



st. matthew's  
**UNITING CHURCH**  
**BAULKHAM HILLS**   
 growing together

## Weekly Newsletter

24 May 2026

*Pentecost Sunday*

### Bible Readings

Acts 2: 1-12  
 John 14: 15-21  
 John 20: 19-23



#### Response after Bible Readings

**Leader:** *In this we hear the word of God*  
**Response:** *Thanks be to God who speaks to us as spirit.*

#### 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**



twitch.tv

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

#### 8am—Worship

Led by Jon Humphries

#### 9am—Combined Morning tea

#### 9.30am—Worship

Led Jon Humphries



*Includes the Baptism of Riley Pickering, we welcome the family and friends of Riley to worship today.*

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

#### 5pm—Shine-offsite

#### 6.45pm—Worship

Led Jon Humphries

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

#### MONDAY 25 MAY

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

#### TUESDAY 26 MAY

**8am—Preschool using hall**  
**9am-2pm—Op Shop**  
**9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation**  
 community room and church

#### WEDNESDAY 27 MAY

**8am—Preschool using hall**  
**am-2pm—Op Shop**  
**7.30pm—Church Council meeting**

#### THURSDAY 28 MAY

**8am—Preschool using hall**  
**9am-2pm—Op Shop**  
**7.30pm—Netball meeting**  
 Upstairs hall

#### FRIDAY 29 MAY

**5.30-7.30pm—Fusion Youth Group**  
**"Laser Tag"**

#### SATURDAY 30 MAY

**No Scheduled Activities**

### SUNDAY 31 MAY

**8am—Worship**  
 Followed by morning tea

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

**6.45pm—Worship**



TRINITY SUNDAY

#### 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

#### CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARY

LYNN SAMUEL : lynns@nswact.uca.org.au  
**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS** 8AM-2.30PM  
 TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY  
**OFFICE :** 9686 3003  
 Email: office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

#### CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

MIKE UNDERWOOD  
 Email: mikeu@nswact.uca.org.au

#### CHAIRPERSON OF ELDERS

HELEN OLLEY  
 Email: helen.olley@optusnet.com.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

#### PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA  
 PO BOX 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

**EMAIL:** director@stmatthewsps.net.au

# Something to think about 24 May

## *Pentecost Sunday*

### **Revised Common Lectionary Readings:**

Acts 2:1-21

John 20:19-23

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

(and we are revisiting John 14:15-21 again)

## God is the Holy Spirit

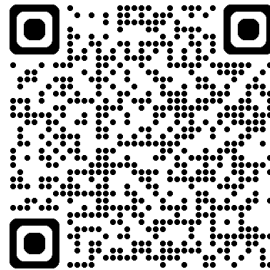
Pentecost is the celebration of the Church waking up to the presence of God in realisation that God is present as Holy Spirit. There is a complexity to this doctrine which is rooted in the complexity of the experience of the Disciples/Apostles, the early Church, the Church throughout the ages and we as the Church today. The Revised Common Lectionary makes sure that we are aware of this complexity by setting the story of Jesus breathing the Holy Spirit on the disciples after the resurrection in John 20:19-23 and then the story of the often more remembered and celebrated story in Acts 2:1-21 of the Holy Spirit coming on the disciples after Jesus' ascension. This was accompanied with the sound of a rushing wind and with tongues of fire hovering over each person.

Further to the complexity is our language about the Holy Spirit, which arises from how the Holy Spirit is described in Scripture. Even here I refer to 'the' Holy Spirit. Using 'the' implies that it is an it, not a who. It implies that the Holy Spirit is a separate aspect to the work of God. Language like the Spirit of God reinforces the notion that the Holy Spirit is an aspect of God, being God's spirit rather than God as Godself.

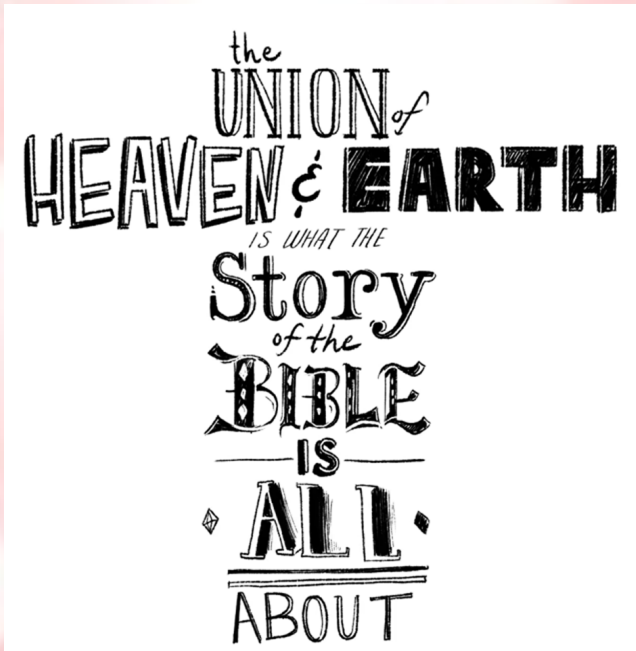
God is the Holy Spirit. It is God who is Holy Spirit who is with us and at work within us. [John 14:17 & Romans 8:11] God is spirit. [John 4:24.] Jesus is God, and the Holy Spirit is Christ's spirit. Jesus, who is in the Father [John 14:20] and the Father in him, [John 14:11] because he and the Father are one [John 10:30] makes it clear that the Holy Spirit, is sent and comes in Christ's name. [John 14: 25] Yet, even if this is so, what does it mean?

Dean Drayton speaks about his epiphany arising from the part of the story of Jesus' baptism where the heavens are "torn open" [Mark 1:10]. The Holy Spirit then descends on Jesus like a dove. Here God as Spirit is the Lord the Giver of Life [John 6:63] and the helper [John 14:26] and guide and help is this life of living into God's mission of uniting heaven and earth. Jesus on being baptised is then empowered in his formal ministry to proclaim that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand [Matthew 3:2, Matthew 4:17, & Mark 1:15] because the Kingdom of God is within us [Luke 17:21]. The Spirit, who is God is present with us, just as God was present with Jesus, because Jesus was God.

God is present and the heavens were torn open and remain open because God is present now. Note that it wasn't 'Heaven' that was torn open, but "the heavens," which is the space or veil between us on Earth and God in Heaven. The Spirit is the evidence that the tearing of the veil or curtain is real and persistent. This reality is confirmed in the tearing of the Temple curtain at Jesus' death, the tearing of the veil between life and death in Christ's resurrection and with us now being the Body of Christ and the people of the Kingdom. [Revelation 1:6 & 1 Peter 2:9] As the Bible Project state in their video about Heaven and Earth, "The union of Heaven and Earth is what the Bible is all about."



Watch: [https://youtu.be/Zy2AQIK6C5k?si=Jh\\_MLk2KMwkxgMLz](https://youtu.be/Zy2AQIK6C5k?si=Jh_MLk2KMwkxgMLz)



The realisation that God is present with us is powerful and empowering. It is not just the Spirit of God, as in the 'Holy Ghost' – a phantom presence of God, nor is it just 'God's spirit' – like some ephemeral or ethereal manifestation, but God being present in us. We are temples of God [1 Corinthians 3:16-17] because our bodies are temples of God as Holy Spirit [1 Corinthians 6:19-20]. Eternal life is now and present because God is now and present and God's Kingdom, the Kingdom of Heaven is now and present.

So, like Jesus in his baptism, we affirm that we as people with God as Spirit at work in us, that this calls us to the proclamation of that reality of the Kingdom of God being at hand. In this we affirm the complexity that we are partly in our Earthly existence and existing in the reality of the

Kingdom of Heaven. As members of the Uniting Church, as per our Basis of Union, Paragraph 13, we see that we are called to God's mission for through God as Spirit we each have gifts and each gift comes with a call to a corresponding service and ministry. These might be spiritual gifts which Paul writes about in 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, and Ephesians 4 which are for the 'common good' or might be gifts of opportunity in being able to live the love of God to others, such as exemplified in Jesus healing the man born blind [John 9:1-12] or the loving neighbour who was a Samaritan in the well-known parable [Luke 10:25-37]. It is through our life and witness that we join with God in keeping the heavens torn open and the bringing the Kingdom of God/Heaven further into being.

The celebration of Pentecost, and the season of After Pentecost reminds us to live out our faith and discipleship. It calls us to worship, witness and service as we live the reality of our spirituality which is centred in the presence of God with us as Holy Spirit. There is a lot to think about with the coming of Pentecost.

*God bless. Jon*

PEOPLE NEWS

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**



Christopher Gibb

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

## Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

24—30 May

*Indian Ocean Islands: Comoros, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles*



## NEW Worship Rosters

for June, July, August 2026  
*HAVE BEEN EMAILED*

If you don't have email or would like a hard copy please take one from the display in the Church foyer.

**NEW ROSTER  
HELPERS WELCOME**



## weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

**For (15 May 2025) please see link to Synod weekly:**

[Synod Weekly Spotlight 2026 - 15 May |](#)

# St Matthew's HAPPY HOUR!

At The Winston

170 Caroline Chisholm Drive, Winston Hills

**29  
MAY**

**5:30 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](mailto:belinda.schuster0709@gmail.com)



# Combined MORNING TEA

**9AM**



**NEXT  
WEEK!!**



PLEASE TELL SARA IF YOU CAN BRING SOMETHING TO SHARE



**Thursday 4 June 2026**

**10am—12noon**

**Guest speaker: Alan Wright**



*I didn't know that about  
and other stuff  
but now I know a little more*

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

\*\*\*\*\* ALL WELCOME \*\*\*\*\*

This is our latest donation for Parramatta Mission; seventy-two beanies, fifteen scarves and ten pairs of gloves plus some cakes of soap.  
Thanks everyone for your generous donations. They are very much appreciated.



**St. Matthew's are still collecting your stamps. Please place them in the box marked used stamps in the Church Foyer.  
Thank you**

**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.



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



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!



Unique ID: 48251792

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.

**Barry Gregory**

**0425 815 340**

**Dulcie Duncum**

**0417 070 848**

<https://www.biggestmorningtea.com.au/s/4825/159157/e>

# CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026

An opportunity to remember, honour and commemorate  
those who have been victims of abuse



Drop in open from 5.00 p.m.to 8.00 p.m.  
Wesley Uniting Church, 32 Showground Rd Castle Hill  
Tea, coffee and candles available free



Ness Williams-Henke and Jon are back with their all-age / intergen podcast, 'On the Way with Ness and Jon.' It has a new look to make it more appealing to all ages. This has taken some time to get set up. The latest season is ready for Pentecost and After Pentecost, looking at the Fruit of the Spirit.

Watch on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/@OnTheWaywithNessandJon>

or listen wherever you listen to podcasts

**LET'S CHAT ABOUT  
LIFE AND FAITH**



## On The Way with Ness and Jon

@OnTheWaywithNessandJon • 7 subscribers • 10 videos

On The Way is all about having great conversations about life and faith. Jon and ...more

 Subscribed 



Why Is Love A Fruit Of The Spirit?



What Is The Fruit Of The Spirit?

## *St Matthew's Social Action Missional Ministry Team*

How doing little things makes a big difference.

Topic: Sharing God's Love through faith in action Matthew 25:35

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink..." The Christmas Bowl is an Australian Christian appeal that supports people in need around the world. It began in 1949 when Rev. Frank Byatt of Victoria placed a "Bowl of Remembrance" on his Christmas table and invited his family to donate the cost of their meal to help refugees in war-torn Europe. From that simple act grew a nationwide Christmas tradition. Today, through Act for Peace, the Christmas Bowl invites Australians to stand with people facing poverty, displacement, and hardship. The Christmas Bowl is a practical expression of God's love. It calls us to stand with vulnerable people and to put our faith into action, especially at Christmas. At its heart is the belief that every person deserves safety, hope, and dignity. Millions of people are displaced by conflict, environmental pressure, poor governance, social breakdown, and disasters. Through the Christmas Bowl, Australians can turn the joy of Christmas into practical help and renewed hope, especially for refugees and vulnerable communities. Each gift creates a ripple effect—supporting livelihoods, generating income, helping children attend school, and reducing the pressures that deepen poverty and conflict. By investing in long-term programs, the Christmas Bowl helps communities rebuild with strength and hope. This support creates lasting change through the participation by local partners who know their communities very well. It strengthens resilience and provides practical help such as food, clean water, education, and emergency relief. Christmas reminds us of God's gift of love in Jesus Christ and calls us to share that love with those in need. In 2025, the appeal raised more than 1.7 million, and St Matthew's contributed \$3000. The Christmas Bowl reminds us that we belong to a global family, called to love, serve, and seek justice. May this tradition continue for many years to come. Blessings, Dr Sandra Morell Social Action Missional Ministry Team (SAMT)

*Blessings,*

*Dr Sandra Morell*

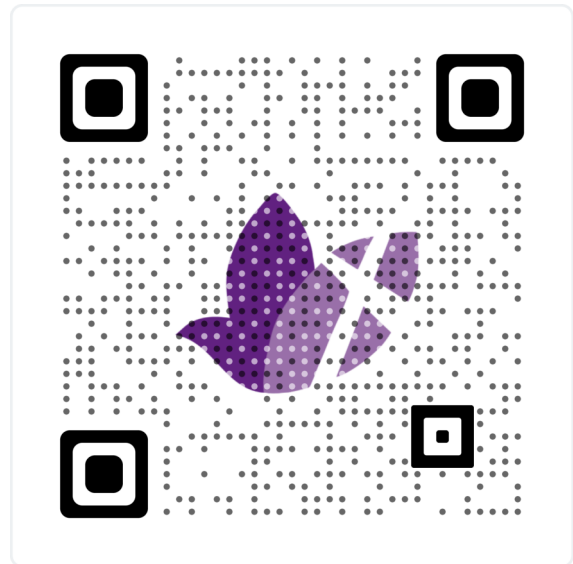
*Social Action Missional Ministry Team (SAMT)*

To ask about joining the Social Action Group at St Matthew's  
email Alexander on

[alexander.lawless7@gmail.com](mailto:alexander.lawless7@gmail.com)

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

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](http://www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au)**

**Click on the metal dove image / publications or find in recent posts.**