



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

Weekly Newsletter

2 August 2026

Pentecost 10

Bible Readings

Matthew 14: 13-21



Response after Bible Readings

Leader: In this we hear the word of God

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



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

Includes Communion
Led by Jon Humphries

9.30am—Worship

Includes Communion
Led by Jon Humphries
Followed by morning tea

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

6.45pm—Worship

Includes Communion
Led by Jon Humphries

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 3 AUGUST

9am-garage sale sorting &
pricing
lower hall

7.30pm—Christian Meditation

TUESDAY 4 AUGUST

9am-2pm—Op Shop

9.30am-11am—Christian
Meditation

community room and church

11.30am—Care & Prayer

community room and church

WEDNESDAY 5 AUGUST

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12pm—In Stitches

Upstairs hall

THURSDAY 6 AUGUST

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12pm—Coffee & Discovery

Guest Artists: "LINNET singers"

FRIDAY 7 AUGUST

5pm-7pm—Fusion Youth
Group

"Board Games"

SATURDAY 8 AUGUST

No Scheduled events

SUNDAY 9 AUGUST

8am—Worship

9.30am—Worship
Followed by morning tea

KUCA—Preschool
Years K-2 & Years 3-8

6.45pm—Worship
Community meal



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 2 August *Pentecost 10*

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

Not Our Place to Judge

It's not our place to judge others. The Word of God, who is Christ, who is Jesus, who is God—incarnate makes it clear. He does this pretty clearly, when he says, "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it **will be used for you.**" [Matthew 7: 1-2] We are the Children of God, [Romans 8: 16] and our job is not to try to decide on who gets to be in the family, but to get along with everyone in the family and be the best child of God that we each can be.

Regrettably, the Church, and we who comprise it, have a very justly earned reputation for being judgemental, especially in the area of sexuality. The Church in the past hundred or more years has almost been obsessed with what people do with their genitals either by themselves or with others. Don't get me wrong, sexual morality is an important thing to think about. However, I don't think it is as central to our faith and religion as it has too often made out to be, and it certainly is not the justification for the morally self-righteous condemnation and often hypocritical judgemental attitudes of the Church in the world. Personally, as I read the Gospels, it is money, along with how we use and abuse wealth, that is a much stronger and uncomfortable theme which Jesus calls to be our moral focus.

Let us also be clear that being non-judgement is not about not judging things as right and wrong. Not judging is about not judging people as good or bad. Being not-judgey is about not claiming the authority to judge who is going to hell and who is going to heaven. That kind of judgement is for God and God alone.

Scripture does set for us moral guidelines and standards. It is alright to read Scripture and seek to know standards of behaviour and moral guidance. We do, however, need to be careful in how we go about our reading and interpretation. We need to make sure that we do so with an holistic view of the Bible and not just pick out passages in English and read them as the literal rule book for Christian faith and discipleship and morality in society in general. In terms of judgement, the person whose attitudes, actions and behaviour that we are supposed to be primarily judging is ourselves. After all, Jesus also said, "Why do you see the speck in your neighbour's eye but do not notice the log in your own eye?"

There may be times when we might seek to correct another in love. This is always needing to be done in a sense that we too fall short and have our own struggles with wrongdoing and poor choices. We need to be compassionate and understanding for that is how we have been loved by God, and therefore we should love others as we have been loved. Paul writes, "My brothers and sisters, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted." [Galatians 6:1] We should then take heed of The Fruit of the Spirit [Galatians 5: 22-23] and apply them apply to how we seek to work with others to help them, just as it applies for us as others seek to help us.

Continued next page

Threatening people with Hell and denouncing them as evil or bad does not really fit with the way of Christ. Being judgemental of others is therefore not very Christian. Yet, it is tempting in our sense of self-righteousness to judge others and condemn them. I think this is why Paul writes, "Take care that you yourselves are not tempted," [Galatians 6:1] because it just as much about not being caught up in a high and mighty attitude as it is about being tempted to do what the other person did.

When we apply compassion and understanding in seeking to comprehend why someone might do something that hurts or upsets others or causes harm to individuals or society it is helpful to consider what circumstances and experiences affect the other person and might have led them to make the choices that they did. Prominent psychologist Professor James Reason developed a concept which he called 'Just culture' which he defined as an atmosphere of trust in which people are encouraged to report essential safety-related information, but are also clear about where the line is drawn between acceptable mistakes and unacceptable, blameworthy behaviour. Just culture looks at the system in which people make decisions in and holds that to account as much as any individual. [*Managing the Risks of Organizational Accidents* - James Reason, 1997]

A "just culture" is a workplace environment that balances accountability with learning. Instead of punishing employees for honest mistakes, it recognizes that human error is often a symptom of faulty system design. It encourages open reporting so the organisation can identify risks and fix systemic issues. It then works with a process of restorative justice to restore people right living and right standing in the community or organisation.

Just Culture sees us all as part of the problem, not just those who do wrong or choose badly. Whilst it was developed as a concept for the workplace in terms of health and safety, we can also apply it to

a moral society as the Church. Compassion and understanding are aided by the idea of a just culture. The person who steals, may do so from a lack of compassion and selfishness, but often it is also from a position of need. A young person who is on the street and homeless and hungry with no means of money may result to stealing. The stealing is wrong, but so is a society and system that leads to such vulnerable people being in such circumstances. If we work on the system then the likelihood of people doing the wrong thing should be reduced and there is better hope for transformation of people's behaviour.

It is not our place to judge others. "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." [Ephesians 4:32] If there is any group of people or an organisation which should embrace and embody the principles of Just Culture it is the Church. "Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." [1 John 4:11] This is because Jesus said such things as, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." [John 13:34] As we have been loved by God in Christ, even whilst we were sinners, and even as we are still sinners, so we should love others.

It is not our place to judge others, neither should we judge ourselves too harshly. In faith we submit ourselves to the love, will, way and grace of God. We seek to join God in the work of redemption which as the Holy Spirit God is working in us. We open ourselves to the transformation God is working and any correction in us which this involves. If we are called in love to help and work with others in their growth in grace, may God give us such grace and empower us with Fruit of the Spirit as we need it. It is not our place to judge others and as we seek to live morally and help build a moral society things such as just culture give us something to think about

God bless.
Jon

PEOPLE NEWS

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

2-8 August

*Republic of Congo, Gabon, Sao Tome
And Principe*

SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

**For (24 July 2026) please see link to Synod
weekly:**

Synod Spotlight

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



HELP WANTED



CAN YOU DRIVE A COUPLE
TO CHURCH FROM NEAR
JASPER RD?

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR
9:30 SERVICE

PLEASE CONTACT SARA

Smart debit regular giving

Do your own direct debit direct to St Matthew's

1. Login to your online banking
2. Create a schedule to 'Pay Anyone' from your acct
3. Create St Matthew's as a payee

BSB 634-634
Acc 1000 25924

4. Use reference :
Offering 8.00 or 9.30 or 6.45
5. Set the amount and frequency as you wish – weekly/monthly
6. Done!

- ✓ Similar to Pushpay but uses your savings accounts not credit card
- ✓ More flexible than a direct debit form lodged at a branch
- ✓ Start/vary/stop as you choose
- ✓ No fees
- ✓ Regular recurring gifts allows St Matthew's to budget more accurately

**Thankyou to all St Matthew's regular
givers whatever method – cash,
envelopes, direct debit and Pushpay!**



Thursday 6th August
10am-12pm



Guest Artists: "LINNET SINGERS"



The choir will present a program of music featuring fun pieces, songs from musicals, classical and modern favourites as well as a couple of community songs.

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

WESLEY CASTLE HILL

TRIVIA NIGHT

Saturday, August 8, 5pm

32 Showground Rd, Castle Hill

Adults \$15, Families \$40



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.

*Thanks everyone who is contributing to our Parramatta Mission donations.
The latest delivery was forty-three beanies and three scarves.
We will collecting Beanies & Scarfs until September 2026.*



Card Ministry at Church

The card ministry is integral to our church. It is a simple way for our church family to care for others. By sending a card, we connect with people through the kindness of writing a message. It is easy, does not take much time, yet it is effective in offering hope, reassurance, and support.

Volunteers participate in the card ministry role as an expression of God's faithfulness and love towards the church. It reminds a person at a time of difficulty that they are not alone or isolated. The purpose of the cards is to offer comfort in moments of sadness, illness, grief, and to remind people that they are not forgotten. They are also written for happy occasions to celebrate a milestone birthday, welcome a new church member, weddings, engagement or rejoice at the gift of a new life, birth. Additionally, the cards offer hope for individuals recovering from illness or surgery including families navigating the pain of grief.

A card may seem insignificant, but it carries a powerful message of hope. It lets someone know they are valued, supported, and cared for in prayer by our church community. Receiving a personal card is a gentle reminder of God's faithfulness and his love. It fosters a sense of belonging and acceptance expressed through a small message.

Church members can be involved in the card ministry by helping identify people who may need encouragement or praying for those who receive the cards. There are contact cards if you would like to request a message for a church member. Alternatively, you can contact our Minister, Reverend Jon Humphries (jon@stmatthewsunited.net.au) or Pastoral Care Worker, Sara Wienand (saraw@nswact.uca.org.au)

The card ministry reminds us that small acts of kindness can make a lasting difference. By using thoughtful words, we can encourage others, strengthen our faith, and remain in unity in Christ.

Parramatta Mission 'One Heart for the West'

National Homelessness Week 3rd-9th August

This National Homelessness Week, Parramatta Mission is standing with Western Sydney in response to the growing need for support among people facing homelessness and hardship. We are bringing together our community under one shared call to action.

Every contribution, no matter how small, helps us show that when our community comes together, no one has to face hardship alone.

Link to Parramatta Mission website to donate: <https://parramattamission.org.au/>

Events at Parramatta Mission During Homelessness Week:

- ♦ Sunday 2nd August 2026: Homelessness Week Launch – Street Level Community Church and Bikers Blanket Run, Centenary Square Parramatta. 12noon to 2pm.
- ♦ Wednesday 5th August 2026: Parramatta Community Hub at Parramatta Mission, 119 Macquarie Street, Parramatta, 10am to 1pm
- ♦ Thursday 6th August 2026: Meals plus memorial service at Parramatta Mission, 119 Macquarie Street, Parramatta, 10am to 11am

All events are free to attend.

St Matthew's Social Action Missional Ministry Team

How doing little things makes a big difference.

Topic: Updates on some of the issues that SAMT are following

1. Wesley Missions statement on NSW Labor's platform for gambling reform

Wesley Mission welcomes the new gambling reform platform adopted at the NSW Labor State Conference as a step forward towards desperately needed gambling reform. The new platform binds Labor (and the NSW Government) to several important measures for which Wesley Mission has long advocated, including: the implementation of a statewide exclusion register, a moratorium on new gaming machine entitlements, ending VIP programs, higher taxes on the largest clubs, reductions in poker machine numbers, and greater data transparency. However, Wesley Mission states that the package stops short of real commitment to two critical reforms that will have the greatest impact on reducing and preventing gambling harm:

- a mandatory poker machine shutdown between midnight and 10am.
- mandatory statewide carded play with built-in harm minimisation protections

2. Senate Inquiry into the Interactive Gambling Amendment (Gambling Reform) Bill 2026

The Interactive Gambling Amendment (Gambling Reform) Bill 2026 includes action on reducing exposure of Australians to gambling advertising; however, it does not completely ban it. Wesley Mission welcomes the Senate inquiry into the *Interactive Gambling Amendment (Gambling Reform) Bill 2026* as is an important opportunity to strengthen protections for Australian children, families and communities.

3. Gambling Reform & Climate: 'Breaking the Cycle, Gambling, Climate and the Politics of Power.'

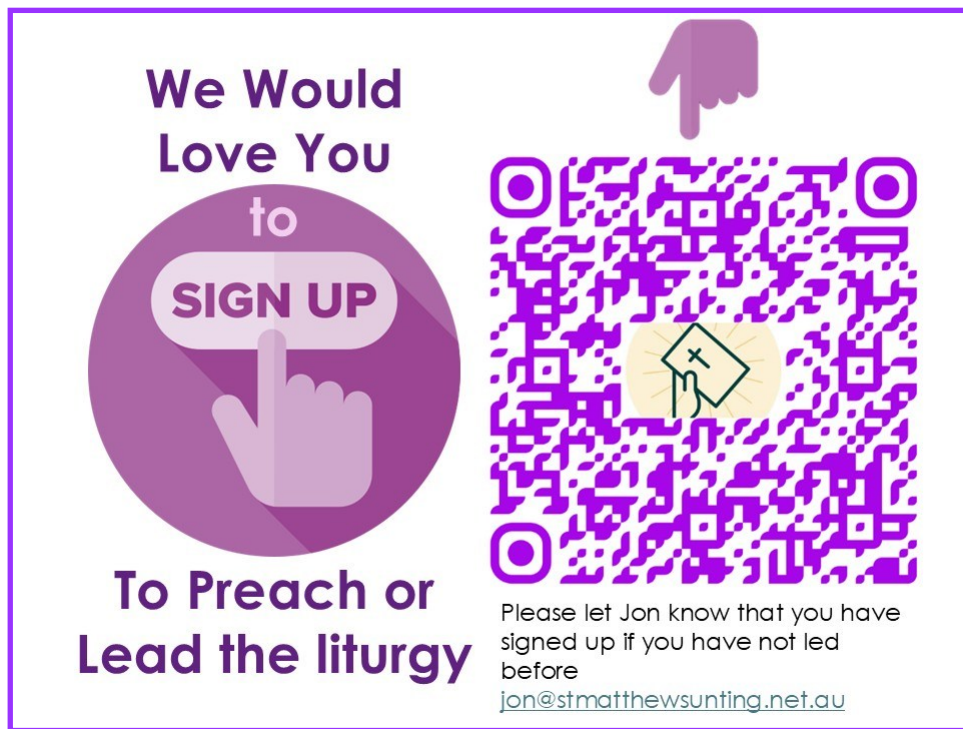
This webinar on Wednesday 5th August 2026, starting at 11am, is hosted by The Australia Institute. Noah Schultz-Byard will interview Independent MP Andrew Wilkie and will unpack the latest political flash-points on gambling, climate and how vested interests shape what happens in Parliament. They will examine what these debates reveal about the state of Australian democracy today. Bookings are essential.

The link to register is below: <https://nb.australiainstitute.org.au/breaking-the-cycle-gambling-climate-and-the-politics-of-power>

4. Climate Action: Make Big Polluters Pay Alliance

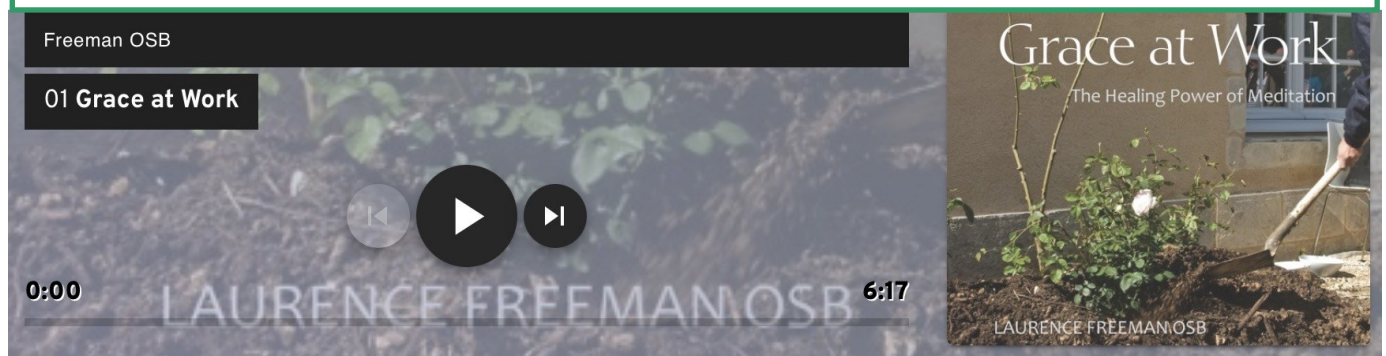
This campaign aims to impose a tax on Australian gas exports to create a Climate Compensation Fund, using a coal and gas export pollution levy to generate billions of dollars annually to Australian communities. Australians are paying for rising costs of floods, fires, heatwaves, infrastructure damage and droughts through rising council rates, insurance premiums, rising food costs and emergency service levies. Many councils are struggling with the expense of clean ups after disastrous weather events and this campaign aims to get funds to help them as well as increasing funding for disaster response. The link to the Oxfam Australia website: <https://www.oxfam.org.au/get-involved/sign-a-petition/make-big-polluters-pay/>

*Blessings,
Alexander
Social Action Ministry Team (SAMT)*



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 .



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.

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

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...

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
Satguru 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



QR CODE
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



On The Way with Ness and Jon

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

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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

