



# A New King

The life of Jesus  
according to Matthew's Gospel



Wk 4

## Sunday 25 February 2024

*Our 9:45am service is live streamed to our YouTube and Facebook Channels. If you don't wish to feature on our stream, please occupy the pews towards the back.*

### TODAY'S 9:45AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading: Matthew 5:21-32 (p. 969)
- Sermon
- Prayers
- Announcements
- Song
- Conclusion

Welcome to St Stephen's. It is great you could be with us today. There is no better place to be on a Sunday than church. We would love to hear how you found the service. Could you leave us a thought using the Connect Card or the QR Code?



Today we have our Newish Morning Tea. We love welcoming new people to St Stephen's. Church is a place that is always open to visitors, enquirers and those longing for the love and care a community shaped by Christ provides. If you haven't been to Newish we encourage you to pop in after the service, enjoy the food and learn a little more about our community.

At the heart of our church is the life and teaching of Jesus. Jesus paints a picture of what his Kingdom will look like and provides us with the door through which we can be welcomed in.

Most St Stephen's collection is received electronically.  
BSB: 062 272  
Account Number:  
00490436

If you are a visitor please don't feel obliged to contribute financially.

### Next Steps

**Are you new?** We would love to meet you. Hear a brief intro on the life of our church at our [Newish Morning Tea](#) today! It runs for ½ an hour straight after the service.

**Been regularly coming?** If you are a regular member of our church, we encourage you to attend our next [Belonging Course](#) which runs on the 10th of March from 12-3pm. Belonging is the gateway to our GaP Groups, serving and deeper connection with the community.

**Got a question?** Fill out a [connect card](#) to chat with a staff member.

# Prayers for the Service

These prayers are used during the service. Prayer is a privilege we are given because Christ died for us. His death & resurrection means we can confidently approach God seeking forgiveness (Hebrews 10:22). If you believe that Christ died to deal with your failings then you should be confident to pray with us. If you are still exploring who Christ is then feel free to listen in.

## A Prayer of Confession

Heavenly Father,  
we praise you for adopting us as your children  
and making us heirs of eternal life.  
In your mercy you have washed us from our sins  
and made us clean in your sight.  
Yet we still fail to love you as we should  
and serve you as we ought.  
Forgive us our sins and renew us by your grace,  
that we may continue to grow as members of Christ,  
in whom alone is our salvation.  
Amen.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8-9

## The Lord's Prayer

This is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray (Matthew 6:5-14).

Our Father in heaven  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever  
Amen.

# Sermon Notes

## Big Sins & the Kingdom | Matthew 5:21-32

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

1. The Seriousness of Sin

2. The Depth of Sin

3. The Victim of Sin

# Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

*“I am good, but not an angel. I do sin, but I am not the devil. I am just a small girl in a big world trying to find someone to love.” – Marilyn Monroe*

1. How does this quote resonate with the modern mindset?

## Read Matthew 5:17-32

### Getting your head around the passage:

Use as many questions as you need to ensure you understand the passage's contents.

- A. Has Jesus got rid of the Old Testament Law?
- B. How does he extend the law's treatment of murder?
- C. What does he teach on adultery? How does he extend it?
- D. What solutions does he provide?
- E. Who does divorce impact according to this passage? (We will do a more extended treatment of divorce and remarriage in an upcoming series in May).
- F. How is hell described in this passage?

2. What is the combined effect of Jesus's teaching on murder and adultery? How does he lower the threshold?

3. What is the purpose of Jesus's warning in vv.29-30?

4. Which trivial sins are you often struggling with? What is the pastoral warning of Jesus in this passage to you?

5. For those who have sinned, what is the only way out of judgment in this passage?

6. Consider some of the following: Psalm 51, Isaiah 53:5, 2 Cor 5:21, 1 Peter 3:18. Why is Jesus necessary for every person? How does this impact your choices & priorities this coming week.

## Prayer Time

*“See the destined day arise! See a willing sacrifice!  
Jesus, to redeem our loss, hangs upon the shameful cross;  
Jesus, who but you could bear wrath so great and justice fair?  
Every pang and bitter throe, finishing your life of woe?” -*

*Venantius Fortunatus’s (AD 530–607)*

Meditate on these lyrics / watch this video via the QR code



*Split into smaller groups:*

1. Spend time confessing your sin to each other and the Lord. Thank him for the forgiveness of Christ.

## Read the Bible with us!

1. What is our greatest need?
2. What is it that Christ offers?
3. How can God shape you as a response to this? Ask for help from the Lord.

Monday - [Psalm 51](#)

Tuesday - [Isaiah 53:5](#)

Wednesday - [2 Corinthians 5:21](#)

Thursday - [1 Peter 3:18](#)

Friday - [Mark 10:45](#)

# Notices

## Newish Morning Tea

Newish is a great opportunity to enjoy an extra special morning tea with others who are new or newish to our church. It runs straight after today's service in the office reception area (near the Mowbray Rd carpark). It's an easy, low-commitment way of taking a first step into the community here.



## NCLS

On Sunday 3 March we will take 15mins in our services to complete the NCLS forms for this year. As a church we want to ensure that our ministries help us become more like Christ and are well catered to reaching the 60,000 people who live within 2km of our church. Completing the NCLS is a great way to receive standardised feedback from the church community and visitors. Make sure you are here to have your say in our church life.





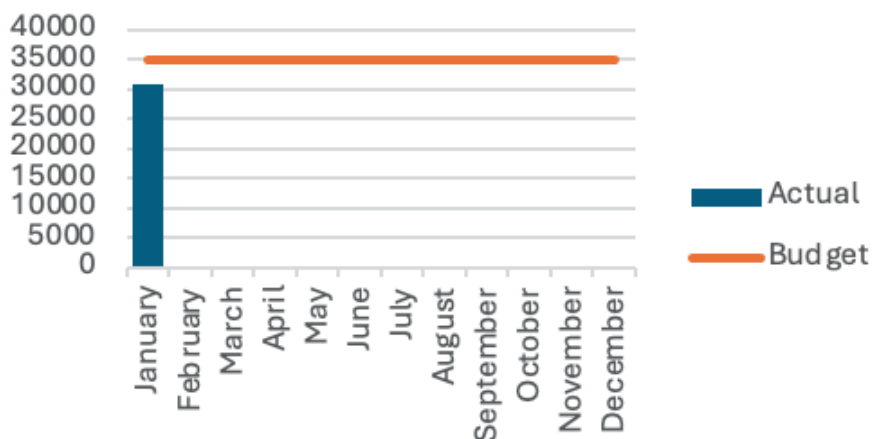
# Notices

## Finances

Thanks to those who regularly support the ministry of St Stephen's. This week we have been able to enjoy a number of great celebrations together: from Lunar New Year to GaP Groups and Kids and Youth Ministries. Each of these is made possible through the generosity of St Stephen's members.

With the increase in ministries & inflationary costs our budget for 2024 is tighter than past years. In addition some of our long term givers moved out of Sydney at the end of last year. We encourage regulars to consider their giving for 2024. You can visit [st-stephens.com.au/give](http://st-stephens.com.au/give) for more details.

### Actual v Budget - 2024



## Half Past Six Youth

The year has started off well. Though small with just 5 youth, we're having a blast and learning a lot. We are currently exploring 'A Dozen Disappointing Disciples.'

It has been great to see how Jesus loves ordinary people who make mistakes.

We are also very thankful that Damien Clark has joined the youth team. Please keep praying for our youth to deepen their faith, for more to join us, and for boldness to bring friends.



## What's Coming Up

27 February	Alpha course
10 March	Belonging Course
16 March	Emu Music Conference
17 March	Welcome team training
21 March	Encounter for Seniors

For more on what's happening this summer at St Stephen's, visit [st-stephens.com.au/summer](http://st-stephens.com.au/summer)

## Our Staff - Contact Us!



**Prashanth Colombage**  
Senior Minister

E: [prash@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:prash@st-stephens.com.au)  
M: [0432 314 466](tel:0432314466)



**Gordon Luk**  
Outreach & Sunday Services

E: [gordon@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:gordon@st-stephens.com.au)



**Pippie Krebs**  
Kids & Youth Minister

E: [pippie@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:pippie@st-stephens.com.au)



**Jill Chilton**  
Membership Minister

E: [jill@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:jill@st-stephens.com.au)



**Zonel Harrison**  
On-site Administrator

E: [office@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:office@st-stephens.com.au)



**Bec Simmons**  
Off-site Administrator

E: [office@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:office@st-stephens.com.au)