



Bible Readings

8am & 9.30am

Lectionary 22 September
 James 3:13-4:3, 7- 8a
 Mark 9:30-37

Lectionary 29 September
 James 5: 13-20
 Mark 9: 38-50

Response after Bible Readings

Leader: *In this we hear the word of God*
 Response: *Thanks be to God*



**18th
 Sunday**
 After
 Pentecost

**Livestreaming at
 8am and 9.30am only**

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
 Led by Pamela Leslie
 and Jon Humphries

9.30—Worship
 Led by Sharon Underwood
 and Jon Humphries

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

5pm—Shine

6.45pm—Worship
 Led by Jon Humphries

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 23 September

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

7.30pm—Christian Meditation
 community room and church

TUESDAY 24 September

9am-2pm—Op Shop

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

WEDNESDAY 25 September

9am-2pm—Op Shop

THURSDAY 26 September

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 27 September

**9am—Setup for Sri Lankan
 Fundraiser Afternoon Tea**
 upstairs hall

**7pm—Fusion Youth Group
 “Scavenger Hunt”**

Meet at the church then out and about

SATURDAY 28 September

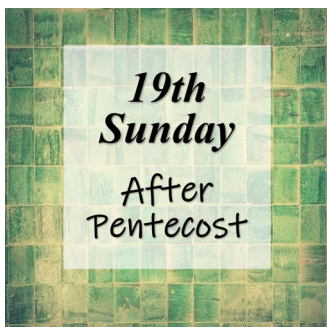
**2.30pm—“Afternoon Tea with a
 Sri Lankan Flavour”**
 upstairs hall

**SUNDAY
 29 SEPTEMBER**

8am—Worship
 Followed by morning tea

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

6.45pm—Worship



**19th
 Sunday**
 After
 Pentecost

MINISTER

REV JON HUMPHRIES
 Email: jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARIES:

ROBYN MORRALL AND LYNN SAMUEL

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OFFICE : 9686 3003

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 BAULKHAM HILLS

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Thank you to all who have
 contributed to this publication.

Something to think about

22nd September

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Readings:

Proverbs 31:10-31

Wisdom of Solomon 1:16-2:1, 12-22

James 3:13 – 4:3, 7-8a

Mark 9:30-37

Wisdom for the Wise

Wisdom for the wise sounds a strange thing to say. For if one is wise, we surely already have wisdom. However, if we are truly wise then we should know that there is always more to learn. Here is the one of the core elements at the heart of wisdom - humility. The wisdom of humility informs us that even if we hold much wisdom, there is more that we can acquire and arrogance which fails to see this need cuts us off from learning and wisdom. Furthermore, humble wisdom prompts us to not vomit our thoughts, opinions and perspectives on others, but to allow others the space to share their thoughts, feelings and ideas and come to their own learning. Wisdom in this way sees that, although we may know much and hold much wisdom, we cannot know the thoughts of others without them sharing. Humble wisdom also knows that just as we have much to learn, so do others and the best way of learning is to make space for others in their own acquiring of wisdom – one of the best teachers being experience.

Is this not how God treats us? God, who holds all wisdom, allows us space and freedom to learn in our own time. Of course, God shares learning with us and teaches and guides us in wisdom, but God has granted us the gift of free will, provided us with sources of wisdom such as Scripture and the wisdom of our tradition and culture. God has done shared the deepest of wisdom with us in such a humble way by becoming one of us as Jesus, the Christ – Immanuel: God with us. God knows us, our past and our future and all our thoughts and feelings in the present. Jesus, who was God -incarnate, was a teacher in word and example. Yet, deeper than this taking on our humanity, God longs to know us and be in relationship with us, listening to us in prayer and being with us and within us as the Holy Spirit. Wisdom leads us into being open to God moving and breathing in us. Wisdom leads us into reflection and consideration of the nature of God and who God calls us to be. Yet, wisdom also leads us into contemplation, having the humility to make space for God to speak into our being in the often still small voice. Simply being with God opens us up to God in the deepest of relationship.

Wisdom calls us to ponder our existence. Wisdom calls us to reflect upon the presence of God in the workings of the world and the workings of our lives, for all involves the working of God. God is always working for good, even in the times of hardship and struggle. Wisdom calls us to think about who God is and who we are and can be as we learn more about what it means to be the people of God created in the image of God.

Continued next page

Wisdom for the Wise—Continued

Wisdom also calls us to know God as God is, not just as we think God is. Wisdom calls us to settle ourselves and centre ourselves in and with God, spending time just being with God, sitting with God, listening for God in the beauty of silence and just letting God be God as well as letting ourselves be with the God who is God.

Wisdom for the wise brings us into an understanding of the freedom of God's wisdom, which is the space to make mistakes. Failure is always an option in the wisdom of God. Failing is not failure, at least not if we allow it to be a moment of learning for us if we allow ourselves to be teachable in that failing. Failing forward is a way of wisdom, as we learn from our mistakes and find ways to bring or make good in the shadow of our failing or failure. Failure is the space where God works redemption. When we let our mistakes to be worked on by God, we can be led into *μετάνοια* [metanoia] which is a changing of our minds and hearts which in turn leads us into a change in our way of being and behaving. Even in those parts of our lives which are irredeemable, God is working to redeem us and bring us into healing and wholeness, leading to our ultimate redemption of our souls into the fullness of eternal life.

In all this wisdom for the wise is to know that God is the source of all wisdom. God is the one who holds wisdom for us and leads us into wisdom, when we let God. After all, God in God's wisdom, allows us freedom of spirit and will, and will never force or coerce us into being who God would have us be. So, because all wisdom is found in God, wisdom for the wise is knowing love and its power for God is love and those who live in love live in God and God in them. Love is patient and kind. It is not arrogant, boastful or rude. It doesn't hang on to a record of wrongs. It rejoices in the truth as it bears all things in hope and believes all things are in the hands of God.

In the end, these are simply my thoughts – flawed and probably poorly framed, or at least incomplete or not comprehensive. These arise out of my learning of wisdom over my years. However, I don't presume that they are the whole truth or even helpful to all or any. Wisdom for the wise is something that we need to work on and work for in ourselves in our own way and in our own time with God. Wisdom for the wise is something for us each to think about and immerse ourselves in the quest to gather more and more.

God bless

Jon

PEOPLE NEWS



Enid Clifton
Doug Mathewson
Bruce Bills
Lyn Short

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

22-28 September
Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru

Weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter for last week (13 September 2024) please see

[New Insights \(uca.org.au\)](http://uca.org.au)

Organ Concert

Sunday 22nd September @ 2pm



Galston Uniting Church - 11 School Road, Galston



HEATHER MOEN-BOYD

A graduate in organ performance from Sydney Conservatorium, Heather has been organist and choir director at Scots Kirk Presbyterian Church in Mosman since 2006, and is coordinator for the annual inter-church Mosman Hymnfest. She was guest organist at the 2023 New England Bach Festival in Armidale. In addition to giving solo recitals in Sydney and beyond, Heather has accompanied many church and community choirs in major oratorio presentations, including the annual performances of Handel's *Messiah* at Epping Baptist on Good Friday, and Hornsby Catholic Cathedral in December. Recently she played for the Penrith City Choir in a performance of Rossini's *Stabat Mater*, and in November she will give a lunchtime recital at St Stephen's Uniting Church, Macquarie St.

In 2021 she was appointed organist to Macquarie University to accompany graduation ceremonies.

Adults/Concession \$25.00 Tertiary Students \$10.00 Children Free Cash only at door

PLEASE NOTE

The Church Office has been experiencing emailing issues this week. Please contact the church office by phone 9686 3003 until these issues are resolved.

Thank you

SEPTEMBER 2024 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

at the church

22nd September - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm

29th September - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm

Live streaming at morning services

OCTOBER 2024 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

at the church

6th October - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm
Includes Communion

13th October - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm
Community Meal

20th October - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm

27th October - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm

Live streaming at morning services



PICK UP a COPY from the CHURCH FOYER

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.



Thursday 3 October
10am-12pm

Bass & Flinders

Guest Speaker: **Ron Ray OAM**

Ron Ray OAM has been a volunteer guide and member of the Australian National Maritime Museum for 15 years. Ron will talk about the backgrounds of these two famous Australian maritime explorers, their fates and their voyages of exploration around coasts of NSW, Tasmania and Terra Australis.



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

THE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD PROJECT

St Matthews Preschool is inviting our church congregation to support Operation Christmas Child (OCC), a global project to fill up shoeboxes with gifts that will be distributed to disadvantaged children at Christmas time. For children living in poverty, the shoebox is usually the first gift they have ever received. After collecting 10.5 million shoeboxes globally in 2021, Operation Christmas Child hopes to collect more shoeboxes each year to follow.

St Matthews Preschool aims to collect 100 shoeboxes this year.

Please pick up an empty shoebox along with a brochure which provides more information, from the table in the church foyer. Please write your name, contact number and number of boxes taken on the form provided.

The shoeboxes will be available to collect from Sunday 15th September.



Please note that we will need all the **boxes returned by latest Sunday 13th October**. Please return boxes to area marked **SHOEBOXES RETURNED HERE** in the church foyer.

A Donation of \$12.50 per box is essential to cover shipping costs. You can pay the \$12.50 through the website or by filling out the form on the brochure and enclosing the money it in your shoebox.

Here is a video link for more information about Operation Christmas Child.
<https://vimeo.com/user148429611/review/742905291/9ab41f44a5>

Thank you for your generosity, care, and participation!
Warmest Regards
St Matthews Preschool