



st. matthew's  
**UNITING CHURCH**  
**BAULKHAM HILLS**  
growing together

## Weekly Newsletter

22 January 2023

**Epiphany 3**

### Bible Reading

9am

**Matthew 4:12-25**



*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 9AM



### Livestreaming

at both services

- 9am Summer Worship Service
- 6.45pm Worship Service

**9am—Worship**

Led by Roland Byant

**KUCA** in recess

**6.45pm—Worship**

Led by Daniel Gibb  
and Nicola Lawless

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

#### MONDAY 23 JANUARY

9am-Sorting and Pricing  
for Op Shop lower hall

#### TUESDAY 24 JANUARY

9.30-11am—Christian Meditation

in the Church

7.30pm—Property Committee

Meeting in the Community Room

#### WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY

No Scheduled activities

#### THURSDAY 26 JANUARY

Australia Day Public Holiday

#### FRIDAY 27 JANUARY

No Scheduled activities

#### SATURDAY 28 JANUARY

No Scheduled Activities

### SUNDAY 29 JANUARY

**9am—Worship**

**KUCA** in recess

**5pm—Shine**

**6.45pm—Worship**



#### 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

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**PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR** 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA

PO Box 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

**EMAIL:** director@stmatthewsps.net.au



## PEOPLE NEWS

Beau Cameron

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

## Ecumenical Prayer Cycle 22—28 JANUARY

*Cyprus, Greece, Turkey*

**Thank you** to Judy Mann for offering her mulcher to be used when the hedges along the Op Shop wall are trimmed.

We now need some volunteers to do the trimming and mulching and cleaning up during February.

Please contact the office, George Haines, Bruce Court or Katherine Pedersen if you can help during a morning mid week or on a Saturday during February.

## Calling all plant lovers

If you enjoy propagating plants and would like to have some fun as an individual or group of people creating potted plants to sell in the Op Shop, please speak with Pamela Leslie, Katherine Pedersen or call the office on T: 9686 3003.

## JANUARY SUNDAY SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES

at the church

1st January - 9am includes Communion

8th January - 9am & 6.45pm  
includes Communion

15th January - 9am & 6.45pm

22nd January - 9am & 6.45pm

29th January - 9am & 6.45pm

*Live streaming continues for all services*

## FEBRUARY SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

at the church

5 February - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm  
includes Communion

12 February - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

19 February - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

26 February - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

*Live streaming continues for all services*

## Church Council Congregation Representatives

Positions for Representatives from 9.30am and 6.45pm worship congregations are required for Church Council. These positions are for a two-year period.

Please contact Barbara Gibb if you are interested in representing your worship community, for more information.

Please prayer consider being involved.

**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](http://www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au)  
Click on the metal dove image / publications.





**\$100 / PLAYER**  
Active Kids Vouchers welcome

# NETBALL

## PLAY LOCAL - PLAY SOCIAL



## REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

SATURDAY AFTERNOON COMPETITION

GOODEN RESERVE BAULKHAM HILLS

[www.stmatthewsnetballclub.com](http://www.stmatthewsnetballclub.com)

## St. Matthew's Netball Club

**Registration for 2023 season now open.**

***Will close on Friday 5 February.***

Competition games available for girls from Year 2 above at school. Women's comp for 18 & over age group.

FunNet which is a program where children learn fundamental netball skills and is for children in Kindergarten & Year 1 at school.

For further information or to complete your registration, go to club website

[www.stmatthewsnetballclub.com](http://www.stmatthewsnetballclub.com)

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

***29 January***

**Theme:**  
**Epiphany 4**  
***Blessings***  
***(Not Happy!)***

**Sunday 29 January:**  
**9am and 6.45pm**

**Bible Readings:**

**Micah 6:1-8**  
**Matthew 5:1-12**



The 'sermon' is one of the most well-known portions of Scripture. It has a history of reception. For many churchgoers it is one of their favourite texts; for Mahatma Gandhi the sermon on the mount was almost enough for him, a Hindu, to convert to the Christian faith; for Karl Marx, on the other hand, it was the reverse: it kept people satisfied with their lot and willing to accept oppressive structures. It was a text for the weak. For Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German martyr killed near the end of the war, it lay at the heart of the way in which he taught students to 'confess' the Christian faith over and against the Nazi propaganda. The sermon on the mount led to one his most studied books, *The Cost of Discipleship*.

With this kind of reception there is some need to pay attention to the text itself – what is it saying and how does it compare with equivalents elsewhere. The most obvious comparison is with 'the sermon on the plain' in Luke: here there are some woes that are not found in Matthew and also it reads 'blessed are poor' and 'blessed are the hungry'. Matthew takes a more 'spiritual' rather than 'physical line', writing 'blessed are the poor in spirit' and 'blessed are those who hunger after righteousness'.

The way in which Matthew tells the gospel there are many parallels to the experience of the people of Israel. Some of the time this habit is well-signposted; there are repeating phrases like 'this was to fulfil'. On other occasions the parallels are more implied. That is the case with the sermon on the mount. It echoes Moses going up Mt Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments. The way in which the Torah (the Law) was organized in the Hebrew Bible is mirrored in the layout of Matthew's gospel. There are 5 blocs of teaching in Matthew which

reflects the 5 books of the Torah (called the Pentateuch).

The word for 'blessed' in Matthew is *makarios*. It does not mean 'happy' (as you will find in some translations). It is not the biblical equivalent of Pharrell Williams' song, 'Be happy!'. Being happy is a subjective, emotional state. It is how we feel. Being blessed, being on the receiving end of *makarios*, is a God-given gift. It comes from without. It is, in fact, far from easy to see how 'happy' works in the translation of the sermon as the individual beatitudes reflect the very opposite of what we might expect. That this should be so has led some biblical commentators to describe the beatitudes as 'strenuous commands' that can only be realized in the fulfilled kingdom of God (note Matthew uses the term kingdom of heaven, as a Jewish readership would have some reservations about using the name of God).

This reading from the gospels is accompanied this Sunday by one of the most well-known readings from the prophets—that is, Micah 6:1-8. In response to the plight of the people at the onset of the Assyrian invasion a series of four questions are posed with regards how they should present themselves before the Lord/YHW. The way of sacrifices is rejected: the people ('mortal') know what is good and what is required: 'to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.'

One way of approaching the Beatitudes in our day is to consider (i) examples of those who seem to bear witness to a particular blessing in his/her life; and, (ii), are their aspects of life today that were not so apparent in the first century that might justify a contemporary beatitude? What form might that take?

## ***Recycled Christmas tree project update***

"Thank you to everyone who has participated in The Recycled Christmas tree, it was a huge success! We raised \$83.60 so far!!

We will get in contact with the charity to make sure that they receive the donation.

For the next year, it would be great if we could continue this initiative!"

### **Please note:**

For the plastic bottles and cans, please make sure that they are not squashed, this makes it hard for the bar code to be scanned and sometimes we miss out on a can or bottle for that reason.

Could the labels also be kept on the plastic bottles, if we get water bottles without the labels we won't be able to use them.

Please, no wine bottles or glass jars are excepted, only cans, plastic water bottles, glass bottles and juice boxes with 10c printed on the back.

Please feel free to get in contact if you need any large amount of bottles/ cans to be collected. Otherwise please leave them in the top half of the church in the plastic container.

Thank you,

Marijke Prinsloo