



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

## Weekly Newsletter

15 June 2025

Pentecost 1

### Bible Readings

**John 16: 12-15**

**Romans 5: 1-5**

**Proverbs 8: 1-4, 22-31**

#### Response after Bible Readings

**Leader:** In this we hear the word of God

**Response:** Thanks be to God who speaks to us as spirit.



TRINITY SUNDAY

**Livestreaming at  
8am and 9.30am only**

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**

#### 8am—Worship

Led by Michael Strong  
and Thomas Smith

#### 9am—Combined Morning tea

#### 9.30am—Worship

Led by Sharon Underwood  
and Albert Olley

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

#### 6.45pm—Worship

Led by Sandra Morell  
and Alexander Lawless

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

#### MONDAY 16 JUNE

9am-10.30am—**Coffee & Play**

**NEW group for Grown ups and  
their little ones**  
upstairs hall

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

7.30pm—**Christian Meditation**

#### TUESDAY 17 JUNE

9am-2pm—**Op Shop open**

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

#### WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE

9am-2pm—**Op Shop**

10am-12pm—**In Stitches**  
upstairs hall

10am-12noon—**Men's Morning Tea**  
McKels Café Bella Vista

#### THURSDAY 19 JUNE

9am-2pm—**Op Shop**

9am—**Church in use all day**

#### FRIDAY 20 JUNE

8.45am-12pm—**Preschool  
using upstairs hall**

#### SATURDAY 21 JUNE

**No Scheduled Activities**

### SUNDAY 22 JUNE

8am—**Worship**

9.30am—**Worship**

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

6.45pm—**Worship**



#### MINISTER

REV JON HUMPHRIES

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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  
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#### CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

MIKE UNDERWOOD  
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BAULKHAM HILLS

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**WEB SITE:** www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au  
**Weekly newsletter available on website**

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# Something to think about

## 15 June

### Pentecost 1 Trinity Sunday

#### Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

Psalm 8

Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15

### Knowing God

We all do theology. Theology is in essence thoughts and words about God. The word theology is derived from two Greek words, θεός [theos] which means god or deity and λόγος [logos] which in its most basic sense, translates to "word," "speech," or "discourse". However, "logos" also carries deeper philosophical and theological connotations, encompassing concepts like reason, principle, and divine intelligence. Theology is therefore not only words or ideas about God, but our words to God, and the study of God. Yes, it is also at a higher level the study of the nature of God and religious belief. However, we who have a relationship with God all do theology because it is implicitly in our minds about our understanding of the God we know about and know, and thus it shapes the language of our prayers. Theology is also in God's words to us as revealed by God as Spirit, Word and through Scripture. We are immersed in theology when we read the Scriptures, sing religious hymns and

songs, and participate in liturgy in our Church services. We all do theology, whether we engage in formal study or not.

This Sunday is Trinity Sunday. The Trinity is a Christian doctrine stating that God exists as one being in three coeternal, coequal, and consubstantial divine Persons: The Father, the Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit. You might need to look these words up to understand them. This is a good thing to do, because theology is about learning about God. These three Persons of God share one divine essence and are distinct in their roles and relationships with each other. We have one God, whom we know and experience in three persons. God is one-in-three and three-in-one. Trinity is a merging of 'tri' meaning three and 'unity' meaning the state of being united or joined as a whole into one element. The Trinity is a core element of Christian theology and doctrine/teaching. It is not spelled out explicitly as a teaching in Scripture and the word "Trinity" is never used in the Bible, but it is expressed in the experience of followers of Jesus and is a formula named by Jesus in the Great Commission when he tells the Disciples to, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit [Matthew 28:19] In this week's epistle reading set in the Revised Common Lectionary, Romans 5:1-5, Paul refers to God [\[Romans 5:1,2 & 5\]](#), "Our Lord Jesus Christ" [Romans 5:1] and the "Holy Spirit" [Romans 5:5]. Similarly, in our Gospel reading, [John 16:12-15](#), Jesus refers to himself, "The Father" [\[John 16:15\]](#) and "The Spirit" [John 16:13]. The Trinitarian experience of God is woven through many parts of Scripture.

(Continued next page)

We are in the liturgical season of After Pentecost. We are remembering what it is to be the Church, reflecting on how the Church came into being because God in the person of Jesus left the disciples in physical form, but then blessed them in the form of the Holy Spirit. In passages such as John 14:15-31 we learn all about this. Jesus, who is God, having stated that "I and the Father are one" [John 10:30] and "the Father is in me, and I in the Father" [John 10:38], teaches that he must leave but the Father will "give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever - the Spirit of truth." [John 14:16-17] The Spirit of Truth is "the Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name." [John 14:26] The sending of the Spirit is God, as Father and as Jesus, making God's home with us. [John 14:23] However, all this theology is not just words about God and what God is doing in the world but is also about us understanding the work we have to do as a result of knowing God. Jesus made this quite clear when he stated that, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching." [John 14:23]. It is in doing this that God makes God's home in us.

We need to be careful in referring to the persons of God from the Trinity separately that we don't separate or divide God into three individuals. We can do this in our language when we talk of Jesus being the Son of God and the Holy Spirit being the Spirit of God. Whilst both these statements are technically true, they can lead us to thinking and acting like Jesus and the Spirit are in some ways just parts of God. This almost makes them lesser than the fullness of God. Jesus was the fullness of God, being

the Son who is God, just as the Holy Spirit is the Spirit who is God.

How we speak of God, that is our theology, needs to lead us speaking correctly and rightly about God. We need, as 3 Minute Theology puts it so well, "good God grammar." I invite you to watch this helpful and short video about the Trinity: 3 Minute Theology 1.1: What is the Trinity? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0HMryr1ZlxQ>

So, the Trinity is not just a description of God but is about our experience of God. After all, we are not called to tell other people about the God that we know about but introduce them to the God whom we know. The idea of the Trinity leads us to understanding that God is with us as Spirit and at work in us, and we are called to be aware of this and tune into this reality. What does this essentially look like? Well, when we live out the love of God and embody it to others as God in the person of Jesus embodied it to us then we live in God and God lives in us. [1 John 4:16]

The Trinity is really something to think about, but more than that it is an experience of God to embrace and engage in and let that experience, like the early Church lead us into understanding. The easiest and first step is to simply start loving our neighbour as ourselves as Jesus, who was God incarnate made clear as being one of the most important things that we can do. [Leviticus 19:18/Matthew 22:39/Mark 12:31/Luke 10:27&28] If we do this we will live.

God bless  
Jon





## Coffee and Play

Welcoming all little ones and their  
grown-ups to a morning of  
conversation and playtime.

Corner of Edgar & Charles Sts  
Mondays 9-10:30am  
Starting 16/6/25



PEOPLE NEWS

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**



Margaret Gray  
Erin Mathewson  
Craig Longmuir

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

## Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

15 —21 June



**Botswana, Zimbabwe**

### Thank you

*A big thank you to everyone for your prayers, visits, cards and good wishes after my recent surgery and rehabilitation. I appreciate you all very much.*

**Jane Cole**

*Thank you to everyone for your thoughts and good wishes after my recent hospitalisation, I am recovering well.*

**Barry Gregory**

## *Weekly* **SYNOD SPOTLIGHT**

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

**For (6 June 2025) please see link to Synod weekly:**

[Synod Weekly](#)

## *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**

## Winter Blanket Drive for Parramatta Mission

Help Us Share the Warmth

Drop off time & location:

From Fri 1 May to 31 Jul, 9.00am – 4.30pm

Address: Allan Drew Funerals

221 Old Northern Rd, Castle Hill

(please don't bring blankets to St Matthews)

Let's wrap our community in kindness this  
winter. For More information, please visit

<https://brnw.ch/2lwT6Op>



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.



Thank you to all who  
have  
contributed to this  
publication.



Please pick up the latest

*insights*

Magazine  
Winter 2025

From the church  
foyer

**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 Past Today

The Christian faith has a very rich history that is largely unknown to members of congregations today. There is a benefit in looking at the past.

- It can give us a sense of perspective on the present.
- It can show us where we have come from.
- It can also show us the times when the church got things 'right' and when it did not.

***The following 4 part series is part of a plan to offer enquiries into slices into our past on an annual basis.***

***This series will consist of a presentation with questions and discussions. Led by Clive Pearson***

***When: last Saturday of the month for 4 months:***

***June 28, July 26, August 30, September 27***

***Time: 10am-11am approx.***

***Where: In the Church***

***The themes for this first series are:***

## ***1. 'We believe'.***

2025 marks the 1700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first great ecumenical council of the church, the Council of Nicaea. It was called into being by Constantine, the first emperor of the Roman Empire. Its principal focus was on dealing with contested understandings of how Jesus Christ, the Son, relates to God, as the Father. Was Christ divine or was a 'creature', the first-born of creation? The theological stakes were high: our faith and worship depends on how this 'problem' was resolved.

Constantine's conversion to the Christian faith had gone hand in hand with tolerance and legal status being given to Christians following a period of great persecution. No longer was the Christian faith a persecuted minority on the edges of empire. Was something lost in this change of status? That is an ongoing concern over the centuries. The Council also set the date for Easter.

## ***2. 'Herstory'.***

So often the history of the church has been exactly that – 'his' story. This way of viewing the past has tended to reinforce patriarchy but is it as true as we might be led to believe. In this presentation we consider the role played by women in the early church, including the 'order of widows', medieval women mystics and the life and witness of Argula von Grumbach during the Reformation.

## ***3. 'Plagues and Pandemics'.***

'Doing' church during COVID-19 gave us an experience of what it means to be a community of Christ during a time of pandemic. What was it like to worship, extend pastoral care, maintain youth groups? It is likely that there will be future pandemics. – which will most likely be a complication bound up with a changing climate. We were fortunate: we had the advantages of technology and vaccines. In the past that was not so.

In the course of its history the church has often had to negotiate its way through a plague / pandemic. In this presentation we will look at 3 of those and see how our forebears dealt with them. We will look at plagues in the early church (the Antonine, Cyprian and Justinian), the Black Death of the 14<sup>th</sup> century and Luther's response and advice during the Reformation.

The conduct of Christians during the early church struck pagan observers who were struck by the care extended to unknown 'neighbours'. The Black Death did much damage to the church's witness and ministry; Luther instructed the people of his day on how to exercise care for one self while calling upon those who exercised authority and oversight of society to work for the common good.

## ***4. 'Allah'.***

The Christian faith and Islam are the world's two leading religions. They can both look back to Abraham / Ibrahim. Jesus (as Isa) is the most mentioned prophet in the *Qur'an*, while Mary is mentioned more times there than in the New Testament. Their history has often been one of conflict – and caricature. This presentation fastens upon the expansion of Islam into what were Christian territories in the Middle East and North Africa, the Crusades, the Fall of Constantinople and Luther's determination to have the *Qur'an* translated into his German language and know what Muslims actually believe.

Luther was wanting to get beyond received stereotypes inherited from the Crusades. He was writing at a time when the Ottoman Turks had advanced through formerly Christian territories in Eastern Europe and were at the gates of Vienna.



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# CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

ST MATTHEW'S UNITING CHURCH  
AND PRESCHOOL'S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**Celebrate with us In October/November 2025!!!**

**SAVE THE DATES**

SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER 2025 -

WELSH CHOIR PERFORMANCE @ 2pm

SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2025

WORSHIP SERVICES WITH GUEST PREACHERS 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 6:45 PM

SUNDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2025

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE – FOLLOWED BY MORNING TEA 9:00 AM

PICNIC LUNCH AT JOHN CURTIN RESERVE WINSTON HILLS FROM 11: 00 AM

SATURDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2025

SOCIAL EVENTS AT CHURCH

– TALENT SHOW FROM 3:00 PM ( DEPENDING ON ENOUGH PARTICIPANTS )

– DINNER & GAMES NIGHT FROM 5:30 PM (SHARE FOOD, STORIES & GAMES)

SUNDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2025

WORSHIP SERVICES WITH GUEST PREACHERS 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM

YOUTH SERVICE - GUEST PREACHERS (INCL SHINE CELEBRATIONS) 6:45 AM

SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2025

50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY - CHURCH & PRESCHOOL WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM  
- CHURCH & PRESCHOOL SHOWCASE (AFTER WORSHIP)  
- BANQUET LUNCH (SHARE FOOD & STORIES) 12 NOON





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# CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

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AND PRESCHOOL'S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**Celebrate with us In October/November 2025!!!**

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

TO ENSURE THAT OUR 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS ARE A SUCCESS WE WILL NEED VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST IN THE PREPARATION OF THE VARIOUS EVENTS. HELP IN A SMALL WAY CAN LIGHTEN THE LOAD.

IF YOU CAN ASSIST WITH THE FOLLOWING TASKS YOUR HELP WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATED BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE.

- JOIN AS A MEMBER OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE
- ASSIST WITH PREPARATION OF A GAMES NIGHT (SAT 15 NOV)
- HELP PREPARE OR PERFORM IN THE TALENT SHOW (SAT 15 NOV)
- ASSIST IN PREPARATION OF A PHOTOGRAPHIC SHOWCASE
- HELP TO PREPARE MEALS (**CONTACT ANNETTE WATSON**)
  - ❖ PICNIC LUNCH (SUN 9 NOV)
  - ❖ GAMES NIGHT DINNER (SAT 15 NOV)
  - ❖ BANQUET LUNCH (SUN 23 NOV)
- ASSIST IN PREPARATION OF WORSHIP SERVICES

IF YOU FEEL YOU CAN ASSIST IN ANY OF THESE TASKS, PLEASE SEE GREG GIBB OR CALL HIM ON HIS MOBILE **0414 764 437**



## 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.pacolarafamenco.com](http://www.pacolarafamenco.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  
[jonestmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto:jonestmatthewsuniting.net.au) 9686 3003

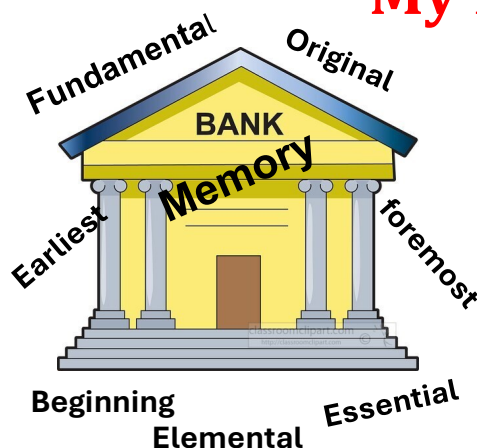


## Thursday 3 July

10am-12pm

Guest Speaker: Alan Wright

## My First.....and other stuff



Do you remember your first...? Was it the first and last or was it the first of many?

Inevitably, 'firsts' happen when we are young, but not exclusively.

Alan digs deep into his memory bank and talks about some of his 'Firsts.'

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