



**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.**

**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**



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/>

New email address for Kogarah Uniting Church: [kogarahuc@gmail.com](mailto:kogarahuc@gmail.com)

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

### Scriptures

**Genesis 25:19–34** In her distress, Rebekah cries out to God, who answers her directly, revealing a personal relationship. Even before birth, her sons struggle within her, hinting at the tension to come. As the story unfolds, a defining choice begins to shape the family's future.

**Psalms 119:105–112** Psalm 119 is carefully structured, reflecting a sense of order and attention to detail. Within it, the psalmist expresses a deep reliance on God's word, describing it as a light that guides each step.

**Romans 8:1–11** Paul speaks of two ways of living, shaped by where our focus rests—life in the Spirit and life turned elsewhere. Within this tension, the Spirit of God offers life and draws us into a deeper relationship with God and with one another.

**Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23** Jesus continues teaching with a parable, first to the crowds and then more deeply to the disciples. In offering its meaning, Jesus invites us to consider how the word is received and what shapes whether it takes root or falls away amid the pressures and challenges of life.

### Theme Focus

In God's unfolding story, we meet Jacob and Esau, and wonder what shapes the choices we make.

## Word for the Day

Today's readings draw us into the question of what shapes our lives and our choices.

In the story of Jacob and Esau, we see how easily a moment can be driven by immediate need or desire. In Paul's words, we hear something of that same tension within ourselves—the pull between ways of living that lead us toward life, and those that draw us elsewhere.

The psalm offers a different voice, describing God's word as a light for the path, something steady that can guide us. And in Jesus' parable, we see that this word is sown widely, yet it takes root in different ways depending on what surrounds it.

Together, these readings do not offer a simple answer, but they invite us to notice what shapes us—what we attend to, what we hold onto, and what we allow to take root in our lives.

There is also hope here: that God continues to sow, to speak, and to be present, even in the midst of our distractions and struggles. The invitation is not to have everything in place, but to remain open—to listen, to receive, and to grow.

### Ideas for Reflection

- What shapes our attention in the small choices of each day?
- Where do we notice God's word taking root, or struggling to take root, in our lives?
- Soil can be improved before or after planting. What might we do to improve our connection with the Word?
- What helps us remain open to God's guidance when many things compete for our attention?
- Rebekah, Jacob, and Esau each respond differently as the story unfolds. How do we discern our own place within it?



Wynne's ministry involves the establishment of a Chinese singing group. The Adult Chinese Music Class has been running for about a year.

## Happy NAIDOC Week 2026! (Last week)

With NAIDOC Week beginning this Sunday 5 July, we're excited to share some resources to help you and your community celebrate, learn, and engage together.

NAIDOC Week is a soul-deep celebration for Mob - a time to feast on the joy and pride of culture, connect with community, and honour the strength, resilience, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Even in years marked by hardship and upheaval, NAIDOC Week remains a powerful reminder of survival, resilience, and the ongoing achievements of First Nations Peoples.

This year's NAIDOC Week theme is 50 Years of Deadly. In Aboriginal communities, deadly is a term of high praise. It describes something or someone as excellent, inspiring, strong, and worthy of celebration. More than a compliment, it is a language of resilience and pride that honours the gifts, leadership, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Safina Stewart - Wuthathi and Mabuiag Island woman, and Common Grace's Storyteller and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, offers this prayer:

*"What if fellow Christians, the whole of the Australian Church, had a posture of looking for and seeing the value of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, our culture, our practices, our way of seeing and doing, our wisdom and our ancient knowledge? What if the Australian church understood the full gift of that was true, noble, pure, good and praiseworthy, and anchored in to connect deeper? What would God teach us?"*



And from the Uniting Church parts of an article in Insights by *Nathan Tyson Head of First Peoples Strategy and Engagement for the Uniting Church Synod of NSW and ACT*

For me, NAIDOC is about the civil and political rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It is about acknowledging our survival despite the colonial history of this continent. It is about applauding our success and celebrating our people. It is about being staunch in our sovereignty, in our identity, and in our culture. We have come a long way, but we still have a long way to go to address racism in this country and to “Close the Gap.”

Frustratingly, when our people succeed in western education, we are often told, particularly by radio “shock jocks” and certain right-wing commentators, that we “aren’t really Aboriginal” anymore. We are told we are “elite” and “assimilated,” as though gaining knowledge and a piece of paper changes our heritage, our family, and our lived experience.

That’s the tension I want to sit inside for this piece. Not just the celebration NAIDOC is known for, but the harder truth underneath it.

...

Each year NAIDOC week has a theme. This year’s is “50 Years of Deadly”, celebrating five decades of culture, resilience and achievements by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.

Some may ask, what does Deadly mean? Safina Stewart, an Aboriginal Christian leader from Common Grace, explains:

“Deadly is a really positive term. It actually means you are awesome, you are powerful, you are strong. So when we say 50 years of deadly, it’s like 50 years of awesome. Or 50 years of potent, powerful, remarkable resilient fire!”

(Read the full article in Insights @ [insights.uca.org.au](https://insights.uca.org.au) (July 3)

## Planning Ahead

- **July 16, 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.

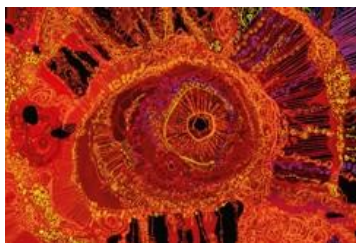
Worship leaders; helpers, leaders, followers The Kogarah Storehouse and its many clients; Lala and staff and volunteers at the Storehouse. Dorothy and Godfrey and the work of LACLA. The team, parents and children in the Early Learning Centre.

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, Mei Mei -Bobbie in her time of loss;

Deok Hee and his family as they prepare to move to Moss Vale to take up ministry there.

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.



NAIDOC  
Week 2026

Still here;  
still deadly;  
still fighting

**Next Sunday**

**19th July 2026 @ 10am**

**Pentecost + 8 - Finding God on the Way**

**Leader Dinah**

**Reflection John & Sue Baglin**

**(Deok Hee is on leave)**

**Genesis 28:10–19a; Psalm 139: 1–12, 23–24;**

**Romans 8:12–25; Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43**



**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**