



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

Weekly Newsletter

24 April 2022

Easter 2

Bible Reading

8am & 9.30am:

Acts 5:27-32, John 20:19-31

Response after Bible Readings

Leader: Hear the word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God



8am—Worship

Led by Mike Strong and Clive Pearson

9.30am—Worship

Led by Daniel Gibb and Clive Pearson

KUCA in recess for school holidays

6.45pm—Worship

Led by Clive Pearson and Abby SIm

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

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY
25 APRIL

Public Holiday



TUESDAY
26 APRIL

9am-2pm—Op Shop

9.30am—Christian Meditation
in the church

WEDNESDAY
27 APRIL

9am-2pm—Op Shop

THURSDAY
28 APRIL

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 29 APRIL

5pm-7pm—Fusion Youth Group
'Lego Masters' upstairs hall

SATURDAY 30 APRIL

No Scheduled Activities

SUNDAY
1 MAY

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

Weekly newsletter available on website

EMAIL: office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

FACEBOOK:

@stmatthewsunitingchurchbaulkhamhills

PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA
PO Box 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

EMAIL: director@stmatthewsps.net.au

Making Sense of Easter

In our services on Easter Day we reaffirmed our baptismal vows and declared that we are an Easter people. It means that we place ourselves inside the events of the crucified Christ and the resurrection. For much of this country's settler history through until not so long ago this Easter narrative would have been well known in the wider society. Today that is less likely to be so – and, indeed, even within the church we have seen expressions of faith that sit a little bit more lightly on what first Christians knew: the cross was a scandal, a stumbling block, a folly and the resurrection – well, Luke suggests that for the eleven to whom the women reported the empty tomb it was an 'idle tale'. The events of Easter Sunday initially occasioned fear, terror, - and, according to the traditions to do with Thomas, doubt. Those first responses would pass: they would be replaced with joy, worship, and the sharing of resources (so says the book of Acts).

The way in which the gospels build up their accounts of the resurrection are not the same. It can be helpful to think through how the resurrection fits in with the way in which each gospel relates the life, ministry, and death of the resurrection of Jesus. It can be rather a helpful task because our understandings of Easter can be overlaid with subsequent waves of interpretation. That is a necessary task: for each period in time must seek to come to terms with who Jesus is and how does the risen Christ help us in a way that resonates with who we are and relevant to the times in which we live.

Last week it was Luke's turn. The whole thrust of his passion narrative and the trials (in particular) is to show that Jesus is innocent of the charges brought against him. His death on the cross is part of God's will ['your will, not mine']; his being raised is a sign of him being the beloved son (compared with Barabbas whose name means 'the son of the father') and vindicates the nature of Jesus' ministry with its emphasis on healing, forgiveness, mercy, a concern for the poor, respect and equality for women and an openness to cultures other than Jews. It is after all a Roman centurion who at the foot of the cross who has the last word in that scene: 'surely this man was innocent'. On the road to Emmaus the risen stranger will explain what has happened to the 'messiah' through an interpretation of the law ('beginning with Moses') and the prophets. What is rather striking in Luke's account is how so many of

the words that become associated with Easter – like victory, the wrath of God – are not mentioned. There is no reference to what 'all these things that happened in Jerusalem' might mean for 'me'.

This week our focus is on Thomas who, arguably, gets a bad rap! Imagine having your name forever associated with the qualifier, 'doubting'. In the popular mind he is seldom given credit for being the first to confess that the risen Christ is 'my Lord and my God'. The critical word in this encounter is 'believe'. That emphasis is entirely in keeping with the momentum of John's gospel which I full of 'I am' sayings and is arranged in a way that is not too unlike a court case concerning 'who' Jesus is. It abounds in witnesses and testimony. The transition from doubt to confession that Thomas makes is his testimony, his witness.

Over the course of centuries the church has made statements on what is called the two natures of Christ – that is, his humanity and his divinity. It has never sought to make a similar statement on how the death and resurrection of Christ should be understood. There are a number of biblical traditions that speak of redemption and salvation, but they are like threads waiting to be woven together into a garment. What has emerged in the life of the church as a consequence is a number of different theories to do with how the Easter events lead to atonement – that is, of being at one with the reconciling will of God. Each has their strength; each is flawed and breaks down at some point. Some are more popular than others in particular times and place. Sydney has its own Easter habits of belief as one Archbishop of Canterbury has noted over the years!

This week it seems fitting that we turn to two women scholars to help us make sense of Easter: Fleming Rutledge was one of the first American women to be ordained into the Episcopal (Anglican) Church of the United States. The other is Frances Young (a Methodist), at one time the Cadbury (yes, of chocolate fame!) Professor of Theology in the University of Birmingham. It is fitting because in all of the gospels it was women who first bore witness to the empty tomb and the news that Jesus had 'arisen, arisen, arisen'.

*Yours in Christ,
Clive*



PEOPLE NEWS BIRTHDAYS

Ron Mallyon

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

Sad News

Sorry to inform you, with a sad heart that my wife Bev Schmarr has passed away on the 18th March as a result of an illness from cancer.

She is now in God's care free from pain and suffering.

Peter Schmarr

Thank you so much to all our St. Matthew's friends for your prayers, thoughts and well wishes expressed through phone calls, emails, text messages and cards during our recent 'covid' experience. They have all been very much appreciated.

With our Kind Regards, from Dulcie & Peter Duncum

Extended Tenure

It is my great pleasure to announce that Church Council have been able to extend the tenure of the Rev Dr Clive Pearson with us at St. Matthew's until the end of the year. We look forward to sharing with Clive during this period. *Barbara Gibb*

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

24—30 April

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

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 **ALWAYS** turn off all lights, close windows, **turn off air-conditioners and fans.**

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



**Being prepared for
next week's worship:
1 May 2022 Easter 3**

Changing Jobs

1 May 2022 Sunday:

**8am, 9:30am and
6:45pm.**

Bible Readings:

Acts 9:1-20

John 21:15-19

In ancient cultures you did not have careers. You did not go to college, university or the equivalent of a TAFE to acquire a certificate or degree that then enabled you to pursue what you wanted to do work-wise with your life. You would normally follow in the traditions of your father and family – for life. In our readings for today both Peter and Paul undergo a change of vocations brought about by their respective encounters with the risen Christ. Paul's conversion (from Saul) on the road to Damascus leads him to become the apostle to the Gentiles rather than being a well-trained Pharisee who was a zealot for the persecution of those first Christians. He first appears on the scene at the stoning of Stephen, the first recorded Christian martyr. As for Peter he was a fisherman – and, indeed immediately prior to

this abbreviated text, he was out fishing. On three occasions Jesus now asks Peter whether he loves him. The three-fold enquiry reminds us of how Peter had denied that he knew Jesus three times. Jesus then commands Peter to feed his sheep – in other words, to exercise a pastoral ministry and be a shepherd to this flock of Christians. Peter is to assume the responsibilities assigned to the shepherd in the biblical traditions.

It is one of the great marks of faith that so often men and women are invited to change vocations throughout their working life: they leave behind the tasks of a former position and find themselves serving in the church. This change of vocation means learning new practices and allowing biblical and theological ideas to play a formative role in how that vocation is now lived out.

Church Property News

I'm excited to announce that after many months of meetings, conversations with Synod, Presbytery and building experts, the Church Council has approved the decision to replace the existing tiled roof of the Church, Hall and Preschool with Colorbond Steel sheeting. This has been a tough, but essential decision as we have advice about the poor condition of the roof. Due to the low pitch of the roof, the existing tiles have caused a lot of leakage and damage to both the roof and ceiling.

The Preschool will be undergoing a small extension to increase their storage facilities and extra staff facilities. This will be funded by the Preschool. The Preschool have also very generously offered to cover the cost of replacing the tiles on the Preschool roof.

A big thank you to both Terry Oliver and David Porter for the time and energy they have given to ensure that this project can proceed.

Barbara Gibb

Save the Date

Coffee and Discovery 10am Thursday 5 May

Speaker George Harrington

"Life Behind The Camera—

Reminiscences of 30 Years in the film industry"

Parramatta Nepean Presbytery Communications Officer

Contract, Casual or part-time permanent position (can be negotiated)

A friendly, supportive, professional dedicated to excellence
A role with purpose - work for a socially driven Australian organisation

The Presbytery of Parramatta Nepean covers south-west, north-west and western Sydney and works to strengthen 60+ congregations in their mission and community engagement in one of the most geographically and demographically diverse areas of Australia.

Their vision is to generously share themselves and mobilise resources to support God's Mission so that, in 2055 and beyond the Uniting Church has a strategic, vibrant Christ-centred presence in Western Sydney in all its diversity.

Main areas of responsibility

Presbytery Communication

- Manage the Presbytery website and social media strategies and keep its content up to date and focussed on PNP Vision and Mission Strategy
- Provide support for communicating regular newsletters, Presbytery stories & Presbytery decisions, strategic goals & latest news
- Ensure that communication is culturally relevant (ethnic, age, socio-economic and gender) and linguistically appropriate for all people across the Presbytery

Presbytery IT Support and Management

- Manage and maintain a presbytery directory key contacts and email distribution lists ensuring that this is kept regularly up to date
- Develop & manage all registrations for Presbytery events
- Develop on-line forms to help staff effectively interact with congregations
- Assist congregations as they engage in IT and online mission and ministry via websites and social media, to give advice and point them in the right direction

Essential requirements

- Cert IV or higher qualification in a Communications & Marketing related discipline and relevant experience
 - Experience managing databases, social media platforms & websites
 - Experience coordinating and/or facilitating corporate type activities and programs
 - Well organised and efficient time management skills
 - Quality writing, verbal and computer skills
- Understanding of, and agreement to work within the ethos of the Uniting Church in Australia

How to Apply:

If this sounds like something that you would be interested in, please apply directly to the advertisement with your full resume and a tailored cover letter.

There is no closing date for this role, all applications will be reviewed as they are received, and successful applicants will be contacted.

Please email applications to dale@pnpuca.org.au

Act of Peace is running an Emergency Appeal for the Ukraine crisis. Donation envelopes are available from the church foyer.

EMERGENCY APPEAL: UKRAINE CRISIS



**PLEASE
GIVE
TODAY**

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has created a humanitarian crisis. Millions could become refugees, forced from their homes and loved ones.

Please give generously to provide urgently needed food, medicine and temporary shelter to displaced families.



**CALL: 1800 025 101, SCAN QR CODE OR
GIVE ONLINE: AFP.ORG.AU/HELPUKRAINE**

The international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

National Council of Churches in Australia

ACT FOR PEACE

Saturday Administration & Office Support

Opportunity for career progression!

A supportive environment where progression is encouraged!
A new position has become available for a Junior Receptionist and all-rounder to join our very busy team.

No experience is necessary as full training is given & support
If this sounds like something that is of interest then please do not hesitate to apply or contact us for a confidential discussion.

Call Trevor or Maddison
on 9686-7999

**Trevor Leslie
Real Estate**

1/20 Old Northern Road
Baulkham Hills

The St. Matthew's Uniting Church weekly Newsletter is available to view at the end of each week for the upcoming Sunday

on the St. Matthew's website

www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au

Click on the metal bird image / publications.