



St Matthew's Holland Park

September 2024

Newsletter

Worship @ St Matt's

Sundays @ 9:00am

Wednesdays @ 10:30am

Men's Group Breakfast

First Thursday @ 7:00am

In the lower Hall

Parish Council

Third Sunday @ 10:30am

In the lower Hall

Bible Study

Wednesdays @ 7:00pm

Fridays @ 10:30am

Topic: *The Bible Unpacked*

Parish Contact Details

Parish Priest:

Revd Morris Rangiwai:
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Wardens:

Randal Dennings:
0408 878 711

Heather Walker:
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Men's Group:

Bob Ranson: 0409 899 419
Randal Dennings: 0408 878 711

Bible Study:

Heather Walker: 0411 556 279

Newsletter Contributions:

Heather Walker:
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Conversation with Revd Morris

The Feast of our Patron St Matthew is celebrated on the 21st September.

Matthew was a Jew who worked for the Roman authorities in Jerusalem, collecting taxes from his fellow Jews. Because the Romans were preoccupied with collecting their taxes, they frequently turned a blind eye to any additional bribes or fees that tax collectors forced the people to pay; money that the tax collectors retained for themselves.

Tax collectors were seen as traitors by their fellow Jews, so imagine how shocking it must have been for the people to see Jesus choose Matthew, a tax collector, to be in His inner circle as one of the beloved disciples.

God calls us to be disciples in the context of our lives, and in the face of our human strengths and flaws. God's grace may work marvels in our lives when we repent and move away from the things that separate us from God. Jesus informs us that He came particularly to call sinners to repentance and invite them to come to Him.

Matthew responded to Jesus' call without hesitation. According to the Gospel, Matthew got up from his customary post and promptly followed him. Matthew's example for us of transformation, repentance and conversion teaches us to 'let go'. What does Jesus ask us to leave behind in our own lives?

We know that Matthew and the other apostles made great sacrifices to pass on the faith to us. As we celebrate the apostle's faith today, may we turn away from the sins and impediments in our own lives that prevent us from having a deeper relationship with the Lord.

May the celebration of our feast give honour to Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist and Martyr, empower us to work in unity, building community, and a willingness, each in their own way, of 'letting go', making way to a life of deeper meaning, service and connection to God.

Yours in Christ

Rev. Morris

St. Matthew's Anglican Church Holland Park

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MEN'S GROUP UPDATE



Our Men's Group [known as the **Men of Toast and Bacon**] continues to thrive on each first Thursday of the month as we gather to discuss 'secret Men's business', share a few laughs, enjoy wonderful fellowship and dine upon the best cooked breakfast in Brisbane for \$5.00 :)

Our recent discussion topics included:

Pilgrimage, the Scottish Island of Iona and its significance for Christian Spirituality.

Honouring the PNG Martyr's whose Remembrance Day was Monday 2nd September

So, why not come along [or send your man along] to join in the fun next time? All will be assured of a warm welcome.



Have you talked to God today?

*Free Call anytime!... **Just Pray** ... He's always Listening*

Parish Council update.

IT Comms Group has been busy - with Andrew Coates assisting with our Facebook page and Tim Bradhurst with our web site and wonderful technical assistance by Sumesh Fernando .. thx all - it is much appreciated! Other members providing assistance are Janice, Nia, Matthew & Revd. Morris.

Any other parishioners are encouraged to take part to lift our parish's Web and Social media presence. Let me or other members know of your interest and take the opportunity to check out our new community Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556418523933> and our Op Shop Page .. <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559040358754> Please visit and follow these pages :)

Pastoral Care update: Please pass onto Revd. Morris, Randal or Patricia all suggestions for those who would benefit from our **prayer ministry, home communion or as volunteer visitors / drivers** to drive those who require transportation, to and from church.

Name Badges: We have put in an order for new name badges, but can order more so let Randal know. They cost \$15 but we will order and you make a donation as you can.

We welcome enquiries from any parishioners who might consider becoming a **Nominator, a Synod Representative or Parish Councillor**. These are important positions, and it would be great to have these Parish offices refreshed with new faces!

Messy church and Op Shop MEGA Sale success. We have been up to our eyeballs planning these 'new style ventures' and have been greatly encouraged by parishioner enthusiasm and support - thank you all so much, particularly organisers Margaret Coates and Patricia Collins.

We look forward to future events with greater confidence and our thanks goes to all who organised and contributed to them. See other articles in this newsletter for further details. Please provide your feedback and suggestions for these and further events to any PC member.

MAP review. Parish Council will shortly be reviewing our mission Action Plan and again your feedback is welcome. See Revd. Morris or Randal.

Upcoming events for your diary. Messy Church 29/9/24 and 27/10/24 - 9am service; Remembrance Day 11/11/24 @ 11am at the RSL Holland Park; and Ginger Bread Workshop Saturday 7th December 2024.

Higher Care Visits: Revd. Morris [with the assistance of Helen, Vicky, Janice, Susan and Randal] has been conducting a communion service at Regis Holland Park for the last 2 months, as well as making pastoral visits there.

The Communion services have been welcomed by the residents [including our own Helen Dennings] and also a number of staff have received communion or blessings. Revd. Morris has also been approached to provide similar services to the Duhig Higher Care facility and has also commenced some pastoral visits there.

Please let Revd. Morris know if you would wish him to visit any of your contacts there or if you would like to join the St Matts team.

THE ANNUAL OP SHOP MEGA SALE WAS A WHOPPER!

The parish rallied around to deliver an amazing Op Shop Mega Sale on Saturday 7th September 2024. Congratulations to Patricia Collins and her core Op-Shop team of Margie and Janelle and all her wonderful helpers and volunteers.

We hosted well over 300 guests who picked up some wonderful bargains and also enjoyed Susan's Devonshire teas, Sean and Hemi's Sausage Sizzle BBQ, Brett's wondrous background music, Clyda's Condiments and Jams stall and of course the amazing 'WHANAU' [or Family] Singers organised by Nari who wowed the crowd for over 45 mins with beautiful Māori action songs and a truly terrifying Haka.

Thanks to all of you who turned up to tote and lift, to buy goods and raffle tickets, to serve customers, to man stalls to set up and clean up.

Many guests remarked upon the friendly welcome and great 'spirit and feeling' about the event. We give God the Glory for this success.

Financially, the event was also a great success with profits raised being approximately \$970 from the op shop; \$100 from the Devonshire teas; \$120 from the BBQ and over \$190 from the raffle (so far), so totaling approx. \$1380 in total.

Thanks goes to Patricia who had a twisted ankle and marshalled all of her troops with a walking cane (or was it a whacking cane?). Below & right are some pics from the day.

Congrats and thanks to all involved.

Patricia Collins and Randal Dennings



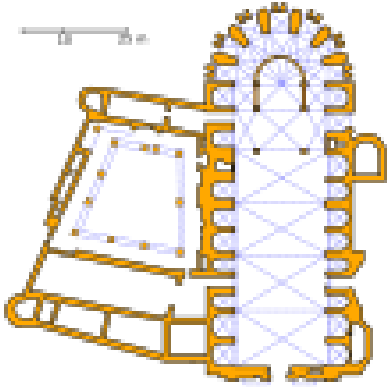
EUROPEAN CHURCHES I HAVE VISITED

BY JANICE EREAUT

My travels in SPAIN

GIRONA CATHEDRAL

'The Cathedral of Saint Mary' is in the town of Girona in Spain's northeast.



Denomination	Catholic
Architecture	
Style	Romanesque, Gothic, Baroque
Groundbreaking	1015 ^[2]
Completed	18th century

DESCRIPTION

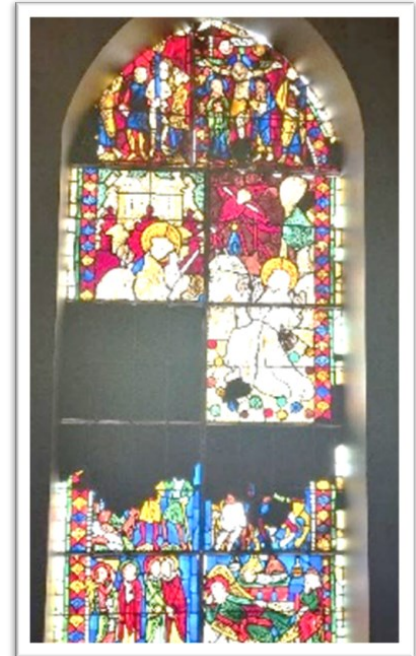
The church has a Baroque main façade (begun in 1606, with the upper part finished in 1961).

The interior's single Gothic nave which is **the widest in the world**, is surmounted by cross vaults, supported by Gothic buttresses.

The high altar, in white marble, dates to the 11th century.

The Romanesque cloister is notable, featuring a series of columns with sculpted capitals: they depict fantastic figures and animals, and vegetable motifs.

The museum's main attraction is the Tapestry of Creation, an 11th- or early-12th-century piece considered amongst the master works of Romanesque tapestry.



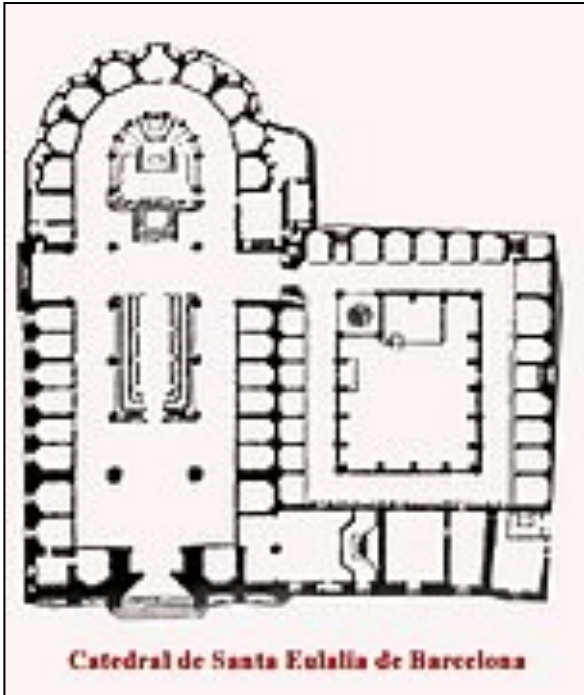
Tapestry of Creation



Girona Cathedral Organ

(Point of interest - part of the movie 'Game of Thrones' was filmed here.)

BARCELONA CATHEDRAL



Denomination	Catholic
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Architecture	
Architect(s)	Jaume Fabre (first known)
Style	Catalan Gothic, Gothic Revival
Groundbreaking	1 May 1298
Completed	1913 (west façade and dome)

HISTORY

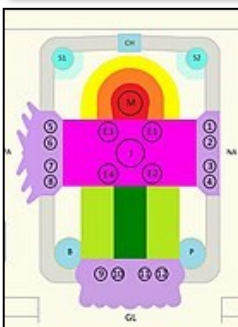
In 1046, Count Ramon Berenguer I and his wife Almodis, together with Bishop Guislabert, began construction of a Romanesque cathedral. THEN the present Gothic cathedral was begun on the foundations of the previous churches on 1 May 1298. The church was built from the east end towards the west end, with a simple west façade completed in 1417. The cloister was completed in 1448, making the total duration of construction 150 years.

SAGRADA FAMILIA BARCELONA

HISTORY



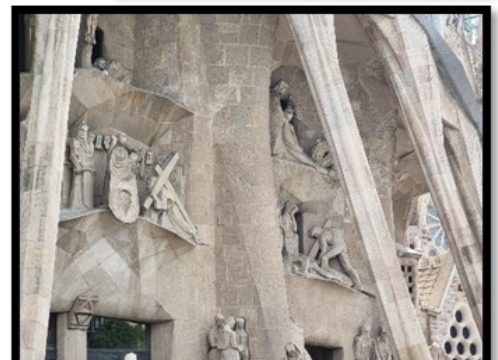
It is the largest unfinished Catholic church in the world. Designed by Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí (1852–1926), in 2005 his work on Sagrada Família was added to an existing (1984) UNESCO World Heritage Site, "Works of Antoni Gaudí". On 7 November 2010, Pope Benedict XVI consecrated the church and proclaimed it a minor basilica. The style of Sagrada Família is variously likened to Spanish Late Gothic, Catalan Modernism or Art Nouveau. While the style falls within the Art Nouveau period. While never a cathedral, Sagrada Família was planned from the outset to be a large building, comparable in size to a cathedral. The church is designed to have three grand façades: the Nativity façade to the east, the Passion façade to the west, and the Glory façade to the south (incomplete).



The church plan is that of a Latin cross with five aisles.

Denomination	Catholic
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Architecture	
Architect(s)	Antoni Gaudí and Francisco de Paula del Villar
Style	Gothic Revival and Art Nouveau and Modernista
General contractor	Construction Board of La Sagrada Família Foundation ^[1]
Groundbreaking	19 March 1882; 142 years ago
Completed	construction ongoing



About Messy Church...

Messy Church is a way of being church for families involving experiences and fun that help people encounter Jesus. Messy Church values are about being Christ-centred, for all ages which adults and children can enjoy together, based on creativity, hospitality and celebration.

Hands-on experiences help us to explore Bible stories and themes to reflect a God of creativity and to give people a chance to play and wonder together.

Hospitality reflects a God of unconditional Love and is a church for people outside church, providing an oasis of welcome and a safe space in which to thrive. Messy Church is about hospitality, expressed most evidently by eating together.

Celebration reflects a God of Joy who wants his people to have life in all its fullness!

Why start a Messy Church?

Some Good reasons:

- We want to make disciples.
- The people in our area who don't belong to church may like to come to a Messy Church.
- We want to share the love of God in Jesus in a way that is as accessible as possible to families.

Messy Church is church for families who may not find other forms of church appealing and who don't yet belong to a church. It is typically held once a month, includes hands-on creative experiences, a celebration and a meal. It does not prioritise either the needs of children or adults but intentionally welcomes and provides for all ages.

Messy Church started in 2004 in the UK and has grown and spread all around the world and to many denominations as part of the Fresh Expressions movement. In Australia there have been Messy Churches since 2010 and many churches have been blessed through seeing Messy Church as a form of mission to whole families, not just children.

While each Messy Church is unique, there are underpinning values that are shared. It is church, not a kids' club or Bible study. Each Messy Church is Christ-centred and available and welcoming to all ages. There is a strong emphasis on hospitality from the invitation, the welcome at the door, the knowing of people's names, the offer of conversation and drinks, to sharing worship and food for all. The celebration is an invitation to worship through song, prayers and story. Creativity in many forms is encouraged, nurtured and explored by people of all ages, together.



It can be easy to get preoccupied with getting our message across to people, or organizing children into games and activities, but Messy Church tries to focus on people as they are and form relationships with whole families, no strings attached. The photos on this page are from our recent Messy Church "Bread of Life" – all ages mixing together – passing on skills knowledge, wisdom – and having some fun!





MEDITATION + LABYRINTH UPDATE

Our next Parish Christian group meditation will meet on Wednesday 25th September 2024 @ 6:30 p.m. then fortnightly thereafter.

We follow the approach of the **Worldwide Community for Christian Meditation [WCCM]** See this link for more information and resources <https://wccm.org/> including a free useful app which contains daily meditations, a timer and heaps more resources.

On Saturday morning 28th September 2024 we join with other SEQ WCCM Meditators at the Brookfield Friary for an **'Inner pilgrimage to Iona.'** We hope to meet you there with other like-minded pilgrims!

BTW Susan and Randal (with others from the Australian Labyrinth Network) will be running a **Labyrinth Information Booth** at Toowoomba's Carnival of Flowers over the 21st and 22nd of September @ the Toowoomba City Labyrinth at St Luke's Anglican Church. If you happen to be visiting, pop on by and say hello.

For more information upon Christian Meditation or Labyrinths generally, feel free to contact Revd Morris or Randal.





WCCM
MEDITATION & COMMUNITY



The Friary Community, WCCM and the Anglican Labyrinth Resource Group invite you to join them for a Meditation Morning and Labyrinth Walk upon the theme of:

‘WALKING THE LABYRINTH - AN INNER PILGRIMAGE’

Ever wanted to travel to Iona, visit its sacred places and walk the ‘St Columba Labyrinth’? Fresh from their recent trip there, Randal and Susan Dennings will facilitate an imaginal Ionian pilgrimage for us all.

I wonder what you will be seeking as you walk there as a pilgrim?

Where?: The Brookfield Friary 139 Brookfield Road Kenmore Hills. On site parking available.

When?: Saturday 28th September 9 am for 9:30 start until 12.30 p.m.

A light morning tea is included. Feel free to bring a plate to share.

Cost?: Gold Coin donation.

To RSVP or any queries contact **Meredith Nicholls**: Email: meredithnich7@gmail.com Ph: 0401 881 603 by 23rd September.

BUSH CHURCH AID

Going the Distance to reach Australia for Christ.

Bush Church Aid is all about Aid to the Church in the Bush, providing biblically faithful ministry and bringing the life-changing gospel message of Jesus to rural, regional, and remote Australia.

Several parishioners support this worthwhile mission. Last week I opened four mission boxes, and we have over \$100 to send to BCA.

Thinking of going on a travelling holiday around Australia's outback?

There's another way you can support Bush Church Aid.

BCA Nomads

The Bush Church Aid Nomads scheme connects Christian travellers with Field Staff and the churches they serve, enabling them to take part in ministry on their travels.

Nomads support the work of the gospel and experience what life is like in remote areas. BCA's Field

Staff and their church communities are very encouraged by the presence of Nomads and their willingness to lend a hand. Our prayer is that people throughout Australia would bow before Jesus, be transformed by God's Word, and live their lives to His glory.



“Being a BCA Nomad is more than simply getting away from the daily grind. It's more than being grey-haired caravanners wanting to travel and see the pleasures far flung places have to offer. It's these things and much more. It's being able to travel with a God-given purpose in mind. It's being able to use the gifts God has given us to encourage

and assist people and communities. It's being able to spread God's word through what we say and do in the places we go to. It's being an encouragement to Field Staff and their families. It's being part of the fellowship of God's mobile church.”

Rhys & Marj Wellings

To find out more about the BCA Nomads, go to:
bushchurcaid.com.au

Psalm 73

I chose this psalm to share with you because it has so much relevance to today's society.

It addresses that most disturbing problem - how is it that the wicked so often prosper while the godly suffer so much?

Asaph, who wrote this psalm, was a worship leader and prophet in the time of King David, but he almost lost his faith in God. Bitterness and envy over what seemed to be an unfair situation led him to a spiritual crisis. But by deeply considering the truth, Asaph was able to come to a firm conclusion: his faith in God was justified.

Though he saw God's faithfulness to Israel, Asaph struggled to understand why it seemed that wicked people were so prosperous and healthy. I'm sure we have all experienced this at some time in our lives.

It appears that godless people are free of pain, well fed, and trouble free. Books such as Proverbs do make it clear that sin does indeed come with consequences.

But in the heat of the moment, a suffering believer can feel that wicked people have nothing to worry about, at all. Bitterness sets in.

All wicked people seem to have it easy. In fact, their lives appear so comfortable they can afford to flaunt their status. Rather than being ashamed of their sin, they celebrate it.

Even worse, many of those wicked people ridicule and mock those who are God-fearing. Our modern age is overflowing with examples of faithful Christians being slandered, taunted, insulted, and sneered at by those who think they are above God.

Asaph was pained to see this coming from those who, it seemed, suffered no consequences.

For some, temptations and ridicule create unbearable pressure. Rather than oppose what God says is wrong, they turn away from faith and embrace the attitudes of these wicked people, renouncing their former beliefs. Honouring and obeying God is a waste of time, even a hindrance to their lives.

Asaph recognized the impact of these errors. Especially as a spiritual leader, he knew how damaging his own fall from faith would be. Rather than embrace cynicism and bitterness, he sought to better understand God.

From that humble perspective, he remembered that wickedness does, in fact, usually result in earthly troubles. Beyond that, no one will escape God's judgment, even if they seem to avoid punishment during their earthly lives. Asaph recognized that his bitterness was a sin, something he could confess.

The psalm ends with a confirmation of faith in the Lord. Compared to everything the world may offer, God is far better.

Not only can believers trust in God's plan during earthly life, but they can also look forward to eternity in His presence.

Those who reject Him, on the other hand, face destruction. Asaph's appropriate response to this is a commitment to bring the Lord praise.

"Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."

Psalm 73:25–26, NIV

Heather Walker