st. matthew's UNITING CHURCH BAULKHAM HILLS

growing together

Thank you for worshipping with us today

Twitch.tv, livestreaming at 8am, 9.30am and 9am in January each year

Let us gather as a community to celebrate the blessings that surround us





Sunday Services

8am–Worship
Led by Jon Humphries

9.30am–Worship
Includes morning tea
Led by Jon Humphries

6.45pm–Worship
Led by Jon Humphries

KUCA Preschool,
Years K–2 & years 3–8

Bible Reading
Matthew 25: 14–30
1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

Pentecost 25

Something to think about

15 November

Pentecost 25

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Judges 4:1-7
Psalm 123
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

Basilioception: Sensing the Rule of God

Each morning part of my strategy to cope with my ADHD, as I leave our apartment, I do the adult/ADHD version of 'Heads and Shoulders, Knees and Toes.' This is to help me check that I have everything that I need. I sing to myself, "Wallet, glasses, keys and phone – keys and phone," touching, each item and part of my body where they should be. In later years I have added, "and have you got your laptop too?" This helps me get check and be aware of my body and where things should be. It is now such a part of my routine that even if I forget to do the song, I am usually sensing something is not right, such as my pocket is empty or there is nothing on my head. This sense of something missing then prompts me to do the check. This sensing of our physical space and body and what should relate to where is part of what is called proprioception.

Proprioception is your body's internal sixth sense. or in other words the subconscious ability to sense your own position, movement, and force in three-dimensional space without having to rely on your eyes. As I was thinking about this ability, I was prompted to think about our ability to sense the Realm/Kingdom of God. Jesus proclaimed that it was near and at hand (Mark 1:14–15; Matthew 4:17; Luke 10:9), as did John the Baptist (Matthew 3:2), and in fact is around us, amongst us and even within us (Luke 17:21 – depending on the translation). If proprioception is our ability to sense our body in relation to things and the world around us, then might not our ability as the Body of Christ to sense the Realm of God and our place in it in relation our situation and circumstance be called basilioception?

The Greek word used for 'kingdom' in the Bible is βασιλεία (basileia). It refers to royal power, reign, or the territory ruled by a king. The most accurate translation is "the Reign of God" or "the Royal Rule of God," referring to God's authority rather than a physical place. The realm of God/Heaven is a coexistent spiritual reality which, as Jesus proclaims, is already present around us. We have the presence of God with us and within us as Holy Spirit. This is a spiritual reality that is existing alongside, amongst and within our physical reality. The Realm or rule of God is also with us, amongst us, around us and within us. We just don't always sense it.

continued next page

Basilioception-continued

To sense and be aware of the realm/rule of God, we need God to reveal it to us and metaphorically open our eyes, and our minds and our hearts and our spirits. When Jesus was baptised, the Heavens were opened (Matthew 3:16; Luke 3:21; and John 1:32) and even torn open (Mark 1:9–11). He then begins proclaiming that the Kingdom of God is present, near, at hand, around us, amongst us, and within us. This is the reality that we exist in. Some might argue that it is always the reality because God is the ground of our being and in God – and by extension the Kingdom/Realm/Rule of God/Heaven – we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28). Part of our work is to adopt a mindset where we ensure that we are open to God's revelation, and that God can open us in basilioception to be aware of and realise the Realm/Rule of God around us, within us and amongst us and to sense our place in it.

When our basilioception is more active and we are more aware of the Realm/Rule of God and our place in it in our everyday circumstance or situation then we are better able to join God in God's work as part of God's mission. To help us in this we need to be practising our spiritual practices as part of our discipline of discipleship. This helps us in having the right mindset – a Kingdom/Realm mindset. Although it is primarily God who draws us into awareness of God's work, through our understanding of God as Christ and through the work of God as Holy Spirit within us, we are also people of agency. We have the power of choice, and this is part of our freedom in Christ.

Check out these passages about freedom and agency (Galatians 5:1 & Galatians 5:13 – Emphasises standing firm in Christ-given freedom rather than returning to slavery or indulging the flesh, while using freedom to serve others in love; John 8:31–32 & John 8:36 – Highlighting that abiding in Jesus' word leads to knowing the truth that genuinely sets a person free; 2 Corinthians 3:17 – Associates the presence of the Lord's Spirit directly with liberty; 1 Peter 2:16 – Encourages living as free individuals who honour God rather than using freedom as a pretext for wrongdoing)

We can use our agency to work with God. We can tune ourselves in to God's presence and God's work as part of God's mission. We can activate basilioception through just looking at people and thinking of them as our neighbour. We can look at people as our neighbour and look to them with compassionate imagination as a way of activating basilioception ,We can activate basilioception by practising the Fruit of the Spirit as spiritual disciplines. We can activate basilioception by reminding ourselves and remembering the elements of love described by Paul in 1 Corinthians 13 and then being disciplined in putting them into action. Along with these are our spiritual practices such as prayer, reading Scripture, Christian meditation, mindfulness, fasting, forgoing. These lead us into being more mindful of God, God's Word and God's way and so are also enablers or activators of basilioception.

Finally, it is good to remember that the word βασιλεία (basileia) translated as 'kingdom' actually has the meaning of "the Reign of God" or "the Royal Rule of God," referring to God's authority rather than a physical place. How do we as disciples, who are called to be disciplined in the way of Christ be more mindful and better at sensing/being mindful of the rule of and authority of God which we normally refer to as the will of God? Being disciples means being disciplined in our doing and being, and being disciplined almost certainly requires us to be more mindful of where we are, what we are going through, how we are connected to or relating to others and how we can love our neighbour as ourselves. This thinking and being mindful of the Word, way and will of God prompts to be more in sync with basilioception.

What do you think of this idea of basilioception? How do you go about thinking of the realm/reign/rule of God being amongst us and within us? What does God's kingdom being amongst us mean for you? Whether you take on the notion of basilioception or not, Jesus calls us to believe in the good news that the realm/reign/rule of God is at hand, and we are called to action to repent and take up the work of joining in the work of God as part of God's mission. So, basilioception gives us a whole lot to think about.

God bless.
Jon

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

MONDAY 16 November

9am
sorting & pricing op shop
& garage sale
lower hall

7.30pm- Christian Meditation

TUESDAY 17 November

9am-2pm Op Shop

9.30-11am- Christian Meditation
community
room and Church

WEDNESDAY 18 November

9am-2pm Op Shop

10am-12pm- In Stitches
upstairs hall

10am-12pm-Men's morning tea
Mckel's Cafe Norwest

7.30pm-Elders meeting
upstairs hall

THURSDAY 19 November

9am-2pm Op Shop

FRIDAY 20 November

No Scheduled Activities

SATURDAY 21 November

No Scheduled Activities

SUNDAY 22 November

8am- Worship

9.30am- Worship
KUCA Preschool year K-2 & years 3-8
followed by morning tea

2-4pm-Upstairs hall in use

5pm-Shine
setup from 4pm

6.45pm-Worship





MINISTER
Rev Jon Humphries
Email: jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au
Jonh@nswact.uca.org.au

MINISTERS
Everyone

PASTORAL CARE WORKER
Sara Wienand
Sunday am, Monday, Tuesday
Email: saraw@nswact.uca.org.au

CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARY
Lynn Samuel
Email: 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

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Po Box 773 Baulkham Hills 1755

WEB SITE: www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au

Weekly newsletter available on website

FACEBOOK:
@stmatthewsunitingchurchbaulkhamhills

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PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR 9639 8570
Sonali Wanigesekera
Po Box 321 Baulkham hills 2153
Email: director@stmatthewsps.net.au

PEOPLE NEWS



Janice Caldwell
Allan Garbutt

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

Weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT
Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter For (6 November 2026) Please see link to Synod Weekly:

https://one.uca.org.au/

Leading Worship at the Willow's

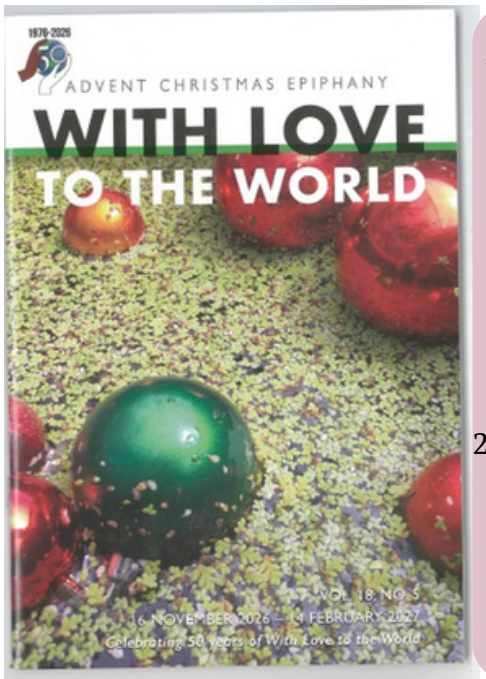
Would you like to help out and lead worship @ the Willow's in 2027. Have you picked up some new skills from the leading in worship courses. The services are usually 35-40 min. The Hymns used are from either the Salvations Army book of the Australian Hymn Book.

Please contact the church office if you can help.

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

15-21 **November**

Aotearoa-New Zealand, Australia



Advent Christmas Epiphany
With Love to the World
A daily bible reading guide based on the Revised common Lectionary
Volume 18, No. 5
6 November 2026- 14 February 2027
is available in the church foyer.
Please place $7 in the offering bag to help cover costs.



st. matthew's UNITING CHURCH BAULKHAM HILLS growing together

New Website

Has been launched early.
Please log on and familarise yourself.
There will be no change to the website address, that will remain the same.

www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au

JOIN OUR NEW
LIVING LOVE MINISTRY TEAM
(Name yet to be finalised)
Showing God's Love to others through community service, charity fundraising and practical giving

Talk to Jane Cole or Jon if interested



JOIN OUR NEW
CARING MINISTRY TEAM
Help us care for our community and share God's love through practical support, kindness and prayer.

Talk to Sara if interested



JOIN OUR NEW
YOUTH & YOUNG PEOPLE MINISTRY TEAM
(Name yet to be finalised)
Exploring and encouraging ministry with those in the first third of life

Talk to Erin Matthewson or Jon if interested



JOIN OUR NEW
SPIRITUALITY LEADERSHIP MINISTRY TEAM
Nurturing, growing and encouraging Christian spirituality

Talk to Katherine Pedersen or Jon if interested



St. Matthew's Birthday Combined Morning Tea



9am



Sunday 22 November

Please tell Sara If you can bring something to share



The property committee will be holding the next working bee on

Saturday 28th November

8am to 11.30am



Please come along for a little while or the whole time. Many hands make light work and would be most appreciated.

St. Matthew's Uniting Church Baulkham Hills growing together

St. Matthew's Social Action Ministry Team

How doing little things makes a big difference.

There is more to love than mercy, but never less.

From an article written by Jarrod McKenna, Mobilisation Strategist, Act for Peace

More than 75 years ago, in the aftermath of the Second World War, Australian churches came together in compassionate action towards people seeking safety and life-saving assistance. Spearheaded by Rev Frank Byatt, Christians were called to recognise Christ in the refugee, remembering in practice something at the heart of our faith: that people will know we are followers of Jesus not simply by what we say or believe, but by our love.

That calling remains. Jesus calls us to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, visit the prisoner and care for those who suffer. Love is never less than compassion in action. When people are displaced by conflict or disaster, love responds. Yet there is more to love than the works of mercy, but never less.

Jesus calls us to join him not only in responding to suffering, but in taking up our cross and seeking peace with justice so people and communities can flourish, on "earth as it is in heaven." The Church cannot be faithful to Jesus without taking up our cross and seeking first God's kingdom, and God's healing justice.

In Jesus, God reveals the nonviolent way of the Cross and Resurrection: a way that refuses domination and reaches across the boundaries we create between neighbour and stranger, deserving and undeserving, friend and enemy. It welcomes outsiders, restores relationships, confronts injustice and insists on the God-given dignity of every person.

This is why peace for the Christian can never simply mean the absence of conflict. Peace means healing-justice and demands the recognition of the dignity of everyone.

Just as no one can baptise themselves, none of us can do this alone. Discipleship always calls us into community: not simply to attend church, but to be the Church. It is here, together in the power of the Holy Spirit, that we learn to live God's love.

Link to the full article: https://actforpeace.org.au/peace-is-not-passive-we-act-for-peace/
To learn more about Act For Peace their website is: https://actforpeace.org.au/
Act for Peace also runs the Christmas Bowl appeal each year:
https://actforpeace.org.au/?s=christmas+bowl

Jarrod McKenna,
Mobilisation Strategist,
Act for Peace

To ask about joining the Social Action Ministry team at St. Matthew's
email Alexander on alexander.lawless7@gmail.com
The next meeting will be on Tuesday 16 February 2027 @ 7pm in the lower hall.
To receive a copy of the weekly SAMt enews into your email inbox
email Amanda at agcm1960@gmail.com

St Matthew's Op Shop

Important Dates

7th November 2026 – Garage Sale
5th December 2026 – Garage Sale

Last day of trading 2026:
Thursday 17th December 2026

First day of trading in 2027
Tuesday 19th January 2027

st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
OP SHOP

Revesby Uniting Church Aged Care Petition to UnitingCare:

Revesby Uniting Church have launched a Change.Org petition to UnitingCare about the new fee structure for Uniting Care aged care facilities. The link is in this QR code.

They are appealing directly to Uniting NSW/ACT to reconsider the proposed arrangements and ensure that all residents, regardless of their financial circumstances, are treated with dignity and compassion.

CHANGE IN COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL FUNDING

St Matthew's Preschool is one of many NSW community preschools. Community Preschools are not-for-profit and all profits returned to the centre, and the educators.

In October 2026, community preschools were told the whole funding package was changing, and not only are most centres getting less funding, but they are also not allowed to increase fees, and they need to increase all wages by 5% above award. This new package is called Universal Funding, the previous was called Starting Strong.

St Matthew's Baulkham Hills will have a negative impact of approximately $155,000 from this new funding. They will be receiving approximately $98,000 less in 2027 than in 2026 but having to increase wages and not fees. Community Preschools cannot function for the long term under these conditions.

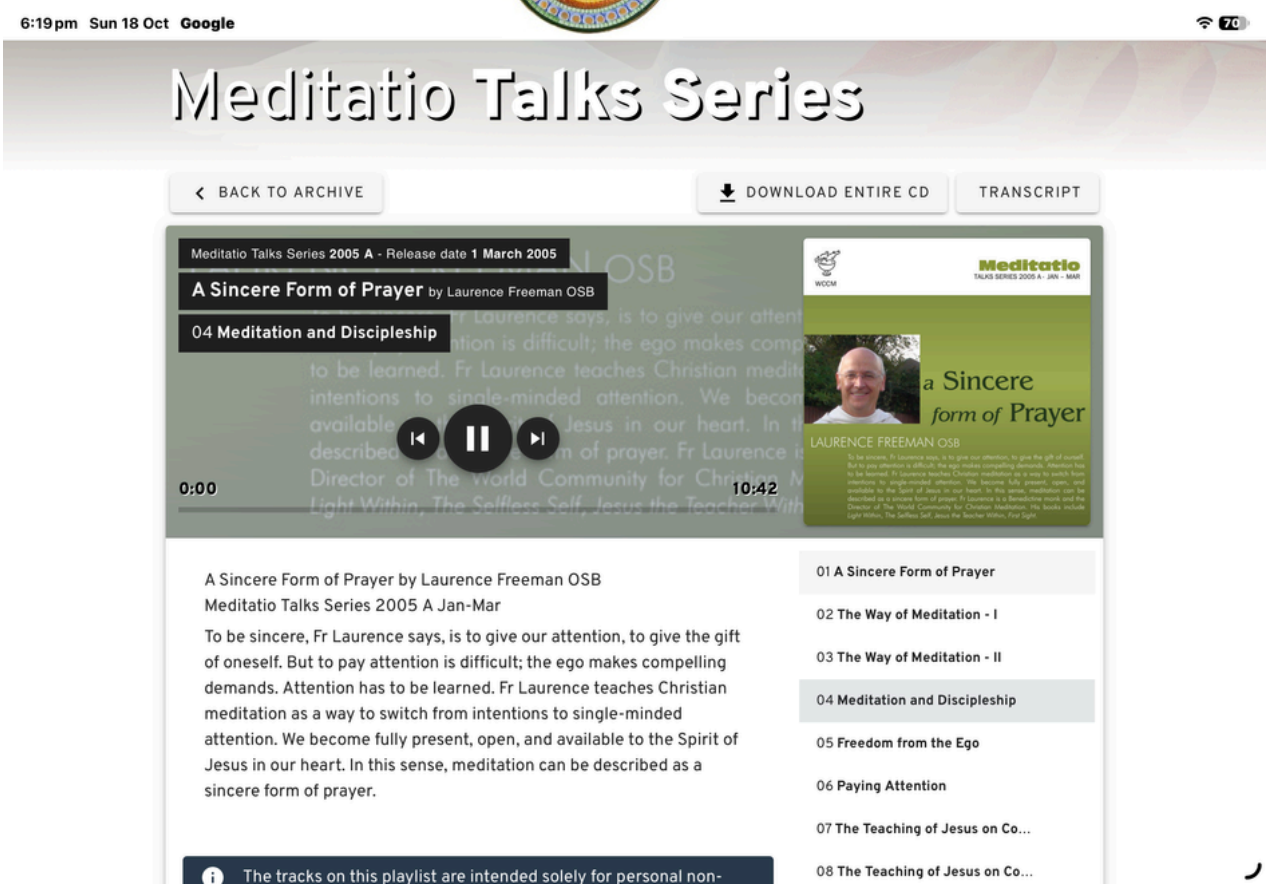
Community preschools are a vital choice for parents to give their children the best start in life. Approximately 75% of community preschools rate at Exceeding Expectations. They have a very relevant part to play in the Early Childhood education of NSW children.
If you would like to assist in letting the Government know you are unhappy with the change to Universal Funding, please sign this petition so it can go to Parliament this week for the last week of sitting, the final two weeks of sitting for this year.
https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/parliamentary-business/petitions/sign-epetition?epetitionId=905&ref=10902

Spirituality Leadership Group been offered to the congregation and the wider communtity

These 15 minute talks will be played in the first 30 minutes of the ***Christian Meditation*** sessions held at St. Matthew's on Monday evenings @ 7.30pm and Tuesday mornings @9.30am. People do not need to know how to meditate to attend and listen to the talks.

The talks are for peoples information and are a part of a spiritual practice that St. Matthew's offers to all. The sessions are freely offered, however a gold coin donation weekly would be appreciated.

Enquiries to Katherine Pedersen
kathped56@gmail.com



WCCM AUSTRALIA (NSW)
MEDITATION & COMMUNITY

The Blackheath Community invites you to a Community Day on 5th December 2026

Reverend Linda Chapman OAM is our guest and will present:

The Hidden Language of Nature: when the Trees say Nothing

These talks are in part based on the nature writings of Thomas Merton and address the 'language' of nature hidden in silence and how we might listen and engage.

During the day we will meditate together, share periods of silence and times of reflection

When: Saturday 5th December 2026 from 10am to 2pm

Location: Sacred Heart Catholic Church Hall, 167 Wentworth Street, Blackheath

Books will be for sale and Community CDs will be available for free

Donation as you wish

BYO lunch, tea/coffee and morning tea provided

If you plan to attend please email Marilyn Jones – marilyn.jones5@bigpond.com or phone – 0401 637 759

The World Community for Christian Meditation Australia (NSW)
wccmaustralia.org.au

You can make your own way there or contact Katherine for car sharing or even make a weekend of it in the mountains.

You're invited to the Park Meadows by Uniting

SPRING GARDEN PARTY

10am - 1pm | Saturday 21st November | 1 Caroline Street, Westmead



Come for the apartment. **Stay for the garden party.**

- Enjoy live entertainment, refreshments and a welcoming atmosphere.
- Chat to residents and meet the team.
- Learn about the Village Services available, including housekeeping, laundry and meals. All user-pays for support on your terms*
- Discover the quality and finishes firsthand, and see why Park Meadows could well be Australia's most convenient retirement village

400m to Westmead Health Precinct

Opposite Parramatta Park

One block to the light rail



RSVP is essential to Isabella Delon on 0422 202 060 to idelon@uniting.org

Parkmeadows.com.au

*Uniting operates under the Retirement Villages Act. You may have to pay a departure fee when you leave. Services via Village Services or within the café and beauty salon are provided on a fee-for-service basis where applicable and the availability, operation and services offered may change from time to time.

Uniting World Christmas Cards

Christmas cards that fight poverty.



UnitingWorld

https://donate.unitingworld.org.au/shop/viewitem/christmascardpack

Fair Trade Market

Sat 28th November 10am - 3 pm

Centenary Uniting Church corner of Sorrell & Fennell Streets, North Parramatta





Wallets, jewellery, Christmas decorations



Cleaning products, soaps, bags, aprons



Woven bowls, platters, ornaments, hats, clothing & much more ...

Fair Trade means:

Products for sale are ethically sourced, promoting fair and sustainable trade for producers in developing countries to ensure farmers and workers receive fair prices, work in safe conditions and have a strong voice in their business.

Speak to the stall holders to find out about their products & the story behind where they have come from.

Enjoy a shopping experience that makes an impact.

SAUSAGE SANDWICHES, EGG & BACON ROLLS, SCONES WITH JAM & CREAM, HOT & COLD DRINKS FOR SALE

An activity of Parramatta Community Uniting Church

Protect children, the marginalised, our environment

Please see QR Codes for links for YouTube, Facebook & Twitch