



Bible Readings

John 14:1-14



Response after Bible Readings

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

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



twitch.tv

Livestreaming at

**8am, 9.30am and
9am in January each
year**

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

8am—Worship

Includes communion
Led by Jon Humphries

9.30am—Worship

Includes communion
Led Jon Humphries
Followed by morning tea

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

6.45pm—Worship

Includes communion
Led by Jon Humphries

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 4 MAY

**Garage Sale sorting & pricing
7.30pm—Christian Meditation**

TUESDAY 5 MAY

**9am-2pm—Op Shop
9.30am-11am—Christian
Meditation**
community room and church

11.30am—Care & Prayer
Community room & church

WEDNESDAY 6 MAY

**9am-2pm—Op Shop
10am-12pm—In Stitches**
Upstairs hall
7.30pm—Finance meeting
Lower hall

THURSDAY 7 MAY

**9am-2pm—Op Shop
10-12pm—Coffee & Discovery**

FRIDAY 8 MAY

No Scheduled Activities

SATURDAY 9 MAY

No Scheduled Activities

**SUNDAY
10 MAY**

8am—Worship

**9am—Worship @ the
Willow's**

9.30am—Worship
KUCA —Preschool,
Years K-2 & Years 3-8
followed by Morning Tea

6.45pm—Worship
Community meal



MINISTER

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

PASTORAL CARE WORKER

SARA WIENAND
SUNDAY am , MONDAY, TUESDAY
Email: saraw@nswact.uca.org.au

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LYNN SAMUEL : lynns@nswact.uca.org.au
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Something to think about

3 May

Easter 5

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

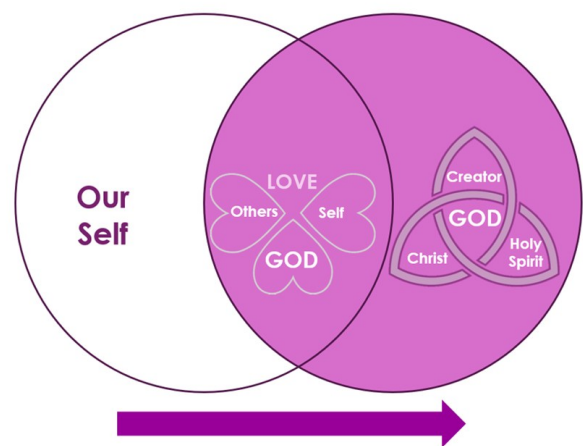
The Discipline of Disciplines

Discipleship is not just about following Jesus or learning about his teachings. It is not just about prayer, reading the Bible or going to Church. It includes all these things and more but is essentially about *living* the way of Jesus. Discipleship is about being apprenticed to Jesus so that we might be more like him and thus, more like God and God's love who he is the embodiment of. He is the way, the truth and the life, because he was and is God-incarnate, and God is love [1 John 4: 16].

The Koine [Biblical] Greek word for disciple is μαθητής [mathetes] and means a disciple, student, or pupil, commonly used to describe a dedicated learner who follows a teacher who they are apprenticed to. In the New Testament, it refers specifically to a committed follower of Jesus. The word implies a relational and transformational learning process rather than just academic study. To be a disciple is to be a dedicated follower, learner, and apprentice of a teacher. To be a disciple of Jesus is to be one who follows Jesus Christ. It involves more than mental belief. It is a total, daily commitment to imitate Jesus's life, obey his teachings, and conform one's character to his.

Our goal or aim as disciples is to be holy as God is holy. It is to be one with God in all that we do, for as Paul writes in Galatians 2: 20, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Our aim is at-one-ment with God, for God is love and those who live in love, live in God and God lives in them. [1 John 14:16] Or, as Jesus instructed, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me." [John 15: 1-4]

When Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No-one gets to the Father but by me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." [John 14:6-7] because as Jesus also states, in John 10:10, "I and the Father are one." Thus, as disciples we are seeking to move from a self-centred existence and way of being into a God-centred existence and way of being. The figure/diagram attempts to demonstrate this.



The Discipline of Disciplines-*cont'd*

To be a disciple and to become more like Christ, who was God, is to make an effort and work to allow God to work in us. However, it is not just up to God, because we have the power of free will and choice. We have to choose to be more like Jesus and make to effort to live this out in our life and behaviour. Therefore, being a disciple requires discipline.

Discipline is the ability to control impulses, behaviours, and emotions to achieve long-term goals or adhere to a set of rules. It involves self-regulation, consistency, and often training or teaching oneself to prioritize and engage in necessary tasks over immediate desires. Our discipline, as a broad description of all these tasks and behaviours that we choose to take up and live out act as a framework for structured, productive living. All this has to do with choice and effort of will to live out and enact what we seek to be and become.

The word discipline originates from the Latin *discipulus* (pupil/learner) and *discere* (to learn), appearing in English around the 13th century to mean instruction, teaching, or training. It evolved from "learning" to "systematic training" and later to "orderly conduct." Being disciplined and learning to be disciplined means also that we might have to be rewarded or punished as part of that learning. This is how discipline has also become associated with meanings of control and punishment. In this way we sometimes speak of being disciplined or disciplining others as the way we apply consequences, often negative in the form or punishment in order to dissuade poor choices or the failure to maintain discipline. This is what Jesus talks about in referring to "pruning" [John 15: 2] in his metaphor of being the vine so that we will be "even more fruitful."

As mentioned above, discipline requires us to training or teaching oneself to prioritise necessary tasks. It involves actions and practices, as well as mindsets and values, stemming from our beliefs and commitments. These actions and tasks are disciplines which we take on as part of being disciplined as a disciple. In order to be disciples of Jesus we need to be disciplined in our behaviour and actions, our habits and practices, and our efforts in learning and growing in faith and spirituality.

Thus, we need such things as prayer, meditation, reading the Bible, contemplation, theological reflection, participating in the community and other such things as fasting and sacrifice. These are disciplines which help us be disciplined, which in turn helps us be better disciples and to better live discipline of the way of Jesus, being the way of the Cross, which is God's way of love and sacrifice. So, how we shape the discipline of taking up disciplines in order to better be a disciple is something to very much think about.

God bless.

Jon

PEOPLE NEWS

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



Melissa Gibson Darling

Betty Carmody

Alarice Rust

Barbara McIntosh

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

3—9 May

Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Krygystan, Mongolia, Tajik-istan, Turkmen-istan, Uzbekistan

Weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

For (24 April 2025) please see link to Synod weekly:

[Synod Weekly Spotlight 2026 - 24 April](#)

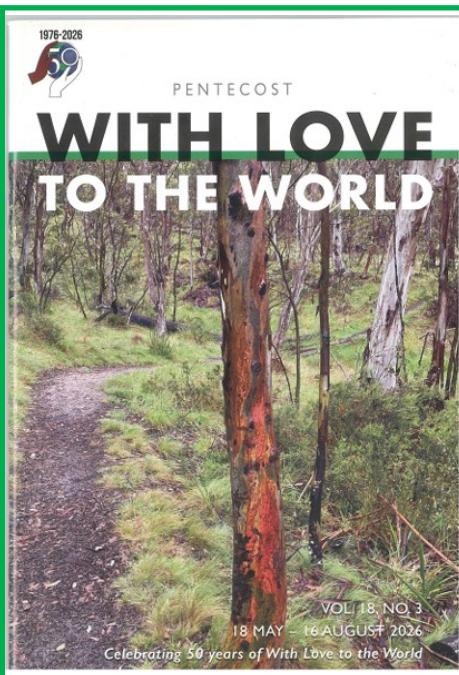
Volunteer Form for

Assisting with Morning Services for June, July, August 2026
Is now due

Please send in your forms ASAP, or send me an email, even if you are unable to help. Also if you haven't helped before and would like to, please fill in a form or send me an email. All help is greatly appreciated.

Many thanks

Lynn



PENTECOST

WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD

a daily Bible reading guide based on the Revised Common Lectionary

**Volume 18,
Number 3
18 May
To
16 August 2026**

is available in the church foyer.

Please place \$7 in offering bag to cover costs.

Could you serve morning tea?

1. Bring 1L of milk
2. Arrive 15 minutes early to set up cups
3. Serve tea and coffee after the service
4. Wash the cups (dishwasher lessons provided!)



Please contact Lynn, Amanda or Sara if you can help!

Parramatta Mission

We are collecting knitted and crocheted beanies and scarves, as well as soap, for the people who visit Parramatta Mission for meals and support.

The collection point at St Matthew's is the marked box at the top of the stairs

Please contact Christine Haines for more information.



For the second year running Hugh Darling will be participating in the Police Legacy fundraising ride from Sydney to Canberra from the 29th May to 31st May 2026, some 300 kms over the 3 days. Police Legacy is there to support families and loved ones of fallen Police Officers here in NSW, and having 2 sons serving in the NSW Police this is a cause close to his heart and that of his family. At least one of our members is also currently in the NSW Police Force.

Hugh's fundraising goal is \$1,000.00.

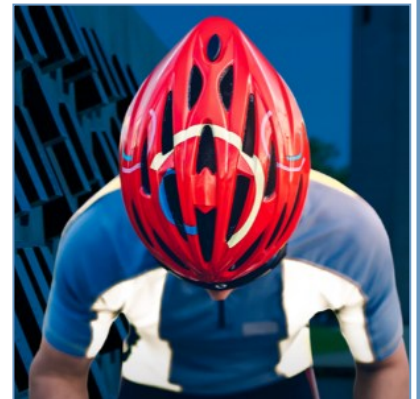
Detailed below is the link to his fundraising page and any donation amount would be greatly appreciated.

<https://www.policelegacynsw.org.au/my-fundraising/1044/hugh-darling>



NSW POLICE LEGACY

Caring for the
Police Family





Thursday 7th May
10am-12pm

Guest Speaker: Thomas Smith

“HOW WE DO RESEARCH INTO CHILDREN’S CREATIVITY”



Thomas will look at alternative research results into children’s creativity. This will help parents and caregivers to use workable processes to help primary-aged students with their creative writing. We will also look at ways to help Year 7 and Year 8 students to think morally about how groups misuse scientific processes in the community.

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



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

being held at the home of
Dulcie & Peter Duncum
Friday 29th May.

Everyone is welcome,
so please come and join with us
from 10am

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.



Please see the link below should you wish to make a donation to Dulcie Duncum’s Biggest Morning tea.

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/s/4825/159157/e>

Please see QR Codes for links for YouTube,
Facebook & Twitch



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.

St Matthew's Social Action Missional Ministry Team

How doing little things makes a big difference.

Topic: Our Pacific Neighbours – Papua New Guinea

When we think of our Pacific neighbours, we might think of the Pacific islands, like Fiji and Tahiti, but not necessarily our nearest neighbour, Papua New Guinea. Last year was the 50th anniversary of their independence from Australian administration. This year's Pacific Day of Prayer, on 1st May 2026, focuses on Papua New Guinea. The theme is 'The Mystery of Communion for National Peace, Healing and Restoration'. The information from this article is from Papua New Guinea Council of Churches Liturgy Team. <https://www.ncca.org.au/pacific-day-of-prayer-2026/>

Papua New Guinea (PNG) remains the most diverse country in the world with a little over 800 languages, more than 1000 cultures and a total population of over 10 million people. Such diversity can affect the unity and progress of the nation moving forward.

The 2025 PNG 50th Golden Jubilee of Independence celebrations were held amid all the trials, tribulations and challenges PNG had been experiencing as a developing nation. The need for unity in diversity became obvious from the start of the PNG year of Jubilee, which started on September 16th 2025. This focused the theme of the celebration on "RESET", thinking of the heritage of PNG history to inspire the future of this diverse nation.

During the Jubilee Year, the Papua New Guinea Council of Churches invites our Pacific Christian sisters and brothers to take a humble forward-looking step with us towards unity, healing and restoration for our nation.

We have in our families, communities and country, the problems of escalating law and order issues, behavioural disobedience, lack of respect, tribal conflicts, violence and corruption. These things happen because of the shift between the values that once guided the peoples of PNG and the new influences that shape and control our communities today. The biggest thing that happens in developing nations in transition is loss of identity. The bigger picture is unemployment, masculinity without responsibility and a brain drain, when educated stabilizers in a community like teachers, business minded people, ethical leaders and professionals are absent, and the stabilizing layer of society thins.

Please pray for the people of Papua New Guinea for

God's guidance and wisdom for the government and people of Papua New Guinea.

Protection and peace for vulnerable populations, including refugees and victims of human trafficking.

Blessings for the PNG economy, agriculture, and business opportunities.

Unity and strength among citizens, especially during challenging times.

To ask about joining the Social Action Ministry Team at St Matthew's
email Alexander on alexander.lawless7@gmail.com

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 16th June 2026 at 7pm in the Lower Church Hall