



st. matthew's  
**UNITING CHURCH**  
**BAULKHAM HILLS**  
growing together



## Weekly Newsletter

1 June 2025

Easter 7

### Bible Readings



**Acts 1: 1-11**

#### 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

Includes Communion  
Led by Jon Humphries

#### 9.30am—Worship

Includes Communion  
Led by Jon Humphries  
**Followed by morning tea**

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

#### 6.45pm—Worship

Includes Communion  
Led by Jon Humphries

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

#### MONDAY 2 JUNE

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

7.30pm—Christian Meditation

#### TUESDAY 3 JUNE

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

9.30am-11am—Christian  
Meditation

community room and church  
11.30—Care & Prayer  
community room and church

7-8.30pm—Lectionary bible study

#### WEDNESDAY 4 JUNE

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12pm—In Stitches  
upstairs hall

#### THURSDAY 5 JUNE

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12pm—Coffee & Discovery  
upstairs hall & Church

#### FRIDAY 6 JUNE

No Scheduled Activities

#### SATURDAY 7 JUNE

9am-12pm—Op Shop

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

### SUNDAY 8 JUNE

8am—Worship

9am—Worship @ the  
Willow's

9.30am—Worship

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

2-4pm—Church hall in use

6.45pm—Worship



#### MINISTER

REV JON HUMPHRIES

Email: jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au  
jhumphries@nswact.uca.org.au

#### PASTORAL CARE WORKER

SARA WIENAND  
SUNDAY am, MONDAY, TUESDAY  
Email: saraw@nswact.uca.org.au

#### CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARY

LYNN SAMUEL

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

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

#### CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

MIKE UNDERWOOD  
Email: mikeu@nswact.uca.org.au

#### CHAIRPERSON OF ELDERS

HELEN OLLEY

Email: helen.olley@optusnet.com.au

#### LOCATION:

CNR CHARLES & EDGAR STREETS  
BAULKHAM HILLS

#### POSTAL ADDRESS:

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**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

# Something to think about

## 1 June

## 7th Sunday of Easter

### Lectionary Readings:

Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

John 14:23-29

### Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week

This week is National Reconciliation Week. The dates for NRW remain the same each year; 27 May to 3 June. These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey – the successful 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision respectively. On 27 May 1967, Australians voted to change the Constitution so that like all other Australians, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples would be counted as part of the population and the Commonwealth would be able to make laws for them. A resounding 90.77 per cent said 'Yes' and every single state had a majority result for the 'Yes' vote. It was one of the most successful national campaigns in Australia's history. The Mabo decision, handed down by the High Court of Australia in 1992, overturned the legal fiction of terra nullius (land belonging to no-one) and recognized the traditional rights of Indigenous Australians to their land.

National Reconciliation Week begins with National Sorry Day, observed annually on May 26th in Australia. It is a day dedicated to acknowledging and remembering the history of forcibly removing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families and communities, a period known as the "Stolen Generations". It is a day of healing and remembrance, marking the tabling of the Bringing Them Home report in Parliament, which documented the harm and impact of these removals. Sorry Day is not about apologising. It is a remembrance of compassion.

When someone has a loved one die, it is common to say that we are sorry for their loss. We are not apologising or accepting blame for what happened, we are being sorry for them and what they are going through and that we feel for them in their sadness. "Sorry Business" is a culturally significant practice within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities that refers to the period of mourning and grieving following the death of a loved one. It's a deeply important cultural ritual involving traditional protocols, ceremonies, and community responsibilities. So having a National Sorry Day is about taking on a compassionate acknowledgement of the pain for many first nations people around the Stolen Generations.

Why we continue the tradition has many reasons. Firstly, it is an act of compassion about something we acknowledge as a sad part of our history which has ongoing impact in our lives today. We have ANZAC Day as another example, and other local commemorations for significant sad event, just as we often do in our families because grief and pain may lessen in intensity over time, but the loss does not.

Continued next page

The second reason is that the impact of the Stolen Generations is still affecting people today. Having a sorry day, keeps it in our public consciousness that work on this still needs to be done because many of the recommendations of the Bringing them home report, tabled in the Australian Parliament in 1997 almost 30 years ago have not seen crucial action. The Bringing them home inquiry was a landmark truth-telling process, bringing to light the extent of Australia's Stolen Generations history, and sharing this with the nation.

As Christians, God, through Scripture and as the Holy Spirit, calls us to live justly, love with mercy and kindness and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8). As Christ, God calls us to love our neighbour as ourselves, that is to see them as us and that we are people in community together. Sorry Day should therefore make sense to us, not only because our Uniting Church has taken this, but as people of God we both seek to embody compassion, work for justice for all and a better world for those who are marginalised in our society, and to seek to care and work to help those in need.

For many of our First Peoples there is a commonality to their story.

- being traumatically taken from their family
- being separated from loving parents with no contact allowed
- being so young as to not know their wider family tree of aunts, uncles, cousins etc
- knowing that they had a language and culture, but not allowed to speak or learn it
- coercion, sometimes by force, to convert to a religion
- being made to conform to 'white' societal ways and values, but clearly at the same time being unvalued and rejected by 'white' society, or at best experiencing entrenched racism, prejudice and discrimination.
- grief when being able to seek to reconnect

with lost family, an endeavour which in itself is often difficult, and time consuming, and even costly, to find that the relatives sought have died.

Then there is grief at not knowing one's language and culture and finding that it is very hard, and at times almost impossible to find people/elders who can teach it, as much had been lost as it was not able to be passed down in traditional ways.

Reconciliation is not about burdening people with guilt, although it is about truth-telling that we might better understand our history. It is not about blame, although we can be sorry for the suffering others have experienced. It is not about losing our nation but recognising that as a nation we have some growing yet to do and action which needs to be taken to put some things to right so that others in need might find their way to healing and wholeness.

Reconciliation Week, not that it uses religious language, is about metanoia (a changing of heart, mind and being) and repentance, not again about blaming and guilt-burdening, but about turning around things in our country which are not right or which fall short of the glory of God because they do not embody right and loving relationships built on justice and equity.

Reconciliation Week is a week which is an invitation to think about things. It calls to mind things which need to be remembered, and which sometimes get forgotten the busyness of our country's daily happening. It calls to mind things we might continue to learn more about in relation to our First Nations Peoples. It also calls to mind our multiculturalism and us to relationship with those who are a part of our community, remembering that they were not considered as such in until very recently in our history. So this week there is much to think about.

God bless  
Jon

PEOPLE NEWS

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**



Barry Gregory

Lachlan Fear

John Kolosowski

Barbara Mallyon

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

### ***Thank you***

Thank you to everyone for your visits, cards and prayers during my recent hospitalisation and rehab following knee surgery.

Terry Oliver

## **SYNOD SPOTLIGHT**

*Weekly*

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

**For ( 23 May 2025) please see link to Synod weekly:**

[Synod Weekly](#)

### **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**

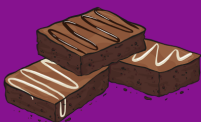
1 —7 June

*Angola, Mozambique*

## ***Combined MORNING TEA***

**9AM**

**15  
JUNE  
2025**



**BETWEEN THE MORNING  
SERVICES**

## **HELP WANTED**



**CAN YOU DRIVE SOMEONE  
TO CHURCH - WEEKLY,  
FORTNIGHTLY, MONTHLY?**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR  
8 AND 9:30 SERVICES**

**PLEASE CONTACT SARA**





## **Thursday 5 June**

**10am—12noon**

*Guest Speaker: James Indsto*

### **Forensics in Crime**



A Forensic Scientist, James will largely focus on the forensic botany aspect as this is his main area. He will also mention the NSW Police Scene of Crime Officers (SOCO). These are mainly civilian staff with forensic training who investigate 'volume crime' cases, such as break and enter cases.

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

## **St Matthew's**

# **HAPPY HOUR!**

### **At The Winston**

170 Caroline Chisholm Drive, Winston Hills

**13  
JUNE**

**5 PM  
FRIDAY**



COME AND SHARE IN SOME HAPPY  
CONVERSATION, A DRINK AND SOME FOOD  
WITH FRIENDS FROM ST MATTHEW'S.

RSVP to Belinda or just come along  
belinda.schuster0709@gmail.com



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.



**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](http://www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au)**  
**Click on the metal dove image / publications or find in recent posts.**



## The Galston Concerts



Sunday 15 June 2025 @ 2pm

**Galston Uniting Church  
11 School Road Galston**

**Spanish flamenco guitarist, Paco Lara**

Passionate Spanish flamenco guitarist, Paco Lara with a distinguished career in Europe and Australia of more than 30 years touring internationally alongside some of the greatest artists and maestro legends of flamenco in Spain, presents a very special and intimate show of authentic flamenco at Galston Uniting Church.



Recognised as the most prominent flamenco guitarist living in Australia, Paco Lara and Deya

Miranda Giner (Flamenco dancer) is a world class musical and cultural experience not to be missed!

[www.pacolarafiamenco.com](http://www.pacolarafiamenco.com)

Bookings [trybooking.com](http://trybooking.com) (search Galston 15 June)

Cash-only sales at the door on the day

\$40 adults \$30 concession \$10 students primary school & under FREE

Enquiries phone 9653-2039



**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**



### WEEK 5

30 May

**Music Night**



**Rockclimbing @  
The Edge**



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

## Smart debit regular giving

### Do your own direct debit direct to St Matthew's

1. Login to your online banking
2. Create a schedule to 'Pay Anyone' from your acct
3. Create St Matthew's as a payee

BSB 634-634

Acc 1000 25924

4. Use reference :  
Offering 8.00 or 9.30 or 6.45
5. Set the amount and frequency as you wish – weekly/monthly
6. Done!

- ✓ Similar to Pushpay but uses your savings accounts not credit card
- ✓ More flexible than a direct debit form lodged at a branch
- ✓ Start/vary/stop as you choose
- ✓ No fees
- ✓ Regular recurring gifts allows St Matthew's to budget more accurately

**Thankyou to all St Matthew's regular givers whatever method – cash, envelopes, direct debit and Pushpay!**

## 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=SUNFTjk5QlRLS21sQ3l5cGw4VXd1dz09>

Meeting ID: 850 8702 4028

Passcode: 042924



### From the book **Silence & Stillness in Every Season**

#### Daily readings with John Main

*In Meditation we turn the searchlight of consciousness off ourselves and that means off a self-centered analysis of our own unworthiness. "If memories of past actions keep coming between you and God," says the author of The Cloud of Unknowing, 'you are resolutely to step over them because of your deep love for God.' I prayer we come to a deeper awareness of God in Christ. Our way is the way of silence. The way to silence is the way of the mantra.*

*Time and again the practical advice of masters of prayer is summed up in simple injunction: 'Say your mantra; use the little word.' The Cloud of Unknowing advises, 'and pray not in*

*many words but in a little word of one syllable. Fix this word fast to your heart so that it is always there, come what may. With this word you will suppress all thoughts.'*

*Abbot Chapman, in his famous letter of Michaelmas 1920 from Downside, describes the simple, faithful use of a mantra which he had discovered more from his own courageous perseverance in prayer than from teachers. He had rediscovered a simple enduring tradition of prayer that entered the West through Monasticism, and first entered Western Monasticism through John Cassian in the late fourth century. Cassian himself received it from the holy men of the desert who placed its origin back beyond living memory to apostolic times.*

*Word into Silence*



**Saturday  
7th June**

**9am-12pm**

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

**St. Matthew's Lower Hall**

Thank you to all who  
have  
contributed to this  
publication.