



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

Weekly Newsletter

27 March 2022

Lent 4

Bible Reading

8am & 9.30am:

Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

Response after Bible Readings

Leader: Hear the word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God



8am—Worship

Led by Pamela Leslie and Dean Drayton

9.30am—Worship

Led by Clive Pearson and Dean Drayton

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



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 9.30AM

Livestreaming

at all . 8am
three . 9.30am
worship . 6.45pm
services

6.45pm—Worship

Led by Alexander Lawless
and Nicola Lawless

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 28 MARCH

9am—Sorting and Pricing
for Op Shop lower hall

TUESDAY 29 MARCH

9am-2pm—Op Shop
9.30am—Christian Meditation
in the church
10.30am—Lenten Studies
in the church
7.30pm—Lenten Studies
in the church

WEDNESDAY 30 MARCH

9am-2pm—Op Shop

THURSDAY 31 MARCH

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 1 APRIL

7pm-9am—ALIVE
Youth Group at the church

SATURDAY 2 APRIL

9am-12noon—Op Shop
10am—Care and Prayer
in the lower church
10am-3pm—St. Matt's
Endurance Series
Contact Brad Turner
in the upstairs hall

SUNDAY 3 APRIL

8am—Worship
includes Communion
9.30am—Worship
includes Communion
KUCA Preschool, Years K-2
& Years 3-8
5pm—Shine
6.45pm—Worship
includes Communion



MINISTERS - EVERYONE

SUPPLY MINISTER

REV. CLIVE PEARSON 0409 523 024
Email: minister@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY WORKER

DANIEL GIBB Part Time
Email: daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

SENIORS PASTORAL CARER

MICHAEL STRONG Part Time
Email: mike@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARIES:

ROBYN MORRALL AND LYNN SAMUEL

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 9AM-3PM MON-FRI

OFFICE : 9686 3003

LOCATION:

CNR CHARLES & EDGAR STREETS
BAULKHAM HILLS

POSTAL ADDRESS:

BAULKHAM HILLS UNITING CHURCH
PO Box 773 BAULKHAM HILLS 1755

WEB SITE: www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au

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SONALI WANIGESEKERA
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Excess

The parable of the prodigal son is among one of those most cited of Jesus' parables. It is to be found in works of art, morality plays, operas and ballets – and popular music, including rap, heavy metal and U2! It is one of those parables that is able to 're-invent' itself in order to 'speak' into changing times and circumstances.

The parable has been the subject of both classical and contemporary art. Paul Rubens' depiction focusses on the son as a swineherd (<https://www.1st-art-gallery.com/Peter-Paul-Rubens/Return-Of-The-Prodigal-Son-C.-1618.html>). There in the foreground, a little difficult to see, is a trough, three pigs, a sow with a couple of piglets. Much more visible are cattle and horses and a seventeenth-century barn. A young woman is pouring feed into the trough, while the younger son looks up at her, a little worse to wear, no shoes, his trousers tattered and cut off just above the knee, his chest bare except for a little bit of left-over shirt. He has squandered his inheritance.

Through his use of light and dark Rembrandt fastens upon the theme of 'The Return of the Prodigal Son' (http://www.rembrandtpainting.net/rembrandt%27s_prodigal_son.html). The art historian Kenneth Clark reckoned it to be the greatest painting ever painted. The son has come home in a wretched state; no shoes again, his clothes are tatty and devoid of bright colour. He kneels before his father in the manner of servant and is seeking forgiveness. The father's hands touch the son with a gentle gesture compared with the colourfully adorned elder brother whose hands are crossed in judgement. In the background, almost out of sight, is a figure who does not feature in the parable – a woman, is it the son's mother?

Hands play an important part in Guercino's depiction of the moment when the younger son is being given fresh robes to wear (https://www.wga.hu/support/viewer_m/z.html). The son is naked from the waist up

as his father and a servant help him with this dressing and offering a pair of shoes. The focus is not on eyes and that line of sight in this painting: it falls on the hands – the hands that help, the hands that touch the one who has been lost, and the right hand of the father which curves around the son's back in a sign of affection and welcome.

The modern work of Bertram Poole is very different. The father is making his way joyfully to greet his son. He is running down a pathway full of colour and evidence of wealth. It is almost hard to notice a smaller shadowy figure back at the house – presumably the elder brother. On the left hand side of the work are a number of pigs, signs of poverty, the son himself scantily clothed and without shoes. He has just stepped out of the gloom onto a golden pathway which forms itself into a striking cross (<https://fineartamerica.com/featured/prodigal-son-parable-painting-by-bertram-poole-thomas-bertram-poole.html>).

The way in which the parable can be interpreted is one of its enduring features. In some recent theology the son's desire for his inheritance and his subsequent lifestyle is seen as an indictment on excess and a neglect of concern for future generations. That the son ends up in a pigsty is a reminder of Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, on the care of our common home: the Pope reckons that our throwaway society ends up trashing the Earth – and, just like the prodigal son, humanity needs 'to come to its senses' and return to way of life where God is honoured along with God's good creation – the Earth.

What begins with an excess of indulgence on the part of the son ends with an excess of love from the father.

Yours in Christ,

Clive



PEOPLE NEWS BIRTHDAYS

Carl Denison
Doreen Chapple

Ray Philip

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

All Group Leaders and Others

Please remember to **ALWAYS** lock and activate the security alarm at the conclusion of your gatherings at the church.

Please also turn off all lights, close windows, turn off air-conditioner and fans.

And leave the space neat and tidy ready for the next group. *Thank you.*

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

27 March—2 April

Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia

st. matthew's
BAULKHAM HILLS
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Volunteers needed!

St. Matthew's play
group

The St. Matthew's play group would like to start back soon and we would appreciate having some volunteers to help oversee the running of the group. If there is anybody who would like to volunteer within this group or require more information, please contact Marijke Prinsloo. The play group has been a great asset to the wider community and we would like to see it grow again!

Currently we are looking at a Thursday group that will run between 9:30 - 11:30.

Email: marijkeprinsloo@gmail.com

Mobile: 0423641477



A reminder to everyone if you would like to attend the Lenten Studies.

Beginning on **Tuesday 15 March at 10.30am and 7.30pm**, and continuing on **Tuesday 22 and 29**. It is preferable to register with the church office so that we can plan how many copies of the study to provide. Even if you do not register, you can still attend and bring a friend from outside St. Matthew's.

Please see the March In Focus for more details.

Being prepared for next week's worship:

Lent 5

Philippians 3: 4b-14, John 2: 1-8

Theme: Anointing

Today we anoint our leaders through the ballot box and the oaths of office they take. They will have come to office via a campaign, a number of well-timed, well-places election promises. They will have kept an eye on the latest polls; they will have managed 'appearances' and will have been subjected to media interviews and comments on social media. In the case of Jesus Mary anoints him in the house of Lazarus. This act of anointing is lost on Judas – all he sees is the expense. In terms of the gospel the anointing highlights two things: a king or a messiah was anointed with oil. This act of anointing is also in preparation for Jesus' death on the cross and his burial in the empty tomb. Jesus is 'anointed' into his position through the imagery of a suffering king. Rather than happening in an election night party it happens in the presence of the one who will betray him.

POST LINKS DINNER

Banquet meal at the **Thai Garden House**,
526 Church Street, North Parramatta.
(Cnr Factory Street).

I have made a tentative booking for
Saturday 2nd April, at 7.00 pm
in the courtyard. Restaurant is BYO Wine.
Nothing too spicy but always tasty.

Due to the monorail being built you will need to turn into Ferris Street, right into Castle Street where it is best to park near the top of Factory Street.

Please advise me by the 19th March if you wish to attend so that I can give an indication of numbers to the restaurant. I haven't worked out the price yet but should be between \$30.00 and \$35.00/head.

Will advise prior.

Jane Jenkyn 0422149530

Summary of Church Council Meeting of 23rd February 2022

The following matters were reviewed and approved by the Church Council.

- The latest COVID-19 Rules for the Church,
- Church Finances to 31st December 2021,
- Current Mission Planning,
- Members of the JNC panel,
- The new Church Website to go live,
- Maintenance and issues with the Church Roof and Preschool,
- Baptism of Rory Christopher Rollins
- Correspondence, reports and other matters including restarting morning teas and the roster for lawn mowing.

ST. MATTHEW'S BAULKHAM HILLS

CHURCH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

AS AT 1 DECEMBER 2021.

CHAIRPERSON: Barbara Gibb

SECRETARY: Terry Oliver

TREASURER: Alastair Burn

ELDERS Chairperson: Helen Olley

ELDERS Secretary: Melissa Gibson-Darling

Co-Opted members: David Neideck

Karen Vandenberg (Staff HR Liaison/support)

**To Contact CC Executive: please email Barbara -
barbara.gibb@bigpond.com**