



**The Uniting Church in Australia**  
**KOGARAH UNITING CHURCH**

**We welcome people of all cultures and  
lifestyles,  
We create a safe place for the community  
We share the journey of life and faith.**

**22nd June 2025 @ 10am**

**Breaking Boundaries, Building Community**

**Leader Richard**

**Reflection Richard (Deok Hee is on a course)**

**1 Kings 19:1–4, (5–7) 8–15a; Psalms 42 & 43; Galatians 3:23–29;**

**Luke 8:26–39**



For details and information about our church activities and The Kogarah Storehouse, check out the websites: [kogarah.uca.org.au](http://kogarah.uca.org.au) and <https://www.kogarahstorehouse.org.au/>

For pastoral concerns, please contact Deok Hee on  
0401 975 745.

## Scriptures

### **1 Kings 19:1–4, (5–7) 8–15a**

Elijah, having fled to the wilderness, encounters God’s sustaining stillness and hope in the midst of his fear and despair. Elijah hears God in the sound of sheer silence.

### **Psalm 42 and 43**

Like Elijah, the psalmist pleads for an encounter with God’s guidance and care. The human soul longs for God as a deer longs for flowing streams.

### **Galatians 3:23–29**

We are all one in Christ Jesus—children of God through a faith that brings freedom.

### **Luke 8:26–39**

Jesus takes the disciples to a place that is opposite Galilee—into Gentile territory—and brings healing, hope, and new community.

## Theme Focus

As we hear Paul’s words to the Galatians, we are invited to step beyond what divides us and into a love that unites, reflecting on ways to build bridges across differences and live as a community where all truly belong.

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## Word for the Day

We live in a divided world—a world separated sometimes by physical walls but far more often by various identifications that differentiate ourselves from others. Peter Rollins describes the way our beliefs and practices, shaped and developed by our various histories and contexts, create worlds of ‘us’ and ‘them’. (Peter Rollins, *The Idolatry of God* (Hodder & Stoughton, 2012))

Paul, in Galatians 3:23–29, mentions divisions along religious lines (Jew or Greek/Gentile), the political/economic (enslaved person or free), and biological (male and female). These lines of division defined and shaped the way these groups related to each other and were reinforced by the various authorities of the time.

We must not miss the profoundly radical nature of Paul’s words here. Paul is saying that, while these divisions continue to exist, to belong in Christ is to be bound no longer by these categories. None of these identities ought to define human dignity, relationships, or experience. Rather, it is participation in Christ that is key. For Paul, to be in Christ is to participate in the life of Christ, who self-empties (kenosis) and crosses over. See the gospel reading from this week where Jesus crosses over to a place that some translations describe as ‘opposite Galilee’ (Luke 8:26–39) in order to serve and embrace all of humanity in profound humility (Philippians 2:5–8). In the following weeks, we will explore the life and teachings of Christ:

- the difficult but necessary departures that we must make in order to take our place in God’s dream for the world (Luke 9:51–62)
- the necessary movement from a performance-identity to a participation-identity (Luke 10:1–11, 16:20)
- the risky, costly and confounding nature of transcending the things that divide us (Luke 10:25–37 and Luke 10:38–42)

We will see that to experience our belonging in Christ does not mean adding another category that divides. Rather, it is to hold all of these categories entirely differently.

Where once old categories separated, Christ now unites. Walls are dismantled. The 'other' becomes a sibling. Love binds. A profound and life-changing 'we' becomes our new foundation. As we move beyond tribalism, beautiful possibilities emerge as part of God's dream for a renewed and reconciled world.

## Ideas for Reflection

- Consider your various memberships and the ways they, best you can tell, shape your beliefs, practices, relationships, and experience of the world (that is, your age, cultural background, gender, sexuality, education, religion/beliefs, economic participation, etc.)
- Where are there places you feel especially welcomed and celebrated?
- Where are there places where you might feel unwelcome or uncomfortable?
- Reflect on what it is like to consider the notion of no longer being bound by our various identifications in the same way.
- Reflect on times where a sense of belonging in Christ has cut across old categories of identification that might otherwise separate or divide.
- Reflect on ways we might hold our Christian faith in a way that adds further division and separation.
- How might our belonging in Christ help us to transcend divisions? What might be involved?



## **Kogarah Uniting Church – Notice of Church Council Elections**

The elections for KUC CC will be held in conjunction with the KUC Annual Congregational Meeting on July 13

These are the current members of KUC CC and the year when their current term ends.

### **Church Councillors**

Robert McAlpine (2026) Continuing

Susan Baglin (2025)

Dinah Roepers (2025)

### **Elders**

John Baglin (2025)

Richard Goodman (2027) Continuing

Bobbie Miller (2025)

The continuing members of Church Council are Robert McAlpine and Richard Goodman.

The remaining members are due to retire. If you wish them to continue in their roles, you will need to nominate them. They may agree to stand for a 1-, 2- or 3-year term.

Also, feel free to approach other members of the congregation you feel have gifts to offer either as a member of church council or as an elder.

Where applicable

Nomination forms are now available, and may be handed in to Richard at any time until **Sunday June 22**.

### **Saint Patick's Breastplate**

<https://youtu.be/KUrERen9Vyc?si=bYsHaNFEebQ8XHoR>

**This is a famous hymn about the Trinity attributed to St Patrick (372-466) and translated by Cecil Francis Alexander (1818-1918). You can copy the above YouTube link to find an excellent sung version of it. The anthem can be found in Congregational Praise #753**

**I bind unto myself today**

**The strong name of the Trinity:**

**By invocation of the same,**

**The Three in One and One in Three.**

**I bind this day to me for ever**

**By power of faith, Christ's incarnation:**

**His baptism in the Jordan river,**

**His death on the Cross for my salvation;**

**His bursting from the spiced tomb,**

**His riding up the heavenly way,**

**His coming at the day of doom**

**I bind unto myself today!**

**I bind unto myself today**

**The power of God to hold and lead:**

**His eye to watch, his might to stay,**

**His ear to hearken to my need;**

**The wisdom of my God to teach,**

**His hand to guide, his shield to ward;**

**The Word of God to give me speech,**

**His heavenly host to be my guard!**

**I bind unto myself today**

**The power of the great cherubim,**

**The sweet "well done" in judgment hour,**

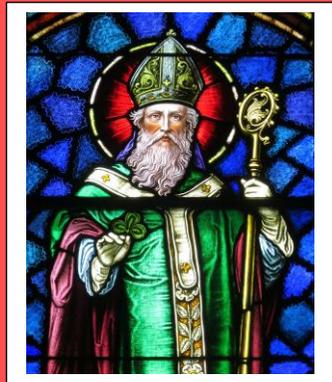
**The service of the seraphim;**

**Confessors' faith, apostles' word,**

**Patriarchs' prayers, the prophets' scrolls;**

**All good deeds done unto the Lord,  
And purity of virgin souls.  
I bind unto myself today  
The virtues of the starlit heaven,  
The glorious sun's life-giving ray;  
The whiteness of the moon at even,  
The flashing of the lightning free,  
The whirling wind's tempestuous shocks,  
The stable earth, the deep salt sea  
around the old eternal rocks.**

**Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me,  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.**



**I bind unto myself today,  
The strong name of the Trinity:  
By invocation of the same,  
The Three in One and One in Three,  
Of Whom all nature hath creation,  
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word:  
Praise to the Lord of my salvation --  
Salvation is of Christ the Lord!**

Your Mission, if you choose to accept it...

## **KIDSFEST 2025 - MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE**



Your mission if you choose to accept it...

# **MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE**

K-6 Holiday Kids Club

Rockdale Uniting Church  
5 Bay St Rockdale  
14 - 18 July, 9am to 12pm  
Games, Craft, Music, Talks & Inflatable World  
[www.trybooking.com/DAZQD](http://www.trybooking.com/DAZQD)



It's time again for KIDSFEST 2025!

Join us at Rockdale Uniting Church, Monday, 14 July to Friday, 18 July for a holiday kids club like no other! Our Theme this year is...MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE! Our super-spy campers will be treated to an imaginative journey through games, crafts, music and inflatables for a fun-filled week of friends and fellowship. If you're looking for the perfect holiday club for a child in your life, look no further than KIDSFEST 2025!

Ready to register? Scan the QR code above

**(Shared by Jim Bird)**

**(From the Wayside Chapel) Dear Inner Circle,**

**Hope isn't about belief or preference, they are all too often arbitrarily allocated. It is an orientation of the spirit, and remains well within our locus of control. It allows us room to move in accordance with deeply held values, even though the odds against may seem overwhelming. Hope is an invitation to live life on purpose.**

**In this place then life can be a poetic protest — one that occasionally requires some pause in times when despair threatens to overwhelm. Wendell Berry is often a salve for the soul in such times, and I love the way his poem, "The Peace of Wild Things" describes this.**

***When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.***

**I think that hope lives in different locations in each of us: some in the head, some in the heart — I suspect mine is in the gut, because this work is done best in the presence of companions, those we break bread with.**

**Sitting with friends here breaking bacon (usually spiked with some extra hot chilli to see my reaction) and sharing the sunshine that breaks through after these freezing cold evenings, I see the pains of this world as our visitors encounter them.**

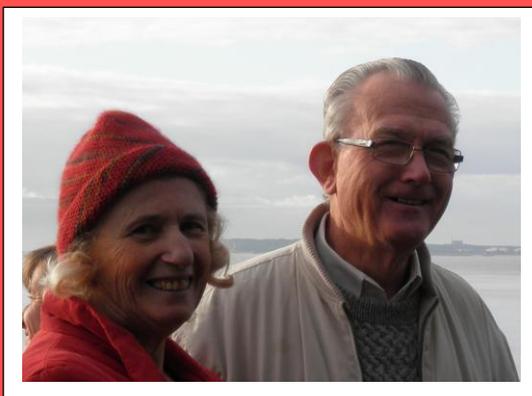
Over a roll we split in two, a friend recently shared with me her fears, a terminal diagnosis. Her fear isn't the diagnosis itself, it's that she isn't telling anyone because she wants to be able to focus on caring for others, and not to become "the story". "Besides, I brought this on myself, but look at her over there..." she waved a hand in a direction to indicate who she was speaking about. "Poor B%^h has done nothing wrong, and look at what's happened to her! That's who I want to help with what I've got left."

If there ever was a poem written for Wayside, I think it would begin, 'when despair grows, we go and break bread in the presence of wild women...' Berry's poem might be all about the peace of still waters, but Wayside's raging river is my reminder that hope is always alive, and love always triumphs over hate.

Thank you for being part of the Inner Circle,

Jon

Rev. Jon Owen CEO & Pastor Wayside Chapel



*Last Thursday we farewelled our friend Brian Chamberlain in a memorial service to celebrate his rich life. We gathered with his family and friends to review his life and acknowledge his dedication to Jesus Christ in whose arms, we believe, he now resides. Our prayers are now for Rhonda and his extended family. Vale Brian.*

## Planning Ahead

- o **June 29 and July 6 - Dates for advertising nominees for Church Council**
- o **July 13 2025 - Date of AGM and Elections**
  - **July 17 2025 Worship Task Group @ 7pm via Zoom**
- o **July 20 Possible date for the Commissioning of new Church Council**
  - **August 7 2025 Kogarah Church Council @ 7pm via Zoom**

### **Please pray for ...**

The mission and ministry of our congregation and for our Minister, Deok Hee, and Wynne Cheng as they make links to the Chinese community.

Worship leaders; helpers, leaders, followers The Kogarah Storehouse and its many clients; Lala and staff and volunteers at the Storehouse. Dorothy and Godfrey and the work of LACLA. The team, parents and children in the Early Learning Centre.

Those who are sick, sad or lonely:

We pray especially today for Dennis and Robyn Lyons, Rhonda and family on the death of her husband, Brian; Prema and Priya, Denis and Dolly, Naghuia, Peter and Sue; Dinah; Ern Edwards; Jim Bird, Cindy, Dorothy, Sue B. For others whom we name in our hearts.

Pray for the people of Syria, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Ukraine, Russia, Israel and Palestine, especially the people of Gaza and Lebanon. The USA and the countries of Europe. Sudan

**Next Sunday**  
**29th June 2025 @ 10am**  
**Journey into Greater Love**

**Leader Rev Dr Matt Wilson**

**Reflection Matt Wilson**

**Holy Communion Matt Wilson**

**(Deok Hee is on his rostered day off)**

**2 Kings 2:1–2, 6–14; Psalm 77:1–2, 11–20; Galatians 5:1, 13–25;**

**Luke 9:51–62**

**(Matt will be basing his service on this week's readings.)**



**Church Council 2024-2025**

**Chair**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer**  
**Councillors**

**Elders**

**Richard Goodman**  
**Sue Baglin**  
**John Baglin**  
**Robert M<sup>c</sup>Alpine (2026)**  
**Sue Baglin (2025)**  
**Dinah Roepers (2025)**  
**John Baglin (2025)**  
**Bobbie Miller (2025)**  
**Richard Goodman (2027)**

**Safe Church Contact Person**

**Richard Goodman**