



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS 
 growing together

Weekly Newsletter

12 July 2026

Pentecost 7

Bible Readings

Matthew 13: 1-23



Response after Bible Readings

Leader: In this we hear the word of God

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



twitch.tv

Livestreaming at

8am, 9.30am and
 9am in January each
 year

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 Dean Drayton

9am—Worship@ the Willow's
 Led by Sara Wienand

9.30am—Worship
 Led by Dean Drayton
 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 JULY

9am-garage sale sorting & pricing
 lower hall

7.30pm—Christian Meditation

TUESDAY 14 JULY

9am-2pm—Op Shop

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

WEDNESDAY 15 JULY

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 16 JULY

9am-2pm—Op Shop

7.30pm—Netball meeting
 upstairs hall

FRIDAY 17 JULY

No Scheduled Activities

SATURDAY 18 JULY

No Scheduled Activities

SUNDAY 19 JULY

8am—Worship

9.30am—Worship
 Followed by morning tea

KUCA in Recess for school holidays

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

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Something to think about 12 July *Pentecost 7*

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Genesis 25:19-34

Psalm 119:105-112

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

A Changing Church

None of us really like being uncomfortable. Change is one of those things that makes most of us uncomfortable. However, change is part of life and certainly a part of Christian life. We are called to go, grow and bring in the Kingdom of Heaven. God is renewing the world. All of this is change. We age. Our families change and evolve. All of this change. God is at work and this means change.

One thing that makes change uncomfortable is fear. We fear that we will lose what we have. We fear that we might not be able to cope. We fear we might get left behind. We fear that rules will be broken. We fear that things won't work as they should. We fear that we will lose control. We are living in a time of rapid change. In the past centuries humanity has seen technology bring in increasingly greater levels of change. It has changed how we live. It changes how we work. It has changed how we relax. It has changed jobs, relationships and the world is not the same as it was when we all mostly lived in villages and towns rarely having the opportunity to leave.

Australia has seen great change. The greatest of changes came with colonisation. Coming

with that came all the changes of technology as Western cultural influences came to shape society. We saw a time of great change after the Second World War when immigration took off. Australia has seen change as we have embraced and even been leaders in technology. Australia continues to see change as we continue to be a multicultural country, with an ever-growing population and shifts in socio-economic patterns and cultural demographics in various places and communities.

Our economy is based on change. It is driven at its heart on the idea of growth and that growth depends in a large way on a growing economy, which also requires a growing population. We had for decades the White Australia policy, which was established on December 23, 1901, with the passing of the Immigration Restriction Act. The discriminatory policy was progressively dismantled between 1949 and 1973, and all remaining racial elements were completely removed by the Racial Discrimination Act in 1975. Since then, we have seen a greater ethnic mix comprising our population. With that came the need for multiculturalism as a strategy to foster harmony in the face of increasing cultural diversity and the inherent possibility of tensions. This was brought in in the 1980's.

Recently, there have been movements around anti-immigration and even a call for mono-culturalism. Governments, including the current one, have records of mismanaging immigration. The current government can be evaluated as using immigration to prop up the economy without also working to ensure things such as housing, jobs, and social infrastructure were put in place to support the influx of growth to the population. This has caused people to react against change which has not all been good.

A Changing Church - cont'd

As the Uniting Church in Australia we have seen a great change in our cultural diversity since our establishment in 1977. We are now a multicultural, cross-cultural and intercultural church. Multicultural is a recognition of a diversity of cultures, often which sit side by side. In our call to community by God to be the body of Christ, we have worked to be cross-cultural, that is to bridge different cultures and traditions in order to foster unity in our diversity. Intercultural is the recognition that we have a mix of cultures in us and in our spaces. For most of us we are intercultural. We have different cultures between work and home. Church and social or sporting clubs that we belong to have different cultures. Even in our families our cultures are often changing as children grow and people come and go. We might class these as sub-cultures, but they are cultures, nonetheless.

The reality is that culture is a human construct. Culture refers to the shared beliefs, values, customs, behaviours, and artifacts that characterize a group or society. The early Church and we as the Church which has followed has had to learn to be multicultural, cross-cultural and intercultural from the beginning. Jesus welcomed those outside his culture. His Jewish followers had to come to learn to integrate with Gentiles. Then, as the ministry of reconciliation of God, came to encompass all people, the Church had to learn to be the Body of Christ working with people from different ethnic cultures, different religious cultures and even different economic/class cultures. That is why Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 12: 12-13, "or just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit." We are all one in Christ or should be.

Being the Body of Christ is a radical call to be inclusive. Jesus reached out and worked with all people. Religion, nationality, social standing, moral standing, none of it changed how Jesus had compassion or cared for others. Nor did any of these human differences stop Jesus bring people into the Kingdom of God/Heaven. As Paul

also writes, "So, from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." [2 Corinthians 5: 16-20]

At St. Matthew's Uniting Church Baulkham Hills our life and witness is in an area where the cultural demographic is changing. We have a changing mission field to reach out to. This will bring change to our church. Whilst we may fear that things will change because we lose control or a sense of the familiar, the reality is that in Christ we are blessed by growth. We are blessed and enriched as we learn to be intercultural as we bring others into our being and the richness of our community will grow. It would be naïve to think that this is always easy. The Church at Corinth clearly had issues which God addressed through the Apostle Paul and his letter. However, I believe we gain more than we lose. And at the heart of our faith we are called to lose our lives in order to gain them in Christ.

In the next few years things will change. We will become better at being intercultural as we practise being cross-cultural in a multicultural community, or we will see a decline and maybe even death of the Church. One death of sorts leads to life as we create our culture in Christ and grow the Kingdom of Heaven. One death leaves the future to God for others to take up. Being a multicultural, cross-cultural and intercultural Church which loves and serves, welcomes and includes people from whatever background we are from and seeks to join all in the mission and ministry of God is our calling. We therefore have something to think about in how we might embrace and help this to happen or not.

God bless.

Jon

PEOPLE NEWS

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY



Susan MacWilliam
Daniel van Kruyssen
Frances Courts

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

12-18 July

Eritrea, Ethiopia



Help Required

Rod Schuster is edging the garden around the St. Matt's sign at the front of the church and needs 7 more blonde pavers- like the ones that edge our lawns on the lower side. If anyone has some spare to offer us please contact Katherine Pedersen.

Weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

For (3 July 2026) please see link to Synod weekly:

Synod Weekly Spotlight for 3 July

St Matthew's

HAPPY HOUR!

At Baulkham Hills

Sports Club

11 Renown Rd, Baulkham Hills

21

5:30 PM

AUGUST

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



Please pick up the latest

insights

Magazine for

Winter 2026

From the church foyer

St Matthew's Social Action Missional Ministry Team

How doing little things makes a big difference.

Topic: Human Trafficking & Modern Slavery

The report of the Office of the Australian Anti-Slavery Commissioner 'Strengthening Australia's Criminal Justice Response to Modern Slavery' released June 2026 - key findings and recommendations:

Finding 1: Despite improvement in criminal justice responses in recent years, there remain structural and operational barriers to identifying and prosecuting cases.

Recommendation 1: Police, prosecutors and other criminal justice practitioners must critically assess the effectiveness of current systems for identifying and investigating modern slavery to recognise areas for improvement. Such improvements may relate to the uptake and efficacy of existing training programs, the accessibility of reporting mechanisms, and communication and collaboration within and between agencies and victim service providers.

Finding 2: While measures such as trauma-informed policing and legal support exist to help victims and survivors navigate the criminal justice system, their application remains inconsistent. The inconsistent application of victim-centred and trauma-informed processes impacts victims and survivors' ability to access justice and support and recover from the harms caused by their exploitation.

Recommendation 2: Victim-centred and trauma-informed practices should be consistently embedded throughout the investigation and prosecution of modern slavery, to ensure that victims and survivors can participate in the process safely and to minimise the risk of repeated traumatisation. This includes ensuring clear communication between criminal justice practitioners and victims and survivors, reducing the burden on them during investigations and prosecutions, and providing appropriate legal support.

Finding 3: Despite ongoing improvements in measures to support victims and survivors' recovery and ongoing protection, victims and survivors are not consistently benefiting from these measures.

Recommendation 3: Efforts to improve criminal justice responses to modern slavery should focus on strengthening support, protection and remedy measures to enhance their accessibility and effectiveness. This includes legislating forced marriage protection orders for adults, legislating a specific defence for victims of modern slavery, introducing a Commonwealth compensation scheme for victims and survivors of modern slavery, and further de-linking support mechanisms from criminal justice participation.

Finding 4: There remain gaps in available research and data on the effectiveness of criminal justice responses to modern slavery (e.g. challenges and emerging effective practices in policing and prosecution) and on victims and survivors' experiences accessing and navigating the criminal justice system. Improving understanding of these issues would better direct and support changes in policy and practice.

Recommendation 4: Further research and systematic data collection should be funded to explore the effectiveness of criminal justice responses to modern slavery and victims and survivors' experiences accessing and navigating the criminal justice system. Future research and data collection should focus on priority populations including children, victims and survivors with a disability, and First Nations victims and survivors.

Link to the full report: <https://www.antislaverycommissioner.gov.au/system/files/2026-06/strengthening-australias-criminal-justice-response-to-modern-slavery.PDF>

Blessings,

Alexander, 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 18th Aug 2026 at 7pm in the Lower Church Hall



Parramatta Mission



We will be collecting beanies and scarves until **September** to be distributed to disadvantaged people at Parramatta Mission. A collection tub will be available at the top of the stairs.

Thanks to everyone who have knitted and crocheted items so far this year. Your donations are greatly appreciated.



Christian Meditation Series beginning next week.

Grace at Work - the healing power of meditation/ contemplation that we will be starting next Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th of July .

Freeman OSB

01 Grace at Work

0:00 LAURENCE FREEMAN OSB 6:17

Grace at Work
The Healing Power of Meditation
LAURENCE FREEMAN OSB

Grace at Work - The Healing Power of Meditation by Laurence Freeman OSB

Meditatio Talks Series 2019 D Oct-Dec

Laurence Freeman presents meditation as a simple way to gain freedom from addiction. Compulsive behaviour develops when our search for happiness becomes fixated on a single desire that brings temporary satisfaction. In meditation, we shift our attention from our desires and place it on the mantra. This gentle discipline opens us to the work of grace which restores us to wholeness.

01 Grace at Work

02 From Desire to Addiction

03 The Prayer of the Heart

04 Paying Attention

05 Joy is Deeper than Desire

06 The Nature of God

07 The Parable of the Prodigal ...

08 God is Love

09 What is Sin

10 Meditation and the 12-Step P...

i The tracks on this playlist are intended solely for personal non-commercial use. By downloading tracks from this playlist you agree to use the downloaded files only for personal, non-commercial use.

This resource is provided free. If you would like to support our mission to communicate and nurture meditation in the Christian

JUNE 13 – SEPTEMBER 21, 2026
EVERY EVENING · 9.00PM - 9.15PM AEST

A NATIONAL CONTEMPLATIVE INITIATIVE
100 DAYS OF PEACE

*One hundred voices. One hundred days.
One shared moment of stillness each evening.*

100
COMMUNITY
VOICES OF PEACE

3 MIN
CONTEMPLATIVE
REFLECTION

10 MIN
COLLECTIVE
SILENCE

FREE
NO REGISTRATION
NEEDED

CONTRIBUTING VOICES INCLUDE

FAITH & SPIRITUAL

Archbishop Thabo Makgoba: Cape Town
Fr Laurence Freeman OSB
Archbishop Ric Thorpe: Melbourne
Sister Jayanti & Sister Shivani
Satsguru Uday Singh Ji
Rabbi Ralph Genende
Rev Sandy Boyce

RESEARCH & WELLBEING

Professor Craig Hassed
Professor Mark Williams
Professor Sara Lazar
A/Professor Nicholas van Dam
A/Professor Tilman Ruff AO
Dr Ian Gawler OAM
Pauline McKinnon OAM
Dr Tami Roos
Asher Packman

CIVIC, BUSINESS & COMMUNITY

Simon McKeon AO
The Hon Bob Carr
Commissioner Vivienne Nguyen AM
George Savvides AM
Hugh Mackay AO
Sister Brigid Arthur
Martin Hosking
Dr Hyppolite Ntigurirwa

SPORTS & ARTS

Justin Langer AM
Paul Roos
Dr Hannah MacDougall
Cody Weightman
Simon Tedeschi
Caroline Sharpen OAM
David Jones
Carmen Warrington

And many more across faith, arts, civic and community life - see [website details](#).

*"Now more than ever, we must focus on peace."
— Clover Moore AO, Lord Mayor of Sydney*

Join us each evening from June 13th — no registration needed
www.calminthecity.org.au/100daysofpeace
FREE · OPEN TO ALL · tiny.cc/100Days2026



QR CODE TO
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UPDATES



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TO JOIN
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**



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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.