



5th Sunday aft. Pentecost-28 June 2026

St Matthew's-Holland Park

Overarching theme Genesis 22.1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6.12-23; Matthew 10.40-42

Trusting and obeying God in costly, confusing situations -when it feels like loss, delay, or death -leads not to destruction but to deeper life. **God sees, provides, and rewards faithfulness, and even small acts done in Christ's name share in His life and mission.**

Genesis 22.1-14 – Abraham and Isaac

What is happening? God “tests” Abraham by commanding him to offer his beloved son Isaac. Abraham obeys, journeying to Moriah, building an altar, and raising the knife. The angel of the Lord stops him, and God provides a ram in Isaac's place. Abraham names the place “The Lord will provide.”

Main point: Faith will sometimes be tested at the deepest, most painful level, but God is not out to destroy His promises -He is revealing them and deepening trust.

What to wonder about: - What does it really mean to trust God with what I love most?

- Where, in my own story, has God “provided” at the last moment?

- How does this story point forward to God not sparing His own Son?

Psalm 13 -“How long, O Lord?”

What is happening? The psalmist cries out in anguish -feeling forgotten by God, overwhelmed by enemies, close to despair -yet ends by choosing to trust and sing of God's steadfast love.

Main point: Faith includes seasons of honest lament; bringing our anguish to God is part of trust, and in the dark we cling to His past mercy as a pledge of future help.

What to wonder about: Where am I saying, “How long, O Lord?” - Can I be that honest with God in prayer? - What past mercies might sustain present trust?

Romans 6.12-23 – Slaves to righteousness

What is happening?: Paul urges believers, who are already united with Christ, not to let sin rule their bodies. We inevitably serve some master; in Christ we are set free from sin's slavery and made servants of God, leading to holiness and eternal life.

Main point: Grace doesn't excuse sin; it liberates us from sin's power so we can live as God's willing servants. Sin's wages are death, but God's gift in Christ is eternal life.

What to wonder about: Whom (or what) am I actually serving day to day? Where do I confuse “freedom” with bondage to my desires? How might I present my “members” to God this week?

Matthew 10.40-42 – Welcoming Christ

What is happening? Jesus tells the disciples that whoever receives them receives Him -and the One who sent Him. Even a simple act, like giving a cup of cold water to a disciple, will not go unrewarded.

Main point: To welcome Christ's messengers is to welcome Christ Himself. No act of hospitality or kindness done for His sake is too small to matter in God's eyes.

What to wonder about: How do I receive Christ in the people He sends to me?

-Where can I offer a "cup of cold water" in His name today? Do I believe hidden, small faithfulness really matters eternally?

The God who tests is the God who provides. The God who seems silent is the God whose steadfast love endures. The God who calls us from sin is the God who gives eternal life.

The Christ who sends us is the Christ who receives every cup of cold water.

[Lectionary.pro for the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 8, Year A](#); [Matthew 10:40-42 We Are God's Welcome Mat – Sermons From My Heart](#) 28 June 2026 - Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – Year A | The Church of Scotland;

Memorial for Family and Friends of Frank Meek- 5 July

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

Naidoc Sunday 12 July Aunt Sandra

Ecumenical Planning Meeting 4 July 2.30 St David's South side

Bible Study Lady Chapel Friday 10am The Bible Unpacked

Ladies Study Wednesday Night see Janice E or Heather W

Men's Breakfast 1st Thursday of month

Pray for Street Henry Street

Meditation 9 July Wednesday night 5pm

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

Behind the Scene Thanks: Gardener Tom

Next Sunday Pentecost 6: 9am 5 July; Genesis 22.24.34-38, 42-49, 58-67

Psalms 45.10-17; Romans 7.14-25; Gospel: Matthew 11.15-19, 25-30 Green

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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.