



**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.**

**12<sup>th</sup> April 2026 @ 10am**

**Easter 2**

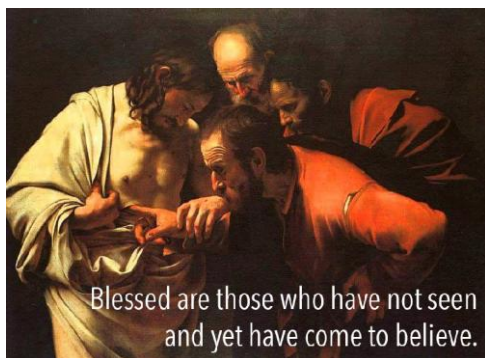
**Easter Gifts: Peace, Presence, Life**

**Leader Deok Hee**

**Reflection Deok Hee**

**Acts 2:14a, 22–32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3–9;**

**John 20:19–31**



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  
Rev Deok Hee Cho on 0401 975 745.

### Scriptures

Acts 2:14a, 22–32 is part of Peter’s sermon given immediately after the disciples have received the Holy Spirit. Peter draws on Psalm 16:8–11 and Psalm 110:1 to support his assertion of Jesus’ resurrection.

Psalm 16 The psalmist talks of his relationship with God, summarised in v. 11: ‘You lead me in the path of life. I experience absolute joy in your presence; you always give me sheer delight.’ The psalmist also talks of one who will not be abandoned to Sheol (the realm of the dead).

1 Peter 1:3–9 was probably written late in the first century CE, but not by the Peter of the Acts passage. At this time, Christians were ‘no longer acceptable to their cultural world.’ (*HarperCollins Bible Commentary*, p. 1168). In this time of persecution, the letter is an encouragement to new Christians, reminding them of their faith, not in the visible Jesus but in an unseen God.

John 20:19–31 The disciples are hiding from the authorities. When Jesus enters the room and says, ‘peace be with you’, it likely recalls the last time Jesus spoke these words, during his previous conversation with them (John 14:27). At that time, he had also promised to send the Holy Spirit to support them. Jesus breathing on the disciples recalls the imagery of God breathing life into Adam (Gen 2:7) and God breathing life into the dry bones (Ezekiel 37:9–10). Jesus’ breathing is a very corporeal action and emphasises his physicality as a risen presence.

## Theme Focus

As the Easter eggs become only a memory, we breathe in the lasting gifts—peace, presence, and life—that strengthen us for daily living.

## Word for the Day

This week's lectionary readings are linked by Jesus' gifts of peace, presence, and life. These gifts come to the disciples not as abstract words but as experiences, meeting them in their need. Jesus breathes his peace into their fear, stands present in their midst and offers life that no locked door can contain. These same gifts are offered to us—peace in our turmoil, presence in our loneliness, and life when we feel cut off. How might we receive these Easter gifts this week?

## Ideas for Reflection

- Consider how the disciples' feelings might have changed from the period before Jesus' arrest through the trial, death, and the reports of the resurrection, to where we meet them in John.
- Before his arrest, Jesus spoke at length to his disciples (John 13—17). Read chapter 14. Does knowing that this is in the minds of the disciples as Jesus speaks to them in today's passage change how they, and perhaps you, hear Jesus' words?
- Jesus said, 'I have come so that they may have life, and may have it abundantly.' (John 10:10). What constitutes abundant life?
- How do you experience God's peace?
- What form does God's peace take in difficult time?

## Easter Celebrations at Kogarah - Maundy Thursday – 6:30pm

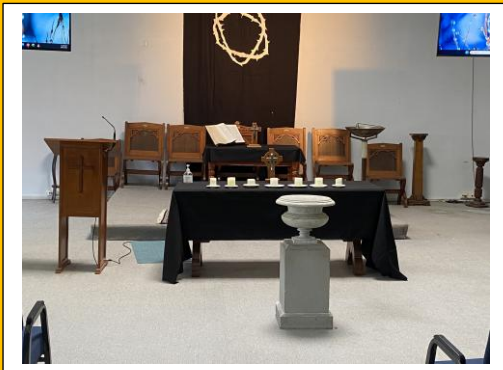


### **Maundy Thursday –**

Around 20 people from 7 different nationalities gathered for a simple meal and a celebration of the Last Supper.

The participants revealed the richness of our multicultural congregation

## Good Friday – 10am till 1:30pm



### **Good Friday –**

Over 30 people gathered to walk with Christ to the Cross. We heard the last 7 words of Christ and sang “Were you there when they crucified my Lord” A candle was extinguished after each reading.



After **Hot Cross Buns** (thank you, Sue) we listened to Handel's "Messiah". This was organised by Bobbie with technical help from Sue and Richard. Many thanks!

Beautiful!

***Voces8 and Academy of Ancient Music at Trinity College Cambridge***

## Easter Day – 10am



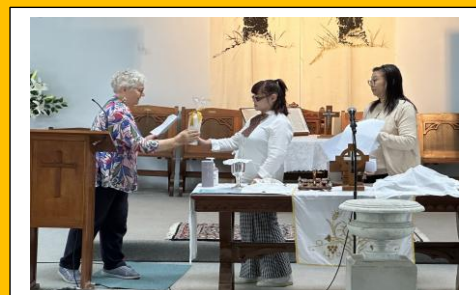
## Mei Mei's Baptism



**Bobbie pours the water into the Baptismal Font.**



**Deok Hee baptises Mei Mei with water from the Font.**



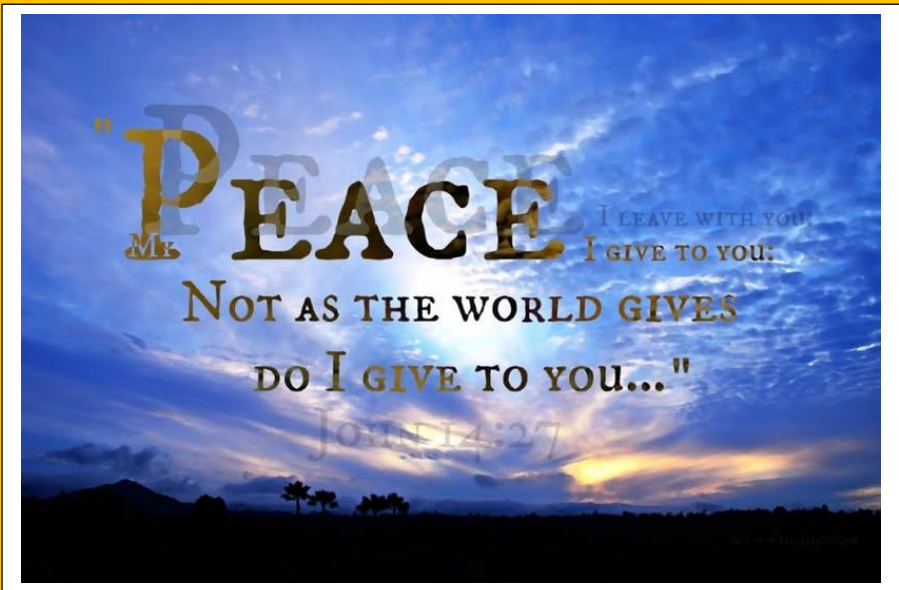
**Mei Mei receives the Candle signifying the Light of Christ and a reminder of her Baptism**

Shared From Jamberoo Abbey

Easter Thursday (9.04.2026)

We join people throughout the world this morning praying that the fragile ceasefire between the US and Iran will hold and that Israel will cease all bombing in Lebanon.

In these octave days of Easter, we hear again and again the beautiful greeting of the Risen Christ to his friends, "Peace be with you". We join him in that greeting and pray that peace will come to pass...that light will transform all darkness...love will overcome all hatred... life will be born out of senseless death. This is the hope of the resurrection, this the task for each of us today to live, act and pray for peace and justice...everywhere.



## Planning Ahead

- **April 12 Yum Cha after church at Kogarah RSL today.**
- **May 7 Worship Task Group meeting @ 7pm via Zoom**
- **May 6 Storehouse Board Meeting**
- **May 14 Church Council meeting via Zoom 7pm**

### **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 Chamberlain and family; Prema and Priya, Denis and Dolly, Ngahua, Peter and Sue; Dinah; Ern Edwards; Jim Bird, Cindy, Dorothy and Godfrey, Nives - For others whom we name in our hearts.

Pray for the people of Syria, Iraq, Iran, Jordan and other Middle Eastern Countries involved in the current war; Ukraine, Russia, Israel and Palestine, especially the people of Gaza and Lebanon. The USA and the countries of Europe. Sudan.

**Next Sunday**

**19<sup>th</sup> April 2026 @ 10am**

**Easter 3**

**Recognising God with Us**

**Leader Richard**

**Reflection Deok Hee**

**Acts 2:14a, 36–41; Psalm 116:1–4, 12–19; 1 Peter 1:17–23;**

**Luke 24:13–35**



**Church Council 2025-2026**

***Chair***

**Richard Goodman**

***Secretary***

**Sue Baglin**

***Treasurer***

**John Baglin (2027)**

***Councillors***

**Robert M<sup>c</sup>Alpine (2026)**

**Sue Baglin (2026)**

**Joshua Chang (2026)**

***Elders***

**John Baglin (2026)**

**Bobbie Miller (2028)**

**Richard Goodman (2027)**

**Dorothy Makasa (2026)**

***Culture of Safety Contact Person***

**Richard Goodman**