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



Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Matthew 25: 34

Sunday Services

8am–Worship
Led by Jon Humphries

9am–Combined morning tea

9.30am–Worship
Led by Jon Humphries

2–4pm–Upstairs hall in use

5pm–Shine
Set up from 4pm

6.45pm–Worship
Led by Jon Humphries
KUCA Preschool, Years K–2 & years 3–8

Bible Reading
Matthew 25: 31–46
Ephesians 1: 15–23

Christ the King Sunday

Something to think about

22 November

Christ the King Sunday

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 100
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

The King of The Kingdom of God

Last week I introduced the term basilioception which is our ability as the Body of Christ to sense the Realm/Rule of God and sense our place in it in relation to our situation and circumstance. 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. So whilst we often refer the Kingdom of God, 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. Therefore, the rule and authority of God is also with us, amongst us, around us and within us. We just don't always sense it.

This Sunday, 22 November, we will celebrate Christ the King Sunday. Christ is God-incarnate, and the King of the Kingdom. Jesus, as King of the Kingdom, proclaimed that the Kingdom was near and at hand (Mark 1:14–15; Matthew 4:17; Luke 10:9), as did John the Baptist (Matthew 3:2), upon us (Luke 11:20), amongst us and even within us (Luke 17:21 – depending on the translation). For us who follow such a king, what does it then mean that the rule of God is amongst us and the Realm of God is at hand and in our reach? What does it mean for us as followers of the King to be prepared to welcome the Realm and rule of God as the Church?

This leads us to consider how are we working to work with God, if God is King of the Kingdom as Christ. How do we see ourselves as making a difference in this world for the Kingdom of God? Do we see ourselves as being a key agent in the Kingdom and an essential worker for the rule of God being as it is revealed to others? Probably, many of us don't see ourselves as being all that crucial to the work of the mission of God. Many of us just see ourselves as faithful, regular members of our congregation.

continued next page

We do our bit. We hope that it makes a difference, but a lot of us will have no great expectations that our faith and discipleship will change the world for others all that much.

Let me introduce you to a woman. She hosted a house church. She was a leader in her faith community. She served others, and she faithfully supported the church financially. She supported and helped a well-known leader of the day. She probably thought of herself much in the same way we do as members of our congregation. We do our bit in faithful service to God and hope that it makes some difference as God hopefully uses it to bring the Kingdom further into reality.

Ness recently went to a place associated with this woman, although she didn't know it at the time. The place was a basilica in the ancient ruins at the ancient port of Kenchreai (also spelled Cenchreae, and now known as modern Kechries). Ness walked into this place and felt moved – even teary, because she sensed something special about the place. She names it as being moved by the Spirit, but perhaps it was also an example of basilioception.

She has found out since that the place was a 4th-century CE early Christian basilica built on the southern part of the harbour, which local tradition and biblical tourism frequently associate with Saint Phoebe





Who was Phoebe? Phoebe was that woman. In Romans 16:1–2, the Apostle Paul commends Phoebe as a διάκονος [diakonos] (deacon or servant) of the church at Kenchreai and a προστάτις [prostatis] (benefactor or patron) of many. Scholars widely regard her as the trusted emissary who carried Paul's Epistle to the Romans from Greece to Rome. Whether or not the basilica is actually dedicated to Phoebe or not (archaeologists have not found any inscriptions or definitive historical proof formally dedicating the structure to her) the reality is that she was a normal, faithful member of her Church who was a leader, supported the ministry and ends up being someone who did a job/favour for someone who ended up shaping Christianity as we know it, and we now read about her in Scripture because she is named in the very letter she delivered, and we get to visit a place dedicated to honouring her dedication to God. People, like Ness, might even sense something of God.

Wouldn't it be great if people came into our Church buildings and got a sense that God is at work and has been for a long time?

What if our regular place of worship became a place that activated basilioception in others because they identify it as place steeped in the rule of the King of the Kingdom? After all, the work basilica comes from the Latin word "basilica", which was borrowed from the Ancient Greek phrase βασιλικὴ στοά (basilikḗ stoá), meaning "royal stoa" or "royal hall."

The reality is we believe, or should, that the Kingdom and Reign and Rule and Authority of God is present amongst us, at hand and upon us. We all seek to honour the King, who is Jesus, who is God-incarnate with us and whose Spirit is with us and in us. So, what might it be like if we, like Phoebe, just keep living faithfully honouring the King and working to that people sense the rule of God? Maybe the story of Phoebe is an encouragement to us to see ourselves in the same way.

As members of the Uniting Church, our Basis of Union (Par. 13) identifies that we each have gifts from God as Spirit, and there is no gift without its corresponding ministry and service, and all ministries have a part in the Ministry of Christ, the King. We are the people of the Kingdom. We proclaim Christ as King. Should we not seek to be as faithful as we can in our service to God in Christ who is the Servant King?

We should be humble, like Phoebe, and just do what we are called to do as we are able and as opportunity and circumstance might open for us. We should be open to what God is doing and willing to join God in God's mission, by humbly doing our bit. Yet, at the same time, we should not underplay our place in the Kingdom or more importantly underestimate the ability of God to work through us.

As we celebrate Christ the King, what does this mean for us practically in terms of our faith, discipleship and life and witness? Is it just an empty celebration, or does it take us deeper into the rule of God? As we think about this, we should consider how we might work to be more intentionally seeking the Kingdom of God. How do we activate basilioception in our everyday living, as the Church together and as individuals, so that we might be more mindful of the mission of God around us, and then seek to live out the rule and authority to God in faithful service?

As we live as faithful disciples, like Phoebe, we are just called to live love and grace as we have learnt from the King of the Kingdom. We probably will never know the impact that we have on others or the world. Yet wouldn't it be nice if people looked at our Church, whether in the present or the future, maybe even hearing our name I the story of the life and witness of the congregation, as we each play our small part? Wouldn't it be great to bring God glory because people have a sense of the Kingdom of God through our Church? That is something to think about.

God bless

Jon

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

MONDAY 23 November

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

7.30pm- Christian Meditation

TUESDAY 24 November

9am-2pm Op Shop

9.30-11am- Christian Meditation
community
room and Church

WEDNESDAY 25 November

9am-2pm Op Shop

7.30pm-Church Council
upstairs hall

THURSDAY 26 November

9am-2pm Op Shop

FRIDAY 27 November

5.30-7.30pm
Fusion Youth Group
"Mystery Night"

SATURDAY 28 November

8am-11.30am

Church Working Bee

SUNDAY 29 November

8am- Worship
followed by morning tea

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

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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WEB SITE: www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au

Weekly newsletter available on website

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

PEOPLE NEWS



Ruth Garbutt
Sandra Drayton
Bruce MacWilliam

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 (13 November 2026) Please see link to Synod Weekly:

COP31: A Call to Prayer for Climate Justice



New Worship Rosters
For December 2026 &
January, February 2027

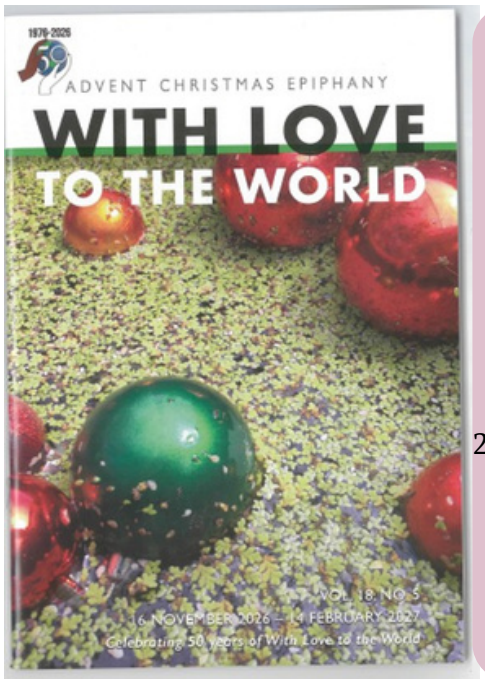
Have been emailed.
If you can help in anyway with either multimedia/sound, door stewards of maybe prayers, please let me know.
Copies available in the foyer.

NEW ROSTER
HELPERS WELCOME

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

22-28 **November**

East Timor, (Timor-Leste), Indonesia, Philippines



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 Lam
or Jon it 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

Coffee and Discovery

Thursday 3 December

10am-12pm Final for 2026



Guest Musician: DAVID SHORT

Music with David

"From relaxing to Grand"

Come along and enjoy.

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

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

Parramatta Mission's 'Plate for a Mate'

supports the annual Parramatta Mission Christmas lunch on 18th December.
Every plate donation also helps keep *Meals Plus* open throughout Christmas and New Year, providing meals, practical support and a place to turn during a difficult time.

$25 helps provide a full Christmas Day meal, incl breakfast and lunch, for someone in need.
To donate, go to the Parramatta Mission website.

St. Matthew's Social Action Ministry Team

How doing little things makes a big difference.

Topic: Christmas Shopping and the Ethical Fashion Guide

At this time of year, we are starting to think about buying Christmas presents, including clothing, for our friends and family. But do we know about the supply chain or the provenance of the things that we buy? Baptist World have released their 2026 Ethical Fashion Guide to help us.

According to the Baptist World Aid article How Can Fast Fashion Rank at the Top, 'when companies lack sufficient systems to protect their workers and ecosystems, injustices such as modern slavery, worker exploitation, and environmental degradation occur. Fast fashion is frequently criticised for contributing to a culture that demands cheaper clothing, in more styles, on a regular basis. These clothes are rotated through stores at an increasingly breakneck speed, with some ultra-fast fashion brands, like Temu and Shein, releasing new clothes daily.'

They state that 'consumers are now purchasing four times the amount of clothing compared to just two decades ago. With around 100 billion garments produced annually around the globe, with Aussies buying on average 55 items each per year, this contributes to the eye-watering 200,000 tonnes of clothing rotting in landfill in Australia alone each year. In many cases, fast fashion has been bad news for workers as well. The fixation on cheaper prices puts significant downward pressure on wages.'

F***rom Melissa Lipsett CEO of Baptist World Aid Australia:***
'After months of research, Baptist World Aid Australia have revealed how fashion brands are performing when it comes to protecting garment workers. While there are some encouraging results, it's concerning to see that companies scored an average of just 31.5 out of 100. This year's findings also remind us how much work is still needed to ensure the people making our clothes are treated with dignity and fairness.'

Link to the Ethical Fashion Guide:
https://baptistworldaid.org.au/resources/ethical-fashion-guide/
Link to the article: https://baptistworldaid.org.au/blog/how-can-fast-fashion-rank-at-the-top/

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
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.

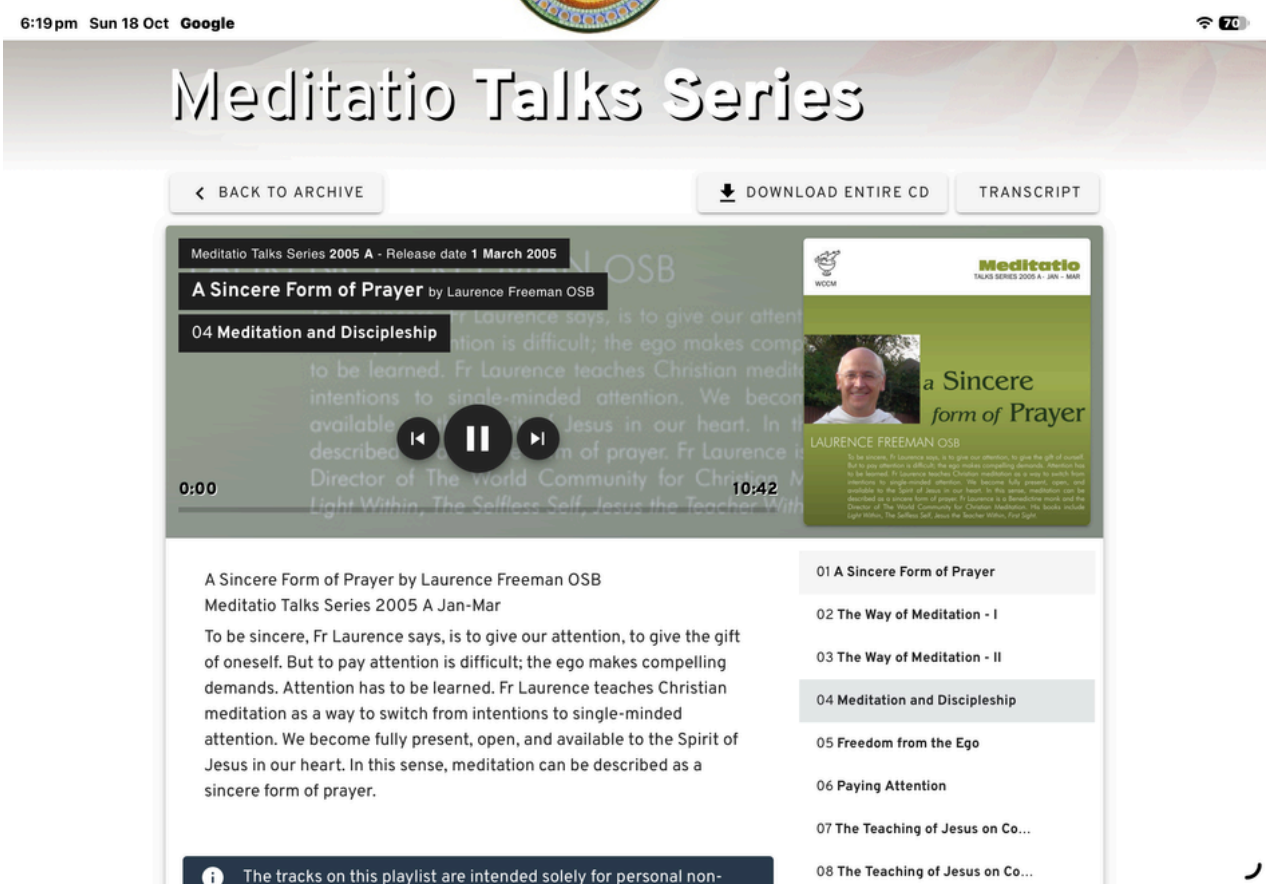
Community preschools are a vital choice for parents to give their children the best start in life. Approximately 75% of community preschools rate at Exceeding Expectations. They have a very relevant part to play in the Early Childhood education of NSW children.
If you would like to assist in letting 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





