



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

Weekly Newsletter

14 May 2023

Easter 6

Bible Readings



Acts 17:22-31

John 14:15-23

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

8am & 9.30am only



8am—Worship

Led by Roland Bryant

9am—Worship @ the Willow's

Led by Warren Arthur

9.30am—Worship

Led by Daniel Gibb and Sara Wienand

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

KUCA children will be providing a Mother's Day morning tea after the 9.30am service.

6.45pm—Worship

Led by Daniel Gibb

includes Community Meal

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 15 MAY

9am—Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop lower hall

TUESDAY 16 MAY

9am-2pm—Op Shop

9.30am—Christian Meditation
in the church

WEDNESDAY 17 MAY

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12pm—In Stitches

in the upstairs hall

10am-12pm—Men's Morning Tea

Mckel's Café, Shop 14, Circa Boulevard
Bella Vista.

THURSDAY 18 MAY

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 19 MAY

No Scheduled Events

SATURDAY 20 MAY

No Scheduled Events

SUNDAY 21 MAY

8am—Worship

9.30am—Worship

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

5pm—Shine

6.45pm—Worship



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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PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA

PO Box 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

EMAIL: director@stmatthewsps.net.au

Thank you to all who have
contributed to this publication.

Easter 6

Jesus: For those who love me and keep my commandments

John 14:15-23 Acts 17:22-31

A short, yet powerful passage (Jn 14:15-23) from Jesus' "Farewell Discourse" (Jn 14-17) in which Jesus reiterates his favourite theme, Love, foreshadows the coming of the Holy Spirit and emphasizes the intimate unity of himself, God and the Holy Spirit with those who love him and keep his commandments.

In John's Gospel, Jesus apparently uses "love" verbs 57 times. This passage begins with love (in v15) and concludes with love (v23) and there are many other very familiar verses in this Gospel with this theme, including 3:16; 13:34-35; 15: 12-13. Love is the key theme in each of the three sections of this passage (15-17; 18-21; 22,23). The promises Jesus gave, whereby his Spirit would indwell believers, are for those who love him and keep his commandments/word. Such is the emphasis on love in John's Gospel, that one preacher claimed that if we, Christians, "fail in love, we fail in all things else".

Val Webb, in her book: "John's Message", acknowledged the plentiful use of Father-Son imagery in this section of John's Gospel. She acknowledged that some people would find this "difficult or unsatisfying". She observed that John is "painting a picture" of the relationship the Johannine community will have with God, as children of God in the household of God. John's image of family is about relationships of love not simply biological relationships, so that other metaphors (other than Father-Son) would also be appropriate, such as "parent/child", "mother/child", children not servants, friends, workers together with God. All these images describe the relationship God offers those who believe.

Jesus foreshadows the coming of the Holy Spirit (v16), the Paraclete, the Spirit of Truth (v 17). The key term, *parakletos*, called the Holy Spirit (v26) appears four times during Jesus' final conversation with the disciples and nowhere else in the New Testament. This term is apparently difficult to re-present in English; it is variously translated as Comforter, Advocate, Counselor, Helper, all of which are meant by the author. Rather than exclude one of these meanings, many have preferred to retain the word Paraclete. Authors have drawn attention to the intimate relationship that Jesus describes in verses 21-23 --- not just the Trinity but the potential relationship between Jesus, God, the Spirit and all believers. "Those who love me will keep my word and my Father will love them and we will come to them and make our home with them". Ultimate intimacy with God and Christ available now, through the Spirit --- life abundant (Jn 10:10b) is available for living from this moment into eternity.

This chapter 14 of John's Gospel contains, as we have seen, some of the best known and most personal, intimate words that Jesus shared with his disciples.

Roland Bryant

Notice:

Congregation Meeting 4th June 2023 at 10:00am

The Joint Nominating Committee has been busy over the past few months in conversation with a possible minister for St Matthew's.

The JNC has asked the Church Council to call a Congregation Meeting on the 4th June following a single Church Service to be held at 9:00am on that day.

All Church members are requested to come along to Church and the meeting on that day to vote to issue a Call to the candidate.

Terry Oliver

Church Council Secretary



Welcome to
Coffee & Discovery

Guest Speaker

Judy Mann

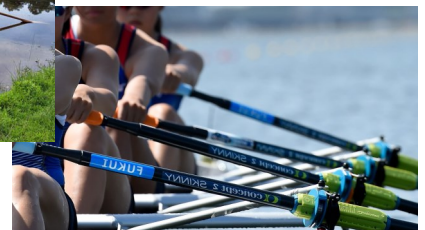
Thursday

1 June

10am until 12noon

The Art and Science of Rowing and the Spirituality

Presented by a master's competition rower
who learnt to row as an adult in Canberra.



*These informal morning gatherings include devotions, morning tea and
guest speakers which cover a large range of interesting and informative topics.*



PEOPLE NEWS

Barbara Brenden-Cook
Albert Olley

Shirley Rodgers

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

Sympathy to

Reg Chapple and family
on the death of Doreen Chapple
on Friday 5th May.

A funeral service will be held
on Wednesday 17th May at 10am
at Castlebrook Garden Chapple,
Windsor Road Rouse Hill.

Sympathy to

Bruce & Kim Bills and family
on the death of Alison Bills
on Thursday 11th May.

MAY SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

at the church

7 May - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm
includes Communion

14 May - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

21 May - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

28 May - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

Live streaming continues for 8am & 9.30am services only

WELCOMING ALL NEWCOMERS

Imagine you are new to St. Matthew's

- * **How would you like to be welcomed if you were a newcomer today?**
- * **How can we improve the way we look after all our newcomers?**
- * **All your ideas and suggestions can help, the more the better.**

**Please either text your replies to Judy
on M: 0414 591 548 or email Judy
at judy ruthmann@gmail.com**

Thank you

Judy - a recent 'newcomer'



Blankets for Refugees

We are collecting blankets for Ukrainian refugees, some who have arrived in Australia and some who are in Poland. A lady whose family in Poland is supporting the refugees is organising a shipment of clothes and would like to include blankets. Her group is also supporting refugees who have arrived in Australia.

If you have any spare woollen blankets that you would like to donate please drop them in to the Op Shop. They can be in any condition as they can be washed and mended if needed.

Contact Pamela Leslie 0404 023 588 or
Amanda Manson 0407 221 374

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

14— 20 May

Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal

Open Garden at the Pedersen's

Here is another fundraising project that is open to the whole community at various times throughout the year.

This is an amazing private garden on the edge of the bush between Baulkham Hills and North Rocks being opened to our community for inspection on the dates listed.

Those that have seen this garden are lost for words as to the detail and quality of the garden. Don't miss this opportunity while the weather is warm, light refreshments are provided.



\$10 adults 18 years and over includes drink and sweet or savoury offering of the day.

\$5 school children to 18 years includes drink and sweet or savoury offering of the day.

Dates for May

Wednesday mornings 9.30am - 12noon
10 & 31 May

Saturday afternoon 6 May at 1.30pm-3.30pm

Friday afternoon 12 May at 1.30pm-3.30pm

Dates for June

Thursday mornings: 9.30am - 12 noon
8, 15, 22 & 29 June

Sunday mornings 9.30am-12noon
4, 11, 18 & 25 June

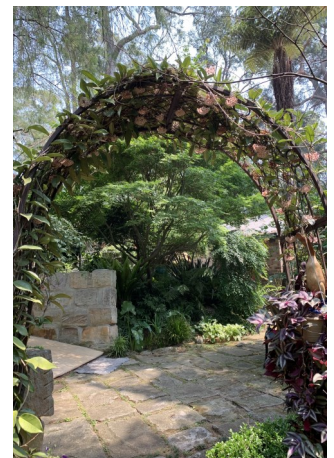
During June most of the camellia japonicas will be flowering and the maples will be changing colour and losing their leaves.

Autumn happens a bit later down here.

Closed during July and August.

Reopening September and October for Spring. Where there will be pots of tulips, ranunculus, daffodils, blossoms and wisteria in flower.

For bookings and enquiries, please contact the owners, Gary and Katherine Pedersen,
kathped56@gmail.com



We're hosting a Biggest Morning Tea

Please help us support people impacted by cancer!



Barry Gregory
9639 4700 - Mob 0425 815 34
Dulcie Duncum
9639 6014 - Mob 017 070 848



Cancer Council
Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

You are invited to join with us for
'Australia's Biggest Morning Tea'

being held at the home of

Dulcie & Peter Duncum

at 53 Sarah Crescent Baulkham Hills

Friday 26th May.

Everyone is welcome,
so please come and join with us

from 10.00 am

in support of the work and fundraising of
The Cancer Council and of our many friends who
have journeyed with cancer.

Bring your friends also.

We look forward to your company.

**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.**

You can also make a donation by clicking on the link below

<https://www.biggestmorningtea.com.au/fundraisers/DulcieDuncum/biggest-morning-tea-nsw>