



**Bible Readings**

**8am & 9.30am**



**Hebrews 1: 1-4, 2: 5-12**  
**Mark 10: 13-16**

**Response after Bible Readings**

**Leader:** *In this we hear the word of God*

**Response:** *Thanks be to God*



**8am—Worship**  
 Includes communion  
 Led by Vivienne Strong  
 and Jon Humphries

**9.30—Worship**  
 Includes communion  
 Led by Jon Humphries  
**KUCA** in recess  
**Followed by morning tea**

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**

**Livestreaming**

at

**8am and  
 9.30am only**



**6.45pm—Worship**  
 Includes communion  
 Led by Jane Cole  
 and Jon Humphries

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

**MONDAY 7 October**  
**PUBLIC HOLIDAY**

**7.30pm—Christian Meditation**  
 community room and church

**TUESDAY 8 October**  
**9am-2pm—Op Shop**

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

**WEDNESDAY 9 October**  
**9am-2pm—Op Shop**

**9am—Garage Sale CLEANUP**  
 All help is very much appreciated  
 lower hall

**10am-12pm—Women's Fellowship**  
 Please bring a special/favourite  
 book you would like to speak about.  
 upstairs hall

**THURSDAY 10 October**  
**9am-2pm—Op Shop**

**FRIDAY 11 October**  
**No Schedule Activities**

**SATURDAY 12 October**  
**No Schedule Activities**

**SUNDAY**  
**13 OCTOBER**

**8am—Worship**

**9am—Worship @ the Willow's**

**9.30am—Worship**  
**KUCA** in recess

Followed by morning tea

**6.45pm—Worship**  
**Community Meal**



**MINISTER**

REV JON HUMPHRIES

Email: jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

**CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARIES:**

ROBYN MORRALL AND LYNN SAMUEL

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

**OFFICE :** 9686 3003

Email: office@stmatthewsuniting.net.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

**PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR** 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA

PO BOX 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

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

Thank you to all who have  
 contributed to this publication.

# Something to think about

## 6th October

### 20th Sunday after Pentecost

#### Lectionary Readings:

Job 1:1, 2:1-10  
Psalm 26  
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12  
Mark 10:2-16

#### Focus passage for our Service:

Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12  
Mark 10: 13-16

### Connecting With God

How do we connect with God? How do we know God? These are important questions to which the answer is simple, but the practice and knowing is hard. Knowing and feeling connected to God is not always the same. We can often easily feel disconnected, but that doesn't mean that God is not connected to us. Scripture makes it clear that there are a range of ways and means whereby we can connect with God. However, in the midst of such things as nature and being the Church, there two stand-out principles which are worth considering and giving priority to.

### 1. Living Love

God is love. Those who live in love live in God and God lives in them. [1 John 4: 16] Let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us. [1 John 4: 12].

God, as the Word of God, in the Person of Jesus, made quite clear the connection between loving God and loving others as ourselves when he responded to the question of what the greatest commandment was. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind'. ...And the second is the same as it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'" [Matthew 22:34-40] He then makes clear what that looks like in the parable of the Sheep and Goats where those who feed the hungry, slake the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the ill and visit those imprisoned, effectively are doing for and to God.

### 2. Being Spiritual

God is Spirit. God as the Holy Spirit dwells within us. "By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit." [1 John 4: 13] "Don't you know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit? The Spirit is in you, and you have received the Spirit from God." [1 Corinthians 6:19] What does this mean or how do we know it is true?

## Connecting with God—Continued

### A. Manifesting God as Spirit in Our Living

The Apostle Paul gives us some prime indicators by which we can know that we are connected with God who is Holy Spirit within us. These he calls 'fruit of the Spirit' and they are, as you might already know, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness/ generosity and self-control.

[Galatians 5:22-23]

However, not only are these indicators of connection, they are pathways and practices for connection with God. Being open to God results in these being manifested, but being open to God means doing the things of God that God may be at work in us. Jesus, himself, in claiming to be the vine and we being the branches noted that if we abide in him in such a way then we will bear fruit [John 15:5]. If we are not bearing fruit, then that is an indication that we are not rightly connected to him and his way. Thus we need to be intentional about being connected spiritually and vivaciously to God who is Christ and Spirit and who lives within us.

### B. Contemplation

Being contemplative is engaging in practical prayerfulness which is centred on focusing us on God's presence with us and what that means for us and our living. It can take many forms. It is a way of praying which doesn't ask anything of God, but seeks to know who God is, what God is doing in us and what God is asking of us.

**i. Meditation** – This is being in intentional connection with God who is present with us.

**ii. Contemplative Practices** – where we engage in conscious, intentional and disciplined contemplation of God's connection with us.

- Mindfulness of the Presence of God in all aspects of our lives
- Gratitude – being mindful of and appreciating the good things, positive relationships, love and grace etc in our lives
- Praise – being mindful of and expressing appreciation for the nature of God,
- Thanksgiving being mindful of and expressing appreciation for God's love, goodness, grace, forgiveness, blessing etc
- Appreciation of nature etc

Of course, as many will already appreciate, all of these are actually part of an integrated wholeness of faith and discipleship. Being mindful of God's love should lead us to manifest that love to others. Being mindful of God's presence as Spirit within us, and the nature of God who is Spirit should lead us to manifest the Fruit of the Spirit in our daily living and relationships. Revering and worshipping God in the person of the Christ and seeking to follow Jesus as the way, truth and life is always truly expressed in us being the Body of Christ as the Church and embodying the love of God to others in our living and relationships, just as Christ is the human embodiment of the fullness of God and God's love. Contemplating how we bear the image of God should lead us to better bearing that image to others.

So, if we wish to have greater and stronger faith, then we should seek greater and stronger connection with God who is always with us. Part of that gives us much to think about, and part of that gives us a lot to put into practice. May God help us in this important work of faith and discipleship.

*God bless*

*Jon*

PEOPLE NEWS

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**



Lee Anderson  
George Haines

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

## Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

6— 12 October  
Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua,  
Panama

**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

To find out what's happening at St. Matthew's during October click below:



Or go to the St. Matthew's website.  
[www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au](http://www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

To be included in the November edition of In FOCUS please send your articles and group activities to the church office by **15 October**.

*Weekly*  
**SYNOD SPOTLIGHT**  
Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter  
for last week (27 September 2024) please see

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

## Nominations for Elders

We are now accepting nominations for Church Elders.  
Nominations need to be in by Friday 4th October.  
Elders nomination forms are located in the upstairs foyer.

Please place in the basket provided.

**Elections will take place on  
Sunday 20 October  
at all 3 worship services.**

*Garage*

**SALE**

**FINAL  
CLEARANCE**

**Sunday  
6th October  
9am-11.30am  
Lower Hall**

***Come & grab a bargain, leave a donation in the donation box.  
Annette will be on hand to help you.***

❖ **After the 9.30am Sunday Service we require help to move books. Please see Annette in the lower hall.**

❖ **Wednesday 9th October from 9am**

**Any help would be appreciated as we will be packing everything away from the garage sale to make the lower hall ready for the vintage and bridal sale.**

***Any queries please contact Annette Watson, Garage Sale Coordinator***

OVARIAN  
CANCER  
RESEARCH  
FOUNDATION

**FROCKTOBER**

OCTOBER  
2024

**FROCK  
UP**



OVARIAN  
CANCER  
RESEARCH  
FOUNDATION



st. matthew's  
UNITING CHURCH  
BAULKHAM HILLS  
**OP SHOP**

**Vintage  
Clothing  
Sale**

from the **1950's, 1960's,  
1970's, and 1980's**

in the lower hall  
Edgar St Baulkham Hills

Starts

**Saturday 19 October 9am to 12pm**

Then

**Tuesday 22 October 9am to 2pm**

**Wednesday 23 October 9am to 2pm**

**Thursday 24 October 9am to 2pm**

# 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

## Matters of **LIFE & DEATH**

THURSDAY, 10TH OCTOBER  
7PM - 9PM *Supper provided*



NORTHMEAD UNITING CHURCH, 5-7 HAMMERS RD

**We all experience it**, but it can be hard to talk about dying. This seminar will help us think about our own and our family member's end of life, navigating decisions that may face us, and the importance of conversations now about life and death.

### Panel

#### Elsbeth Correy

A palliative medicine physician for over 30 years in hospitals, aged care and the community, helping people plan ahead for the end of their life.

#### Sharon van Doorene

A psychologist who helps people think about difficult topics and find words to express themselves.

#### Doug Purnell

A pastoral theologian and artist who has written books dealing with pastoral conversations.

### We will consider:

- Life and death in the past century and how things have changed
- The value of these conversations, even though they may be difficult
- A spiritual perspective on dying
- Tools to help, like Advanced Care Directives

A faith and life seminar by Parramatta Community Uniting Church  
More information: [merynobrien@gmail.com](mailto:merynobrien@gmail.com)

**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.**