



13 Sunday aft. Pentecost-23 Aug 2026

St Matthew's-Holland Park

When powerful forces - empire, opinion, fear, or conformity - work to define or destroy God's people, Scripture insists that identity rooted in God cannot be erased out of existence. These four texts together ask one urgent question: **Who gets to say who you are?**

Exodus 1:8–2:10

A Pharaoh who fears the Hebrew people attempts to erase them through slavery and infanticide. He fails - because midwives fear God more than Pharaoh, a mother trusts a basket to a river, and God turns the instrument of death into the path of deliverance.

Main Point: God's purposes cannot be drowned. Ordinary, powerless people become agents of extraordinary rescue when they fear God above every earthly power.

Wonder: What "basket" is God asking you to trust Him with right now?

Psalms 124

The community gathers to rehearse near-annihilation - floods, teeth, snares - and credits God entirely for their escape. This is worship as honest testimony.

Main Point: Survival is not luck. It is testimony. Remembering who rescued you protects you from forgetting who you belong to.

Wonder: What story of survival is your community not telling - and who gets left out of the story when you don't tell it?

Romans 12:1–8

Because of everything God has done, Paul says - offer yourself fully. Don't let the world press you into its shape. Be transformed. Then live that transformation out together, as one body with many gifts serving one another.

Main Point: Worship is the daily, embodied, communal refusal to let the world define you.

Wonder: Where is the world currently winning the battle to conform you?

Matthew 16:13–20

In Caesar's city, Jesus asks who people say He is. After the crowd's answers, He makes it personal. Peter's revealed confession - **You are the Messiah** - becomes the unshakeable foundation of the church.

Main Point: The most important question you will ever answer is the one Jesus is still asking you personally: **Who do you say that I am?**

Wonder: Are you answering from the crowd or from revelation?

[Exodus 1:8-2:10, Psalm 124, Romans 12:1-8, Matthew 16:13-20 NIV - Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant - Bible Gateway](#); [Exodus 1:8-2:10 - Center for Excellence in Preaching](#); [Psalm 124 Commentary: Thanking God for the Help Only He Can](#); [Romans 12:1-8 - Center for Excellence in Preaching](#); [Matthew 16:13-20 - Center for Excellence in Preaching](#)

Raffle winners: First prize: Pamper Pack : **Rangi**; 2nd and 3rd Prize Tim Malone from the Mandolins [Op Shop pamper pack and a bottle of wine.] Congratulations to the winners and thx for buying tickets . Not including Square payments \$420 raised.

NEW Service: 3-4pm 30th August

Ecumenical Taizé Service: 9/9/26 @6:30 p.m at St Bernard's Upper Mount Gravatt CNR Logan Rd and Klump Rd followed by light refreshments.

On Sunday 20 September, Anglicare, in partnership with White Lady Funerals, is hosting **Tea for Tomorrow: High Tea Edition** at Kelvin Grove, raising funds to help furnish the rooms in our new **Youth Homelessness Accommodation Project**.

[Fund raising Luxury Brisbane River cruise on the MV Island Princess- 6-9 p.m 7th October Tickets \\$120 3 hours of Drinks and hot finger food included](#)

Bible Study Lady Chapel Friday 10am The Bible Unpacked

Ladies Study Wednesday Night see Janice E or Heather W

Meditation Wednesday 2nd September

Men's Breakfast 7am 1st Thursday of month

Behind the scenes thx: Church decorators: Vicky Helen Annette Ruth Susan

Next Sunday Pentecost 14: 9am 30 August;

Matthew 16.21-28

Exodus 3.1-15

Psalm 105.1-6, 23-26

Romans 12.9-21

Parish Directory:

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Parish website : <https://www.stmatthewshollandpark.com/>

Parish Private Facebook site : <https://www.facebook.com/groups/292308270851142>

Public Site: <https://www.facebook.com/StMatthewsHollandPark> ;

Tipper's Treasure's FB site: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559040358754>

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY:

We acknowledge and pay respect to the Turrbal and Jagera Peoples, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather today. We acknowledge their continued spiritual connection to country and surrounding land, sky and water. We pay our respect to their Elders, past present and emerging and pray that we may continue to learn from and nurture one another in the spirit of Reconciliation.