



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

Weekly Newsletter

27 September 2026

Pentecost 17

Bible Readings



Philippians 2: 1-13
Matthew 21: 23-32

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 Jon Humphries

9am—Combined Morning Tea

9.30am—Worship

Led by Jon Humphries

KUCA in Recess for School holidays

11am—Leading in Services Seminars

Today's session
Leading Liturgy

6.45pm—Worship

Led by Jon Humphries

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

9am—garage sale sorting & pricing
lower hall

7.30pm—Christian Meditation

TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop

9.30am-11am—Christian
Meditation

community room and church

WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12pm—In Stitches

Upstairs hall

THURSDAY 1 OCTOBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12pm—Coffee & Discovery

Guest speaker: Ross Abraham

Upstairs hall & Church

FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER

No Scheduled Activities

SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER

9am-12pm—Op Shop

9am-12pm—Garage
Sale lower hall

Including Gourmet sausage
sizzle from 8am –11am

SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER

8am—Worship

Includes communion

9.30am—Worship

Includes communion
Followed by morning tea

KUCA in Recess for School
holidays

6.45pm—Worship

Includes communion



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

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TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

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Something to think about

27 September

Pentecost 17

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

We Hurt People as the Church

This week in our Filthy Hope episode we talk with Rev Dr Mark Layson who is the NSW/ACT Director / Senior Chaplain of the Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Network (DRCN). Mark has done a lot of research into moral injury and has written a book, 'Unexpected Poison: Betrayal and Moral Injury in Your Workplace.' Moral injury was coined and defined by Dr. Jonathan Shay, a clinical psychiatrist who worked with Vietnam War veterans experiencing this time of wounding. It is also a common thing within health care professionals. However, it, along with spiritual and theological injuries, have long (aka always) been a thing people have experienced in relation to Church.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5-K6qgVskl4&t=7s>

Moral injury as the name suggest is an injury related to morality. Morality is a system of principles and values that guides individuals and societies in distinguishing right from wrong behaviour. Moral injury refers to the psychological, emotional, and spiritual distress that results from experiencing, witnessing, or failing to prevent actions that violate our deeply held moral beliefs, ethical codes, or values. While it shares some symptoms with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), moral injury is fundamentally distinct because it is not necessarily rooted in fear for one's physical or emotional safety through a life-threatening event. Rather, it stems from a profound betrayal of trust, a transgression of moral boundaries, or an inability to reconcile one's own or another's actions with their conscience defines as right and wrong.

Moral injury is typically categorized into four main types: *self-directed acts of commission* where we do wrong or we are complicit in wrongdoing; *self-directed acts of omission* where we fail to do the right thing or fail to act to prevent wrong being done; *third-party violations* where others do wrong or fail to do right to us, or we observe such violations occurring to others, in a system or community where such things should not occur; and *betrayal* where trust in others to do rightly and act morally is broken. Moral injury is often seen as a spiritual issue because it deeply damages a person's core beliefs, sense of purpose, and connection to something sacred.

Moral injury can cause a profound crisis of faith, leading individuals to feel abandoned by God, morally corrupted, or permanently alienated from their community, especially when it occurs within a faith context such as in a faith or Church community. Related to moral injury in a faith context, especially in a Church context is theological injury. A theological injury occurs when traumatic events shatter a person's core religious beliefs about God, divine justice, or their faith community. This can occur through the presentation of theology or doctrine which shatters one's one beliefs and understanding, or when moral injury through actions of others or ourselves breaks our faith and our trust in God and/or God's people. So, moral and theological injury can result in a breakdown in a person's faith, core values, or relationship with God, often caused by or causing deep trauma.

Continued next page

We hurt people as the church- cont'd

Along with moral and theological injury there is also spiritual injury. A spiritual injury (sometimes referred to as spiritual trauma or harm) is a deep wound to a person's core sense of meaning, purpose, connection to the sacred, or relationship with a higher power. While a moral injury specifically focuses on the violation of ethical codes and human relationships, a spiritual injury broadens that scope to include the existential, transcendent, and religious dimensions of human experience. People often incur a spiritual injury through traumatic experiences, profound betrayals, moral injury from compromising core values, or sudden, tragic loss, or breakdown of relationship or abuse which occurs within the context of a faith/Church community.

This deep sense of spiritual, theological and moral wounding can arise when a person's fundamental beliefs, trust, or worldview are severely shattered. Often people incur such injury, suffer through it, but do not have the language or an understanding of these types of wounding to name and claim it for themselves. They therefore can be impeded from healing as they may not see the need for therapy, and or the therapist or counsellor may not understand the nature of the issue and may thus not be able to offer appropriate or effective therapy.

We as the Church therefore need to understand it for ourselves but also need to be aware of how we might unintentionally be the cause of such injury to people. Those of us who preach and teach need to be careful when we introduce doctrine or theology and that care should arise from knowing our people and where they might stand so that what we present scaffolds them into new understanding or at least being ready to hear new ideas. We who are the Church who see ourselves as a caring community need to be careful that we don't give fully over our caring role to paid people or specific volunteers. Such roles, as helpful as they may be, do not replace the need for us to be in authentic caring relationships with those we share being Church with. Church is about being known and cared for as we are. When we stop being and doing this as a congregation, then people are at risk of being left out, marginalised or forgotten, as those with specific roles will never have enough time to care for all people fully.

Of course, a culture of safety with good policies and processes is a first step in preventing us doing harm to others. Systems and practices can

be a help, such as having welcomers or ways to check on people, but only if they work as intended. More important is us as a people of faith intentionally, consistently, and effectively living out the will and way of Jesus is a great help to minimise people being morally, spiritually or theologically wounded by the Church.

What if we or others are morally, spiritually or theologically injured? People often heal from spiritual injuries through counselling, spiritual practice, community support, and processing moral or traumatic wounds over time. So, we need to be ready to ask for help, ready to offer help and be able to identify where that help can be accessed. We may need to understand our injury and then do the work that brings us to healing. One practice which can be a starting point is psalmic prayer – where we, like many of the psalmists, pray raw and honest prayer to God about our pain and questions and then try to encourage ourselves to have faith. Another practice which can be helpful is active compassion for both ourselves in terms of self-care, but also towards those who may have wronged us. Active compassion in this sense is seeking to understand the motivations and actions of others. We may never agree with their thinking and may never excuse what they did, but we may come to pity them in their circumstance and may even come to forgive them. Active compassion in this way helps heal a spiritual injury by breaking cycles of resentment and restoring a sense of agency and inner peace. By responding to hostility, betrayal or failure of others with understanding rather than bitterness, we regain control over our emotional well-being and release the hold that past betrayals or trauma have on us.

We seek to be a caring community as the Church. We seek to obey Jesus in his command to love our neighbour as ourselves. However, we will fall short and fail to live the glory of God to each other and those in our community. Being aware of such things as moral, spiritual and theological injury can help us be more intentional in preventing and lessening the likelihood of it and to be better in ourselves and as a community in responding to it. How we deal with moral, spiritual and theological injury as part of our life and witness is therefore something to definitely think about.

God bless.

Jon

PEOPLE NEWS



Bruce Bills
Lyn Short
David Short

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

27 September—3 October

Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru



*Congratulations
to
Enid Clifton
who turned
100 years old
on
23 September.*

weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

**For (18 September 2026) please see link to
Synod weekly:**

[Stitched with Care at Kippax](#)

Sympathy to Ingrid Fairlie and family on the passing of Herman De Vos on Saturday 19 September. A funeral service will be held for Herman on Tuesday 29th September @ 10am at Allan Drew Funeral Chapel. Herman was 96.



Sympathy to the family and friends of Colin Biddle who passed away on Saturday 19 September. A funeral service will be held for Colin on Monday 28 September @ 2pm at Guardian funerals in Blacktown. Colin was 95.



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

Leading in Services Seminars

7.30pm Wednesday Nights in October

14 October – Leading Liturgy

21 October – Thinking About
Preaching

28 October – Praying With the
People – Leading
Intercessory
Prayer



ZOOM
Link
QR Code

In October Jon is offering some short seminars to help people who lead in services or are interested in thinking about leading in Church services - particularly in the areas of leading liturgy, preaching and prayers of intercession.

The seminars are about Living Liturgy: Leading in Services and will run on Wednesday nights in October at 7.30pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time AEST) and will cover:

- Leading Liturgy
- Thinking About Preaching
- Praying with People: Leading Intercessory Prayer

They will be about 45-60min long. They are not designed to be full courses, but intro and refresher seminars - of course heavily weighted with his own learning and ecclesial/theological bias, drawing heavily on the Uniting Church in Australia's ethos as laid down in the Basis of Union.

Zoom Link: <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/96316299798...>

Meeting ID: 963 1629 9798

Passcode: 290565



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
OP SHOP

GARAGE SALE

& GOURMET SAUSAGE SIZZLE

**SATURDAY
3RD OCTOBER**



**GOURMET
SAUSAGE SIZZLE
8AM – 11AM**

FOR THE FIRST TIME!

PROUDLY DONATED BY



**GARAGE SALE
9AM – 12 NOON**

**PRE-LOVED TREASURES
FOR EVERYONE!**



Books



Clothing



Homewares



Toys



Décor
and more!



St Matthew's Uniting Church
Cnr Edgar & Charles Streets
Baulkham Hills NSW 2153
Lower Church Hall



Thursday 1 October
10am-12pm

Guest Speaker: Ross Abraham



**“CONSTRUCTION OF THE
SEA CLIFF BRIDGE
WOLLONGONG”**

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

*****ALL WELCOME*****

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!**

**Combined
Morning tea
@9am**

**Sunday
27
September**

Please let Sara know if you can
bring something to share



**JOIN OUR
NEW
CARING
MINISTRY
TEAM**

Help us care for our
community and share God's
love through practical
support, kindness and prayer.

Please speak to Sara
if you are interested



**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.

Meditatio Talks Series

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[↓ DOWNLOAD ENTIRE CD](#)
[TRANSCRIPT](#)

Meditatio Talks Series 2009 C - Release date 1 September 2009

In Times of Anxiety by John Main OSB

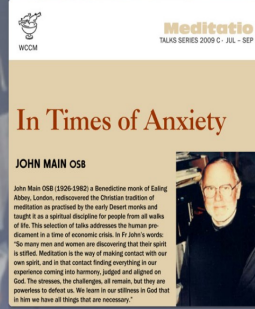
06 The Path to Truth

0:00 13:42

in him we have all things that are necessary."

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

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](#).



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

MESSIAH

CHORUS CALLOUT

Join Beecroft Orchestra & Gente, Gente! for an abbreviated Handel's Messiah this December

- Rehearsals - Monday evenings
- Reduced run time <90 mins
- Work with conductor Dr Joanna Drimatis & sing with live orchestra
- Email gentegenteproductions@gmail.com with your name and voice type to register your interest.

Beecroft orchestra and Gente, *gente!* team up this December 6th to present a **People's Messiah** lead by Dr Joanna Drimatis. Soloists and chorus from Gente, *gente!* will lead the public in a concise 70 minute selection of pieces from Handel's iconic Messiah.

We are currently looking for choristers who might be interested in being part of the stage choir - this is an open call, non audition, voluntary opportunity.

Rehearsals are reasonably flexible and can accommodate varied availability from those interested:

Rehearsals are on Monday nights in Carlingford with the orchestra, with performance at Cheltenham Girls high on the 6th Dec.

If you're interested please get in touch at gentegenteproductions@gmail.com to see schedule, repertoire list and ask any questions you may have!

Building foundations for children's futures

Tell us your story

Do you care for a child or young person under the age of 25?

We want to hear about the hopes you have for these children and the steps you take to prepare them for the future.

This will form a part of the next Uniting Families Report, that seeks to better understand the different experiences of families across Australia.

You're invited to take part in a one-hour online interview with us. You will receive a \$50 voucher to thank you for your time.

The study is being run by the University of NSW (UNSW) and Uniting. It has ethics approval from UNSW (IRECS11677).

What you tell us will be private. We will not use your name or identify you in any reports about the research.

Taking part is your choice. Choosing whether or not to do an interview will not affect your relationship with Uniting or UNSW.

If you're interested, please contact us. We can tell you more about the research and answer your questions so you can decide if you'd like to take part.

Please scan the QR code and complete the short form, or contact:



Anna Jones
Senior Research Officer, UNSW
families.report@unsw.edu.au
02 9348 3571



UNSW
SYDNEY

Uniting

25-IMPACT-141.2\$EP26

St Matthew's Social Action Ministry Team

How doing little things makes a big difference.

Topic: Social Justice & 'Tarrying' – from Rev Jon Owen from Wesley Mission

Cambridge Dictionary definition: 'Tarry' to stay somewhere for longer than expected & delay leaving

Some conversations leave you floored. The wisdom gained from listening to a situation from a different perspective is a gift for those who can hear it. A friend was telling me that over his years on the street he's had a front row seat to a person's character. In the CBD he can name just about every celebrity or powerful CEO and whether or not they're "the real deal." It isn't the public acts that speak to this — it's the smaller ones that no one notices: the tiny kindnesses, the checking in, the following up on conversations he's had on the street corner.

Where you stand determines what you see. Any viewpoint is just that, isn't it? A view from a point. Truth comes to us from the gutter rather than the boardroom. It's available for those willing to tarry — an old word and concept we would do well to recover.

That same friend excitedly told me he was heading overseas to see his father for the first time in twenty years. "I thought I would only go home in a casket," he said. "But I'm very much alive, which is a miracle, every one of my mates from 2020 is dead now. The only reason I'm still here is that you guys dragged me away from them just long enough for me to wake up."

It's lovely to hear people telling their stories. They often change over time, but that's the beauty hidden within them, we are meaning-seeking creatures, always evolving. We shared a few laughs, as he's one of the funniest blokes you'll ever have the privilege of meeting. One night someone yelled something nasty at him. "I resembled most of those remarks," he quipped back, "but the one about being homeless was where I drew the line. I'm not homeless — I'm an extreme backpacker, mate!"

Happiness, I reckon, isn't found in doing something for others so much as being someone for others. Dragging someone away just long enough for them to wake up. That's where I think we could bring back tarrying around, sitting with people, letting them take their time, to just be with them. There's a personal act of mutual relational trust in that. The doing still matters, but the being is better.

To learn more about the work of Wesley Mission: <https://www.waysidechapel.org.au/inner-circle/>

Rev. Jon Owen
CEO & Pastor
Wayside Chapel

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

Week 4: Recap and MP Meeting Recap of the Month of Climate Action

A big thank you to everyone at St Matthews UC Baulkham Hills for making this our most successful 'Seasons of Creation' UCAN climate action campaign. This month we have:

1. Listened to the Moderator's address on the Season of Creation for 2026 and followed some of the liturgy provided by UCAN.
2. We have installed our new climate banner and shared Jon's fabulous photo of members of our congregation with the banner. We have shared the photo with UCAN (who put it in their weekly email) and which Presbytery have also received it via UCAN.
3. We have written prayer cards which we have sent off to Chris Bowen's office in Canberra.
4. We have had church members sign on to the ARRCC Fossil Fuel Treaty document and we have shared the wording of the Fossil Fuel Treaty letter with church members via the church newsletter.
5. Published a poem in the church newsletter from Pam Brown that she wrote for her grandson just before his birth, on the day she marched in the 2015 Sydney Climate Rally.
6. On Wednesday 23rd SAMT members had a meeting with Mr Alex Hawke MP to discuss the proposed international Fossil Fuel Treaty.

It has also been a great month of liaising with the UCAN team and they certainly know now that St Matthews UC Baulkham Hills is active with climate advocacy.

Many thanks from

The St Matthew's Social Action Ministry Team

This poem was written by Pam Brown for her grandson Gabriel a few weeks before his birth. She wrote it on 28th November 2015 just before she marched in the 2015 Sydney Climate March.

For my soon-to-be grandchild:

Today I'm walking for you

It's not about me – it's all about you
My time on planet Earth is limited
Yours is at its beginning

I came to this planet when climate change

Wasn't even a relative concept
Sadly today its effects are seen
Researched and followed around the globe

Earth changes are incredibly visible

As seen in melting ice peaks and glaciers
Animal habitats shrinking bird life dwindling
The devastation to our insect species

Our rivers running dry and our seas rising

The mass culling of nature's beautiful canopy
That protects us from global warming
What a disgrace from caretakers and stewards

This is the world that you are going to inherit!

We are all so into our opulence and our lifestyles

no thought or reflection on how we as individuals
or nations contribute to or turn a blind eye
to industrial pollution or plastics clogging our seas

But you my grandchild and your generation

Will pay the price for our foolishness
For our inactions and our inertia
To the greed, profit taking and the commercialisation of nature
In this beautiful earthly home!

Pam Brown

SOCIAL JUSTICE EXPO



**MAKING CHANGE AT
A GRASS ROOTS LEVEL**



SHARING IDEAS AND PROJECTS



LEARNING FROM ONE ANOTHER



GROWING THE WAY WE DO
LOCAL-LEVEL ACTION

**SATURDAY OCT 17
2PM - 4:30PM**



**TURRAMURRA UNITING CHURCH
10 TURRAMURRA AVE.
TURRAMURRA**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
BILL THOMAS - 0404 151 305
BILL.RUTH.THOMAS@GMAIL.COM



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

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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

