



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

Weekly Newsletter

29 January 2023

Epiphany 4

Bible Reading

9am and 6.45pm



Micah 6: 1-8

Matthew 5: 1-12

Response after Bible Readings

Leader: Hear the word of the Lord

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 Albert Olley
and Sara Wienand

KUCA in recess

5pm—Shine

6.45pm—Worship

Led by Daniel Gibb

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 30 JANUARY

9am—Sorting and Pricing
for Op Shop lower hall

SATURDAY 4 FEBRUARY

9am-12pm—Op Shop open
9.30am-1.30pm—Netball
Registration Day upstairs hall

TUESDAY 31 JANUARY

9am—Op Shop Re opens for 2023
9.30-11am—Christian Meditation
in the Church

WEDNESDAY 1 FEBRUARY

9am—Op Shop
10am—In Stitches upper hall
7pm—Finance Committee meeting
upstairs hall

THURSDAY 2 FEBRUARY

9am—Op Shop

FRIDAY 3 FEBRUARY

5pm-7pm—Fusion Youth Group
In the upstairs hall

SUNDAY 5 FEBRUARY

8am—Worship
Includes Communion

9.30am—Worship
Includes Communion

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

6.45pm—Worship
Includes Communion



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:

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PEOPLE NEWS

Peter Jenkyn

Bruce Chivers

Garry Bindley

Eric Gronlund

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

29 January — 4 February

North Africa: Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia

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

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.

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.

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.

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 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

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

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

5 February

Theme:

Epiphany 5

***Who do you
think you are?
Righteous?***

**Sunday 5 February:
9am and 6.45pm**

Bible Readings:

**Isaiah 58: 1-9a
Matthew 5:13-20**



Matthew is the only gospel in which the word 'church' occurs. It comes much later in proceedings than our reading for this morning. The sermon on the mount (which runs from the beginning of chapter 5 through to the end of chapter 7 is addressed to the crowd. That may be so but perhaps one might reflect on how this 'you' which features in the call to be the salt of the earth and the light of the word invites us to consider the place of the church in today's world.

These two images can, of course, apply to our contemporary culture and the local congregation. We might say, first of all, that our society becomes the equivalent of Matthew's 'crowd'. In that case one might ask how is this country perceived beyond ourselves? Now that we have passed Australia Day, might we ask a question or two: Is it reckoned to be like light or salt' within the context of the wider world?

And what about the church? The position of the church in the current Australian landscape is not like it once was. The way in which a congregation seeks to relate to its neighbourhood has altered. Rather than lying close to the heart of things, the church is now more on the edge—and, in some cases, on the receiving end of rather dismissive comments. Should it then seek to see itself as 'salt'—in other words, adding some seasoning and healing to the neighbourhood? Should its members seek to be a 'light to the world' and what might that mean?

The way in which these images are tested should be seen in the light of their content in Matthew's gospel. The preceding beatitudes are assumed—and so we might say the act of being a peacemaker, those who hunger and thirst after what is right in spirit, those willing to endure being misrepresented etc. The

immediate context then passes into a fulfilment text—in this instance to the law and the prophets. This reference is to the first two sections of the Hebrew Bible to become canon (in the words, accepted). There is no attempt here to undo the law because the kingdom of heaven has drawn near. The reading closes with a reference to righteousness—one of Matthew's key recurring words first used of Joseph and then found in the Beatitudes. We may not like the character of some whom we may describe as self-righteous: there are many negative overtones but Matthew uses the word with approval: what might it mean for the congregation to be 'righteous'?

The lectionary has placed this reading alongside one taken from Third Isaiah. It is a challenging text in as much as 'the house of Jacob' imagine that they are following the way of the Lord 'as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness'. The oracle is incisive: 'they want God on their side'. The 'house' perform the rituals of faith, especially that do with fasting, bowing the head, dressing in sackcloth and ashes—but they do so only in order 'to serve your own interest'. The word of YHWH interprets the true fasting to be one that 'loose[s] the bonds of injustice, ... undo[es] the straps of the yoke. ... let[s] the oppressed go free'. The true fast is one that shows concern for the homeless and the hungry.

How might such a 'fast' be practised today? Is it the case that being like salt and light means life together being one that seeks to do practical acts of mercy, compassion, care? What does it mean to day to live out being salt and light? John Chrysostom (one of the early church fathers) wrote: "If you cannot find Christ in the beggar at the Church door, you will not find him in the chalice."

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,

Marjke Prinsloo