



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

Weekly Newsletter

9 August 2026

Pentecost 11

Bible Readings

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33.



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 Vivienne Strong
and Thomas Smith

9am—Worship @ the Willow's

Led by Michael Strong

9.30am—Worship

Led by Jon Humphries
Followed by morning tea

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

6.45pm—Worship

Community meal

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 10 AUGUST

**9am-garage sale sorting &
pricing**
lower hall

7.30pm—Christian Meditation

7.30pm—Finance meeting
lower hall

TUESDAY 11 AUGUST

9am-2pm—Op Shop

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

WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12pm—Women's Fellowship
Upstairs hall & church

**7.30pm—Church Executive
meeting**

THURSDAY 13 AUGUST

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 14 AUGUST
No Scheduled Activities

SATURDAY 15 AUGUST

No Scheduled events

SUNDAY 16 AUGUST

8am—Worship

9.30am—Worship

Followed by morning tea

KUCA —Preschool
Years K-2 & Years 3-8

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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Email: office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

MIKE UNDERWOOD
Email: mikeu@nswact.uca.org.au

CHAIRPERSON OF ELDERS

HELEN OLLEY
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Weekly newsletter available on website

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Something to think about 9 August *Pentecost 11*

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

The Possibility of The Impossible

The impossible is possible in the Bible. Whether it is Jesus calming a storm, walking on water, feeding thousands of people with a couple of fish and a few loaves, or him healing people, and even raising people from the dead, the impossible seems possible for Jesus. We call it miraculous and it is a stumbling block for some people coming to faith because 'it goes against the laws of nature.'

Yet, what seems impossible is often a personal perspective. On October 9, 1903, an editorial titled, 'Flying Machines Which Do Not Fly,' was published in the New York Times. It claimed human flight would take one to ten million years to achieve. Just nine weeks later, on December 17, 1903, the Wright brothers achieved the first powered flight. In the preceding hundred years we have not only achieved mass commercial flight at astounding speeds, but have flown off the planet, gone to and landed on the moon, and established several stations in space. We have even sent vehicles to other planets and got snap shots and data.

Einstein's general relativity predicted ripples in space-time, but for decades many doubted they could ever be measured because the physical movement they cause is smaller than a proton. Then just ten years ago laser interferometers detected them directly in 2015. Science cannot fully explain several profound mysteries of our universe, including consciousness, dark energy, and the origin of life. We still don't even know how the universe truly started nor have a unified theory for everything. The impossible is impossible until it is not.

Of course, many in faith simply take it on faith that what is impossible for humans is possible for God. [Matthew 19:26 & Luke 18:27] When Mary argues with the angel, Gabriel, that she can't be pregnant because she is virgin, Gabriel tells Mary that nothing is impossible with God. [Luke 1:37] So, many pray and miracles happen. However, at the same time many pray and miracles don't happen.

In this week's Filthy Hope Podcast episode Ness and I explore the impossible in terms of healing and miracles. Initially people might think that we sit on opposite sides of the same question as to whether or not miracles are real, but we are more alike than you might think. In this raw, unfiltered conversation, we dive into the spectrum of miracles and the painful realities of faith when miracles are longed for but don't happen.

Continued next page



Are miracles real?: faith, suffering & why some prayers go answered

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xlZCxaW_544

Balancing Ness's shocking cardiac recovery with my lived experience of losing my father to cancer, we dissect why the church's traditional vocabulary around divine healing often leaves grieving people out in the cold but also can offer hope in hard and sad situations. Instead of hiding behind generic platitudes, we track the messy journey through physical agony, survivor's guilt, and the mystery of a God who sometimes provides help in the midst of illness while leaving the disease untouched but also provides healing in others. Ultimately, our conversation reframes the ultimate miracle: not as a magical exit from human suffering, but as the stubborn ability to find joy, connection, and grace right in the middle of our harshest realities.

Ultimately, whether we believe in the miraculous or not is up to us. However, what we do with our belief is perhaps more important. Do the glimpses we get empower or disempower us in faith? Miracles are often signs which point to possibility rather than a blanket reality for all. In the two readings which centre around Jesus feeding thousands of people with two fish and a few loaves and then walking on the water and Peter asking to be told to step out and do it too [Matthew 14:13-33] we have Jesus asking the Disciples to do the impossible which they baulk at. Then, having been through that, Peter asks to do the impossible and gets to do it, even though he wavers in faith a bit.

Did God create everything? Was that not a miracle, especially given that in the Big Bang equal amounts of matter and antimatter should have formed and destroyed each other completely. If that had happened, no stars, planets, or people would exist today. A tiny mystery imbalance—where nature made slightly more matter than antimatter—allowed our universe to survive. Is Christ God-incarnate? Is that not a miracle? Is God with us and within us individually and as the Church as the Holy Spirit? Is that not a miracle? Moreover, given our unfaithfulness throughout all human existence, why God still loves us and works for good, despite the evil that we perpetuate, is surely a miracle or impossible to understand.

What perhaps we need to get our heads around is the possible in the face of the impossible. The world is a mess. Human lives are messy and complex, and the hardships and sufferings seem impossible to alleviate - at least in a full or in a complete way. Yet, God calls us to join in the possibility that the Kingdom of Heaven might be fully realised in this world. We don't have to do more than offer the little that we have to God or those God calls us to help in their need and let God do the impossible of spinning that from just enough into abundance. Is that not worth thinking about.

*God bless.
Jon*

PEOPLE NEWS

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



Ann Cotterill
Jesse Cameron
Jon Humphries
Judith Johnston

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

9-15 August

*Cameroon, Central African Republic,
Equatorial Guinea*

Reminder

If you haven't returned your volunteer form
for helping with morning services for
September, October & November, there is
still time, please pick up a form from the
foyer and return to me in the office or just
an email will be fine.

New helpers welcome

Thank you

Lynn

weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

**For (31st July 2026) please see link to Synod
weekly:**

Synod Weekly

St Matthew's

HAPPY HOUR!

At Baulkham Hills

Sports Club

11 Renown Rd, Baulkham Hills

21

AUGUST

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



HELP WANTED



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

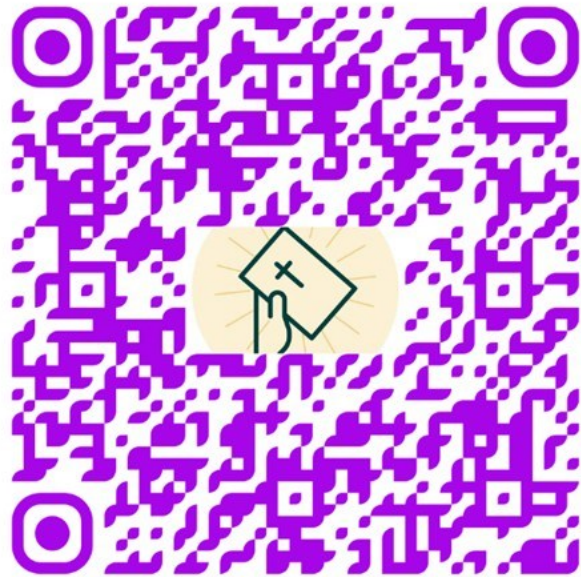
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR
9:30 SERVICE

PLEASE CONTACT SARA

We Would
Love You



To Preach or
Lead the liturgy



Please let Jon know that you have
signed up if you have not led
before

jon@stmatthewsunting.net.au



Creation

WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD

a daily Bible reading
guide based on the
Revised Common
Lectionary

**Volume 18,
Number 4**

**17 August
To
15 November 2026**

is available
in the church foyer.

**Please place \$7
in offering bag
to cover costs.**

**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@stmatthewsuniting.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.

St Matthew's Social Action Missional Ministry Team

How doing little things makes a big difference.

Topic: Homelessness Week 3rd to 9th August 2026

From the Council Of The Aging (COTA) 'COTA Australia - for older Australians' Facebook post of 27th July 2026.

Homeless does not mean Roofless.

Homelessness Week 2026 is held from Monday 3 August to Sunday 9 August, with this year's theme, "Homelessness Action Now," highlighting the urgent need to prevent and end homelessness across Australia.

Hosted annually by Homelessness Australia, the week brings together homelessness services, community organisations and advocates to raise awareness, promote practical solutions and encourage stronger government action through community events, media campaigns and advocacy.

Homelessness is more than sleeping rough. According to the widely recognised Mackenzie and Chamberlain (1992) cultural definition, it includes:

- Primary homelessness – people without conventional accommodation, including those sleeping rough or in improvised shelters.
- Secondary homelessness – people moving between temporary accommodation, emergency housing, refuges or couch surfing.
- Tertiary homelessness – people living in accommodation below minimum community standards, such as some boarding houses and caravan parks.

Rising living costs, financial hardship, illness, family violence, relationship breakdown and sudden job loss can quickly push individuals and families into housing insecurity.

Homelessness Week highlights the importance of early support, affordable housing and accessible financial assistance to help prevent homelessness before people reach crisis. We know older women are one of the fastest growing groups at risk of homeless in Australia, and what's worse is that the true number of older women experiencing homelessness is much higher than official data suggests.

References: Homelessness Australia – Homelessness Week 2026 www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au

To donate to Parramatta Mission for Homelessness Week 2026 go to: <https://donate.parramattamission.org.au/oneheartforthwest>

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

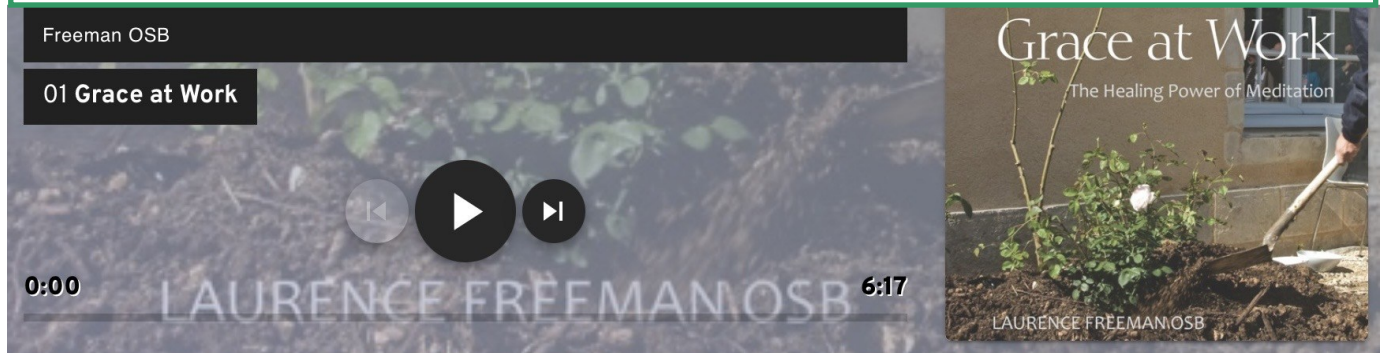
To ask about joining the Social Action Ministry Team at St Matthew's
email Alexander on alexander.lawless7@gmail.com

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 18th August 2026 at 7pm in the Lower Church Hall

To receive a copy of the weekly SAMT emailed newsletter email Amanda at agcm1960@gmail.com

Christian Meditation Series .

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
REGISTER FOR
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

 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

