



4th Sunday aft. Pentecost-21 June 2026

St Matthew's-Holland Park

Theme: Life in Christ means costly trust: we are joined to his death and resurrection, called to costly loyalty, and upheld by God's faithful mercy even in rejection, failure, and wilderness. **And Christ keeps saying to you today 'Do Not Be Afraid!'**

Genesis 21.8–21

What's happening: After Isaac's birth, tension in Abraham's household leads to Hagar and Ishmael being sent away. In the wilderness, when all seems lost, God hears the boy's cry, provides water, and promises a future.

Main point: God sees and sustains the vulnerable and cast out. Human rejection does not cancel divine promise or care.

What to wonder about: Whom do we, or our society, quietly send into the "wilderness"? How might God be calling the Church to mirror his care for those displaced or dismissed?

Psalms 86.1–10, 16–17

What's happening: An afflicted worshipper cries for help, appealing to God's character: good, forgiving, abounding in steadfast love. The psalmist asks for a sign of God's favour in the middle of threats.

Main point: In distress, God's people cling to his covenant mercy. Prayer is rooted not in our strength but in God's steadfast, saving character.

What to wonder about: When I pray, am I more focused on my need or on who God is? What "signs of favour" from the past might I remember to strengthen trust now?

Romans 6.1–11

What's happening: Paul answers the claim that grace encourages sin. He teaches that in baptism we are united with Christ's death and resurrection, so we can no longer treat sin as our master.

Main point: Christians are no longer defined by sin but by Christ's risen life. We are to "consider" ourselves dead to sin and alive to God - a new identity that shapes how we live.

What to wonder about: Do I actually think of myself as someone who has already passed through death with Christ? How might my habits change if I truly believed I am "alive to God in Christ Jesus"?

Matthew 10.24–39

What's happening: Jesus prepares the disciples for mission. He warns they will be treated as he is, calls them to fearless witness, and speaks plainly about the cost of discipleship - even division within families - and about taking up the cross.

Main point: Jesus calls his followers to fearless allegiance: we will share his rejection and his cross, yet we are held in the Father's care, so we need not be afraid to confess him above every other loyalty.

What to wonder about: Where does fear—of rejection, loss, or conflict—keep me from living and speaking openly as a disciple of Jesus? What might it look like to “not be afraid” and to take up my cross in quiet, ordinary faithfulness?

Take-away: To follow Christ is to die to old loyalties and securities, and to discover, sometimes painfully, that God's mercy is deeper than our fear, our sin, and our exile. [Matthew 14:27 But Jesus spoke up at once: "Take courage! It is I. Do not be afraid." ; Jesus said do not be afraid - Search; Commentary on Matthew 10:24-39 - Working Preacher from Luther Seminary](#)

Ladies Morning Tea Invitation 10am 27 June Contact Patricia or Annette

Wine and Cheese Evening 17 July-Kiwi Theme-Tickets \$25 each

Naidoc Sunday 12 July

Bible Study Lady Chapel Friday 10am

Ladies Study Wednesday Night see Janice E or Heather W

Men's Breakfast 1st Thursday of month

Pray for Galway Street

Meditation 24 June Wednesday night 5pm

Op Shop Every Thursday-1st Saturday of month Times 9-12

Behind the Scene Thanks: Volunteer Secretary Kym

Next Sunday Pentecost 5: 9am 28th June; Genesis 22.1-14

Psalms 13; Romans 6.12-23; *Gospel: Matthew 10.40-42* *Green*

Parish Directory:

Rev. Morris Rangiwai: 0449 557 351; Morris.Rangiwai@anglicanchurchsq.org.au.

Wardens: Heather Walker: 0411556 279; hezzie16@gmail.com

Randal Dennings: 0408 878711; randaldennings@gmail.com

Bank Details: Holland Park Anglican Church Anfin BSB 704 901; Acct: 00000760.

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.