



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS 
 growing together

Weekly Newsletter

14 June 2026

Pentecost 3

Bible Readings

Matthew 9: 35-10: 23



Response after Bible Readings

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

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



3rd Sunday
 After
 Pentecost

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

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

Followed by morning tea

2pm-4pm—Upstairs hall in use

6.45pm—Worship

Community meal

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

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 15 JUNE

9am-sorting & pricing
 Lower hall

7.30pm—Christian Meditation

TUESDAY 16 JUNE

9am-2pm—Op Shop

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

WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12pm—In Stitches
 upstairs hall

10am-12pm—Men's morning tea

Mckel's Café Norwest

THURSDAY 18 JUNE

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 19 JUNE

No Scheduled Activities

SATURDAY 20 JUNE

No Scheduled Activities

SUNDAY 21 JUNE

8am—Worship

9.30am—Worship

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

6.45pm—Worship



4th Sunday
 After
 Pentecost

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

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Something to think about

14 June

Pentecost 3

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19

Romans 5:1-8

Matthew 9:35-10:23

Missional Compassion

Compassion is part of the character of God. Jesus is God-incarnate, so it is not surprising that Jesus was full of compassion. Jesus had compassion not only for people as individuals, but also for people in general in crowds. In Matthew 9:36 it states, "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

The word that is used in the Biblical Greek, which is the language the New Testament was mostly written in (with a few Aramaic words included) is ἐσπλαγχνίσθη [esplanchnisthē]. As Dean Drayton raised two weeks ago and I spoke about last week, this is a powerful, visceral ancient Greek verb used frequently in the New Testament to describe Jesus being "moved with compassion" or "moved with pity." The word means to be moved as to one's bowels, hence, to be moved with compassion – i.e. to feel with and for someone as to be so moved by having such compassion (for the bowels were thought to be the seat of love and pity).

When we think about the character of God being compassionate then οἰκτιρμός [oiktirmos] is used. This word focuses on the deep feeling of pity, grace, and tender concern that one experiences when seeing someone in distress. It represents the deep emotional yearning to relieve another person's suffering. This feeling is the way God is moved by compassion to relieve our suffering and to come to save us.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJEtyAiAQik>

Jesus is not just the way God lived out compassion, that is by working for our salvation, redemption, transformation and healing. Jesus is the living compassion of God. God in the person of Jesus literally experienced as a human all that we humans experience. Through the Cross and all the hardship and suffering surrounding it, Jesus as Immanuel – God with us, knows truly what it is like to be human and die in some of the hardest and most unjust ways.

Jesus also becomes the way God experiences from a human perspective compassion for people. He saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. This is whilst he went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness. [Matthew 9: 35]. He had compassion for people who had personal issues. However, he also had great compassion for people in their wider human condition.

The compassion of God lived in Jesus, The Christ/Messiah, is why John 3:17 states that, "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." God has compassion for us and works to save us. This is part of God's mission. Thus, as people who are Christians, who seek to follow and embody the love, grace, compassion and way of God in the person of Jesus, we are called to have compassion on others, both as individuals and in their struggles as part of the human condition and all the problems, hardships and injustice in the world we inhabit and contribute to. We are not called to judge people, but be moved in compassion to helping them

There is a term which is about seeing the bigger picture than just the wrong people do and judging them for it. It is **just culture**. Just culture is usually used in workplaces to work towards a workplace environment that balances accountability with continuous learning. Instead of punishing staff for making mistakes, it focuses on identifying system flaws and understanding why errors occur. This approach encourages employees to report mistakes and near-misses without fear of retaliation. Just culture creates a psychologically safe environment where employees trust they will not be automatically punished for human errors or honest mistakes. People may be held accountable for mistakes, but the system is also held accountable for any contributing to the circumstances which resulted in people making the choices they do, and then people are helped to learn to be and do better, as the institution works to be and do better. is a form of institutional compassion.

The story of the woman brought to Jesus after being found in the very act of adultery [John 8:1-11] is an example of how the compassion of God in Christ worked for a just culture. Jesus, knowing that there was great injustice and inequity in that no man had been brought before him as well, called the system into question by challenging the accusers of the woman, who wanted to judge and punish in condemnation, by saying, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." All left and the woman was there with Jesus with no one else to condemn or punish her. He then said to her, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again." He still held her to account but also held the system and those who upheld it. He did not fail to hold her to account but did so with gentleness and compassion.

Institutional compassion expands the fairness of just culture into an organisational ethos. It ensures that whenever a failure or adverse event occurs, the organisation cares for all involved parties—including the patients, their families, and the staff members, who are often referred to as the "second victims." As the Church, engaging in the mission of God, we are called not to judge others. We are called to embody compassion, not just in personal acts of kindness and care to people, but in the way we create the ethos of the Church. We are called to care for all people and be seeing the complexity of need in any situation.

We all fall short of the glory of God. We all sin. [Romans 3:23] We are flawed and we fail to live and love as God wants us to. God has compassion for us. God is compassion for us in Christ and being alive in us as Holy Spirit. We need to remember that part of our work is to make sure our religious communities and our wider communities, our institutions and our organisations all foster just culture and institutional compassion.

God's mission of compassion and how it shapes our being human as individual and as religious and secular communities is therefore something to very much think about.

God bless.

Jon

PEOPLE NEWS

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY



Margaret Gray
Erin Mathewson

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

14 — 20 June

Botswana, Zimbabwe

A message to all groups and individuals using the Church property

When using any part of the Church property at any time, please ensure that when you leave, you turn off all lights, fans, air con's and properly lock and alarm the premises if required.

Please ensure you correctly turn off the automatic door when you leave, it is easy to set it to the wrong setting .

Thank you

Weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

For (5 June 2026) please see link to Synod weekly:

[Synod Spotlight - 5 June |](#)

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.



Cancer Council Australia's Biggest Morning Tea Fundraising

A HUGE THANK YOU is extended to everyone who donated to our Biggest Morning Tea fundraising either online, at our enjoyable morning tea event held on 29th May, or cash/online donations received since. Every donation is very much appreciated and in feedback from the Cancer Council we have been congratulated for our support of their very vital cause with our contribution of an amazing amount \$3,262.00.

Dulcie & Peter Duncum & Barry Gregory



St Matthews Uniting Preschool Pirate Day Fundraiser Raising money for childhood Brain Cancer.

We are fundraising for Pirate Day because we want to help turn the tide on kids' brain cancer. More children in Australia die of brain cancer than any other disease and treatments can result in substantial and permanent side effects.

Every dollar counts, so let's make childhood brain cancer walk the plank!

Please look for the donation box in the church foyer
or

Head to the link below to donate or use QR code

<https://www.pirateday.com.au/st-matthews-preschool-baulkham-hills>





WALKING TOGETHER IN HOPE



Refugee Sunday
14 June 2026

ACT FOR PEACE

CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER
THROUGH THE OCEAN

St Matthews Baulkham Hills

Parallel Floral Workshop 2026 - Open to everyone!

Date: Saturday 27th June 2026

Time: 9.30-12 noon

Venue: St Matthews Upper Church Hall, Cnr Charles & Edgar Streets, Baulkham Hills

Cost: **\$20** if you bring your own container/ vase and flowers and foliage. **Or \$35** if you **don't** bring your own vase/container, flowers or foliage and they will be provided for you.

Details about materials to bring will be given when booking in. Morning tea will be supplied. A donation of \$8 per person will be forwarded to charity.

RSVP: by 23rd June 2026

Contact: St Matthews' Church Office or Katherine on (02) 9686 3003



Help Needed

If anyone has SANSEVERIA - Mother in laws tongue and red and brown CORDYLINAE leaves, we require some for the Floral Workshop on Saturday 27 June. If you have access to either or both of these, Please call the church office.

Thank you

SALE



Mother-in-Laws Tongue
Zeylanica



Sanseveria -
Mother in
Law Tongue

St Matthew's Social Action Missional Ministry Team

How doing little things makes a big difference.

Topic: Drug Reform – The 25th Anniversary of the MSIC

From the June Inner Circle email from the Rev Jon Owen at Wesley Mission

'There are moments in the life of a community that deserve to be named out loud...

On 6 May 2001, a door opened quietly at 66 Darlinghurst Road, Potts Point without fanfare or a ribbon cutting that the evening news would remember. Just a door, and on the other side of it, people who needed somewhere safe to be, and those prepared to be there, to give them what they needed.

That was the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC), the first of its kind in the English-speaking world, and (in May) it turned 25. A fellow Waysider and I took a cake down there to celebrate this milestone, we blew out candles and, after about 15 minutes, the staff found a knife to cut it up to share it.

We celebrated twenty-five years, we celebrated 1,355,382 supervised injections, we celebrated the 12,292 overdoses that were safely managed and the innumerable lives saved on their watch.

Wayside and the MSIC share more than a postcode. Long before the facility opened at its current address, the trial began here at Wayside in 1999, when we made a decision that many considered reckless and few considered holy. We chose presence over policy. If people are going to use, let them use somewhere they won't die... Maybe that's a part of it, just showing up to the place where people are, looking like someone who actually believes something new is possible, just like they do at MSIC every single day. It's nice to have a neighbour on the other side of the street that mirrors us.

There are communities across this country where people are still dying because no such door exists. The anniversary is worth celebrating, and it is also a chance to issue the call that more doors like theirs need to open. Here at Wayside, we know what it means to be in the business of keeping people alive long enough for something better to become possible. MSIC knows it too. On their 25th birthday, we raise a cup of something warm and say: Thank you. Keep going. You are not alone in this.'

Rev. Jon Owen

CEO & Pastor, Wayside Chapel

***Micah 6:8 (NRSV) "He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice and
to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?"***

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 23rd June 2026 online

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 

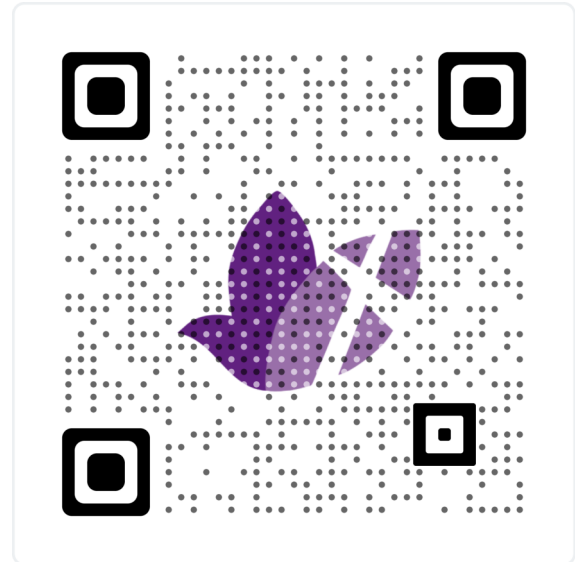


Why Is Love A Fruit Of The Spirit?



What Is The Fruit Of The Spirit?

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.