



Bible Readings



Acts 9: 1-20

Response after Bible Readings

Leader: *In this we hear the word of God*

Response: *Thanks be to God who speaks to us as spirit.*



EASTER 5

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
 8am and 9.30am only**

8am—Worship
 Led by Dean Drayton
 and Vanessa Williams-Henke

9.30am—Worship
 Led by Vanessa Williams-Henke
Followed by morning tea

KUCA Preschool,
 Years K-2 & Years 3-8
2-4pm—upstairs hall in use

6.45pm—Worship
 Led by Jon Humphries

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 19 MAY

9am—Sorting and Pricing for Op Shop & Garage Sale lower hall

7.30pm—Christian Meditation

TUESDAY 20 MAY

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation

community room and church

Lectionary bible study in recess for May

WEDNESDAY 21 MAY

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12pm—In Stitches

upstairs hall

10am-12noon—Men's Morning Tea
 McKels Café Bella Vista

7.30pm—Elders Meeting

upstairs hall

THURSDAY 22 MAY

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 23 MAY

No Scheduled Activities

SATURDAY 24 MAY

No Scheduled Activities

SUNDAY 25 MAY

8am—Worship

Followed by morning tea

9.30am—Worship

KUCA Preschool,
 Years K-2 & Years 3-8
 Followed by morning tea

2pm-4pm—Upstairs hall in use

5pm—Shine

6.45pm—Worship



EASTER 6

MINISTER

REV JON HUMPHRIES

Email: jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au
 jhumphries@nswact.uca.org.au

PASTORAL CARE WORKER

SARA WIENAND
 SUNDAY am , MONDAY, TUESDAY

CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARY

LYNN SAMUEL
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 8AM-2.30PM
 TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

OFFICE : 9686 3003
Email: office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

MIKE UNDERWOOD
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CHAIRPERSON OF ELDERS

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Something to think about

18 MAY

5th Sunday of Easter

Lectionary Readings:

Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

Hope in the Season of Easter

Last Sunday I woke having had a remarkable and vivid dream. I dreamt about a group of superheros. I can't remember each of their superpowers but there was about five or six of them. However, then I dreamt of group of super villains whose powers exceeded and eclipsed those of the superheroes. One villain was like a metal robot who could stretch and change their metallic shape so they could out pace any superhero and was invulnerable to any attacks.

The group of superheroes was understandably beginning to feel a sense of defeat. Nothing they could do could overcome the villains. Then a new superhero came into the scene. She sought to join the group. However, she seemed to have no powers that they

could discern. They began to reject her, suggesting that she had nothing to offer. Yet, she was persistent, noting that they had not been able to be successful in any way as it was.

As she spoke with the heroes, she described her power, and it turned out to be hope – unquenchable, indefatigable, and organisational hope. She was able to offer hope in the face of a seemingly hopeless situation, and it was not a naive or false hope, but a hope founded in an ability to organise the others to harness their gifts to join together in unity of purpose and as a team. Where they were not able to be triumphant through their own efforts, she was able to harness their gifts, strengths, talents and abilities in a coordinated way to take down and defeat each of the villains one by one.

This was quite a striking dream, and it was full of meaningful insight. Having just attended the arena spectacular performance of Les Misérables, a story which is full of hopelessness with only a spark of hope, maybe this dream was my brain processing that experience. Whether or not that was the case, the dream had a feeling of truth and reality. It spoke of the power of hope in the face of seeming hopelessness. This spoke to me of Easter and the work of God to keep the Kingdom of Heaven at hand.

Whether it was the disciples in the time after the death and resurrection of Christ, the Church through the ages, or is as the Church today, we seem to always be facing the reality that no matter how hard God seems to be working and no matter what efforts we add to that, the Kingdom of Heaven seems to be constantly and consistently thwarted or eroded by the actions of humankind. This could be a source of depressing hopelessness in the face of seeming futility. Yet, the purpose, patience and persistence of God is not thwarted and cannot be stopped by our actions as people. The Kingdom is at hand, has been since the time of Jesus and will come on Earth as it is in Heaven. There is no futility in any efforts we make, because it is all about relationship and the affirmation that we are all special and our purpose is to love and care for all. Each act of love, each expression of love, each sharing of love is a special embodiment and bring of the Kingdom for those involved. The Kingdom comes in each moment of kindness and act of loving sacrifice. Each instance is full of meaning and purpose and a continuance of the hope of God and the reality of God's working for good in all things.

As a Church as we continue to consider our missional identity and what God might be calling us to in missional ministry next, it is good to remember to hope.

Hope is part of that trio of power spoken about by Paul in 1 Corinthians 13: 13: Faith, hope and love. Of course, the greatest of these is love, but faith leads to hope and hope and faith are founded on love because God is love. So, how will we harness our gifts and talents, strengths and abilities, which we each individually have in order to find new ways of missional ministry to bring hope into the world and make a difference to those whom we can? This is something very much to think about.

*God bless
Jon*

PEOPLE NEWS

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



Shirley Rodgers

Jane Jenkyn

Trevor Leslie

Christopher Gibb

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

Thank you

I would like to thank my church family for your expressions of loving sympathy and assurance of your prayers following the passing of our dear Bruce on the 1st May. We know he is now with the Lord he loved and sought to serve and look forward to meeting again in God's good time

Bev Chivers and family

SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

For (9 May 2025) please see link to Synod weekly:

[Synod Weekly](#)

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

18 —24 May

Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal

Combined MORNING TEA

9AM

15
JUNE
2025



BETWEEN THE MORNING
SERVICES



HELP WANTED



CAN YOU DRIVE SOMEONE
TO CHURCH - WEEKLY,
FORTNIGHTLY, MONTHLY?

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR
8 AND 9:30 SERVICES

PLEASE CONTACT SARA

St Matthew's

HAPPY HOUR!

At The Winston

170 Caroline Chisholm Drive, Winston Hills

13
JUNE

5 PM
FRIDAY



COME AND SHARE IN SOME HAPPY
CONVERSATION, A DRINK AND SOME FOOD
WITH FRIENDS FROM ST MATTHEW'S.

RSVP to Belinda or just come along
belinda.schuster0709@gmail.com



We have several 9:30am morning tea helpers away in the winter months and we would love to have some new volunteers to come along and join the team.

If you can help, please contact Amanda Manson

or

let Lynn in the office know and she can put you on the roster.



Thank you to all who have contributed to this publication.



Dungeon clean up by the Garage sale crew. Thank you to our wonderful helpers who had the mammoth task of putting everything on the kerbside.

Thank you to all our volunteers involved in Garage sale setup, pricing and heavy lifting, all your help is very much appreciated.

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 or find in recent posts.



Youth @ St Matts Term 2, 2025

5-7PM FORTNIGHTLY ON FRIDAYS
Year 3-9 \$10 (includes supper)

WEEK 1
2 May
Movie Night

WEEK 7
13 June
Spy Night

WEEK 3
16 May
**Dude Perfect
Night**

WEEK 9
27 June
**ADVENTURE
NIGHT**

WEEK 5
30 May
Music Night

**Rockclimbing @
The Edge**

For more information contact Jon Humphries
jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au 9686 3003



Parramatta Nepean Presbytery
The Uniting Church in Australia NSW & ACT Synod

Join us at our next Presbytery Meeting

Online via Zoom

Wednesday 21st, May 2025 | 7:30pm
Parramatta Centenary Uniting Church
46 Sorrell St, North Parramatta

For further information, please contact
the Presbytery office: (02) 9683 5023

Generous | Vibrant | Diverse



 **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 30th 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.

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



**We're hosting a
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>

Wednesday afternoon ONLINE Meditation Group

An Online meditation group catering for teachers, parents, carers.
Others are welcome to join.
Time: 4.25pm to 5pm

If you require a chat or introductory session. This is available from 4pm. Please contact
Penny on 0409 309 344

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85087024028?pwd=SUNFTjk5QIRLS21sQ3l5cGw4VXdl1dz09>

Meeting ID: 850 8702 4028
Passcode: 042924

Christian Meditation Monday night @ 7.30pm and Tuesday morning @ 9am

During May at all Christian Meditation sessions at St. Matthew's there will be a 15 minute session of teachings preceding the time of Meditation named;

Christian Life in the Light of Christian Meditation *1: Discipleship By Laurence Freeman OSB*

Fr Laurence defines discipleship as being on the way to becoming one with Christ, and presents meditation as a way to discipleship. In the practice of Christian meditation we take our attention off ourselves and turn wholeheartedly to Christ dwelling in our hearts—we leave self behind. This shift from habitual self-fixation allows us to experience Jesus' gaze turned towards us. In the mutual recognition, a personal relationship develops that transforms us gradually to be more Christ-like.



From the book Silence & Stillness in Every Season Daily readings with John Main

The fullness of the life that Christ offers each of us is eternal life — life without limit. The mystery is that fullness of life is offered to us now. All of us have to learn as we live our lives that there must be a constant development. The invitation we have is to grow, to develop, to mature. One of the elements of that maturity is our growing capacity to enter the present moment more and more fully,, more and more perfectly, more and more generously. That is why it is so important that we continue to meditate every day, faithfully, every morning and every evening.

Each time we meditate and each time we say our mantra we are entering into that process of development, deepening our capacity to be wholly in the now. The invitation that we have is to build our lives on the eternal rock that is Christ. It is so easy for us for our lives to pass before our eyes in some sort of haphazard kaleidoscope. It is so easy for us to live our lives being tossed around by waves or mere fortune, never knowing where we will be landing up next or how long we will be there.

The challenge for all of us is to find the rock who is Christ, to find him in our hearts and then to respond to our lives, rooted in the knowledge that is love.

Door to Silence