



**Bible Readings**

8am and 9.30am



1 John 5:9-13  
John 17:6-19

Response after Bible Readings  
Leader: Hear the word of the Lord  
Response: Thanks be to God



**Livestreaming at  
8am and 9.30am only**

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**



Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

**MONDAY 13 May**  
9am—Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop & Garage Sale  
lower hall

**TUESDAY 14 May**  
9am-2pm—Op Shop  
9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation community room Includes Introductory Course Week 6 Final  
7.30pm—Thrive Bible Study  
lower hall

**WEDNESDAY 15 May**  
9am-2pm—Op Shop  
10am-12pm—In Stitches  
upstairs hall  
10am-12pm—Men's Morning Tea  
McKels Café Circa Norwest  
7.30pm—Elders Meeting  
in the church

**THURSDAY 16 May**  
9am-2pm—Op Shop  
6pm Rehearsal Church in use

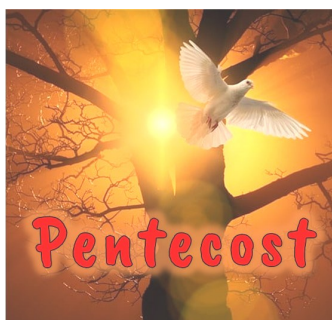
**FRIDAY 17 May**  
Setup for wedding

**SATURDAY 18 May**  
Wedding of Nicole Vandenberg and Daniel Gibb

**SUNDAY 19 MAY**

8am—Worship  
9.30am—Worship  
KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8  
Followed by morning tea

6.45pm—Worship



8am—Worship  
Led by Jon Humphries  
includes Communion

9am—Worship @ the Willows  
Led by Shamali Perera

9.30am—Worship  
Led by Hugh Darling  
and Jon Humphries  
includes Communion

KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8  
Followed by Morning Tea

11am-12pm Christian Meditation  
Introductory Course Week 6 Final  
in the church

6.45pm—Worship  
Led by Jon Humphries  
includes Communion  
Community Meal

**MINISTER**  
REV JON HUMPHRIES  
Email: jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

**CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS  
MINISTRY WORKER**  
DANIEL GIBB *Part Time*  
Email: daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

**CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARIES:**  
ROBYN MORRALL AND LYNN SAMUEL

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS** 9AM-3PM MON-FRI  
**OFFICE :** 9686 3003  
Email: office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

**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

**FACEBOOK:**  
@stmatthewsunitingchurchbaulkhamhills

**PRESCHOOL 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.

# Something to think about

## 12 May

### Seventh Sunday in Easter

#### Lectionary Readings:

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1

1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

#### Really Knowing God

You may or may not have caught the little bit of a stir this week when the news was shared that the Roman Catholic Church launched a virtual priest, by the name of Father Justin which/who was powered by artificial intelligence.

You can check out the article about this in the online version of Insights Magazine. Here is the link: <https://www.insights.uca.org.au/ai-priest-father-justin-defrocked-after-blurring-the-lines-of-reality/>

Unfortunately, the experiment failed, and Fr Justin was defrocked due to some odd and slightly inappropriate comments such as suggesting that babies be baptised with Gatorade. I thought that was a refreshing [see what I did there], albeit not very orthodox take on things. However, it opens up a realm of interesting things to think about. The fact that I wasn't sure to call the AI 'priest' a 'him' or an 'it' highlights how we can see things as personal when they are in fact not.

There is a song by the artist, Jessie J, called, 'Who You Are.' It has the line in the chorus that says, "seeing is deceiving." For me this speaks to the way that things can seem real and believable when they shouldn't be. We wouldn't have all the problems with scams if this wasn't the case. Things often seem real, when they are in truth that far from it.

The other problem with Fr Justin, is that he wasn't a priest. This is both true in terms of him/it not being an actual person, as well as the fact that he was not trained to be a priest. Priests go through years of theological training and formation in the priesthood before they are ordained. Maybe we could train an AI chatbot in theology and other things, but I am not sure that we are yet at a place where we can train them in personhood. The problem with calling him/it a priest is that people will assume that he does come with all the training and wisdom of a real priest.

All this relates to religion, faith and discipleship because many people say that they know God or Jesus, but in reality, they know an image of God or Jesus – both of whom we know are actually both manifestations for us on the one true God. We all have images and ideas about God. This is natural and helpful. We all get taught things in the Church about God. This is often/usually good and helpful. What isn't helpful is to confuse our limited understanding, however well we might think our teaching is and how full our knowledge might be about God with the fullness of God's being that transcends any attempt of our human brains to comprehend.

Continued next page

### **Really Knowing God - continued**

Theology is an important part of faith and discipleship, just as is spirituality, contemplation, prayer, reading the Bible and gathering as a community. Theology is any thought or understanding that we have about God, as well as that overarching discipline about seeking understanding about God. All that we do and say in the name of God is theology. Yet, underlying theology is faith. Faith is based on our experience of God and we use the tools of such things as Systematic theology to help us make sense of our experience.

Like the Chatbot priest was a representation of a priest, but not actually a priest, theology or doctrine taught in Church is about God but is not actually who God is. God is God. If we truly want to know God, as opposed to knowing about God, the Word of God, often revealed to us through Scripture and God as Spirit working in us, leads us into joining with God. How do we know God? We join with God. How do we join with God? We love others as God loves us, and we serve others as God has served us in the person of Jesus.

We enter into times where we stop doing stuff, even stuff like prayer or Bible reading, and be in the presence of God. Such things as meditation and other aspects of the contemplative tradition are there to help us with this.

God is love and those who live in love live in God and God in them. We come to know God, who is love, by loving. We come to learn what love is through Jesus, and then by practising patience, kindness, forgiveness, truth, forbearance, and that deep belief in God which is so much more than what we think is true about God, to the true knowing of God which leads us into trust and faith. How do we practise such things? Well we are called to love our neighbour as ourselves, such the poor and hungry, care for the sick, visit the imprisoned and lay down our lives in such other ways as we come to embody the love of God for others. In doing so we come to know love and we come to know God.

So, faith, love and knowing God is more than just something to think about.

God bless

*Jon*



## PEOPLE NEWS

Betty Carmody	Sue Campbell	Barbara Brenden-Cook
Alarice Rust	Lachlan Wood	Albert Olley
Barbara McIntosh	Martin Anderson	Shirley Rodgers

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

MAY 2024  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES**  
 at the church

5th May - 9am Combined includes  
 \* Mission Planning  
 \* Closure of Ministry for Mike Strong  
 \* Thanksgiving for Warren Arthurs as Willows Worship Leader

12th May - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm  
 includes Communion

19th May - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm  
 26th May - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm

Live streaming at morning services

**Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**



12—18 May  
 Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal

*Weekly*  
**SYNOD SPOTLIGHT**  
 Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

For Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter for 3 May 2024 please see link :  
[New Insights \(uca.org.au\)](http://New Insights (uca.org.au))

PENTECOST

**WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD**

PENTECOST

**WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD**

a daily Bible reading guide based on the Revised Common Lectionary

Volume 17,  
 Number 7  
 13 May  
 To  
 11 August 2024

is available in the church foyer.  
 Please place \$7 in offering bag to cover costs.

VOL. 17, NO. 7  
 13 MAY - 11 AUGUST 2024

**Congratulations to Nicole Vandenberg and Daniel Gibb on their marriage on Saturday 18 May 2024.**

**Happy Birthday to Betty Carmody who celebrated her 90th birthday last week.**



**Op Shop Support Needed**

People to help with:

- Sorting and Pricing 'trash and treasure' for the Garage Sales
- Washing pre-loved 'treasures'
- Sorting & Pricing second hand clothing
- Serving customers
- Creating shop displays

For more Information please contact the church office.



## INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

**YOU ARE INVITED TO A SIX WEEK COURSE**

ST MATTHEW'S UNITING CHURCH BAULKHAM HILLS  
Corner of Charles St & Edgar St, Baulkham Hills

**CONTACT:  
Katherine**

This course provides an opportunity for those interested in finding out about Christian Meditation to experience the practice in a small group, to learn about its origins and to discover its relevance as a form of prayer for the contemporary world.

### SUNDAY MORNINGS

11.00am-12 noon  
(Weekly for 6 weeks)  
From 7 April – 12 May

### TUESDAY MORNINGS

9.30am-10.30am  
(Weekly for 6 weeks)  
From 9 April – 14 May

**NEW GROUP  
MONDAY  
Evenings**

**7.30pm—8.30pm  
Starting 20th May**

**Tuesdays** at the Church 9.30am-10.30am

For more information or to express your  
interest in attending please contact

Katherine Pedersen for more information.

Facilitator [kathped56@gmail.com](mailto:kathped56@gmail.com)

**ALL WELCOME**



Australia's  
**Biggest  
Morning  
Tea**

 **Cancer Council**  
Australia's Biggest  
Morning Tea



**You can also  
make a  
donation by  
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Biggest Morning Tea**

**Please help us  
support people  
impacted by cancer!**

**Barry Gregory  
0425 815 340  
Dulcie Duncum  
0417 070 848**

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

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 31st 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.

# Community Presentation Uniting Church Wentworthville

## 23rd May 2024

Wentworthville Uniting Church are hosting (on behalf of Presbytery) a Face Dementia presentation led by Dr Meredith Gresham, a Research fellow in the school of Health and Society in the University of Wollongong.

### Worried about dementia and brain health?

- Learn about dementia and how to recognise the early signs and changes.
- Learn how to reduce your risk of dementia.
- Get tips to improve your brain health.
- This is your chance to have all your questions answered.

**TIME: 10:00am**

**VENUE: Uniting Church 115 Station Street, Wentworthville**

 Face Dementia



Free Community Presentation

#### **Meredith writes:**

"We are 7 Australian Universities working on the ['Face Dementia'](#) project, which aims to reduce stigma of dementia and communicate with the public to help them recognise the signs, ask a GP and get the right treatments and support. Currently it is estimated around 50% of all people with dementia never get a diagnosis. We are focusing on Western Sydney in this campaign where population statistics indicate there should be between 9-12,000 people with dementia, whereas only a little over 3,300 people have diagnosis are registered with their GP.

I am delighted that Dirk is keen to utilise our services to help your congregations better recognise people with dementia to get the right support. We are targeting older people (over 65) and adult children who may be concerned about a parent or older relative.

Our team are happy to provide talks (tailored to audience), run information tables at events, write article and blogs for newsletters, speak to welfare staff/lay staff or other ways to get positive messages out that there are benefits to diagnosis... not least getting help and support to live well. We can use our Dementia Australia Advocates to speak from lived experience of dementia as well".

***You are warmly invited to attend this event.***

**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 or find in recent posts.**