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.

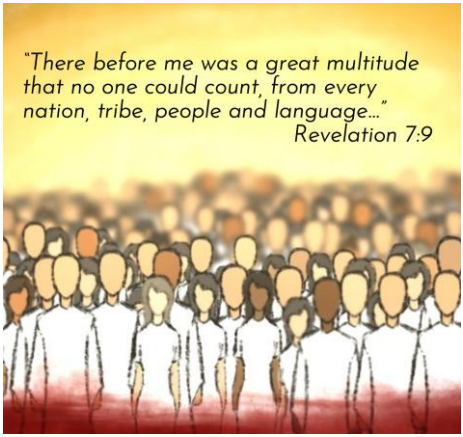
1 November 2026
All Saints Day
Into the River - A Great Cloud of Witnesses

Leader Hye Kyoung

Reflection Hye Kyoung

Holy Communion Hye Kyoung

Joshua 3:7-17 Revelation 7:9–17; Psalm 34:1–10, 22; 1 John 3:1–3; Matthew 5:1–12



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

Revelation 7:9–17 offers a vision of a great multitude beyond counting, from every nation, gathered in worship before God. This is not uniformity but a redeemed diversity: tears wiped away and suffering remembered, but no longer defining the people. On All Saints Day, this vision helps us hold grief and hope together.

Psalm 34:1–10, 22 is a song of praise from someone who has known fear and found deliverance. God is near to those who seek, those who hunger, those who cry out. The psalm gives voice to trust that has been tested and sustained.

1 John 3:1–3 invites us to pause in wonder at the love God has given us. We are already God's children, even if we do not yet fully see what we will become. This hope shapes us now, drawing us toward the likeness of Christ.

Matthew 5:1–12
In the Beatitudes, Jesus names the blessed ones: the poor in spirit, the grieving, the merciful, the peacemakers and those who hunger for justice. These are not images of perfect people, but people living faithfully in the tension of the world. On All Saints Day, we remember those who have shown us this way of love.
Theme Focus: As Jesus names the blessed ones, we remember the saints who have lived the way of love, often quietly and imperfectly, and we hear our own place in the story.

Word for the Day

The Beatitudes are not a list of virtues to achieve. They are a naming of people: Blessed are the poor in spirit, blessed are those who mourn, blessed are the merciful, blessed are the peacemakers.

Perhaps Jesus is pointing not to an ideal but to real people: people who have known grief, people who have chosen mercy, people who have worked for peace, people who have hungered for justice. These are the people we remember on All Saints Day. Not perfect people, but people who have lived in the direction of love.

Revelation gives us a vision of such people gathered in a multitude beyond counting, held by God, free from suffering and tears. 1 John reminds us that we are already God's children, even as we wait to see what we will become.

And maybe the quiet truth of this day is that we are not only remembering the saints; we are being drawn into their company. Slowly, imperfectly, but together.

Ideas for Reflection

- **Who has shown you what love looks like?**
- **Where have you seen the Beatitudes lived out in real life?**
- **What kind of saint might you be becoming?**
- **How might our community make love visible for those who come after us?**

Nothing is lost on the breath of God (All Together 606)

Nothing is lost on the breath of God,

nothing is lost for ever;

God's breath is love, and that love will remain,

holding the world for ever.

No feather too light, no hair too fine,

no flower too brief in its glory;

no drop in the ocean, no dust in the air,

but is counted and told in God's story.

Nothing is lost to the eyes of God,

nothing is lost for ever;

God sees with love and that love will remain,

holding the world for ever.

No journey too far, no distance too great,

no valley of darkness too blinding;

no creature too humble, no child too small

for God to be seeking, and finding.

Nothing is lost to the heart of God,

nothing is lost for ever;

God's heart is love, and that love will remain,

holding the world for ever.

No impulse of love, no office of care,

no moment of life in its fulness;

no beginning too late, no ending too soon,

but is gathered and known in God's goodness

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From Rev Charissa Suli, President, Uniting Church in Australia

As we continue to hold Dr Helen Haines MP, her husband Phil, and their family and the Wangaratta community in our prayers, we recognise the profound suffering caused by this devastating attack and the concern it has stirred across our nation.

At a time when many Australians are troubled by hostility, threats and intimidation in public life, we are reminded of our shared responsibility for how we speak about and treat one another. Whatever the motive behind this attack, violence and intimidation have no place in our communities or in public life.

In the Beatitudes, Jesus says, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9).

"Peacemaking does not mean avoiding difficult conversations or staying silent in the face of injustice. We are called to speak the truth and

challenge injustice without resorting to contempt, hostility or dehumanisation."

These words are both a promise and a call. The peace of Christ is more than the absence of violence or disagreement. It is a gift that calls us to live differently, recognising that every person is created in the image of God and possesses inherent dignity and worth, even when our convictions differ profoundly.

Peacemaking does not mean avoiding difficult conversations or staying silent in the face of injustice. We are called to speak the truth and challenge injustice without resorting to contempt, hostility or dehumanisation. The words we use matter, even within our own Church. We cannot proclaim the peace of Christ while failing to practise it in how we listen, speak and treat one another.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to nurture communities where people can disagree without fear, where justice is upheld, and where compassion and reconciliation shape our way of living together.

This Sunday, I invite congregations and faith communities across the Uniting Church to join in prayer for Helen, Phil, and their family; for those caring for her; and for the Wangaratta community. Let us also pray for those entrusted with public leadership, for peace throughout our nation, and for the courage to live out peace in our own communities.

In these difficult days, may we hold fast to the hope of the risen Christ, who comes to us in our fear with the words, “Peace be with you”.

May that peace bring comfort to all who are grieving or afraid, sustain those who are suffering, and guide us as we seek to live faithfully together.



Gaza

What does it mean to see 18,457 names, each one belonging to a child whose life was cut short? The Wall of Tears, a monumental artwork by Phil Buehler, gives a name to every child killed in Gaza between October 2023 and July 2025, transforming an overwhelming statistic into a deeply human tribute.

As of 11 October 2026, 21,976 children had been killed in Gaza since October 2023, according to figures released by the Gaza Government Media Office.

Statistics on this scale can obscure the human suffering. Naming the children killed restores their identity.

Phil Buehler's heartbreaking artwork brings the names and stories of children who have been killed to public attention. It was first displayed in Brooklyn, New York, in January this year and is on loan from Perth Doctors Medical Aid for Palestine.

The exhibition was presented by Amnesty International Australia and Pitt Street Uniting Church.

Phil Buehler said that he hoped people would "see the faces, read the stories of some of the few dozen I've scattered throughout … that's the part that gets me when I look at it. You see their faces full of joy and hope, snapshots from graduations and birthday parties and family gatherings and knowing that these kids' lives were just cut short … I hope that might lead people to think about how they might help, even if it's just, take a photo of the mural and pass it along on their social media or to their friends."

Rev Charissa Suli, National President of the Uniting Church in Australia, said at Easter 2025:

"To remain silent about the disproportionate suffering and long-standing oppression faced by Palestinians would be to deny the truth of what we see and can never give us a just peace.

"For more than seven decades, Palestinians have lived under the weight of occupation. On 7 October 2023, a horrific attack by Hamas militants in Israel claimed over 1,100 lives and saw 250 people taken hostage. Following this terrible violence, Israel unleashed a ferocious retaliation and the Palestinian people have endured merciless bombardment. Homes, hospitals, sacred places of worship, and centres of learning lie in ruins. Nearly two million Palestinians have been forcibly displaced. Medical workers, journalists, and humanitarian servants have been targeted and killed. Human rights abuses occur daily.

"Palestinian lives – many of them women and children – have been stolen with unspeakable cruelty. For those who live, there is nowhere safe to go. We believe unequivocally that this desecration of human life is an outrage, a grievous wound in the heart of God."

Farewell Sue and Peter

We will miss you!





On Wednesday 28 October, our Bangla Community came together at The Kogarah Storehouse for an informative session focused on healthy eating, healthy lifestyles and diabetes prevention.

This session was requested by participants who previously took part in our Diabetes Prevention Program and were keen to continue learning. Their strong interest in gaining more practical information shows how valuable ongoing health education can be in supporting our communities





Storehouse Activities

Bangla Education program

Gambling Awareness Program at the Monthly Government Hub

Planning Ahead

- **5th November Worship Task Group via Zoom @ 7pm**
- **12th November Kogarah Church Council @ 7pm via Zoom**
- **15th November Morning Worship - Remembering those whom we have lost (Lighting Candles for the Loved Ones memory)**
- **Thursday 19th & Friday 20th November - The Storehouse Christmas Market**
- **20th November Book Club @ Bobbie's (11:30am) to discuss *Question 7* by Richard Flanagan**
- **27th November The Storehouse Community Christmas Celebration at Kogarah Town Square from 4-9pm**
- **20th December Bible readings and singing carols with the Indonesian Congregation**

Please pray for …The mission and ministry of our congregation at this time of great need and uncertainty, and Wynne Cheng as she make links to the Chinese community.

Worship leaders; helpers, leaders, followers of 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.

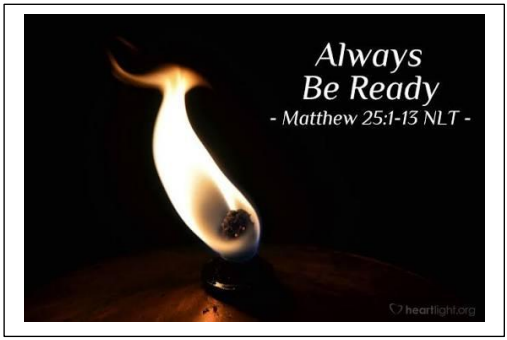
Those who are sick, sad or lonely: We pray especially today for Dennis and Robyn Lyons, Rhonda Chamberlain; Prema and Priya, Denis and Dolly, Ngahuia, Peter and Sue; Dinah; Ern Edwards; Jim Bird, Cindy, Dorothy and Godfrey, Nives, Mike, Mei Mei, Henry Xiao, and for others whom we name in our hearts.

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

8 November 2026
Pentecost +24
Oil for the Journey

Leader Dinah
Reflection Saltbush
Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25; Psalm 78:1–7;
1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; Matthew 25:1–13



Church Council 2025-2026

Chair	**Richard Goodman**
Secretary	**Sue Baglin**
Treasurer	**Joshua Chang**
Councillors	**Robert M^{c}Alpine (2027)**
	Sue Baglin (2027)
	Joshua Chang (2027)
Elders	**Bobbie Miller (2028)**
	Richard Goodman (2027)
	Dorothy Makasa (2027)
Culture of Safety Contact Person	**Richard Goodman**