



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together



Weekly Newsletter

30 August 2026

Pentecost 14

Bible Readings

Matthew 15: 32-39

Matthew 16: 5-12



Response after Bible Readings

Leader: In this we hear the word of God

Response: Thanks be to God who speaks to

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

9am—Combined Worship

Led by Jon Humphries

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

Followed by morning tea

10.30am—Church AGM

6.45pm—Worship

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 31 AUGUST

9am-garage sale sorting &
pricing
lower hall

7.30pm—Christian Meditation

TUESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop

9.30am-11am—Christian
Meditation

community room and church

11.30am—Care & Prayer
community room and church

WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12pm—In Stitches
Upstairs hall

THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12pm—Coffee & Discovery
Upstairs hall & church

FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

5.30-7.30pm—Fusion Youth
"Music night"

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

9am-12pm—Op Shop

9am-12pm—Garage Sale
lower hall

SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER

8am—Worship
Includes communion

9.30am—Worship
Includes communion
Followed by morning tea

KUCA —Preschool
Years K-2 & Years 3-8

6.45pm—Worship
Includes communion



MINISTER

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Something to think about 30 August *Pentecost 14*

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

Why Did Jesus Tell People Not to Tell Others That he Was the Messiah?

Last week in the Revised Common Lectionary the Gospel reading had Peter answering Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?" [Matthew 16:13] with "You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God." [Matthew 16:16] Many of us hearing this or reading it, either then or in the past, have asked why would Jesus then sternly tell the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. [Matthew 16:20] I have wondered about this in the past and as I reflected on this for my sermon on Sunday night, I realised something that I think is important and which helps us understand why.

Thanks to Dean Drayton for his great and helpful sermon about this passage and how it has to do with the Kingdom of God being present here and now.

(you can catch Dean's sermon on our YouTubechannel

https://youtu.be/c-5VGcEGkA?si=DTSePiMYRrSVxP_T)



Dean took us systematically through the passage and certain things began to be apparent. Jesus built up to asking them the question about who they thought he was, not just in this passage, but through the first half of the Gospel of Matthew. This passage comes about halfway through the narrative. Jesus has not gone about the place proclaiming he was the Messiah. Prior to this in the narrative, in Matthew 8:20 Matthew 9:6, Matthew 12:8 and Matthew 13:41, Jesus refers to himself as 'The Son of Man.'

In the Bible, "The Son of Man" is Jesus' favourite title for himself. He uses it thirty times in the Gospel of Matthew. It has a deep double meaning. It highlights his true human nature as a mortal person, while also pointing to a powerful heavenly king given divine authority by God. In the Old Testament, the phrase "son of man" (Hebrew: אדם-בן / ben-adam) primarily means a human being, a mortal, or a member of mankind. It highlights human frailty and lowliness in contrast to God, though in the Book of Daniel it also points to a divine, royal figure given eternal authority. [Daniel 7:13-14] However, from how the disciples' answer the question from Jesus, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" the disciples seem to imply by their answer that the Son of Man is this messianic figure and that, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

Continued next page

Why did Jesus tell people not to tell others- cont'd

[Matthew 16:14] It is interesting that from the disciple's answer, no-one, in terms of other people, is suggesting that Jesus is the Son of Man.

Peter identifies Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of the living God. [Matthew 16:16] It is important here that we understand how Peter came to this idea. He came to understand this not by Jesus telling him or anyone, but presumably through observing what Jesus did – namely all the miracles. As Jesus notes, it is God then as the Father, not people, that helped him come to this realisation. [Matthew 16:17] Jesus revealed who he was by what he did and how he was. God then helps Peter to understand this truth and come to the point of declaring that Jesus is the Messiah.

All this helps us understand why Jesus told the disciples sternly and in no uncertain terms not to tell people this. The common teaching about this is that told his disciples not to tell anyone he was the Messiah because people expected a political king to fight Rome, not a saviour who would suffer and die. The teaching is that Jesus wanted to avoid early crowds or riots and let his true mission unfold at the right time. This is probably true as well. However, it seems more important that Jesus let his actions speak louder than words and for God to work in the hearts and minds of people so that they come to a realisation and acceptance that Jesus is the Holy One of God.

Letting our words speak louder than our actions seems to be a key message in Scripture. We declare that Jesus is the Messiah in our living, and this is more effective than in our evangelistic efforts to convince, argue or simply state that Jesus is the Messiah. Jesus put it clearly when he says, "...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." [Matthew 5: 16] He then goes on to say that the greatest commandment isn't to go around proclaiming Jesus as the Messiah and Son of the Living

God, but to "...love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind," and "...love your neighbour as yourself." [Matthew 22: 37-38] 1 John 3:18 states this about love, "...let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." As is attributed to St Francis of Assisi (although without any evidence that he actually said this) "preach the gospel at all times and, if necessary, use words."

For me, Jesus' instruction not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah was rooted in the way and nature of his ministry. He was not about proclaiming himself as Messiah, but in proclaiming the reality and presence of the Kingdom of Heaven and showing people what that was like and the power that it had. This is perhaps an important teaching for us as we seek to join in God's mission through our life and witness as a congregation and as individuals. We are not called to proclaim the Messiah/Christ. In fact, the instruction to the disciples is perhaps also for us. We are called to follow Jesus in his way. So, perhaps rather than focusing on awkward conversations and trying to convince people of theological theorems, we should just seek to love in life and witness, and let God bring people to the realisation that the Kingdom of God is for them and that God is the person Jesus, the Messiah and Son of the Living God.

This is good news. In a world where truth is relative and trying to convince others to believe something they don't is almost futile, we simply need to witness to the reality of God through sharing the love of God and why it is so important to us. Discipling others as Christ instructs in Matthew 28: 19 perhaps becomes about a practical expression of our faith in worship, witness and service to the reality of the Kingdom. This something worth thinking about.

God bless.

Jon

PEOPLE NEWS

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



Adele Arthur
Dean Drayton
Ellen Keegan

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

30 August—5 September

Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal

**HELP
WANTED**



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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR
9:30 SERVICE

PLEASE CONTACT SARA

SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

**For (21 August 2026) please see link to
Synod weekly:**

Synod Weekly

ROSTERS

**Worship Rosters for 8am and 9.30am,
for September, October, November 2026**
have been emailed.

If you do not have email or would
like an A3 copy please collect a copy
from the table in the church foyer.

**If you are able
to help with any of the gaps
please contact Lynn in the church office.**

*Thank you to everyone who has
helped on the last 3 month roster
and to those who have been able
to help on this roster.*



st. matthew's
**BAULKHAM HILLS
UNITING CHURCH**
growing together

AGM

Annual General Meeting

**Sunday
30 August
10.30am**

Following the
9am combined
Worship service



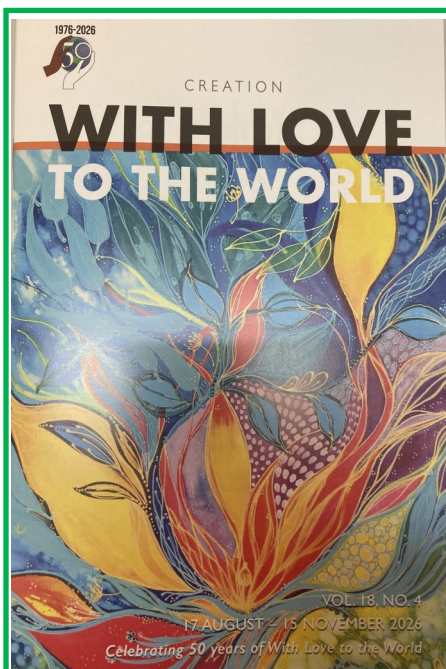
Thursday 3 September
10am-12pm

Guest Speaker: Joslene Abboud

Fortitude Minds

Fortitude Minds is a trauma-informed wellbeing and education initiative founded by domestic and family violence survivor and advocate Joslene Abboud. It provides evidence-informed resources that build emotional regulation, resilience and healthy, respectful relationship skills, while supporting recovery from trauma and DFV.

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



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.**



Uniting Church in Australia,
Synod of NSW & ACT
stamp Committee

Thank you

Our recent contribution of stamps for
sale by the committee was very much
appreciated.

Sales to date for 2026 is \$9,000.00

**The St. Matthew's Uniting Church weekly Newsletter is available to view every
Thursday 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.

Leading in Services Seminars

11am after morning services

13 September – Thinking About
Preaching

20 September – Praying With the
People – Leading
Intercessory
Prayer

27 September – Leading Liturgy

NEW TIME



THE HILLS

FAIR TRADE

market

10am–2pm

ST PAUL'S CASTLE HILL – 421 OLD NORTHERN RD

gifts - clothing - food - toys - homewares - jewellery

Sat 5th
Sep

*Together we walk.
Together we change lives.*

WALK TO BREAK THE SILENCE. WALK FOR CHANGE.

COMMUNITY WALK TO SUPPORT

RUN AGAINST VIOLENCE

In 2026, the Hills Domestic Violence Prevention Network is walking alongside hundreds of teams across Australia in the **Run Against Violence challenge** – inspired by Kirrily Dear's 1,300km run from Broken Hill to Sydney. Every step helps raise awareness, support **NAPCAN** and stand united against **domestic and family violence**.



IN SUPPORT OF



WALK
TOGETHER



STAND AGAINST
DOMESTIC &
FAMILY VIOLENCE



MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

COMMUNITY WALKS – EVERYONE WELCOME!



**SATURDAY
5 SEPTEMBER 2026**



**SUNDAY
13 SEPTEMBER 2026**



4:00PM START
Walk takes less
than 1 hour



PEEL ROAD, CRESTWOOD
Adjacent to the
Guides Hall



APPROX. 3KM
Flat, off road
& family friendly



**YOUNG & OLD
ALL WELCOME**
Bring your family,
friends, school,
workplace or group.



**NO REGISTRATION
NO COST
JUST TURN UP**
No obligations – just
your support.



**TOGETHER,
WE CAN MAKE
A DIFFERENCE**
Let's take a stand
for a safer, kinder
community.



**WEAR PURPLE
OR YOUR
RAV MERCHANDISE**
Show your support
and stand together.

**BE PART
OF THE
CHANGE.
SEE YOU
THERE!**

Want to join our team for
the full 19-day challenge?
Or have questions?

✉ hillsagainstdv@gmail.com
✉ admin@fortitudeminds.com.au

Want to start your own team or
learn more about Run Against Violence?

Visit the Broken Hill to Sydney
Team Challenge website:
🌐 www.runagainstvviolence.com

St Matthew's Social Action Missional Ministry Team

How doing little things makes a big difference.

Topic: Domestic & Family Violence – a message from Relationships Australia

People sometimes wonder why someone doesn't "just leave" a violent relationship. But the reality is far more complex than what we see on the surface.

New research from Anglicare Sydney estimates that the minimum immediate cost of leaving domestic and family violence has increased by 71% over the past decade – from around \$4,100 in 2016 to more than \$7,000 today, significantly outpacing inflation.

For many victim-survivors, leaving means making impossible calculations. Can they afford a bond and rent? Replace essential household items? Pay for childcare while attending legal appointments? Where will they stay if they can't find housing immediately? And perhaps most importantly, will leaving make the violence worse?

Financial abuse, housing insecurity and the rising cost of living can leave people feeling trapped between violence and financial insecurity.

Creating safety means more than telling someone to leave. It means ensuring people have access to affordable housing, practical financial support, employment protections and specialist services that help them rebuild their lives – not just escape immediate danger.

The findings are a reminder that, for many people experiencing domestic and family violence, the barriers to leaving are as much financial as they are personal.

You can read the full report on the Anglicare website: Anglicare report - Cost of Leaving Report 2026: <https://assets.anglicare.org.au/asset/52433ada-8ada-4ee4-b0bc-73a5c3d2bc9a/cost-of-leaving-report-2026.pdf>

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic and family violence, support is available. Contact 1800RESPECT on 1800 737 732 or visit 1800respect.org.au for free, confidential support.

For information on the fundraiser events for 'Run Against Violence' on 5th & 13th September at Crestwood Reserve, see the advertisement in this newsletter.

Best wishes

Amanda

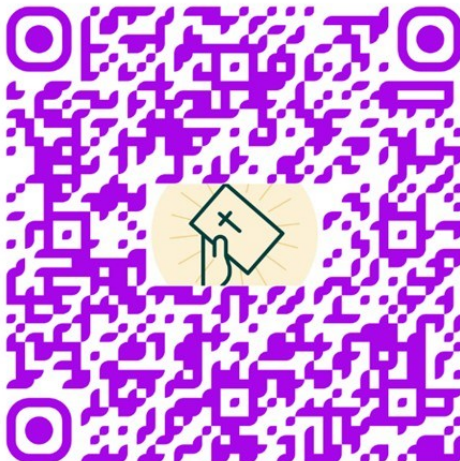
Social Action Ministry Team (SAMT)

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 27th October 2026 at 7pm in the Lower Church Hall. To receive a copy of the weekly SAMT News email Amanda at agcm1960@gmail.com

We Would Love You to



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

4:23 pm Tue 25 Aug

67%

Meditatio Talks Series

< BACK TO ARCHIVE

↓ DOWNLOAD ENTIRE CD

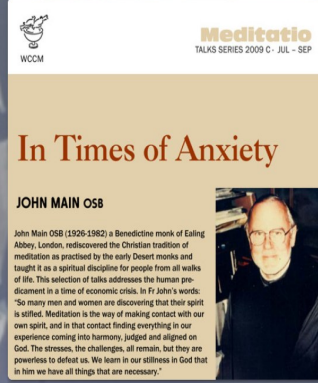
TRANSCRIPT

Meditatio Talks Series 2009 C - Release date 1 September 2009

In Times of Anxiety by John Main OSB

06 The Path to Truth

0:00 13:42



In Times of Anxiety

JOHN MAIN OSB

John Main OSB (1926-1982) a Benedictine monk of Ealing Abbey, London, rediscovered the Christian tradition of meditation as practised by the early Desert monks and taught it as a spiritual discipline for people from all walks of life. This selection of talks addresses the human predicament in a time of economic crisis. In Fr John's words: "So many men and women are discovering that their spirit is stifled. Meditation is the way of making contact with our own spirit, and in that contact finding everything in our experience coming into harmony, judged and aligned on God. The stresses, the challenges, all remain, but they are powerless to defeat us. We learn in our stillness in God that in him we have all things that are necessary."

In Times of Anxiety by John Main OSB
Meditatio Talks Series 2009 C Jul-Sep

01 Spiritual Growth

02 Making Contact with our ow...

03 In Reverence in our Hearts

04 Commitment to Reality

05 Peace

06 The Path to Truth

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 tradition as passed on through the teaching of John Main OSB, please [contribute here](#).

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

