



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together



Weekly Newsletter

26 July 2026

Pentecost 9

Bible Readings

Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52



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 Sara Wienand
and Jon Humphries
Followed by morning tea

9.30am—Worship

Led by Sara Wienand
and Jon Humphries
Followed by morning tea

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

5pm—Shine
Set up from 4pm

6.45pm—Worship

Led by Jon Humphries

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 27 JULY

9am—garage sale sorting &
pricing
lower hall

7.30pm—Christian Meditation

TUESDAY 28 JULY

9am-2pm—Op Shop

9.30am-11am—Christian
Meditation

community room and church

7.30pm—Property committee
meeting

WEDNESDAY 29 JULY

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12pm—In Stitches
Upstairs hall

THURSDAY 30 JULY

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 31 JULY

No Scheduled Activities

SATURDAY 1 AUGUST

9am-12pm—Op Shop
9am-12pm—Garage Sale
lower hall

SUNDAY 2 AUGUST

8am—Worship
Includes communion

9.30am—Worship
Includes communion
Followed by morning tea

KUCA—Preschool
Years K-2 & Years 3-8

6.45pm—Worship
Includes communion



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

26 July

Pentecost 9

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Genesis 29:15-28

Psalms 105:1-11, 45b

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Can we lose our salvation?

I was asked last week, "Can we lose our salvation?" What an interesting question. For me there is a lot to unpack and unfold in this. Last Sunday in our service I explored the Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds in Matthew 13. This seems to link a little with the question of salvation because it is one of the many examples of Jesus talking about fire and gnashing of teeth. The message is that there are consequences, and especially for the people who claim to be God's people yet are not fruitful for the Kingdom of Heaven, but if we live in love with God then we have no fear of condemnation. [Romans 8:1]

Personally, I don't think we ever lose salvation. God loves us. Grace is for everyone. God wills that all people can be saved. (John 3: 16-17; 1 Timothy 2:4) There is nothing that can separate us from the love of God. (Romans 8:31-39). However, though, we can squander our salvation. Like Samson, the prodigal son, the servant in the Parable of the Talents, the unwise servant etc we can choose to

walk away from God or seek to cheat God. God doesn't take away our salvation but we can walk away from it and effectively reject it through a sense of conceited entitlement.

We can't earn grace or salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9). Yet, faith without works is dead. (James 2:26) Our salvation should work itself out in us and our living. Jesus talks about being the vine and when we abide in him, we bear good fruit but when we don't bear fruit there is a risk we get cut off and thrown away to be burnt. (John 15:4-11. Again, this is not a threat of punishment and God withdrawing salvation. We don't need to be afraid, for God is love and perfect love drives out all fear (1 John 4:18) Yet, the message is clear that when we claim a love of God and salvation but fail to live in the way of God then that is where God cuts in and makes it clear that we've walked away and that our privileges may be revoked.

In this grace we have from God, I think God waits for us to return and may even pursue us. However, at the same time we can't take our relationship with God for granted. The Parable of the Sheep and Goats [Matthew 25: 31-46] is about not showing love to people in need when you have the means earns the response "Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels." This is not just about moral action but about claiming a relationship with God but not living or loving like we do love God. We may say "Lord, Lord" but Jesus might say he doesn't know us [Matthew : 21-23] if we have not really accepted him or his love.

1 John 3:4-10, 17 sort of makes this idea clear when it says, "Those who have been born of God do not sin, because God's seed abides in them; they cannot sin, because they have been born of God. The children of God and the children of the devil are revealed in this way: all who do not do what is right are not from God, nor are those who do not love their brothers and sisters. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?" (1 John 3: 4-11 & 17) It is not about obeying out of a sense of moral duty, fear, guilt or obligation. It is about us expressing and loving God.

Again, it is tempting to try to take a simple explanation about who's in and who's not from such a passage, because in a literal way that is what it seems to be saying. To do so is to miss the surrounding passages and understand that the writer is trying to explain a very complex concept in a way which might make sense. We are children of God. We shouldn't sin, but we do. We are coheirs with Christ, but like the prodigal son we can squander our inheritance. God loves us all the same. If we genuinely love God, then there is nothing to fear – except apathy, complacency and taking God for granted

The reality is that, like the parable of the wheat and weeds there is in us is both wheat and weeds. In humility of faith we therefore rely on the mercy and grace of God. As Paul writes in Romans 7: 19-20, "For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it." So, like the parable of the feast, (Luke 14: 8-11) we should humble ourselves and let God lift us up. (James 4:10)

So, I don't think we can lose our salvation, but we can take it for granted or walk away from it, and as a consequence we forfeit it until we come to repentance and turn back to abiding and walking in the

way of Christ. I think it gets down to our sense of entitlement. We are not entitled to salvation. It is offered in love and grace. If we in arrogance claim to know where we are going then there is a good chance we will not end up as we expect.

Just believing in Jesus as our personal lord and Saviour does not entitle us to salvation. Making a commitment once does not get us into heaven. That would be a transaction. We all sin and keep on sinning, but God loves us. When we commit ourselves in genuine and true love and gratitude to God which comes from our heart not just from our minds in a belief that we love God, then we will naturally seek to live well and love well. We know we don't deserve God's love, but we accept it. Sin is literally falling short of the mark. That's the Biblical word study. However, I think it goes deeper than that. 1 John 3 and 4 with the parts about God and love are worth looking up. I think sin is a failure to love. When we don't love other people, we are not loving God, but more importantly it demonstrates that we are out of love of God. That's not that we are out of God's love, but that we are not in love with God.

When we know God and God's love then we will seek to embrace and share that love and live that love, being like God who is love and who loves us. God calls us to love others. This is not just out of duty but out of love. That's why when Jesus talks about the greatest commandment being to love God with our whole being and to love our neighbour as ourselves, the word or phrase often translated as like actually means the same. Also, in terms of a commandment it is more an invitation into love and a teaching about this reality than an instruction.

How we go about appreciating and being in awe of God and God's love, and therefore how we naturally tune ourselves into being in love with God is something to think about.

*God bless.
Jon*

PEOPLE NEWS

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Alexander Lawless

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

26 July—1 August

*Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo
Rwanda*

Weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

For (17 July 2026) please see link to Synod weekly:

[Weekly Synod Spotlight](#)

**Please
return
completed
forms by
26th July**

Volunteer Form
Assisting with Morning Services
for
**September, October,
November 2026**



Have been emailed or collect a copy from the foyer.

NEW HELPERS WELCOME

UNITING CHURCH



Please return forms to the blue mail tray or church office.

HELP WANTED



**CAN YOU DRIVE A COUPLE
TO CHURCH FROM NEAR
JASPER RD?**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR
9:30 SERVICE**

PLEASE CONTACT SARA

Smart debit regular giving

**Do your own direct debit direct to
St Matthew's**

1. Login to your online banking
2. Create a schedule to 'Pay Anyone' from your acct
3. Create St Matthew's as a payee

BSB 634-634
Acc 1000 25924

4. Use reference :
Offering 8.00 or 9.30 or 6.45
5. Set the amount and frequency as you wish – weekly/monthly
6. Done!

- ✓ Similar to Pushpay but uses your savings accounts not credit card
- ✓ More flexible than a direct debit form lodged at a branch
- ✓ Start/vary/stop as you choose
- ✓ No fees
- ✓ Regular recurring gifts allows St Matthew's to budget more accurately

**Thankyou to all St Matthew's regular
givers whatever method – cash,
envelopes, direct debit and Pushpay!**

St Matthew's

**HAPPY
HOUR!**

At Baulkham Hills

Sports Club

11 Renown Rd, Baulkham Hills

21 | 5:30 PM
AUGUST | 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





Thursday 6th August
10am-12pm



Guest Artists: "LINNET SINGERS"



The choir will present a program of music featuring fun pieces, songs from musicals, classical and modern favourites as well as a couple of community songs.

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

WESLEY CASTLE HILL

TRIVIA NIGHT

Saturday, August 8, 5pm

32 Showground Rd, Castle Hill

Adults \$15, Families \$40



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.

Parramatta Mission 'One Heart for the West'

National Homelessness Week 3rd-9th August

This National Homelessness Week, Parramatta Mission is standing with Western Sydney in response to the growing need for support among people facing homelessness and hardship. We are bringing together our community under one shared call to action.

Every contribution, no matter how small, helps us show that when our community comes together, no one has to face hardship alone.

Link to Parramatta Mission website to donate: <https://parramattamission.org.au/>

Events at Parramatta Mission During Homelessness Week:

- ♦ Sunday 2nd August 2026: Homelessness Week Launch – Street Level Community Church and Bikers Blanket Run, Centenary Square Parramatta. 12noon to 2pm.
- ♦ Wednesday 5th August 2026: Parramatta Community Hub at Parramatta Mission, 119 Macquarie Street, Parramatta, 10am to 1pm
- ♦ Thursday 6th August 2026: Meals plus memorial service at Parramatta Mission, 119 Macquarie Street, Parramatta, 10am to 11am

All events are free to attend.

St Matthew's Social Action Missional Ministry Team

How doing little things makes a big difference.

Topic: Domestic & Family Violence (DFV) – coercive control and coerced business debt

What is coercive control? The NSW Government Joint Select Committee on Coercive Control Report 1/57 June 2021, defines Coercive control as: *'a form of domestic abuse. Perpetrators aim to take away their partner's autonomy and freedom.'* This can continue after victims have left the perpetrator. One example of coercive control is financial retribution by the DFV perpetrator, including coerced business debt.

The Women's Legal Service of Queensland cites the example of a woman who escaped a DFV situation, then discovered she owed \$500,000 due to coerced business debt. This can happen when perpetrators secretly:

- register an ABN or GST in their partner's name
- appoint them as a company director without their informed consent
- forge signatures or impersonate them online
- take out business loans that leave victims legally responsible
- manipulate tax returns, superannuation or business records to hide debt

Most women only discover what's happened after they've left the relationship, often when they're contacted by the Australian Taxation Office or debt collectors. The consequences can be life changing leading to bankruptcy, homelessness, long term poverty, years of complex legal battles and ongoing financial and psychological trauma. Unlike consumer debt, there are very few protections for people trapped by coerced business debt. Many DFV survivors have no access to hardship relief, free dispute resolution or affordable legal pathways to untangle these complex financial arrangements.

Monash Business School's Associate Professor Vivien Chen (report below) said the research exposes a significant policy blind spot. "We need to treat coerced business debt as a serious form of economic abuse and design safeguards to reflect that reality." Unlike consumer credit, business lending falls outside many of the legal protections designed to protect borrowers from unfair conduct. This research highlights the urgent need for reform to ensure that victim-survivors are not left to carry the burden of debts they never chose to take on.

If you or someone you know needs DFV related support, phone 1800RESPECT on 1800 737 732, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Link to report - Redfern Legal Centre, Monash University and the Economic Abuse Reference Group 'Coerced Business Debt': <https://earg.org.au/our-publications/coerced-business-debts-uncovering-hidden-harms-from-economic-abuse/>

*Blessings,
Amanda
Social Action Ministry Team (SAMT)*

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 18th August 2026 at 7pm in the
Lower Church Hall
To receive a copy of the weekly SAMT emailed newsletter email
Amanda at agcm1960@gmail.com



Parramatta Mission



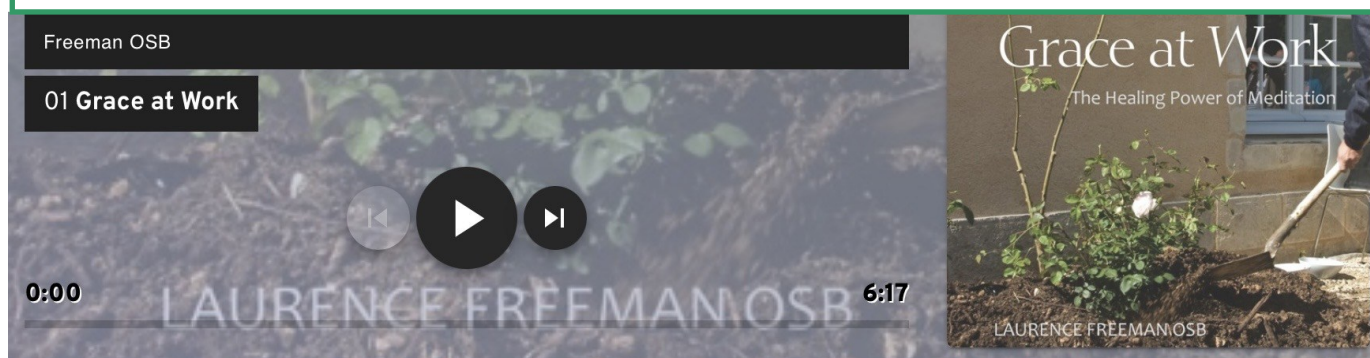
We will be collecting beanies and scarves until **September** to be distributed to disadvantaged people at Parramatta Mission. A collection tub will be available at the top of the stairs.



Thanks to everyone who have knitted and crocheted items so far this year. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

Christian Meditation Series beginning next week.

Grace at Work - the healing power of meditation/ contemplation that we will be starting next Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th of July .



Grace at Work - The Healing Power of Meditation by Laurence Freeman OSB

Meditatio Talks Series 2019 D Oct-Dec

Laurence Freeman presents meditation as a simple way to gain freedom from addiction. Compulsive behaviour develops when our search for happiness becomes fixated on a single desire that brings temporary satisfaction. In meditation, we shift our attention from our desires and place it on the mantra. This gentle discipline opens us to the work of grace which restores us to wholeness.

i The tracks on this playlist are intended solely for personal non-commercial use. By downloading tracks from this playlist you agree to use the downloaded files only for personal, non-commercial use. This resource is provided free. If you would like to support our mission to communicate and nurture meditation in the Christian

01 Grace at Work

02 From Desire to Addiction

03 The Prayer of the Heart

04 Paying Attention

05 Joy is Deeper than Desire

06 The Nature of God

07 The Parable of the Prodigal ...

08 God is Love

09 What is Sin

10 Meditation and the 12-Step P...

JUNE 13 – SEPTEMBER 21, 2026
EVERY EVENING · 9.00PM – 9.15PM AEST

A NATIONAL CONTEMPLATIVE INITIATIVE
100 DAYS OF PEACE

*One hundred voices. One hundred days.
One shared moment of stillness each evening.*

100
COMMUNITY
VOICES OF PEACE

3 MIN
CONTEMPLATIVE
REFLECTION

10 MIN
COLLECTIVE
SILENCE

FREE
NO REGISTRATION
NEEDED

CONTRIBUTING VOICES INCLUDE

FAITH & SPIRITUAL

Archbishop Thabo Makgoba: Cape Town
Fr Laurence Freeman OSB
Archbishop Ric Thorpe: Melbourne
Sister Jayanti & Sister Shivani
Satguru Uday Singh Ji
Rabbi Ralph Genende
Rev Sandy Boyce

RESEARCH & WELLBEING

Professor Craig Hassed
Professor Mark Williams
Professor Sara Lazar
A/Professor Nicholas van Dam
A/Professor Tilman Ruff AO
Dr Ian Gawler OAM
Pauline McKinnon OAM
Dr Tami Roos
Asher Packman

CIVIC, BUSINESS & COMMUNITY

Simon McKeon AO
The Hon Bob Carr
Commissioner Vivienne Nguyen AM
George Savvides AM
Hugh Mackay AO
Sister Brigid Arthur
Martin Hosking
Dr Hyppolite Ntigurirwa

SPORTS & ARTS

Justin Langer AM
Paul Roos
Dr Hannah MacDougall
Cody Weightman
Simon Tedeschi
Caroline Sharpen OAM
David Jones
Carmen Warrington

And many more across faith, arts, civic and community life - see [website](#) details.

*"Now more than ever, we must focus on peace."
— Clover Moore AO, Lord Mayor of Sydney*

Join us each evening from June 13th — no registration needed
www.calminthecity.org.au/100daysofpeace
FREE · OPEN TO ALL · tiny.cc/100Days2026



QR CODE TO
REGISTER FOR
UPDATES



QR CODE
TO JOIN
ONLINE



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

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

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Why Is Love A Fruit Of The Spirit?



What Is The Fruit Of The Spirit?

Please see QR Codes for links for YouTube,
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