



Bible Readings

Luke 24: 44-53
 Acts 1: 1-11
 John 14: 15-21



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

9.30am—Worship
 Led Jon Humphries
 Followed by morning tea

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

6.45pm—Worship
 Led Jon Humphries

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 18 MAY

Garage Sale sorting & pricing
7.30pm—Christian Meditation

TUESDAY 19 MAY

9am-2pm—Op Shop
9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation
 community room and church

WEDNESDAY 20 MAY

9am-2pm—Op Shop
10am-12pm—In Stitches
 upstairs hall
10am-12pm—Men's Morning tea
Mckel's café Norwest
7.30pm—Elders meeting

THURSDAY 21 MAY

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 22 MAY

No Scheduled activities

SATURDAY 23 MAY

No Scheduled Activities

SUNDAY 24 MAY

8am—Worship
9am—Combined Morning tea
9.30am—Worship
 KUCA — Preschool,
 Years K-2 & Years 3-8
5pm—Shine
Setup from 4pm
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
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

EMAIL: director@stmatthewsps.net.au

Something to think about

17 May

Easter 7

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Luke 24:44-53

Acts 1:1-11

Psalms 68:1-10, 32-35

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

(and we are revisiting John 14:15-21)

The Way of Change

Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except by him. Jesus was God and God's way, God's mission and God's love embodied in the human person, Jesus. Because of that he was the Messiah/Christ. We are his disciples and we seek to follow in that way. However, what is the way of Jesus? What does it mean that seek to be more Jesusy?

Well, one thing which marks Jesus' way of ministry is that of transformation and change. Jesus came and changed the way people experienced God. God was no longer the divinity and creator in heaven but incarnate as a human in flesh as the person, Jesus. As the Word of God made flesh [John 1:14] Jesus proclaimed the presence of Kingdom of God which was at hand. [Matthew 3:2, Matthew 4:17, Mark 1:15] This proclamation came with the exhortation to repent and change

our way of thinking, believing and being (the Greek word being *μετάνοια* [metanoia]). This was about the way of God, which we now also call the way of the Cross, which is a profound "change of mind" denoting a transformative reorientation of one's entire outlook, vision, and way of loving.

Throughout his ministry Jesus taught and challenged people that the Kingdom of Heaven involved a change to the way people usually practised religion. He called people to follow him which involved a radical change in their life direction. He challenged the way people understood faith and religion and the traditional way of thinking about it. He would say, "you have heard it said.... But I say to you..." [Matthew 5] he would challenge the way people understood religious rules, not challenging the rule, but the way they were applied when one understands the intent and will of God. Here he performed miracles on the Sabbath and touched those who were ritually unclean.

Then in the readings set for this week for the remembering of the Ascension of Jesus, we have the reality of the change in relationship to him being present in person with the disciples. Just after they had thought that they had him back after losing him to death, he is taken away from them again into heaven. In the reading in Acts about the Ascension there are two men who appear, who we presume to be angels, and ask "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven?" They speak of his return, but even with the promises of Jesus about the Holy Spirit and all they had been through with him, we might excuse them for them being in awe, bewilderment and confusion.

Continued next page

The way of Jesus is change, because it is about growth. Growth is always a changing and transforming. This is not a bad thing, but it is not always easy. As disciples we are trying to be more like Jesus our teacher and master. We are trying to be more Jesusy, because Jesus was the incarnation of God and God's love and we want to be more like God in whose image we are created.

The way of Jesus is growth. It is our personal growth in faith and spirituality which is combined with the growth of the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus was a great leader. Jesus was a great teacher. Jesus was a great discipler. He taught, formed, and prepared his disciples to take up their own leadership. Jesus was an agent of change and growth. He grew people, just like he taught in many parables about growing. He sewed the seeds of the Kingdom, and then he stepped out of the way so that people could grow into their own agency and leadership.

The way of Jesus is not abandonment, though. God changed the way of presence. God was present in person in Jesus, the Christ, the Word made flesh, Immanuel – God with us. Yet, as God stepped back into the space of Heaven, God remained present as Holy Spirit. Jesus in his baptism saw the heavens torn open and the Kingdom of God came to be at hand. With the curtain in the Temple torn from top to bottom at the death of Jesus, God proclaims that God is no longer to be seen as centred in a temple in the Holy of Holies, but as being present with us and centred with us as Spirit. We become the

temple of God's presence. The Kingdom of Heaven is not just amongst us, but within us, and given into our hands as we join with God in working to break open further the reality of its breaking through. Thus, the way of Jesus, the Christ/Messiah, which is signified by change which comes with the Kingdom, continues with us who are the Church, the Body of Christ.

What is the way of Jesus and how do we become more Jesusy? How do we get to the Father who is the person of the Creator? A large part of the way is to join God in God's work and mission to continue to break in and grow the Kingdom of Heaven. Part of the work of becoming more Jesusy is to submit to being born again and allow God to grow us and transform us so that we become more conformed to the image of Christ [Romans 8:29] who was the fulfilment of humanity in which we are created in the image of God.

As we look to remembering the celebration of Pentecost, and the honouring of God being at work for growth and empowerment as the Holy Spirit, being more Jesusy as part of the mission of God becomes very important. The way of Jesus and how it should change us is something to very much think about.

God bless.

Jon

PEOPLE NEWS

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



Shirley Rodgers

Jane Jenkyn

Trevor Leslie

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

17—23 May

Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal



NEW Worship Rosters

for June, July, August 2026
HAVE BEEN EMAILED

If you don't have email or would like a hard copy please take one from the display in the Church foyer.

**NEW ROSTER
HELPERS WELCOME**



Weekly
SYNOD SPOTLIGHT
Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

For (8 May 2025) please see link to Synod weekly:

[Synod Weekly Spotlight 2026 - 8 May |](#)

St Matthew's HAPPY HOUR!

At The Winston

170 Caroline Chisholm Drive, Winston Hills

**29
MAY**

**5:30 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



This is our latest donation for Parramatta Mission; seventy-two beanies, fifteen scarves and ten pairs of gloves plus some cakes of soap.

Thanks everyone for your generous donations. They are very much appreciated.



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.



Combined MORNING TEA

9AM



NEXT WEEK!!



PLEASE TELL SARA IF YOU CAN
BRING SOMETHING TO SHARE

Ness Williams-Henke and Jon are back with their all-age / intergen podcast, 'On the Way with Ness and Jon.' It has a new look to make it more appealing to all ages. This has taken some time to get set up. The latest season is ready for Pentecost and After Pentecost, looking at the Fruit of the Spirit.

Watch on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/@OnTheWaywithNessandJon>

or listen wherever you listen to podcasts

**LET'S CHAT ABOUT
LIFE AND FAITH**



On The Way with Ness and Jon

@OnTheWaywithNessandJon • 7 subscribers • 10 videos

On The Way is all about having great conversations about life and faith. Jon and ...more

 Subscribed 



Why Is Love A Fruit Of The Spirit?



What Is The Fruit Of The Spirit?



You are invited to join with us for
'Australia's Biggest Morning Tea'

being held at the home of
Dulcie & Peter Duncum
Friday 29th May.

Everyone is welcome,
so please come and join with us
from 10am

in support of the work and fundraising of the
Cancer Council and of our many friends
who have journeyed with cancer.

Bring your friends also.
We look forward to your company.



Please see the link
below should you
wish to make a
donation to Dulcie
Duncum's Biggest
Morning tea.

**We're hosting a
Biggest Morning Tea**
Please help us
support people
impacted by cancer!



Barry Gregory
0425 815 340
Dulcie Duncum
0417 070 848

<https://www.biggestmorningtea.com.au/s/4825/159157/e>



Hills Relay for Life

16th & 17th May 2026

25th Relay in the Hills
Community at Castle
Hill Showground.

Fundraising for cancer
research.

For more information

Search

'Hills Relay for Life'

St Matthew's Social Action Missional Ministry Team

How doing little things makes a big difference.

Topic: Uniting World – Indonesia

From the May email from Sureka Goringe, National Director UnitingWorld. <https://donate.unitingworld.org.au/eofy2026>

Marcelina lives in rural Sumba with her husband and four children. Sumba is an Indonesian island (part of the Lesser Sunda Archipelago group) located in Eastern Indonesia. Every morning she loads jerry cans onto a motorbike and rides 15km through dirt roads just to collect enough water to cook and wash.

Last year, she used her small savings to plant corn. The rains stopped too soon. The crop failed. With school fees due and no harvest income, she had to borrow from the local cooperative, paying it back every week, with interest.

Semis lives in a small village in rural Sumba with her husband, a subsistence rice farmer, and their daughter. She works hard. She pounds rice by hand for family meals because there is no mill nearby and no other way to do it. She runs a small kiosk from her two-room home. She helps her husband in the fields.

She's also one of the 219 million people in her region living on less than AUD \$3 per day. And yet, Semis's hopes are as humble as her life. Not wealth. Not security in the way we understand it. Just enough to eat, and a future for her daughter that she herself never had. This is what poverty looks like when you look closely. Not absence of effort, but the absence of a fair chance. Our church partners are working to change that.

Petrus is 70 years old, and he has been farming Sumba's soil for most of his life. He's a member of the Sumba Christian Church, our partner, and what he has spent his life doing is quietly extraordinary. He runs a demonstration farm: a place where

families come to see what their land could actually become. He distributes seedlings. He mentors families in long-term thinking.



Petrus has helped communities reforest land once considered permanently barren. "Change doesn't always come from many people," he says. "One person learns and then brings two more. Knowledge spreads like that."

After years of local groundwork, UnitingWorld's partners, the Sumba Christian Church and the Protestant Christian Church in Bali are ready to provide practical support in Sumba's poorest villages for the very first time. Helping families to grow food through the dry season, reducing the daily burden of collecting water, and walking alongside local leaders who have spent decades proving that lasting change is possible.

Uniting World is seeking donations to help support their work, including their work in Sumba, before the end of this financial year. All gifts of \$2 or more are tax-deductible. Uniting World have committed to contribute \$1 for every \$5 we receive from the Australian Government. Your donation will allow us to extend our programs.

*Blessings,
Sureka Goringe
National Director, UnitingWorld*

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 16th June 2026
at 7pm in the Lower Church Hall

Please see QR Codes for links for YouTube,
Facebook & Twitch



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.