



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

Weekly Newsletter

8 June 2025

Pentecost

Bible Readings

Matthew 25: 31-40
Luke 10: 29-37



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



Pentecost
Sunday

Livestreaming at
8am and 9.30am only

8am—Worship
Led by Jon Humphries
and Nathan Tyson

9.30am—Worship
Led by Jon Humphries
and Nathan Tyson
Followed by morning tea

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

2-4pm—Church hall in use

6.45pm—Worship
Community meal

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 9 JUNE

King's Birthday Public Holiday

7.30pm—Christian Meditation

TUESDAY 10 JUNE

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation
community room and church

WEDNESDAY 11 JUNE

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12pm—Women's Fellowship
upstairs hall and church

THURSDAY 12 JUNE

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 13 JUNE

5pm-7pm—Fusion Youth Group
"Spy Night"

SATURDAY 14 JUNE

No Scheduled Activities

SUNDAY 15 JUNE

8am—Worship

9.30am—Worship

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

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

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](https://www.facebook.com/stmatthewsunitingchurchbaulkhamhills)

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA
PO Box 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

EMAIL: director@stmatthewsps.net.au

Something to think about

8 June

Pentecost Sunday

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21
John 14:8-17, (25-27)

Pentecost

Pentecost in essence doesn't change anything. However, at the same time it helps everything to change. This may sound strange at first, but Pentecost is a celebration of the receiving of God as Spirit, whom we call the Holy Spirit. What we refer to as the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost is very important, but theologically and spiritually it didn't change anything in terms of God's presence with us. God is, was, and always will be present and at work in all people. God is omnipresent, just as God is now and was in days past. Pentecost doesn't change that, and in fact, the Scriptures have already given us a story of Jesus appearing to the disciples in a locked room after the resurrection and, after blessing them with peace, he breathed on them the Holy Spirit.[John 20: 22] So, the coming of the Holy Spirit is already a moveable feast. Furthermore, even though the disciples received the Holy Spirit at

Pentecost in the narrative in Acts [Acts 2:1–13], other people received the Spirit at different times, such as in Acts 10:44 when a group of Gentiles Peter was sent by God to help him understand that there was no distinction between the Jewish followers of Jesus and Gentile followers – that kind of division had been undone. Pentecost is thus more about a shift in a spiritual reality rather than a specific time or place.

What do we mean by receiving of the Holy Spirit anyway? If we take it literally then it is when people 'get' the Holy Spirit. One line of thinking is that this is when God takes up residence in people. This is valid and sound doctrine, but I find it unsatisfactory mainly because, as I stated above, God is already and always present with us. Yet, this 'coming of the Spirit' does mark a change. For me I see it as a sacrament of revelation. A sacrament is a tangible sign or symbol of an invisible spiritual reality. Something tangible happened at Pentecost (or when Jesus appeared to the disciples in the locked room and breathed on them). For me it was a tangible experience that signified a spiritual reality, and the experience of it marked for people a change in being and opened people to a new way of God's working.

Of course, theologically, Pentecost also marked a fulfilment of the Covenant made by God with Abraham and a change in God's mode of relationship with people. Christ was the Messiah – the chosen of the chosen. Christ, who was God with us being the incarnation of God, first shifted the locus of God's presence on Earth from the Temple to being embodied in Jesus.

Cont'd next page

In his death Jesus became the Temple, the High Priest and sacrifice and the Temple's curtain was torn from top to bottom, tearing away this sense of separation from God. This marked a new covenant in Christ (although not all manuscripts have the word 'new') that Jesus announced at the Last Supper. [Matthew 26:28] In his ascension Jesus further shifted the locus of the presence of God to us as the people of God. Jesus was the Christ/Messiah the chosen one of the Chosen People, and now we are the Body of Christ with the fullness of chosenness passed onto us. As the writer of 1 Peter 2:9 confirms, "...you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

There is no barrier to God now. There are no courts around a temple and no curtain separating all from the Holy of Holies. There are not any categories of being which separates us from God. As Paul declares in Galatians 3:28 "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." He then goes on to persuade us that there is nothing that can separate us from God and God's love when he writes, "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." [Romans 8:38-39]

So, Pentecost doesn't change the reality that God is always with us, but it is a sacramental shift in our understanding of the locus of God and the mode of God's working in the world. It is the fulfilment of such prophecy as Ezekiel 36:27 where God announced, "I will put my spirit in their hearts." God is now working in us and all people in new ways. The coming of the Kingdom of God is now continually at

hand and in our hands, though ultimately always in God's hands.

Thus, receiving the Holy Spirit, is not about getting a power of presence from God. It is our awakening and acceptance of this reality. It is our taken up the gift, that is receiving it and giving in to God's work in us and the world. Celebrating Pentecost is about us opening ourselves to God that God as Holy Spirit may fully work through us. It is about a radical metanoia, the changing of heart, mind and being that Jesus called us to at the start of his ministry because the Kingdom of God was at hand [Matthew 3:2, Matthew 4:17, Mark 1:15] because Jesus was the Christ. That call to metanoia is what Pentecost is about because it signifies that we are now the hand and body of Christ, being the fullness of God's chosenness.

Pentecost is about us becoming apostolic (in the sense of being sent out – Greek ἀπόστολος [apostolos] meaning apostle or literally "the one who is sent"). We are disciples, but now it is time to put our learning and formation into action. Of course, we always remain disciples for there is always learning and formation to take up, but Pentecost reminds us that we are the primary agents of God's mission as the Church in our context. It is a remembering that we are chosen to be serving as a light to the nations, showcasing both God's grace and judgment. We are chosen to reveal God's character and bring all humanity to into connection with God that they might know love, grace and salvation. The Season of Pentecost is about us embracing metanoia of the Kingdom of Heaven and so there is a lot to think about and a lot to be doing.

God bless

Jon



Coffee and Play

Welcoming all little ones and their
grown-ups to a morning of
conversation and playtime.

Corner of Edgar & Charles Sts
Mondays 9-10:30am
Starting 16/6/25



PEOPLE NEWS

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



Faye Butel
Anne Hanna

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

8 — 14 June



***Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa,
Eswatini***

Weekly **SYNOD SPOTLIGHT**

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

**For (30 May 2025) please see link to Synod
weekly:**

[Synod Weekly](#)

Please note the Lectionary Bible Study

Is in Recess

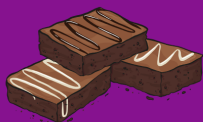
until further notice.

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

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.

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



Winter Blanket Drive for Parramatta Mission

Help Us Share the Warmth

Drop off time & location:

From Fri 1 May to 31 Jul, 9.00am – 4.30pm

Address: Allan Drew Funerals

221 Old Northern Rd, Castle Hill

(please don't bring blankets to St Matthews)

Let's wrap our community in kindness this
winter. For More information, please visit
<https://brnw.ch/2lwT6Op>



**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.**



The Galston Concerts



Sunday 15 June 2025 @ 2pm

**Galston Uniting Church
11 School Road Galston**

Spanish flamenco guitarist, Paco Lara

Passionate Spanish flamenco guitarist, Paco Lara with a distinguished career in Europe and Australia of more than 30 years touring internationally alongside some of the greatest artists and maestro legends of flamenco in Spain, presents a very special and intimate show of authentic flamenco at Galston Uniting Church.



Recognised as the most prominent flamenco guitarist living in Australia, Paco Lara and Deya

Miranda Giner (Flamenco dancer) is a world class musical and cultural experience not to be missed!

www.pacolarafiamenco.com

Bookings trybooking.com (search Galston 15 June)

Cash-only sales at the door on the day

\$40 adults \$30 concession \$10 students primary school & under FREE

Enquiries phone 9653-2039



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**



St Matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

For more information contact Jon Humphries
jonestmatthewsuniting.net.au 9686 3003

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
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

ST MATTHEW'S UNITING CHURCH
AND PRESCHOOL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Celebrate with us In October/November 2025!!!

SAVE THE DATES

OCTOBER 2025 - more details to follow

WELSH CHOIR PERFORMANCE

SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2025

WORSHIP SERVICES WITH GUEST PREACHERS 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 6:45 PM

SUNDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2025

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE – FOLLOWED BY MORNING TEA 9:00 AM

PICNIC LUNCH AT JOHN CURTIN RESERVE WINSTON HILLS FROM 11:00 AM

SATURDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2025

SOCIAL EVENTS AT CHURCH

- TALENT SHOW FROM 3:00 PM (DEPENDING ON ENOUGH PARTICIPANTS)
- DINNER & GAMES NIGHT FROM 5:30 PM (SHARE FOOD, STORIES & GAMES)

SUNDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2025

WORSHIP SERVICES WITH GUEST PREACHERS 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM

YOUTH SERVICE - GUEST PREACHERS (INCL SHINE CELEBRATIONS) 6:45 AM

SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2025

- 50TH ANNIVERSARY - CHURCH & PRESCHOOL WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM
- CHURCH & PRESCHOOL SHOWCASE (AFTER WORSHIP)
- BANQUET LUNCH (SHARE FOOD & STORIES) 12 NOON



Uniting Church in Australia National Assembly

PUBLIC STATEMENT – 16 May 2025

For the full statement go to:

<https://uniting.church/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Public-Statement-Palestine-May-2025.pdf>

The following is from the last page of the Statement on Palestine from Rev Charissa Suli President, Uniting Church in Australia 16 May 2025:

To leaders in the newly elected Australian Government, we repeat our calls to:

- Demand an immediate ceasefire and the uninhibited flow of humanitarian aid.
- Condemn the brutalities and atrocities which are being committed.
- End any remaining weapons exports to Israel and provide greater transparency over Australia's weapon exports.
- Call for the release of all hostages in both Palestine and Israel, and all Palestinians held without charge or trial.
- Impose targeted sanctions on Israeli settlers responsible for serious human rights abuses against Palestinians.
- Support the International Court of Justice in its measures to prevent genocide.
- Do all it can to facilitate a meaningful and lasting peace.

To the beloved Uniting Church community: I know we hold diverse views on many issues. These words do not claim to represent each one but arise from our long-held desire for justice, human dignity and human rights. We believe this is a moment not for cautious neutrality but moral courage. We follow the crucified and risen Christ, who stands with the oppressed, weeps with the broken and rises with wounds still visible.

So let us lament. Let us pray. Let us lift our voices in advocacy. Let us educate ourselves and one another. Let us write to our leaders and join our voices with all who cry for justice. I encourage you to use the provided litany of lament for Gaza in your worship, as we name what must be named and cry out for peace. Let us be the Church God calls us to be – courageous and faithful in love and solidarity, so that all may know the peace, shalom, salaam of God.

Rev Charissa Suli

President,

Uniting Church in Australia 16 May 2025