



**Bible Reading**

**Matthew 16:13-20**

*Response after Bible Readings*

**Leader:** Hear the word of the Lord

**Response:** Thanks be to God



**8am—Worship**

Led by Mike Strong  
and Carmel Ieraci

**9.30am—Worship**

Led by Sharon Underwood  
and Sara Wienand

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

**5pm—Shine**

**6.45pm—Worship**

Led by Nicole Lawless  
and Alexander Lawless

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 9.30AM**

**Livestreaming at  
8am & 9.30am only**

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

**MONDAY 28 AUGUST**

**9am—Sorting & Pricing  
for Op Shop** lower hall

**TUESDAY 29 AUGUST**

**9am-2pm—Op Shop**  
**9.30am—Christian Meditation**  
in the church  
**7pm—Netball AGM**  
upstairs hall

**WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST**

**9am-2pm—Op Shop**  
**10am-12pm—In Stitches**  
upstairs hall  
**7.30pm—Elders meeting**  
in the Church

**THURSDAY 31 AUGUST**

**9am-2pm—Op Shop**

**FRIDAY 1 SEPTEMBER**

**No Scheduled Events**

**SATURDAY 2 SEPTEMBER**

**9am-12pm—Op Shop  
and Mini Mart** in the lower hall

**SUNDAY  
3 SEPTEMBER**

**8am—Worship**  
includes Communion

**9.30am—Worship**  
includes Communion

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

**6.45pm—Worship**



**CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS  
MINISTRY WORKER**

DANIEL GIBB *Part Time*  
Email: daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

**SENIORS PASTORAL CARER**

MICHAEL STRONG *Part Time*  
Email: mike@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

**CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARIES:**

ROBYN MORRALL AND LYNN SAMUEL

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS** 9AM-3PM MON-FRI

**OFFICE :** 9686 3003

**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**

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Thank you to all who have  
contributed to this publication.

# Lectionary Notes

## Pentecost 13

### August 27

#### **Exodus 1:8-2:10**

According to the scriptures we have jumped at least four centuries on from Joseph to a time when the Hebrews in Egypt have become a threat to the Pharaoh. They are enslaved to build cities, and subject to a deliberate act of genocide to limit their numbers. Finally, the Pharaoh commanded every boy born to be thrown into the Nile. One mother of a priestly family defied the orders, first hid her baby for three months, then made a bitumen covered papyrus basket and hid the baby in it, among the reeds on the riverside. The daughter of Pharaoh found the baby, and unwittingly paid the mother to nurse him for her. When the boy was older Pharaoh's daughter took him as her son and named him Moses. What does his name mean? "She named him Moses "because", she said, "I drew him out of the water." A Hebrew child is raised in Pharaoh's court! Through him, in the Exodus, the Lord is going to draw a nation into being out of the water!

#### **Psalm 124**

This is another "Song of Ascents" sung as festival attenders climbed the road from Jericho to the temple in Jerusalem. It is a psalm that celebrates the risks that the nation had already run, the truth that the nation has had a precarious history. Jerusalem was almost continually threatened by more powerful neighbors to the West, The East, the North and the South. Against overwhelming odds they had escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers. "Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth."(v 8)

#### **Romans 12:1-8**

In this chapter Paul turns from the place of Israel in God's future, to describe the life of the Church. How remarkable it is that we are to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, not our minds. That is, offer our whole selves, not ideas. Yes, the mind is important, but first the mind needs to be renewed. "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds." As a former geologist, my attention was focussed on the Greek word that lies behind the word translated in English as 'transformed'. The word is 'metamorphosis'. It has a special meaning in geology. Metamorphic rocks are a special form

of rock, that have been marinated deep in the earth at high temperatures and pressures. A metamorphosed rock has a similar structure to its original form, but almost every molecule has been replaced by another. In this passage the sense is of a mind marinated in the Spirit as a consequence of the mind set on the Spirit. It is to be immersed in the presence of God allowing God to change and renew our mind. Why is this so important? The metamorphosed mind can discern what is the will of God. How different from the more commonly accepted view that whatever happens is the will of God. No way. The will of God needs to be discerned.

In verses that follow Paul appeals for the members of the community to think of themselves with 'sober judgement' and with the awareness of their own particular gift according to the measure of faith God has given.

#### **Matthew 16:13-20**

In three of the gospels Jesus question to his disciples about who he is, is followed almost immediately by him announcing his death in Jerusalem, and his transfiguration. Jesus is preparing the disciples for what is to come.

This event takes place north of the borders of Israel in foreign territory. In Matthew Jesus asks, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" The Son of man is a title that Jesus used and it has a special history. It could mean, a truly human person, or it could mean, as it is in the book of Daniel, the victorious one who brings into being the Kingdom of God for God, the ruler of history. (Daniel 7:13) Jesus then moves from what others are saying to question the disciples. "Who do you say that I am?". Peter declares Jesus to be the Messiah (or the Anointed in Greek), the Son of the living God. Jesus' answer is four fold. The Father has made this known to you; you are Peter and on this rock I will build my church; the gates of Hades will not destroy it, and to you are given the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

There has been much discussion about which Aramaic word for church Jesus would have used in this passage. The Greek word for assembly- ekklesia is used here. This word is only used here and in 18:15-17 in the gospels. Jesus was focussed on proclaiming the kingdom of heaven rather than describing the church.

In Matthew the countdown to the cross has begun!

*In grace and peace,*

*Dean*



## PEOPLE NEWS

Colin Stoner  
Robyn Burn  
Will Samuel  
Elaine King

Adele Arthur  
Dean Drayton  
Ellen Keegan

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

## Ecumenical Prayer Cycle 27 August— 2 September

*Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau  
Senegal*

## SEPTEMBER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

at the church

3 September - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm  
includes Communion

10 September - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

17 September - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

24 September - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

*Live streaming morning services only*



Come and join us each month for an evening of live music, dinner and fellowship.

**When:** 27 Aug, Sep 17 and Oct 15 from 6-8pm

**Where:** Northmead Uniting Church, 3-7 Hammers Rd Northmead

**Cost:** Donations welcome for pot luck dinner

**Who:** All ages are WELCOME!



For more information contact Noni Medcalf: nones81@gmail.com

## Save the date

# Rev Jon Humphries Induction Service

### 3pm Sunday 15 October

at St. Matthew's Uniting Church

*Please join Jon as he begins  
his ministry with us.*

More details to follow.

## Am I Not Your Neighbour?

Is Global Warming Real?

Does Climate Change Matter?

Come and listen to Dr. Clive Pearson in  
conversation with Dr. Maina Talia

The theme of the neighbour is based on a reading of  
the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Thursday 14th September, 7:30 to 9:00 pm.

St Matthews Uniting Church, Baulkham Hills  
Crn. Edgar & Charles St. BH

Maina Talia is a former co-chair of Global Indigenous Forum on Climate Change, author, climate activist. Maina has participated in every COP conference since Paris 2015; he has organized numerous workshops; addressed the German Parliament; been reported in major Australian and overseas newspapers. He recently completed his doctoral thesis on the situation in Tuvalu: three of the world's leading theologians on climate change believe his thesis should be published immediately.

RSVP: Email St. Matthew's Uniting Church [office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto:office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

## Op-Shop Donations

We are now accepting donations of  
Christmas decorations and other  
Christmas items; such as Christmas paper,  
plates etc.

Continue to bring in your Bric-a-Brac to  
sell in our Op-Shop and at our Mini Mart.

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.