



# CONTACT

Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting  
Church Multi-Centre Congregation



**18 May 2025**

## **From Rev Tom**

### **Becoming What Eastertide Celebrates**

We are now in the season of *Eastertide*—the fifty days between Easter Sunday and Pentecost. This time in the Church's year invites us not only to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus but to allow its meaning to settle deeply into our lives. It's a season of joyful transformation, where we are gently invited to become what Eastertide celebrates: the living Body of Christ, empowered for witness.

One of the things I've come to realise more fully this year is that **my story is part of the greater story**—the story of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. This story isn't something I just believe in from a distance; it's something I'm being drawn into. And that changes how I live. I don't follow the risen Christ by willpower or effort alone. I live because I've been included in a story where resurrection is not only real—it's happening, here and now.

This shapes how I respond to the world around me. In places of disappointment or difficulty, I can trust that something new may yet emerge. In the face of injustice or suffering, I'm called not to despair, but to live and act with hope—because the Spirit of the risen Christ is still at work.

Eastertide reminds us that resurrection is not just a historical event; it is a present and ongoing reality. Like the first disciples, we are being formed into a community that recognises Jesus in the breaking of bread, in the peace offered to one another, and in the people and places we often overlook.

As we move toward Pentecost, we do so as people being prepared—opened more and more to the life of the Spirit. May this season stir in us the courage to live as witnesses of resurrection, carrying the peace, hope, and love of Christ into a world that longs to be made new.

## **Spiritual Practice of the Week**

**Face-to-Face Connection:** happens through the gift of presence and body language.

**Practice:** Practice arriving early or staying late at events so you can loiter and have face time with people. What conversations come up because you are there in the flesh?

*These resources come from Calhoun, Adele Ahlberg. *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transform Us* (Transforming Resources). InterVarsity Press*

# DIARY

## Thursday 15 May

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square

1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb Church

## Saturday 17 May

2.00–4.00pm **Saving Energy Costs at Charlestown Uniting Church**  
(Please page 4 for further details)

## Sunday 18 May – Easter 5

9.00am The Divine Worship

Leader and Preacher: Rev Tom

*Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelations 21:1-6; John 13:31-35*

11.00am –

1.00pm **Wild Wonder at Toronto Uniting Church**

(Refer Page 5 for further details)

## Monday 19 May

10.00am Garden Suburb Aged Care Pastoral Visitation

## Tuesday 20 May

9.00am **Needlework 'n' Natter at Garden Suburb**

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

## Thursday 22 May

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square

1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb Church

## Saturday 24 May

From 10.30 **Caring for the Earth at Toronto Uniting Church**  
(Further details on Page 6)

## Sunday 25 May – Easter 6

9.00am The Divine Worship

Leader: Margaret and Preacher: Gordon Preston from Frontier Services

*Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelations 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9*

## Tuesday 27 May

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

12pm Garden Suburb Ladies Fellowship

## Wednesday 28 May

10.00am **Biggest Morning Tea at Charlestown**

## Thursday 29 May

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square

1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb Church

## Saturday 31 May

2.00–4.00pm **Saving Energy Costs at Charlestown Uniting Church**  
(Please page 4 for further details)

# THE PRAYER PAGE



**Prayer is the Voice of Faith**

## **Pastoral Prayer Points**

- \* Those who are mourning loved ones
- \* Mike Warren
- \* Kim
- \* Janice and Don Wright
- \* Kelly
- \* Laraine Chegwiddden
- \* Tony Sellen
- \* Vivianne
- \* Vicki
- \* Pam and Ken
- \* Lyn Benson
- \* Jean
- \* Fred Bryant
- \* June Locker
- \* Ryan Walpole
- \* Kathryn Gray
- \* Jacqueline Fenwick
- \* Isabella
- \* Eileen Dunn
- \* Pam and Mert
- \* Enid Power
- \* Max
- \* Don Humphries

Maintained by SFED and Enid Power

## **Congregational Prayer Points**

- Church Council
- John Lewis and his work with Wesley Mission in Windale and Hamilton South
- pray for guidance and discernment missional use of buildings into the future
- Project Reconnect
- Worship Services
- Cathy Beeton and SRE classes
- Tom and Kathy
- Worship Committee

## **Wider Community Prayer Points**

- Margaret Jurd College and Darren Twist the Principal
- Young people who struggle to participate in our school system
- Orphanage in Kenya and Wilfreda
- Neos ministry
- Those affected by climate change in Australia eg floods, droughts and fires
- The situation in Israel and Palestine
- The situation in Ukraine and other trouble spots



# Saving Energy Costs

**Assessing your Home**  
**Smaller electricity bills**  
**Electrify your home**

**Day 1 Saturday 17 May 2 - 4pm**

**Cost: \$10 (Concession \$5)**

**Solar Panels and Batteries**

**Day 2 Saturday 31 May 2-4pm**

**Cost: \$10 (Concession \$5)**

**Charlestown Uniting Church Hall, 24 Milson St, Charlestown**

Organised by Greater Charlestown Sustainable Neighbourhood Group

For more information see Humanitix



URL for "Saving Energy Costs"

[https://events.humanitix.com/saving-energy-costs-95t5twrt?hxchl=mkt-sch& gl=1\\*t69fug\\* gcl au\\*MTkyNTgxMTk3Ny4xNzQwMzQ3MzU3\\* ga\\*MTYzOTA2MjI3Ny4xNzQwMzQ3MzU4\\* ga\\_LHKW5FR9N6\\*MTc0NTM4MjM0My4yMy4xLjE3NDUzODIzNzAuMzMUMC4w](https://events.humanitix.com/saving-energy-costs-95t5twrt?hxchl=mkt-sch& gl=1*t69fug* gcl au*MTkyNTgxMTk3Ny4xNzQwMzQ3MzU3* ga*MTYzOTA2MjI3Ny4xNzQwMzQ3MzU4* ga_LHKW5FR9N6*MTc0NTM4MjM0My4yMy4xLjE3NDUzODIzNzAuMzMUMC4w)

## Children & Family Worker Update



I pray all our Mothers had a lovely Mother's Day last Sunday, such a shame it was so wet it would have spoilt any planned picnics.

I don't know about you but I am getting over this rain a bit, I pray that you are finding ways to cope with it.

Term 2 is underway & I have started back at scripture with all my schools, I did an after Easter Assembly at Charlestown East School last Tuesday, where we focused on 'After the Tomb' we did this through bible readings, object lesson, song & a video God's Story – After the Tomb -, if you have access to the internet you might like to look at this video.

Just a reminder that if you would like a visit or have grandchildren that visit you & you would like some Christian resources for, please don't hesitate to call or email me.

Blessings, Cathy

**Wednesday 28 May at  
10.00am**

Entry by Donation



Donations gratefully requested for support of the  
Cancer Council

Bring your Friends

Contact Sue Warren on 0427 737 793 for further details.

## Wild Wonder



**An activity of Toronto Uniting Church  
to nourish hope, wonder, friendship and joy.**

Wild Wonder is for people of all ages,  
and all types of families,  
whether you call yourself religious or not.

On Sundays during school terms from about 11am – 1pm  
More info, and dates for Term 2 overleaf.

Contact Rev Allison for more info or to join the mailing list  
[allisonf@nswact.uca.org.au](mailto:allisonf@nswact.uca.org.au) or 0472 618 784

### You're invited!

Wild Wonder is a new event in the West Lake Macquarie area,  
open to anyone, of any age.

Wild Wonder aims to be a hopeful, kind, supportive and  
encouraging community  
for anyone who wants to explore and grow spiritually.

- We will have fun, make new friends, and enjoy our beautiful world.
- We will play, create, talk and wonder together.
- We will value and nourish the gifts and abilities of all.
- We will act together to make a difference in the world.

### When and where?

- During school terms, on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, in a few different locations.
- On the 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays, at a child-friendly outdoor spot
- On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, at Toronto Uniting Church.
- Start time around 11am, finishing around 1pm.

### Dates for Term 2, 2025

Outdoors	Toronto Uniting Church 118 The Boulevarde
<b>4 May</b> Blackalls Park Reserve	<b>18 May</b>
<b>1 June</b> location to be decided	<b>15 June</b>
<b>29 June</b> Location to be decided	
<b>What to bring?</b> A chair or rug Hat & sunscreen Water bottle A non-breakable cup BYO lunch	<b>What to bring?</b> Nothing! A simple lunch will be provided. Dietary needs will be met.
<b>Wet weather changes will be texted to everyone on the mailing list early Sunday morning.</b>	

# Caring for the Earth

**Sat, 24 May, 2025**

Rev Dr Jione Havea  
presents 2 important workshops  
for people who care about the earth  
and about our Pacific neighbours  
in this time of climate change

**Workshop 1 - 10.30-12: Bible and Society: Read, Judge, Act**

Exploring what the Bible says to people of faith about putting theology & theory into action in social, public & political engagements

**Workshop 2 - 1-2.30pm: Pasifika as neighbour: Climate solidarity.**

Insights into the struggles of our Pasifika neighbours as they experience the impacts of climate change. How can we collaborate and be in solidarity?

*Rev Dr Jione Havea is a pastor of the Methodist Church in Tonga. He is the Mission Catalyst - Stewardship of the Earth for the Uniting Church in NSW/ACT. This role is about supporting people to address climate change, manage its impacts, and create a more sustainable future.*

**Attendance is open to all, regardless of religious affiliation.**

*You can choose to attend either or both sessions.*

*Tea and Coffee available, BYO lunch if you're coming to both sessions*

**Registration is free - but please register**

**There will be opportunity to make a donation to support Pasifika climate action**



[www.trybooking.com/DAWJT](http://www.trybooking.com/DAWJT)

Toronto Uniting Church  
118 The Boulevard  
Toronto  
[torontouniting@bigpond.com](mailto:torontouniting@bigpond.com)  
or Gwenda 0439 136 522

## Statement from the Uniting Church in Australia Assembly on the Election of a New Pope

Uniting Church President Rev Charissa Suli

The Uniting Church in Australia joins with Christians around the world in prayerful thanksgiving and deep reverence as the Roman Catholic Church welcomes a new spiritual leader, Pope Leo XIV.

This is a sacred and historic moment, not only for the Roman Catholic Church but for the whole body of Christ. We honour the movement of the Holy Spirit in this time of discernment and give thanks for the faithful leadership that has brought the global Catholic community to this point.

We celebrate the historic election of Pope Leo XIV, born Robert Francis Prevost in Chicago in 1955, the first pontiff born in the United States of America. A member of the Order of Saint Augustine and dual US-Peruvian citizen, Pope Leo XIV served in Peru as an Augustinian missionary, parish priest and teacher, and was later appointed by the late former Pope Francis as the Bishop of Chiclayo. He has held significant roles within the Vatican. His choice of the papal name 'Leo' pays homage to Pope Leo XIII, renowned as the Pope of Catholic social teaching and the rights of workers.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Pope Leo XIV, whose first greeting in Italian and Spanish began with the simple yet profound words of the risen Christ: "Peace be with you all." We affirm our shared hope in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and our call to be bridge builders, bearing witness to justice, peace and reconciliation in a fractured world.

We pray that God will grant Pope Leo XIV the wisdom to lead with humility, the courage to walk with truth and love and the grace to listen deeply to the cries of the earth and the hopes of all people. May this new season of leadership be marked by compassion, faithfulness and unity in Christ.

On behalf of the Uniting Church in Australia, I offer our prayers and our ongoing commitment to nurturing the ecumenical relationship we share with the Roman Catholic Church. Together, as one people of faith, we walk in step with the Spirit who unites us.

### *A Prayer for the New Pope*

Loving and faithful God,

We give thanks at the election of a new Pope,  
for the witness of the global Church,  
and for the guiding presence of your Spirit in every corner of creation.

Bless your servant whom you have called to this sacred ministry.

Grant wisdom rooted in humility,  
courage shaped by compassion,  
and a heart formed by the boundless love of Christ.

May Christ's love shine through every word spoken,  
every hand extended,  
every life touched.

May their leadership reflect the mercy and justice of your reign —  
reaching toward the margins,  
breaking down walls that divide,  
and building bridges of hope, healing and unity.

Unite your people in love and purpose.  
Strengthen the bonds between churches,  
and let our common witness radiate the transforming power of Christ's love in the world.

In the name of Christ,  
Amen.

## Some of our Church Contacts:

### **Minister**

Rev Tom Stuart

M: 0427 625 502

E: [tom@thestuarts.id.au](mailto:tom@thestuarts.id.au)

### **Administration:**

P: 4943 4019

E: [office@charlestown.unitingchurch.org.au](mailto:office@charlestown.unitingchurch.org.au)

24 Milson Street, Charlestown NSW 2290

PO Box 449, Charlestown NSW 2290

### **Children & Families Resource Worker:**

Mrs Cathy Beeton

M: 0409 445 933

E: [Cath4858@gmail.com](mailto:Cath4858@gmail.com)

Mrs Cathy Beeton is also our Safe Church Contact Person

### **Bank Account Details for the Charlestown Garden Suburb Multi-Centre Congregation:**

Bank Account held with: Uniting Financial Services

Account Name: Charlestown Congregation General Account

BSB: 634 634 Account No.: 100030837

**For Offering please put Ref: Offering**

### **Keep up to date with happenings and info:**

Webpage: <http://www.chagsuca.org.au>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CharlestownUnitingChurch>

Project Reconnect: <http://www.projectreconnect.com.au>

Worship Services: <https://tinyurl.com/CHaGS-YouTube-Link>