation allows us to experience Jesus' gaze turned towards us. In the mutual recognition, a personal relationship develops that transforms us gradually to be more Christ-like.***

We have several 9:30am morning tea helpers away in the winter months and we would love to have some new volunteers to come along and join the team.

If you can help, please contact Amanda Manson

or

let Lynn in the office know and she can put you on the roster.





**Youth @ St Matts**  
**Term 2, 2025**

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

**WEEK 1**  
2 May  
**Movie Night**



**WEEK 7**  
13 June  
**Spy Night**



**WEEK 3**  
16 May  
**Dude Perfect Night**



**WEEK 9**  
27 June  
**ADVENTURE NIGHT**  
**Rockclimbing @ The Edge**



**WEEK 5**  
30 May  
**Music Night**



ST. MATTHEW'S  
UNITING CHURCH  
BAULKHAM HILLS  
growing together

For more information contact Jon Humphries  
[jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto:jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au) 9686 3003

**Garage**



**Saturday**  
**3rd May**

**9am-12pm**

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

**St. Matthew's Lower Hall**



St. Matthew's are still collecting  
your stamps. Please place them  
in the box marked used stamps  
in the Church Foyer.

Thank you



**Thursday 1st May**  
**10am—12noon**

**Speakers: Alan and Pam McEvoy**

who have previously worked as missionaries in Uganda, have recently completed a fund raising effort to build a well in a village where the only available water is from a contaminated swamp. They will speak of their experiences.



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

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

## *From the St Matthew's Social Issues Focus Group*

### **Update on the report for the 2024 NSW Drug Summit:**

Uniting Fair Treatment have advised that the 2024 NSW Drug Summit report is available to the public. Email Amanda Manson if you would like a pdf of the report or you can search it in your internet browser.

The co-chairs have produced a list of 56 priority actions, grouped into 12 topics that they believe should be urgently implemented within the next 1-2 years. Additionally, they have asked for a response from Government within six months of the report's release. The first achievement of the 2024 Drug Summit is that a trial of drug testing has commenced in NSW.

Priority advocacy actions for Uniting Fair Treatment include:

- The removal of restrictions to the creation of new supervised injecting facilities
- Reform of the Early Drug Diversion Initiative (EDDI) to extend eligibility criteria
- Providing harm reduction training for first responders, equipping them with naloxone
- The creation of a 10 year whole-of-government alcohol and other drugs strategy

### **Upcoming Events that members of St Matthews can participate in:**

On Friday 2nd May 2025 'Hills March for Change' for raising awareness of domestic and family violence (DFV). Marchers assemble from around 6:30am under the covered area at the front of the entrance to the carpark nearest the Event Cinemas at Castle Towers. The march starts at 7am and will proceed down Castle Street to the Castle Hill Bowling Club (next to the Castle Hill RSL Club). It is a downhill 10 minute walk. Marchers will then go to the auditorium at the Castle Hill Bowling Club to hear a talk by a guest speaker who works in the field of DFV.

There will also be a DFV prayer vigil at Wesley Uniting Church, Showground Road, Castle Hill on Friday 30th May 2025 from 5pm to 8pm.