



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.**

21st June 2026 @ 10am

Pentecost + 4 - Wells in the Wilderness

Leader Deok Hee

Reflection Deok Hee

Genesis 21:8–21;

Psalm 86:1–10, 16–17; Romans 6:1b–11; Matthew 10:24–39



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 21:8–21

Hagar and Ishmael are pushed into the wilderness; when hope runs out, God hears the boy and opens Hagar’s eyes to a well. The God of promise is also the God who sees the cast-aside.

Psalm 86:1–10, 16–17 is a personal plea to the compassionate and gracious God, trusting mercy amid trouble.

Romans 6:1b–11

Baptised into Christ’s death and life, we are no longer bound to sin’s old script; a new identity takes root.

Matthew 10:24–39

Discipleship reorders loyalties; truth-telling brings conflict. Yet the God who counts sparrows holds our worth: we lose the old life to find hope.

Theme Focus

As we witness God seeing Hagar and Ishmael in the wilderness, we reflect on God’s call into a costly, liberating allegiance that opens wells in the wilderness.

Word for the Day

Hagar's story asks us to name harm honestly. Cast out and sent into a wilderness where survival seemed impossible, Hagar and Ishmael embody the experience of those pushed to the edges. Yet the God of promise is also the God who sees, hears, and responds to the cries others ignore.

God's intervention dignifies the abandoned and critiques the systems that create wilderness.

When God opens Hagar's eyes to the well, the miracle is not only water but sight; this discovery that life remains possible even in the most desolate places.

Paul's words in Romans promise a new self, a baptismal identity that is stronger than old scripts of fear, exclusion, and despair.

Matthew's 'sword' text is not a license for harm but honesty about conflict when we side with truth and the vulnerable.

This week, God opens our eyes to the well, and to our call. God is inviting us in.

Ideas for Reflection

- Where am I being called to see and side with the unseen?
- What old script is losing its hold on me?
- Which conflict is really an invitation to deeper love?

KUC Annual Congregational Meeting and Church Council Elections

Today, Sunday June 21, we hold our Annual Congregational Meeting and Church Council Elections.

The following people are standing for election:

For the church council -

Joshua Chang
Robert McAlpine

To be an elder -

Dorothy Makasa



Shared from Jamberoo Abbey ...

This week marks the 40th anniversary of Refugee Week in Australia. The theme chosen to mark this occasion is 'A Million Stories'. The Refugee Council of Australia provides this background to the theme:

"As Europe recovered from the devastation of World War II, Australia responded to an international call to offer a future to people with nowhere to call home.

Since that initial agreement in 1947 to receive 4000 refugees from Central Europe, Australia has issued one million permanent humanitarian visas – welcoming people from all parts of the globe, people who have helped to build modern Australia.

Refugee Week 2026 is a moment to reflect on that milestone and to celebrate the million stories behind it.

Each story is unique. Each one is powerful. And together, they shape the Australia we all call home today.

This is about more than a number. One person's journey influences the lives of many others: children, grandchildren, and future generations who leave their unique mark on our shared story. A thread in something greater; a million colourful strands woven into a rich and beautiful tapestry, shaping communities and stories we continue to tell."

All of us have a story...about ourselves, our families, our journeys, our hopes and dreams. I love that image of each of us being colourful strands woven into a rich and beautiful tapestry. Weeks like this invite us to stand back from our individual strands and view the bigger picture that we make together...a picture of diversity, equality, tolerance and respect. It's a story that continually needs telling!

Also ...

Great news this morning (earlier this week) that the United States and Iran have reached an agreement to end the war and open the Straits of Hormuz. At this stage it sounds like peace in Lebanon will also be

included in the deal. While we give thanks to God for this long awaited announcement, we all know that peace has been promised before and hopes have then been dashed. A lasting peace is a fragile thing hanging very much in the balance, so let us continue to pray for all those involved in the negotiations and for openness of heart and restraint for the leaders.

May God give wisdom and courage
to those who are working for peace.

We pray that their efforts may be blessed,
that they may bring an end to violence
and solace and stability to suffering peoples everywhere.

May the gift of peace permeate all troubled souls,
convert all who live by violence
and comfort all children who live in menacing situations,
that the freedom to enjoy life and grow in safety may be theirs.

And may each one of us know
peace of mind and heart,
peace of body and spirit,
peace of community and world.

Holy Spirit of Peace, come among us.

Amen



Planning Ahead

- **June 21 – AGM for our Congregation. Election of Elders and Church Councillors**
- **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 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.

Next Sunday

28th June 2026 @ 10am

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

Leader Deok Hee

Reflection Deok Hee

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



Church Council 2025-2026

Chair

Richard Goodman

Secretary

Sue Baglin

Treasurer

John Baglin (2027)

Councillors

Robert M'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