



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.**

18th October 2026 @ 10am

Pentecost 21

Singing in Tune with God's Love

Leader Hye Kyoung

Reflection Hye Kyoung

Exodus 33:12–23; Psalm 99;

1 Thessalonians 1:1–10; Matthew 22:15–22



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
Richard Goodman on 0434 127 340**

Scriptures

Exodus 33:12–23

Moses longs to see God fully, but God offers presence rather than certainty. In the wilderness, even a partial glimpse of God's goodness is enough to sustain a people still learning how to trust.

Psalms 99 holds together awe and intimacy: God is holy beyond our grasp and yet deeply involved with us. The psalm invites worship shaped by reverence, justice, and trust.

1 Thessalonians 1:1–10

In Thessalonica, faith becomes visible in action. Paul gives thanks for a community whose trust, love, and hope can be seen and felt by others.

Matthew 22:15–22

When Jesus is handed a coin, he asks a question that turns everything: what belongs to Caesar, and what belongs to God, and what does it mean that we bear God's image?

Theme Focus

As Jesus holds a coin and asks whose image it bears, we wonder what it means to belong to God and to live as people who carry God's image in a complicated world.

Word for the Day

Across today's readings, people are asking what can be seen and what can be trusted. Moses longs to see God's glory. Jesus is handed a coin stamped with Caesar's image. In both stories, the deeper question is about belonging: where do we place our trust, and whose image shapes our lives?

Jesus doesn't answer the question the way people expect. Instead, he asks another one: Whose image is on the coin? And quietly, he invites another question: whose image is on you? In a world full of competing claims—political, economic, cultural, and personal—Jesus doesn't deny those realities, but he reframes them. We may give things to systems, but our lives, our being, our identity are held in God. The invitation is not to escape the world, but to live within it as people who reflect something different: mercy instead of fear, justice instead of control, love instead of power.

Ideas for Reflection

- What voices are shaping your sense of worth?
- Where do you feel pulled between competing loyalties or expectations?
- What helps you remember you are held in God's love?
- What might it look like to live as someone who bears God's image in your home, workplace, school, or community?
- How might our church reflect God's image through mercy, justice, welcome, and love?
- Where do we need to recognise God's image in someone we find easy to overlook?

[Uniting Church NSW & ACT](#) •

[THANK GOD I'M FREE](#) • [ELEVATION RHYTHM](#), [Lizzie Morgan](#) •

Join us for a collective worship night at ONE!

On Friday 30 Oct from 6:30pm we will be gathering together as ONE, looking at awe, wonder & what sustains us when the world goes dark. We'll be hearing from Dr Julia Baird, this night is open & free to anyone who would like to join us!

Find out more at one.uca.org.au

FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER 2026

WESLEY CONFERENCE CENTRE, SYDNEY

6:30pm – 8:00pm

Followed by supper

GUEST SPEAKER

Dr Julia Baird

You are invited to join us
for a night of worship with
special guest Dr Julia Baird



one.uca.org.au

ONE



October, 2026 From the Uniting Church in Australia Assembly

A confident nation does not fear diversity – The President's statement on immigration policy

Immigration policy sits at the core of who we are as a country, and the kind of Australia we want to be.

This week's Coalition policy announcement advocating significantly reduced net overseas migration is deeply concerning because of its implications for our cultural diversity and our identity as a nation.

As Australians engage with this issue, the values we communicate are just as important as the policies we propose.

Australia can have a serious debate about migration without turning migrants and refugees into the problem.

Our public conversation about immigration policy must be grounded in human dignity, compassion and a confidence that cultural diversity enriches rather than diminishes our nation.

Ultimately, immigration policy is about who belongs.

A confident nation does not fear diversity. It recognises diversity as a strength in our common life.

In 1985, the Uniting Church in Australia declared itself a multicultural church, recognising and celebrating the rich diversity of God's peoples. We continue to seek a community in which cultural and linguistic diversity is welcomed as a gift and where barriers that divide people are overcome in the spirit of the Gospel. That identity shapes our core belief that national debate should reflect the value of every person and their place in society.

This deeper understanding of belonging becomes even more urgent when considering the proposal to halve Australia's humanitarian intake at a time when conflict and displacement are forcing millions of people from their homes. The migration debate is about much more than

numbers. It is about people seeking safety, opportunity, and a future for themselves and their families.

The Uniting Church in Australia has a longstanding commitment to welcoming the stranger. This commitment is grounded in Scripture and reflected in the life of Jesus himself, whose family crossed borders as they fled violence.

Together with churches across the country, we seek to live out Christ's call to stand alongside those who are vulnerable and in distress, including those who come to our nation needing protection and a chance to rebuild their lives.

At a time of growing global instability, Australia must play its part in offering a place of refuge.

People who were born elsewhere and have chosen Australia as their home are our neighbours, friends and colleagues. Their stories are woven into the story of contemporary Australia. Our public discourse about migration should reflect this reality and avoid narratives of scarcity and division.

What matters is not only the policies we pursue, but the tone and values that shape our national debate. We should approach these discussions with confidence in the strong and diverse society we have built together and continue to shape.

As followers of Christ, we believe every person is created in the image of God and worthy of dignity and respect. We pray that Australia's conversation about migration and humanitarian protection will be grounded in those values and shaped by a vision of a society in which all people can flourish and contribute to the common good.

Planning Ahead

- 5th November Worship Task Group via Zoom @ 7pm
- 12th November Kogarah Church Council @ 7pm via Zoom
- 20th November Book Club @ Bobbie's (11:30am) to discuss *Question 7* by Richard Flanagan

Please pray for ...The mission and ministry of our congregation at this time of great need and uncertainty, 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; Prema and Priya, Denis and Dolly, Ngahuia, Peter and Sue; Dinah; Ern Edwards; Jim Bird, Cindy, Dorothy and Godfrey, Nives, Mike, Mei Mei, Henry Xiao, and 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. Nepal and China.

Next Sunday

25th October 2026 @ 10am

Pentecost 22

Love at the Centre

Leader Richard

Reflection Richard

Holy Communion Richard

Deuteronomy 34:1–12; Psalm 90:1–6, 13–17;

1 Thessalonians 2:1–8; Matthew 22:34–46

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

1. Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is across from Jericho. And the Lord showed him all the land of Gilead as far as Dan,

Church Council 2025-2026

Chair

Richard Goodman

Secretary

Sue Baglin

Treasurer

Joshua Chang

Councillors

Robert M^cAlpine (2027)

Sue Baglin (2027)

Joshua Chang (2027)

Elders

Bobbie Miller (2028)

Richard Goodman (2027)

Dorothy Makasa (2027)

Culture of Safety Contact Person

Richard Goodman