



Bible Readings

John 20: 19-31
 1 Peter 1: 3-9



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

9am—Worship @ the Willow's

Led by Warren Arthur

9.30am—Worship

Led by Jon Humphries

Followed by morning tea

KUCA in Recess for school holidays

6.45pm—Worship

Community meal

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 13 APRIL

7.30pm—*Christian Meditation*

TUESDAY 14 APRIL

9am-2pm—*Op Shop*

9.30am-11am—*Christian Meditation*

community room and church

WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL

9am-2pm—*Op Shop*

10am-12pm—*In Stitches*

Upstairs hall

10am-12pm—*Men's Morning Tea*

Mckel's, Bella Vista

THURSDAY 16 APRIL

9am-2pm—*Op Shop*

FRIDAY 17 APRIL

No Scheduled Activities

SATURDAY 18 APRIL

No Scheduled Activities

SUNDAY 19 APRIL

8am—*Worship*

9.30am—*Worship*

followed by Morning Tea

KUCA in Recess for school holidays

2-4pm—*Upstairs 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 : lynns@nswact.uca.org.au
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 TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY
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CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

MIKE UNDERWOOD
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Something to think about

12 April

Easter 2

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalm 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

Living into Resurrection

The stories in Gospel about Jesus's resurrection and how the disciples came to accept it are very important. There was no joyous declaration that, "He is risen! He is risen indeed!" At least that is not the impression until Pentecost. There are moments when this is true, but there is a lot of tense waiting. The stories echo what most of us experience in a process of grief.

Even though Jesus had been resurrected, the disciples were still in grief at his death. There were moments of epiphany and joy. Yet, most of the time, even with hope present, the disciples stayed locked in a room, not going out. There was hope, but there was fear and confusion at the same time.

Resurrection is like that when we apply it to our living, not just to eternal life. When someone or something has died in our lives it takes time to recover and find new life. The fact that Jesus rose from death and still bore the scars of his crucifixion is very important to me. As we rise to new life after severe loss, we will carry the emotional and life scars of that loss. What was lost leaves a hole in our lives just like Jesus has a hole in his side that Thomas is invited to put his hand into. We do find healing and hope, but that takes some work and that takes some time.

Resurrection has the reality of being instantaneous as a spiritual reality, but also takes time to accept. This is often the same in the case of forgiveness, which is another kind of resurrection. When someone has killed our trust or we have

killed a relationship with someone else, forgiveness is like resurrection. We can forgive, but it usually takes time to live into and accept that forgiveness.

Resurrection is a core belief. It is a part of our salvation and redemption. Yet, just as much as salvation is about what we are saved from, it is also about what we are saved for. The writer of 1 Peter helps us understand this as does Paul/Saul. In 1 Peter 1 it is written, "...if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.' When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed." [1 Peter 2: 20-24]

This passage is about how Christ bore our sins in profound loss of his life. He then was resurrected. In the same way we are called to die to sin [Romans 6: 11] that we might be born again. Jesus was made alive that he lives to God [Romans 6: 10] So, we should be alive to God [Romans 6 11]. This is what we are saved for.

The same principle works for resurrection in our lives after someone dies or something dies in us. We are called to new life and that this life is to live to God. This is what resurrection is for. It is that we might have life and life is abundance, for this is why Jesus came. [John 10: 10]

Resurrection is not easy. It takes time to really accept. It takes time to adjust to. It. Like Christ we may still bear scars. Yet, we live to God. Resurrection calls us into living rightly and that is about living. Grief and loss are a part of life. They are hard things to work through. They take time because we have to believe and put in the effort that comes with hope. Resurrection is something to live into and that is something to think about.

God bless.

Jon

PEOPLE NEWS

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



Eulalie Herat
Barbara Fiedler

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

12 — 18 April

Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania



Weekly
SYNOD SPOTLIGHT
Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

For (3 April 2025) please see link to Synod weekly:

[Synod Weekly Spotlight 2026 - 2 April |](#)



Please pick up the latest

insights

Magazine
for
Autumn 2026
From the church
foyer

Flower arranging

If anyone would like to have a turn and learn to do the flower arranging for Sunday worship services during the year, please contact Katherine.

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.



Has anyone lost a
Kindle?

One has been handed in to the office. Kindle only no charging cables. Please come and see me. It will be donated to the next Garage sale if it is not claimed. Thank you

Parramatta Mission

We are collecting knitted and crocheted beanies and scarves, as well as soap, for the people who visit Parramatta Mission for meals and support.

The collection point at St Matthew's is the marked box at the top of the stairs

Please contact Christine Haines for more information.



Could you serve morning tea?

1. Bring 1L of milk
2. Arrive 15 minutes early to set up cups
3. Serve tea and coffee after the service
4. Wash the cups (dishwasher lessons provided!)

Volunteers
needed



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.

Please see QR Codes for YouTube, Facebook & Twitch



St Matthew's Social Action Missional Ministry Team

How doing little things makes a big difference.

Topic: Micah Women's Network and Australian Aid Advocacy

Recently Sandra Morell, Sharon Underwood and Amanda Manson attended the 2026 Micah Women's Network (MWN) dinner at Northside Church at Crows Nest. The Micah Women's Network brings together Christian women from across Australia to engage in global justice advocacy through church mobilisation and high-level meetings with Australia's federal politicians. At present its main goal to maintain (and if possible increase) the current level of government investment in Australian Aid. There are concerns about this due to other pressures on the national budget.

Australia Aid (formerly AusAID not to be confused with USAID) is an Australian government agency that works to promote Australia's national interests by assisting developing countries, primarily in the Indo-Pacific region, to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development. When you watch the news and see the RAAF loading supplies for countries experiencing an emergency, you will see Australia Aid stickers on the pallets of goods being loaded.

The Australia Aid budget is part of the Federal budget being handed down in Canberra on 12th May. We have a petition that St Matthews church members can sign, that will be presented to our local federal politician, Alex Hawke MP, asking for his support in federal Parliament for the Australia Aid budget. Currently Australia gives less than 1% of the federal budget in government sponsored foreign aid.



We hope to have the petition ready to be signed this week after church services. The banner states: 'we support Australian Aid because it saves lives, prevents crises and helps make a safer world for all'. When writing on the petition, we only need to write our name and postcode, and sign it.

*Blessings,
Dr Sandra Morell & Amanda Manson
Social Action Ministry Team (SAMT)*

To ask about joining the Social Action Group at St Matthew's
email Alexander on alexander.lawless7@gmail.com
Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 21st April 2026 at 7pm in the Lower Church Hall

Friends of the Middle East

Re: E-books for the Near East School of Theology (NEST) in Beirut.



If you would like to consider offering some financial assistance, **please email: library@nswact.uca.org.au with the subject 'NEST'.**

Every donation counts.
***Donations of over \$20
will attract a tax deduction.***

The only way to donate specifically to the e-books is directly via the library as shown above and not via the FME website.

St Matthew's Social Action Ministry Team

How doing little things makes a big difference.



Topic: Friends of the Middle East (FME) Theological Library Support

<https://www.fmeorg.au/librarysupport>

The Friends of the Middle East (FME) are members of the Uniting Church in Australia who share an interest in nourishing the relationship between the Uniting Church and churches in the Middle East. The origins of the 'Friends' lie in the wake of visits made to Armenia and Lebanon. Armenia was the first nation in the world to declare itself Christian (in 301); Lebanon is a biblical land with a strong Christian presence through time.

During a visit by members of FME to the Near East School of Theology (NEST) in Beirut, it became apparent that although the theological library contained a very rich print collection, it was now struggling to purchase new books. Their power to do so had been hard hit by the impact on Lebanon through Covid, repeated conflict, port explosions and a collapsed economy. It was recognized that the most viable way ahead would be through the purchase of e-books.

The Camden Theological Library (CTL) Manager was provided with information about the texts in high demand. It became apparent that the majority were included in a collection of e-books called the Digital Theological Library (DTL2). The cost of an annual subscription fee for NEST was US\$7000. The initial cost for 2025 was covered jointly from an appeal for tax deductible donations and a contribution from the CTL trust funds.

In response to the donation, the President of NEST, Martin Accad wrote: "DTL2 has been a wonderful resource. Compared to what it would cost to get anywhere near equivalent resources in hard copies for our library, there is not even a conversation to be had! It is a privilege for us to offer ecumenical support. It enriches us as well." Martin also stated "we continue to be deeply grateful for all the support we get from friends all over the world. God is blessing the ministry of NEST and it is a joy to partner with many across the world in serving our region for the advancement of God's Kingdom and presence through his church!"

How Can We Help?

It will be necessary to renew the licence for DTL2 in the early part of 2026. While CTL will provide 50% of the cost, the other half needs to be raised by the FME. If you would like to consider offering some financial assistance, **please email: library@nswact.uca.org.au** with the subject 'NEST'. No matter how small, every donation counts. In the midst of so much upheaval where we can do so little, this is one thing we can do – to make a difference. It is much appreciated.

Remember: email: library@nswact.uca.org.au with the subject 'NEST'.

Your donation can attract a tax deduction.

Also please pray for the Near East School of Theology as well as the churches and people in the Middle East.

MARCH FOR CHANGE

Speaking out against
Domestic & Family Violence



FRIDAY 1st MAY
7.00 a.m.

Castle Towers Purple Carpark, Castle Place
March to Castle Hill RSL & Bowling Club

Hear the Experts : Have Your Say

