



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.**

28th June 2026 @ 10am

Pentecost + 5 - The Stayed Hand and the Cup of Water

Leader Deok Hee

Reflection Deok Hee

Holy Communion Deok Hee

Genesis 22:1–14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12–23; Matthew 10:40–42



For details and Information about our church activities and The Kogarah Storehouse, check out the websites: kogarah.uca.org.au and <https://www.kogarahstorehouse.org.au/>

New email address for Kogarah Uniting Church: kogarahuc@gmail.com

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

Scriptures

Genesis 22:1–14

The binding of Isaac is a hard text: it exposes the danger of confusing God with violence. At the brink, God interrupts and provides; the name given is *YHWH-yireh*—‘the Lord will see/provide.’

Psalm 13 ‘How long, O Lord?’ is a cry of honest sorrow that ends in stubborn trust.

Romans 6:12–23

We live a new life shaped by grace, which frees us for holy living. Freedom is not aimlessness but a life that belongs to God and reflects God’s ways.

Matthew 10:40–42

The smallest welcome, ‘a cup of cold water,’ shares in Christ’s reward. God notices humble hospitality.

Theme Focus

We encounter faith that faces cost and confusion, the God who interrupts harm and opens a way, and, like the disciples, we are called to offer and receive the welcome that sustains God’s mission.

Word for the Day

This week's readings bring us into the tension between faith, fear, and trust.

Genesis 22 is one of the hardest texts in scripture. It exposes how easily devotion can be confused with violence. At the brink of tragedy, God interrupts the harm and provides another way. The story refuses to sanctify violence and instead reveals a God who sees and provides.

Psalms 13 gives voice to the human heart that lives in the space between promise and provision. 'How long, O Lord?' is not a failure of faith but one of its most honest expressions. The psalm holds lament and trust together, ending not with certainty but with stubborn confidence in God's steadfast love.

Paul's words in Romans remind us that grace changes our allegiance. We are no longer captive to the powers that shape fear, harm, or despair. Freedom in Christ is not independence but belonging—belonging to the life of God.

In Matthew 10:4–42, discipleship appears in a surprisingly ordinary form. A cup of cold water offered in Christ's name becomes a sign of God's reign. Small acts of welcome carry the weight of the gospel.

Across these readings, we see a pattern of God's work: God interrupts harm, God provides a way forward, and God invites us to participate through simple acts of welcome.

The life of faith may face cost and confusion, but it is sustained by trust in the God who sees, provides, and meets the world through the smallest gestures of grace.

This week, we see interruption, provision, and welcome:

God stays the hand. God provides. We offer water.

Ideas for Reflection

- Where might God be interrupting a harmful script in my life or community?
- What 'how long?' prayer am I bringing before God today, and where do I glimpse God's provision?
- What small act of welcome could I offer this week (a cup of cold water in Christ's name)?

Kogarah Uniting Church Congregational Election Statement

On June 21, 2026 the following persons were elected as Church Councillors or Elders

Church Councillors

Joshua Chang (2027)

Robert McAlpine (2027)

Continuing Church Councillor:

Susan Baglin (2027)

Elders

Dorothy Makasa (2027)

Continuing Elders

Richard Goodman (2027)

Bobbie Miller (2028)

Susan Baglin
Congregational Secretary
June 21, 2026

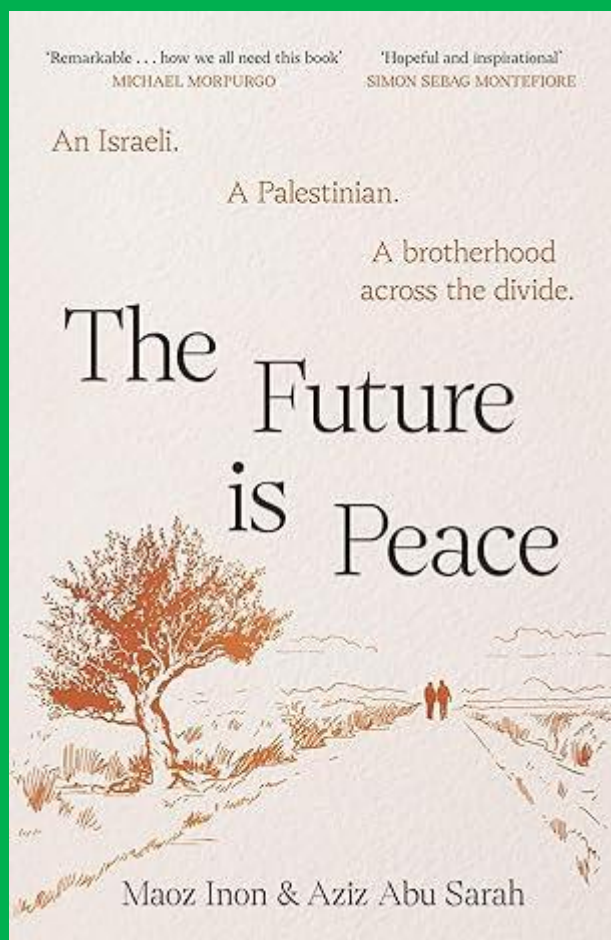
Next Book Group Discussion

3rd July

at 11.30 at Bobbie's place.

(Bring something to eat for lunch if possible.)

We will be discussing the following book. Talk to Bobbie about where you can get a copy.



Shared from Jamberoo Abbey ...

Birds are on our minds and in our hearts these days. It's not that any of us ever take them for granted, but hearing news of the first seabirds with the H5N1 avian flu washing up on our WA shores last weekend has brought thoughts and concern for our feathered friends much closer to mind.

A few years ago, I came across this tender reflection about birds which speaks to the gift they are to us...

I pray to the birds.

I pray to the birds because I believe

They will carry the messages of my heart upward.

I pray to them because I believe in their existence,

The way their songs begin and end each day

—the invocations and benedictions of earth.

I pray to the birds because they remind me of what I love

Rather than what I fear.

And at the end of my prayers,

They teach me how to listen.

~ Terry Tempest Williams

And I'm wondering if we could use this as a small offering to God over coming weeks on behalf of our birds, giving thanks for them and praying for the sick ones, the dying ones, the most vulnerable ones; the scientists and care-givers, the people in our bird industries who fear for their flocks, and all of us who love them and depend on them. Oh God, we pray for our birds. Please tend to them as they tend to us. Amen.

Planning Ahead

- **July 9, 2026 next Church Council meeting at 7.00 pm on ZOOM.**
- **August 6 – Worship Task Group meeting @ 7pm via Zoom**
- **September 18 Chinese Community Health Seminar 10:30-12**

Please pray for ...

The mission and ministry of our congregation at this time of great need and uncertainty, 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, Mike - 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. Venezuela.

Pray for the birds



Next Sunday

12th July 2026 @ 10am

Pentecost + 7 - What Shapes Our Choices

Leader Deok Hee

Reflection Deok Hee

Holy Communion Deok Hee

**Genesis 25:19–34; Psalm 119:105–112;
Romans 8:1–11; Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23**



Church Council 2025-2026

**(New elections will be held at our next meeting to appoint the chair,
Secretary and treasurer.)**

Chair

Richard Goodman

Secretary

Sue Baglin

Treasurer

Councillors

Robert McAlpine (2027)

Sue Baglin (2027)

Joshua Chang (2027)

Elders

Bobbie Miller (2028)

Richard Goodman (2027)

Dorothy Makasa (2027)

Culture of Safety Contact Person

Richard Goodman