



**Bible Readings**

Matthew 21: 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**

twitch.tv

**Livestreaming at**  
**8am, 9.30am and**  
**9am in January each**  
**year**

**8am—Worship**  
Led by Jon Humphries  
Followed by morning tea

**9.30am—Worship**  
Led by Jon Humphries  
KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8  
Followed by morning tea

**6.45pm—Worship**  
Led by Jon Humphries

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

**MONDAY 30 MARCH**

7.30pm—Christian Meditation  
9am—sorting and pricing for Op  
Shop & Garage sale lower hall

**TUESDAY 31 MARCH**

9am-2pm—Op Shop  
9.30am-11am—Christian  
Meditation  
community room and church  
7.30pm— **FINAL**  
Lenten Studies  
In the church & online via Zoom

**WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL**

9am-2pm—Op Shop

**THURSDAY 2 APRIL**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

9am-2pm—Op Shop  
10am-12pm—Coffee & Discovery  
Church & Hall  
7.30pm—Maundy Thursday service

**FRIDAY 3 APRIL**



**GOOD FRIDAY**  
**Public Holiday**  
9am— Good Friday  
service

**SATURDAY 4 APRIL**

No Op Shop or Garage sale  
this month



**SUNDAY 5 APRIL**

Remember to put your clocks  
back.

**8am—Worship**  
Includes communion

**9.30am—Worship**  
Includes communion  
KUCA in Recess for school  
holidays  
followed by Morning Tea

**6.45pm—Worship**  
Includes communion



**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 : lynns@nswact.uca.org.au  
**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:**

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 WANIGESEKERA  
PO BOX 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

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# Something to think about

29 March

Lent 6

## Palm Sunday

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Matthew 21:1-11

### Right Expectations

In Palm Sunday we celebrate Jesus's entrance into Jerusalem. You can read the story in Matthew 21:1-11 and other Gospels. We will hear of crowds crying, "Hosanna." We will sing songs with the word 'hosanna' in them. We will have a procession of palm leaves in celebration of Jesus' triumphal entrance into Jerusalem being hailed "blessed" as "the one who comes in the name of the Lord." Yet, do we know what this is truly about?

Do we, like the crowds have the right-expectations of who Jesus is and what Jesus is doing? Do we have right-understanding of what is happening in the story? Do we have right-understanding of who Jesus is as Christ and right-expectation of what Jesus is doing for us and in us and what it means for us to be the 'Body of Christ' as the Church in our time and context?

The word hosanna in Hebrew הוֹשִׁיעָה-נָּא (Hoshiah na) or the shortened version הוֹשִׁעַ נָּא (Hosha'na). "Hosanna" derives from these Hebrew phrases meaning

"save, I pray", "save now," or "please save us." It is a combination of the Hebrew verb יָשָׁא [yasha] (to save/deliver) and na (a particle of entreaty, meaning "please" or "I beg you"). Yasha (Hebrew: יָשָׁא) is a Hebrew verb root meaning "to save," "rescue," "deliver," or "bring to safety". It conveys practical, holistic salvation - not just spiritual - including victory, health, and liberation from distress, frequently used in the Old Testament to describe God delivering His people or enabling survival. אָנָּה (anna), in Hebrew is an interjection meaning "please," "I beseech," or "O". These are deep and profound cries for help that are not often a part of our liturgy on Palm Sunday.

While originally a desperate cry for help, it evolved into a joyous liturgical shout of praise and salvation. There is joy in our salvation, but I think we often miss the mark, like the normal human tendency to focus on the positive without the cost, if we don't also take up our need for salvation. We hype things up to feel the positive emotions which come with adulation. Yet, we too often miss the confessions and truth of our need for salvation and the why we need it. This truth is about how far we fall short and diverge from God's will and way.

The irony of Palm Sunday is that we proclaim Jesus as Christ and cry, "Hosanna!" Do we not also fall into the same trap as the crowd in the story? We use it as a shout of praise and rarely do we acknowledge, or even realise, the desperation of our need for salvation.

In this season of Lent we have been diving into John as well as Matthew. If we read the passages set by the Revised Common Lectionary and other passages around them in John then we hear Jesus claiming to be “the Way, the Truth and the Life,” [John 14:6] the “Good Shepherd,” [John 10:11] “the resurrection and the life” [John 11:25] and acknowledging and claiming to be the Messiah/Christ. Martha, from Bethany and the sister of Lazarus and Mary, puts it very clearly when she said, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.” [John 11:27] This is something most of us affirm.

We who are Christian say that we believe Jesus is the Messiah/Christ and the Son of God, and God-incarnate, and the Word made flesh and the true light that brings light to everyone. Yet, what do we understand this to mean? The word, ἔλπις [elipis] in Biblical Greek which is often translated as “hope,” carries the meaning of a joyful, confident expectation, particularly regarding salvation. Orthoelpis could be said to be right-expectation.

[Ortho=right and elpis=hope/expectation] It is like orthodoxy which at its root meaning is right-glory. As we echo the cry of “hosanna” do we have right-expectations and are we offering right-glory? Are we just saying the right words and thinking that we join in right-feeling? Should not our right words lead us into repentance and metanoia – the change in heart, mind and being – so that we enter into who Jesus is as way,

truth and life, and seek to be saved, redeemed, born again, and spiritually resurrected?

Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” [Matthew 16:15, Mark 8:29, and Luke 9:20] and like Martha in John 10:27 responds with, “You are the Messiah [or Christ], the Son of the living God.” [Matthew 16:16] That question from Jesus is just as valid for us today as it was for the disciples back then. Who do we understand Jesus to be? Who do we say that he is? What are our expectations and hopes that we place in him?

As we head into Holy Week and remember the trials, sufferings, death and resurrection of Jesus who do we say Jesus is? What do we mean by what we say and believe? Do we hold right-expectations? Are we offering right-glory? Thus, as we think about Palm Sunday, we should be triggered to think about our faith and discipleship. Hosanna and what it means gives us much to think about.

*God bless*

*Jon*

PEOPLE NEWS

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**



Carl Denison  
Ray Philip  
Darren Cameron  
Michael Hill

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

## Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

29 March—4 April

Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia

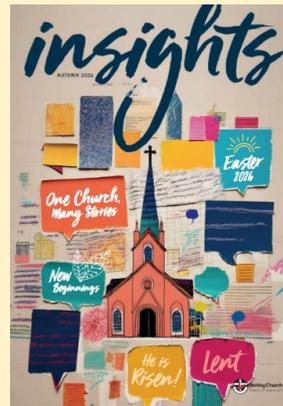
## Weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

For (20 March 2025) please see link to Synod weekly:

[Synod Weekly Spotlight 2026 - 20 March |](#)



Please pick up the latest

**insights**

Magazine  
for

Autumn 2026  
From the church  
foyer

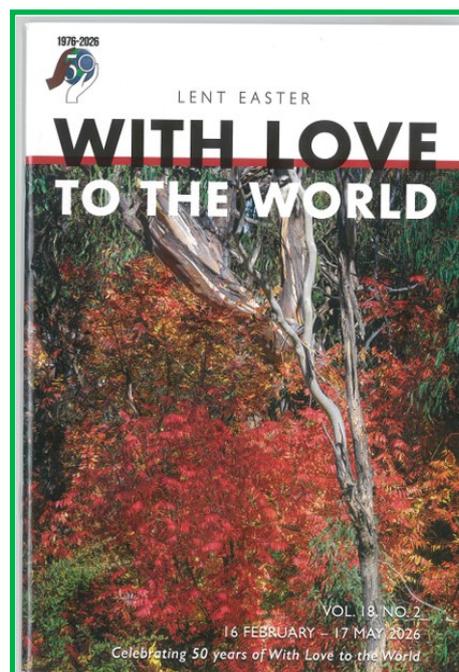
## Green and White fresh flower arrangement for Easter Sunday

Katherine Pedersen is asking for someone to help to have a turn at doing a fresh white and green floral arrangement for the front of the church for the Easter Sunday services. You will need to prepare the arrangement on the Saturday for the following Easter Sunday morning services.

You will be reimbursed for the cost of the flowers.

Katherine is also looking for someone to look after the gardens on the perimeter of the entire church property from Saturday 25th of April until the 1st June.

Please contact Katherine or the church office.



**Lent  
Easter**

**WITH LOVE  
TO THE  
WORLD**

a daily Bible reading  
guide based on the  
Revised Common  
Lectionary

**Volume 18,  
Number 2**

**16 February  
To  
17 May 2026**

is available  
in the church foyer.

**Please place \$7  
in offering bag  
to cover costs.**

**Lent Studies will take  
place  
EACH TUESDAY IN LENT  
7.30pm  
In person in the church  
space  
and online via Zoom**

**Tuesday 24  
February  
To  
Tuesday 31  
March**

Topic: 2026 St Matthew's Uniting Lenten Studies

Time: Feb 24, 2026 07:30 PM

Every week on Tue, 6 occurrence(s)

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/98002215746>

Meeting ID: 980 0221 5746

One tap mobile

+61871501149,,98002215746# Australia

+61280156011,,98002215746# Australia

Join by SIP

• [98002215746@zoomcrc.com](mailto:98002215746@zoomcrc.com)

Join instructions

[https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/meetings/98002215746/invitations?  
signature=8pWbv39wLUCWvOM7fPthgCNckTnA6iSAOR8KpCqNU3I](https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/meetings/98002215746/invitations?signature=8pWbv39wLUCWvOM7fPthgCNckTnA6iSAOR8KpCqNU3I)



**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.**

# Help Support the library

Supporting the library at Near East School of Theology, **Beirut**.

How can you help?

Read about the support the Camden Theological Library and Friends of the Middle East are providing for staff and students in the ecumenical theological college in Lebanon.

Even a small donation of just a few dollars can help us keep this service going. In a way that is not always realised here in Australia Lebanon is home to significant percentage of Christians, is a biblical land, and, through history, has been the site of much Christian life and witness.

Follow the link below:



Library Support — FME  
[fmeorg.au](http://fmeorg.au)



**Thursday 2 April 2026**

**10am—12noon**

**Guest speaker: Colin Elliot**

**“Bush Poetry”**



Colin will present a range of poems he has written, which includes some of his bush poetry as well as others of his interesting and ‘amusing’ life’s experiences.

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

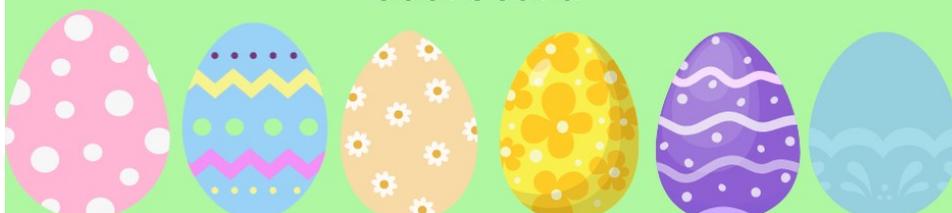
\*\*\*\*\* ALL WELCOME \*\*\*\*\*

## Be Slavery Free

when you buy chocolates this Easter or at any time, you can check the chocolate scorecard. Use this QR code or the link below to find the website:

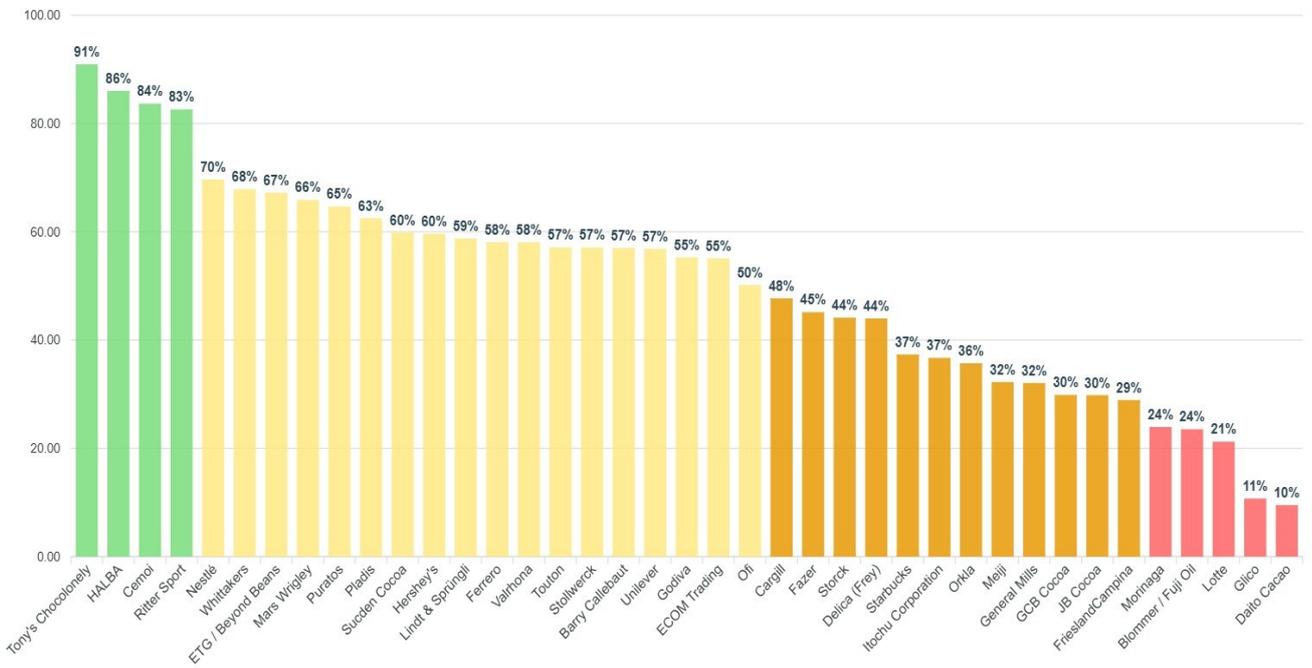
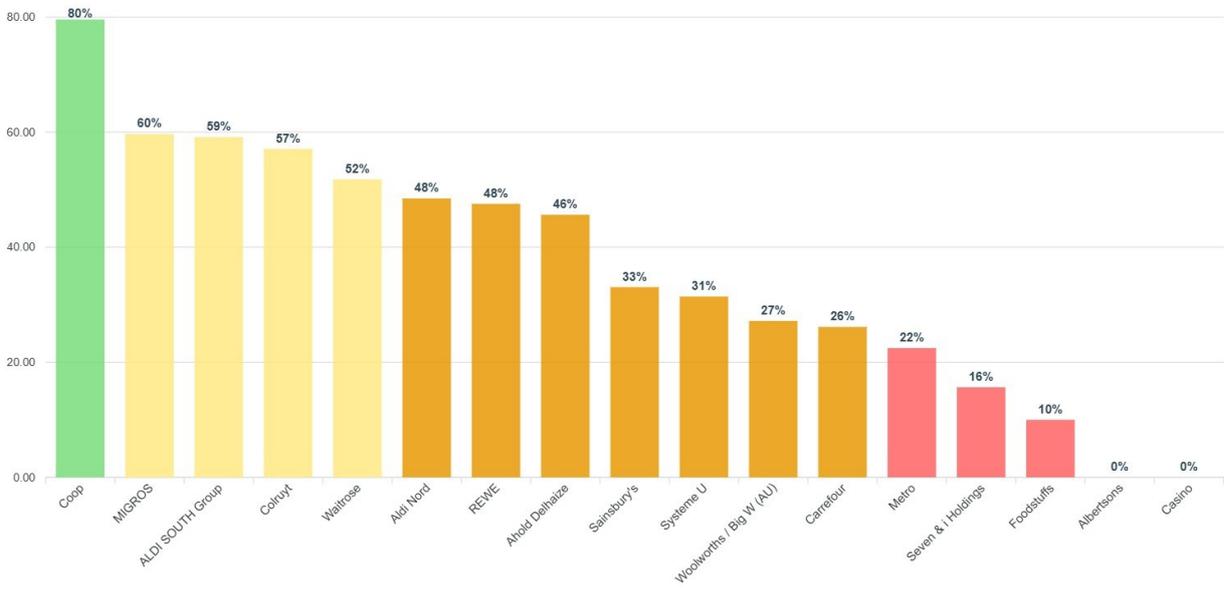
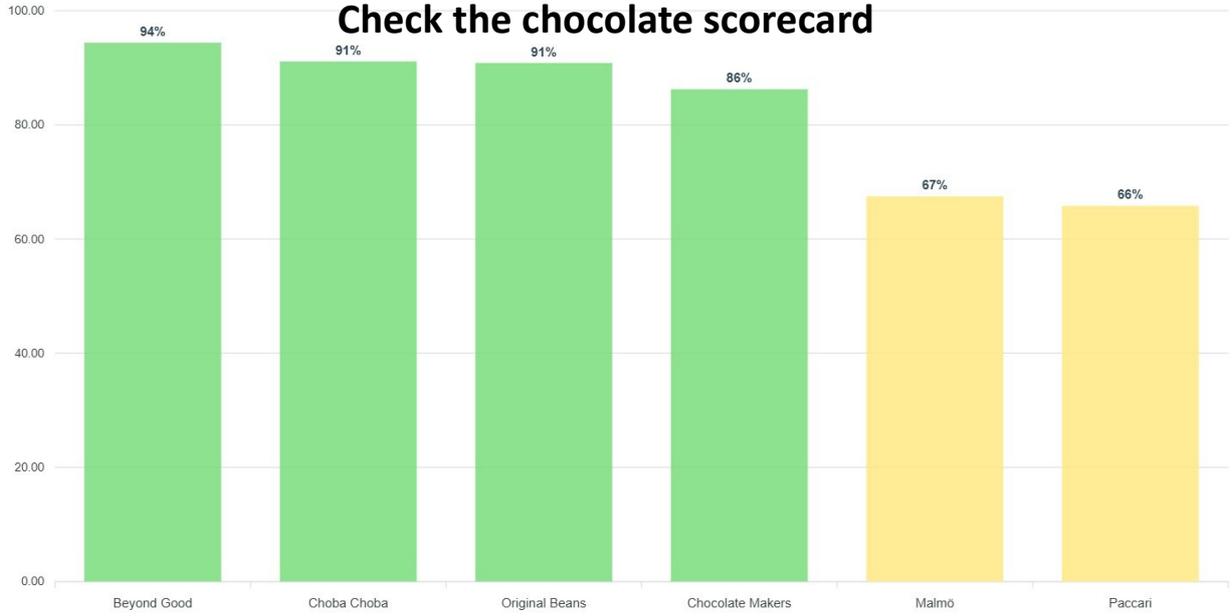


<https://www.beslaveryfree.com/chocolate-scorecard>



See next page

# Check the chocolate scorecard





# Church Working Bee

It is nearing Easter so it is time to carry out the working bee to make the property sparkle. We only have a couple of working bees each year so if you can afford to give a few hours the Property Committee would appreciate your help. Mark your diary on

**Saturday 28th March**  
**from 8.00 am to 11.30 pm**

We will be cleaning windows, church seats, Furniture in the church, clean tops and inside of cupboards, clean fans and more if we have the time and the manpower.

If you prefer to garden this is your opportunity.

Remember many hands make light work. 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷



**A LENTEN INVITATION**  
from President Rev Charissa Suli



[https://  
uniting.church/2026-  
lenten-invitation/](https://uniting.church/2026-lenten-invitation/)

# *St Matthew's Social Action Missional Ministry Team*

How doing little things makes a big difference.

## **Topic: Latest News from Wayside Chapel**

It's mid-March. The start of the year is behind us, the post-summer energy has abated, and a quiet weariness tends to settle in about now. Give yourself permission to feel it — rather than resist it.

Someone once offered me some of the best advice I've ever received: never should on yourself. As in, I shouldn't feel tired. I shouldn't feel sad. I shouldn't still be carrying this. It's the normal rhythm of a life, reflected in seasons that change and a universe in constant cycles of life, death, and rebirth.

As if to draw us into the season, Wayside has entered a period of loss — and I'm not just talking about my footy team. The funerals are mounting. The prolonged heat and humidity of a Sydney summer takes a toll on vulnerable bodies, one that is often more deadly than our winters. No one takes anyone for granted at this time of year. Grief teaches its painful lesson whether we're ready for it or not.

Last night we gathered for Iftar, breaking the day's fast together — Jewish, Muslim, and Christian around the same table in Bondi. The practice of the better is always the best criticism of the bad. We ate, sang, and almost danced, in a spirit of reverence that needed no explanation. Our mission is a demanding one: to build community with no 'us and them', and to live in the world in such a way that love wins over hate. This means standing in the middle ground and extending a hand of friendship with no guarantee of return. To join with others in that spirit may be the greatest joy available to us in confusing times.

It's in the small acts. In our Muslim staff who feed others at this time of year while going without themselves. Also, in one of our beautiful Jewish volunteers who, every Sunday, brings treats and leaves them on the front desk for everyone to share as they await their morning shower. She carefully selects delicacies from her own tradition and offers them with quiet generosity. "They love almost everything — especially my Bobba's treats!" Almost everything? "Yes. Everything except the gefilte fish."

Rev. Jon Owen  
CEO & Pastor  
Wayside Chapel

To ask about joining the Social Action Group at St Matthew's  
email Alexander on [alexander.lawless7@gmail.com](mailto:alexander.lawless7@gmail.com)  
Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026 at 7pm in the Lower Church Hall