



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

Weekly Newsletter

12 June 2022

Trinity Sunday

Bible Reading

8am & 9.30am:

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31, John 16:12-15

Response after Bible Readings

Leader: Hear the word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God



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	
services	. 6.45pm

8am—Worship

Led by Pamela Leslie
and Clive Pearson

9am—Worship @ the Willow's

Led by Warren Arthur

9.30am—Worship

Led by Hugh Darling
and Clive Pearson

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



6.45pm—Worship

Led by Clive Pearson
and Daniel Gibb

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 13 JUNE

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Queen's Birthday

No Scheduled Activities

SATURDAY 18 JUNE

**2pm-4pm—Church and
Community Room in use**

TUESDAY 14 JUNE

9am-2pm—Op Shop

9.30am—Christian Meditation

in the church

10am—Clive's Workshop

"On Liturgy" at the church

7.30pm—Clive's Workshop

"On Liturgy" at the church

SUNDAY 19 JUNE

8am—Worship

9.30am—Worship

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

5pm—Shine

6.45pm—Worship

WEDNESDAY 15 JUNE

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am—Men's Morning Tea

Mckel's Café, Shop 14, Circa

Boulevard Bella Vista.

7.30pm—ZOOM Clive's

Workshop "On Liturgy"

THURSDAY 16 JUNE

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 17 JUNE

7pm-9pm—Alive Youth

Group upstairs hall



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

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CNR CHARLES & EDGAR STREETS
BAULKHAM HILLS

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Let's Dance

It is amazing how often ministers in placement like someone else to take the service on Trinity Sunday. During my time as Principal of the College I would receive more invitations to preach on that day than any other. I came to expect such requests as a matter of course. The 'problem', it seems, lay in this talk of 3 in 1, and 1 in 3. It sounds like a bit of mumbo-jumbo or what has sometimes been described as 'intellectual gymnastics'. If you find yourself in a conversation with a Muslim on matters of belief, he or she is bound to ask you how can you believe in one God that you describe as a Trinity.

The word Trinity is not to be found in the Bible. There are references to God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit – notably at the end of Matthew's gospel when baptism is being discussed. But the word Trinity did not appear on the scene until late in the 2nd century. It was coined by Tertullian, a noted scholar of the time living in North Africa. He was wrestling with how can we speak about the three-fold nature of God and how the Father, Jesus and the Spirit inter-relate with one another. And so he came up the word *trinitas* that is derived from the Latin word for three.

Graeme Garrett from Canberra reckons that this unusual word should be seen as the Christian name of God. It is so distinctive to who we are. It shapes our understanding of God – and so matters a great deal as to how imagine the 'three' relate to one another. Sometimes it seems as if we have a hierarchy in place: the Father, the Son and the Spirit in descending order. That is the impression that has often been created – and there are consequences. Elizabeth Johnson is a noted American theologian and she argues that the words we use to describe God are not just descriptive: they function as well. Imagine the consequences, if and when we take seriously, that we are all made in the image of God – but then God is understood in this hierarchical way.

In more recent times we have recovered a much earlier tradition that goes back to the Cappadocian Fathers of the early church. They likened the relationship between the three to a dance where they interweave with one another. Imagine the Trinity doing a Scottish dance reel. This model has a greater sense of relationality, partnership, movement – so let's dance the Trinity!

The reading from Proverbs for today adds something extra. The Hebrew word for the Spirit is feminine – hence those contemporary hymns that can refer to the Spirit with words like 'she flies on'. Generally speaking, though, that has not been a matter of Christian practice. The Proverbs' reading refers to wisdom and does so in a way that wisdom is likened to a person who is concerned for justice and the well-being of society and creation. The book of Proverbs has wisdom with God at the very beginning of creation much like the Word was with God in the prologue to John's gospel. In the New Testament, and especially in Matthew, Jesus is likened to wisdom – and, in both the Hebrew and Greek languages, wisdom is feminine. Logos / the Word is masculine.

The Trinity can seem obscure. But it is worth exploring its meaning a little further because it shapes our understanding of God and how we relate to others.

It makes such a difference if we think of our being made in the image of a relational 'dancing' God than one who is understood in an hierarchical manner.

But that's not all there's more!

In this congregation there are many people who have a working background in banking, finance, economics, insurance and the like. It may come as a surprise but God was likened to the 'divine economist' long before there were degrees and an

industry in the field. The Trinity is partly responsible for that!

The word economist comes from a Greek word, *oikonomia*. The *oiko-* part is where we get the prefix 'eco' in words like economy, ecological, even with a letter change, ecumenical (which initially referred not to the relations among churches, but to the 'whole inhabited world'). The word *oikos* means 'house' or 'household'. The *-nomia* part of the word comes from a word that means 'law' or, by extension, 'management'. In its original sense, putting the two parts together, *oikonomia* (economy) referred to the 'management of the household'.

For Christian thinkers in the early church God was the divine economist. Once the ideas of the Trinity was coined it led to a distinction between: the inter-relationship between Father, Son and Spirit. This focus of belief was called the 'immanent Trinity' – the word immanent comes from a Latin word meaning 'to dwell' and 'to rest'. It refers to the 'inner life of God'.

ii). The other part of that distinction refers to how the three-fold God relates to the 'household of creation' – including us and the rest of creaturely existence. The name given to this 'management' is described as the 'economic Trinity'. It has to do with God's plan of salvation, redemption, reconciliation.

This understanding of the Trinity and the call to dance is captured in Malcolm Guite's poem, 'Trinity Sunday'.

In the Beginning, not in time or space,
But in the quick before both space and time,
In Life, in Love, in co-inherent Grace,
In three in one and one in three, in rhyme,
In music, in the whole creation story,
In His own image, His imagination,
The Triune Poet makes us for His glory,
And makes us each the other's inspiration.
He calls us out of darkness, chaos, chance,
To improvise a music of our own,
To sing the chord that calls us to the dance,
Three notes resounding from a single tone,
To sing the End in whom we all begin;
Our God beyond, beside us and within.

<https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/2012/06/02/trinity-sunday-a-sonnet/>

Music for Trinity Sunday:

'I bind unto myself the strong name of the Trinity' (St Patrick's Breastplate)

The story of St Patrick's Breastplate

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vlbkXKZeB2c>

'Hail, gladdening light' (Stainer)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C4h_TS4vNsM

'This I believe' (Hillsong)

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

Pentecost art follow-up.

Jennifer Allison, Pentecost Spirit (metallic print)

<https://pixels.com/featured/pentecost-jennifer-allison.html>

Linda Schmidt, Pentecost hanging quilt

<http://quiltinspiration.blogspot.com/2015/11/highlights-of-pacific-international.html>

Gako Ota Penetcost (floral art / ikebana)

<https://globalworship.tumblr.com/post/144356131630/pentecost-art-ikebana-japan>

Yours in Christ,

Clive



PEOPLE NEWS BIRTHDAYS

Faye Butel
Anne Hanna

Margaret Gray
Erin Mathewson

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

12-18 June

Botswana, Zimbabwe



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

Save the Date

Coffee and Discovery 10am Thursday 7 July

Guests Musicians

Noeleen & David Neideck

Please come along and enjoy a concert filled with the
music of Noeleen and David.



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

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.*

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.

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:***

19 June 2022

Trinity Sunday

***'Baptized into
Freedom'***

19 June 2022 Sunday:

**8am, 9:30am &
6:45pm**

Bible Readings:

Galatians 3:23-29

Luke 8:26-39

The letter Paul wrote to the church in Galatia is his most indignant. Unlike his other epistles he does not give thanks to God for their life together in faith. This is the only time this happens. Instead he will describe them as 'foolish' and ask 'who has bewitched you?'. It would be easy to read parts of this letter as if Paul was in a bad mood! But that is not really the case. Sometimes we have to dig beneath the surface and see isolated responses within a bigger picture.

Paul is writing his epistle to the Galatians because he believes they have lost the way: they are reverting back to practices (to do with circumcision and dietary laws) that are no longer essential. They have been set free from these constraints – which are the way of the law: he argues that if they have placed themselves under the law like this again, then they have not been set free in

Christ. He reminds them of their baptism which reflects a much more inclusive community in which there is an equality of status in the God's reconciling work in Christ.

The gospel reading reflects a very different kind of imprisonment. It represents a type of exorcism where the Gerasene demoniac is set free from the 'demons' and 'unclean spirit' within him. What is rather striking about this reading is how the healing of the demoniac creates 'great fear' within the people 'in the city and in the country'. What we see here is a failure to discern good news – and, in a way, that is the reason why Paul is writing to the Galatians. Rather than explore what freedom in Christ might mean, they opt for what they may have been familiar within the past as a consequence of the preaching of those who would have liked to maintain some Jewish practices.

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 tumor.

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.

This week the Preschool organised a fundraiser .The children dressed up as pirates to raise donations, this money will go to The Kids Cancer Project.

So far \$2053.25 has been raised. A great effort!

For anyone who'd like to donate, please donate via the below link.

<https://www.pirateday.com.au/unitingcarestmattthewspreschool>

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.

Please hold Demi and her family in your prayers.

Parramatta Nepean Presbytery
cordially invites you to the
Ordination Service
of
Gail Catherine Hinton

Sunday 19th June 2022

at 2.30pm

at

Penrith Uniting Church

15 Evan Street

Penrith

(near the corner of High Street and
next door to the Fire Station)

Afternoon Tea will be served after
the Service.

RSVP Gail on 0407269162

Parramatta Mission Winter Appeal

**Meals Plus
where
courage
turns into
hope**



Almost all of us have been in a situation at some time where we have needed to ask for help. Take yourself back to that moment, remember how hard it may have been to speak those first words, to reach out and wait for the reply, to accept the help of someone else. Sometimes we resist, for fear of rejection, of questions and of judgement.

Imagine not even knowing where to go or who to ask for that help.

Every day at Meals Plus we open our doors and welcome all without question or judgement. For some it takes many visits to gain the courage and trust to ask for even the smallest things. But we are here and when they are ready, we listen, and help find hope for those who are facing crisis or need a helping hand. Even something small like a meal and a conversation can make a big difference and start a journey towards better things. [Your donation to Parramatta Mission today will ensure that we can continue to give hope to the most vulnerable and marginalised in our community.](#)

Every person who walks through our doors has a different story, but all are asking for our help in some way. For some it is a single visit to alleviate stresses they face and for others it is a longer journey.

Alyssa's husband left her and her two daughters recently. Earlier this month she lost her job and only source of income. She came to Meals Plus with the hope of getting some food to help feed her family so they she could continue to pay the rent until she can find work again. We were able to supply essential food items, fresh fruit and vegetables for the week and as it was her daughter's birthday she also left with gifts and extra food to help them be able to celebrate. The smile on her face and gratitude she expressed was over whelming. She intends to return soon so that we can continue to assist her until she is back on her feet.

Brothers Dave and Steve come to Meals Plus for lunch each day. It has become a routine for them and a method of coping. They live in social housing and are on a fixed income. The rising cost of living has put extra burden on their budget. Visiting Meals Plus not only gives them a good lunch each day, it saves them money and forms part of their routine, giving them the opportunity to socialise, reducing isolation and improving their day to day mental health.

These are but a few of the many stories that we experience every day in Meals Plus. People who have had the courage to take the first steps in asking for help and are now finding hope and support to live life with a little less stress and anxiety each day.

Parramatta Mission, through the Meals Plus service, act as advocate, counsellor, referral and offers a safe place where we can unravel complex issues and start to plan ways to ease the stress faced by those who come to us every day for assistance.

We need your help so that we can keep the doors open and assist more people like Alyssa, Dave, Steve and Beth - who have the courage to take the first steps to ask for help.

The need for our service continues to increase as we experience higher costs of living, higher rent costs with less available affordable housing, and unemployment as a result of many small businesses struggling or closing down.

We know how difficult it is to ask for help and so we are looking to practice what we preach, which is why we are courageously asking for your help to assist us in keeping the doors to Meals Plus open.

Please send a tax-deductible gift today knowing that your generosity will give hope to those who take the courageous step to ask for help, so that we can help them remain hopeful in their journey to a safe and stable life.

[Donate today and give hope to those who take the courageous step to ask for help](#)

Thank you for being part of a Community Transforming Lives.

Yours in Grace, Dignity, Inclusion, Faith and Hope

Mark Newton
Executive General Manager

