



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

Weekly Newsletter

5 June 2022

Pentecost

Bible Reading

8am & 9.30am:

Acts 2: 1-21, John 14: 8-17

Response after Bible Readings

Leader: Hear the word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God



8am—Worship

includes Communion

Led by Michael Strong, Clive Pearson

9.30am—Worship

includes Communion

Led by Daniel Gibb/KUCA, Clive Pearson

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



6.45pm—Worship

includes Communion

Led by Jane Cole, Clive Pearson

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 6 JUNE

9am—Sorting for Op Shop
lower hall

TUESDAY 7 JUNE

9am-2pm—Op Shop
9.30am—Christian Meditation
in the church
7.30pm-9.30pm—Thrive Bible Study lower hall

WEDNESDAY 8 JUNE

9am-2pm—Op Shop
10am—Women's Fellowship
Upper hall & church

THURSDAY 9 JUNE

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 10 JUNE

5pm-7pm—Fusion Youth Group upstairs hall
"Video games"

SATURDAY 11 JUNE

No Schedules Activities

SUNDAY 12 JUNE

8am—Worship

9am—Worship @ the Willow's

9.30am—Worship
KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8

6.45pm—Worship



MONDAY 13 JUNE

PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Queen's Birthday
No Schedules Activities

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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There's a spirit in the air

There is something rather challenging about Pentecost. This morning's text from the book of Acts incorporates a list of names of places as challenging as any genealogy to be found in the Bible. All of a sudden we are faced with peoples speaking in their 'own native language' – Parthians, Medes, Elamites, residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, parts of Libya, visitors from Rome (both Jews and proselytes), Cretans and Arabs. If you look at the map below you can see where these places are: Rome is the most westerly – the others are to be found in what we call Turkey, Iran, Iraq and North Africa.



What we discern in experience of Pentecost is not so much the birth of the church: that is a 'complicated' claim. The focus is on the descent of the Spirit and people hearing the gospel in their own languages. That is not the same as 'speaking in tongues' which Paul speaks about in 1 Corinthians. At one level it represents the reversal of the tower of Babel story (from which we get the word 'babble') where humankind is split up into different languages. In another way it represents the beginning of the gospel being spread (in the words of the author of the book of Acts) 'to the ends of the earth'. Philip will soon baptize the Ethiopian eunuch (*ethiapos* is the Greek word for 'a burnt face').

The 'ends of the earth' back then were not, of course, 'the ends of the earth' as we know it today. For many centuries it was thought that no-one could cross the Equator and live because of the heat: it was assumed that there were no people living in the southern hemisphere – and even if there was, then that would require a second incarnation of Jesus to proclaim the gospel!

The way in which the Pentecost account is told draws attention to the unusual: the violent wind, the tongues of fire, and the bystanders saying that those 'gathered together in one place' had drunk too much new wine. Peter's address to the crowd of 'devout Jews' also ends with apocalyptic signs to do with the sun turning to darkness and the moon to blood. The day of Pentecost is full of drama!

Behind the obviously unusual lies a much greater surprise. The Spirit that God has sent is no longer confined to the experience of the Jews nor a particular class, gender, age, nor designated priests and prophets. The 'day of the Lord' which had in the past often been seen as a day of judgement has been transformed into one where 'everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved'.

Conversation starters for June:

In keeping with the themes for June the following might assist in the sharing of faith journeys:

- What do you think it might mean for us to be a people of the Spirit?
- What do you think it might mean for us today to 'place an hour of great care' around the word God?
- If there is neither Jew nor Gentile, free nor slave, male nor female in Christ, how do you think we should live out our baptism?
- The Uniting Church was born out of hope: what might be your hopes for this 'pilgrim people'?

Music for Pentecost:

Hail thee festival day

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8kZtMNIcIFw>

Come, Holy Spirit, I need you

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrXyXyvoB6g>

O beautiful morn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nUXF9Dx7R5w>

Come down, O love divine

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eN71JSoIutE>

Song of Pentecost (Joel Chaney)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o-yYfCcKole>

Yours in Christ,

Clive

A HUGE THANK YOU is extended to all who kindly and generously donated to the Cancer Council 'Australia's Biggest Morning Tea' fundraising event held on Friday 27th May. Donations were made on the day by those who attended the morning tea, with donations received online as well as donations received prior, as well as after the event by friends who were unable to attend.

The donations are all very much appreciated, with the generous amount of over \$1,700 being raised at this point of time (Wednesday 1st June), which will assist with the ongoing research and care provided by the Cancer Council. Also appreciated and enjoyed were the tasty food contributions for morning tea, which was a friendly, community time of sharing together for a vital cause.

Many Thanks for your support,
from Barry Gregory & Dulcie & Peter Duncum

Church Mowing

We have had a generous donation of a new mower which will be kept permanently in the garden shed at church. This opens the opportunity if you are considering joining the mowing roster you won't now need to transport a mower to the church.

For more formation contact George Haines
0478693245



Donations of fresh flowers

Katherine Pedersen is asking the church for donations of fresh flowers and foliage from members of the congregation who have excess to their needs. Katherine uses the flowers and foliage to make up arrangements to sell at the Op shop, and also to give to people we know who would benefit from receiving a gift from the church community.

Please contact Katherine Pedersen on 0437 772 011

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.

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

5-11 June

Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Eswatini

The church council has approved the following representatives on the Joint Nominating Committee (JNC) to call a new minister for St Matthews.

Eulalie Herat – 8.00am

Dean Drayton - 9.30am

Helen Olley -9.30am

Karen Vandenberg- 9.30am

Mike Underwood-9.30am

Alexander Lawless – 6.45pm

Presbytery appointed representatives on this committee are

Rev Grant Aitkin's (Chairperson)

Carmel Ieraci

Please continue this process and the committee members with your prayers.

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.*

With Love to the World



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'With Love to the World'

a daily Bible reading guide
based on the
Revised Common Lectionary
Volume 16, Number 11
Pentecost

16 May 2022—14 August 2022
is available in the foyer.

Please place **\$5**
in offering bag
to cover costs. You may
also pay via Pushpay



**Being prepared for
next week's worship:**

12 June 2022

Trinity Sunday

**'Lets Go
dancing!'**

12 June 2022 Sunday:

8am

9:30am

6:45pm

Bible Readings:

**Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
John 16: 2-15**

It is sometimes said that the Trinity is the Christian 'name of God'. This talk of 3 in 1 and 1 in 3 is peculiar to the Christian faith. The irony is that the word Trinity cannot be found in the Bible at all. Yes, there are occasions when we find references to the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit in the same verse(s) - as is the case with Matthew 28:19) but the actual word 'Trinity' is not used. As a matter of fact it was invented by Tertullian (160-220 AD) who lived in Carthage in North Africa. The word is derived from the Latin *trinitas* meaning 'three-fold'.

We sometimes get into a bit of a muddle because it seems to involve a degree in 'intellectual gymnastics'. This talk of how can you speak about one God and three 'persons' invariably becomes a question that Muslims will ask us (as they shake their heads in utter bafflement). The word person here is problematic: it is not a person in our modern sense of a separate individual being. It comes instead from Greek drama where it refers to a character. You may recall seeing references to '*dramatis personae*' - people in the drama - in a program for a play.

How we understand the relationship between the Father, Son and the Spirit has consequences. So often in the past it had a feel of an hierarchical order that carried over how we related to one another - men and women, dominant cultures and other cultures, humanity and other creatures. The other option involves a metaphor of a 'dance' where you change partners, like in a Scottish reel. Some of the early Christian Fathers invented a word for this way of thinking - *perichoresis*. The *peri-* means 'around'; the *choresis* part comes from the Greek word for a dance and from which we get choreography.

One of the dilemmas the traditional understanding of the Trinity needs to negotiate is how it is expressed in seemingly patriarchal tones. Our reading this morning from the book of Proverbs offers a counter to that. It refers to 'wisdom' which was with God at the very beginning of creation - a bit like the Word in the prologue of John's gospel. Wisdom in the Greek language is feminine.

Preschool - Raising money for Kids Cancer and supporting one of our own community

We would like to bring to the Church Communities attention the case of Demi, one of the Preschool students (and also daughter of Marly, a member of teaching staff)

Demi was recently diagnosed with a rare & incurable, inoperable brain tumour.

This has obviously been a very difficult time for her and her family. They are fortunate though to have amazing support within family and friends and have requested that instead of support for themselves that support be focused towards fundraising.

To that end the Preschool has organised a fundraiser next week (7th, 8th and 9th June). The children will dress up as pirates on these days to raise donations, and donated money will go to The Kids Cancer Project.

For anyone who'd like to donate, please contact the Preschool office.

Another fundraiser is also being planned for Term 3 – Beanie's for brain cancer. This one could give an opportunity to support in a more practical sense potentially. Once plans are finalised the Preschool will advise details which will be shared.

Anyone who would also like to support the family can contact the Preschool office.



OUT OF THE BOX MISSIONAL CONFERENCE

29-30 JULY 2022 - CENTRE FOR MINISTRY NORTH PARRAMATTA

Out of the Box Missional Conference will sell out, so we want to offer you Presale Discounted Tickets when they go on sale 10AM, Thursday 19th of May.

Out of the Box Missional Conference 2022

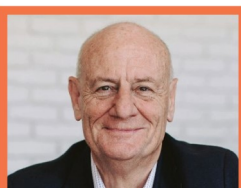
The mission Enablement team would love to **extend an invitation** to your congregations to attend **Out of the Box Missional Conference 2022 "Equipping disciples for a growing, contemporary, and courageous church"**, coming this

July 29th-30th.

Josh Wyatt – as part of UME's Mission Enablement Team – is making PNP a very generous offer of a discount for pre-booked and group tickets. This is an amazing opportunity for teams of people from PNP congregations to participate in the conference. Attending as a team enables the learning at the conference to translate into action in congregations. Often, there can be great learning at conferences for individuals who come back enthused but are then deflated. Being part of a group keeps the momentum going.

Additional discounts are available when 8 or more tickets are purchased in a single transaction.

See more on the UME Website: <https://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/calendar/out-of-the-box-missional-conference/>



REV TIM COSTELLO AO



REV ELLIE ELIA



OUT OF THE BOX
MISSIONAL CONFERENCE

29-30 JULY 2022 - CENTRE FOR MINISTRY NORTH PARRAMATTA



DR BYRON SMITH



REV DR GRACE J. SORENSON



DR ARMEN GAKAVIAN



REV DR KARINA KREMINSKI



NATASHA HOLMES



JOSHUA WYATT

Our Speakers...

This year we are thrilled to welcome Rev. Tim Costello AO and Rev. Ellie Elia as our Keynote Speakers. What's more, be a part of Missional Masterclasses: bespoke electives focussing on a range of subjects such as: intercultural ministry, music, digital, storytelling, pioneering, and more, lead by Rev Dr Grace Ji-sun Kim, Dr Byron Smith, Natasha Holmes, Rev Dr Karina Kreminski and Dr Armen Gakavian, and Josh Wyatt.