



## Hornsby Uniting Church News for May 17, 2026

***Our Vision: To grow together in Christ and share His grace with the Hornsby Community***

*A Note from Rev Keith V Garner, MTh (Oxon), AM  
Chair, Sydney Central Coast Presbytery*

**Rev Punam Bent**, who has served well in her role as Presbytery Minister: Wellbeing, will be leaving us to take up responsibility within the Synod. As Rev Bronwyn Murphy concludes her role as Associate General Secretary, we are pleased that Rev Punam Bent has been prayerfully selected to take on that role for the Synod of NSW & ACT on August 1st.

There will be a period of transition and handover prior to Rev Bronwyn Murphy moving to the role of Synod Business Manager on August 31st.

If you have previously been connected to the Hornsby UC **wireless network**, please chat with Kent; there is a new password from last week.

**Asquith Markets** continue monthly! Next is May 23.

# UPCOMING DATES

**Sat 30 May 2026 2pm** at Roseville UC – Ordination of Michaela Antill-Cassie as Minister of the Word (see flyer below)

**Sat 4 July 2026 afternoon** at Mosman UC – Induction of Michaela Antill-Cassie as Minister in Placement at Mosman UC (Placement start date 1 June 2026)

**Sat 11 July 2026 10am** at Hornsby UC – Induction of Rev Minh Tower as Minister in Placement at Hornsby UC

**Tue 4 August 7pm** at Turramurra UC – Final SCCP council meeting

**Sun 30 August 2026 afternoon** – worship for closure of SCCP, before the start of the Northern Presbytery on 1 September 2026.

**Charity Sale  
Autumn 2026  
Sydney  
Senal Church  
Sharing Bazaar**

**Saturday, 23 May 2026  
10:00am ~ 2:00pm**  
24 William St, Hornsby NSW 2077  
[www.sydneysenal.com](http://www.sydneysenal.com)

I ENJOY A WIDE VARIETY OF KOREAN FOODS AND ITEMS  
Fried Chicken, Seaweed Rolls, Hotteok, Tteokbokki, Kimbap, Bulgoggi, Dakgalbi, Yulgwanjang, Radish Kimchi, Boiled Squid, Mung Bean Pancake, Pickles, Fish Cake Skewers, Spicy Marinated Chili Peppers, Sauce Mix, Katjang, Peromomchi, Bagan-Cheesecake, Sikkym, Fruit Cups, Drinks, Hot Dogs, Ramen, And More / Flower Bouquets, Clothing, Shoes, and Various Goods.

I SPECIAL EVENT PROGRAMS  
Family Photo Booth, Nail Art, Handmade Beaded Bracelets, Face Painting

**May Worship Team Leaders:** 3, 10, 17 - M Laidlaw. 24, 31 - A Travers.

**May Worship Team:** T & K Thampapillai, B Laidlaw, J Lum, B Parker, A James, J Mellers, I Hogan, B Maconachie, C Smith, E O'Brien, J Tulett

**May 17**

*Stewards* - R & B Parker. *Morning Tea* - D Everitt, C Rutherford

**May 24**

*Stewards* - M Laidlaw, D Williams. *Morning Tea* - R & P Wong

**May 31**

*Stewards* - M Howe, S Coad. *Morning Tea* - A & M Wong

Note, our next Combined Service is **June 21**






Rev. Minh Towner  
**11<sup>th</sup> of May, 2026 – Reflection**

In this article, I would like to introduce you to Ignatian spirituality. Some of you might already know about this spiritual practice, and some of you might be exposed to it for the first time.

SPREADJESUS  
 www.spreadjesus.org

*"If God sends you many sufferings, it is a sign that He has great plans for you and certainly wants to make you a saint."*

*-St Ignatius Of Loyola*



St. Ignatius Of Loyola  
 (1491-1556)

[www.spreadjesus.org](http://www.spreadjesus.org)

Ignatian spirituality is one of many spiritual disciplines that played a major part in my spiritual formation. My prayer is that it will also influence or even transform you wherever you are on your spiritual journey.

So, what is the origin of Ignatian spirituality?

**Ignatian spirituality** originates directly from **Catholicism**. It is a specific spiritual path within the Catholic tradition founded by **Saint Ignatius of Loyola**, a 16th-century Spanish soldier turned priest who also established the **Society of Jesus** (commonly known as the **Jesuits**)

Several distinct perspectives characterise the Ignatian spirituality Core Beliefs:

- **Finding God in All Things:** The belief that God is active and present in every moment of daily life, not just in church.
- **Discernment:** A process of paying attention to the "movements of the heart" (feelings of peace or desolation) to understand how God is leading an individual.
- **Contemplatives in Action:** A call to balance deep prayer with active service and mission in the world.
- **Incarnational Approach:** It emphasises that because God became human in Jesus, our human experiences and growth are holy and important.

Ignatian spirituality is seen as a spirituality for everyday life. It insists that God is present in our world and active in our lives. It is a pathway to deeper prayer, good decisions guided by keen discernment, and an active life of service to others.

In this article, we are going to look at what Star Wars movies teach us about the Spiritual Life through the lens of author **Eric Clayton**.

If you are a Star Wars fan—or even just a general movie enthusiast—you likely have an opinion about *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*. It was a controversial film, in no small part because of how director Rian Johnson decided to depict the legendary Jedi Master Luke Skywalker.

The Luke we meet in this movie is not a spiritual wizard nor a laser-sword-wielding warrior. He's a grump and a loner. He's cynical, having given up on making the galaxy a better place. He has abandoned his efforts to rebuild what he now deems a failed institution: the Jedi Order. The Luke we thought we knew from the original trilogy has soured, and the man we meet on the islands of Ahch-To appears to be little more than a betrayal of all our hopes.

Perhaps most disappointing of all, we never get to see Master Skywalker take up his lightsaber and do battle with the forces of evil. The best we get is a fight with no stakes, as Luke projects himself across the galaxy to distract the trilogy's big baddie, Kylo Ren.

I liked *The Last Jedi* and this depiction of Luke. I am drawn to this caricature of a man who is forced to wrestle with his legacy, take a hard look at himself, and realise that he is not all that the legends make him out to be.

Aren't we all tempted in moments of failure and in times of great distress to pull back and remove ourselves from the equation? Who among us hasn't been disappointed by mentors, friends, institutions, or family?

We come to a moment in our stories when we face a hard truth: We cannot do it all. We can only do one small part, which is *ours*, so can we let go of the image we hold of

ourselves that says we *can* and *must* be the saviour of all things, the one with the answers and the experiences and the insights?

I wonder which spirit is whispering in our ears in such a moment. [St. Ignatius Loyola](#) tells us that it is the false spirit that inflates our pride and insists we *can* do it all and need no one else.

We often turn to the [cannonball moment](#) in Ignatius's story, and well we should. This is a hinge moment, a time of testing and struggle. But I am struck by the role that pride plays in this moment. It was pride that insisted Ignatius continue the fight and refuse the terms of surrender. Ignatius's pride led to the deaths of his fellow countrymen.

And it was Ignatius's pride that insisted he break his leg again during his days of convalescence. How else could he return to his courtly life? How could he continue to wage wars and woo women with such an unsightly limp?

But the Good Spirit impressed upon Ignatius the foolishness of such a path. Ultimately, Ignatius, in listening to that same Good Spirit, allowed his imagination to expand. He could do more and be more than he had previously thought possible. He could do something great for God and God's people.

Ignatius's legacy would change. His failure would never go away. He would always carry his wounds with him. But that didn't mean he couldn't be what the moment needed and the person God was calling him to be.

That's why I love the scene in *The Last Jedi* when Luke distracts Kylo Ren. The battle is boring and over quickly, if ever it really happened at all, what with the Jedi Master's illusions. But that simple, sacrificial act, built on the back of failure and disappointment, allowed for others to take up the mantle. Had Luke clung to his pride, he would never have given his life so that others could be great and do great things.

So, too, for Ignatius. His story ends behind a desk, writing letters to those who had gone to the ends of the world on wondrous adventures. This was not the legacy he had wanted for himself. Yet we still talk about him and learn from him today, because he didn't insist on serving himself and his story. He put himself at the disposal of God and God's people.

Star Wars, like the spiritual life, is often reduced to a tale of good versus evil. It is that, certainly, but it is so much more. Star Wars, like the spiritual life, weaves a story of sacrifice and second chances of redemption and hope. We make room for others, recognising that ours is but one chapter in a long and unfolding saga. We do not need to be the only character; we simply need to tend to what God has given us to do.

Source: <https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/>

By **Eric Clayton** - <https://ericclaytonwrites.com/>

## Hornsby Uniting Church Vision

**To grow together in Christ and share his grace with the Hornsby Community**



*“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” - 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)*



My heart fills with thankfulness to your generosity with the food donation.

A **BIG thank you** to **Rose & Paul Wong** for their willingness to be our church representative for our monthly food delivery to the Salvo.



*Want to serve but don't know where to start?*

*Let me help you to discover your spiritual gifts*

Please contact:

Rev. Minh Towner for a conversation

Email: [minister.hornsbyuc@gmail.com](mailto:minister.hornsbyuc@gmail.com)

Church office: 02-9476 5340

(M) 0410 885 632

### WEEKLY @ Church Hall

**Tuesday Bible Study - 10.00 am to 12.00am**

### COMING IN JUNE @ Church Hall

**Tuesday Conversations – 5.00pm to 7.00 pm**

**Thursday Prayer Group – 10.30am to 11.30am**

### TAI CHI – “Movement for Missions”

Come and learn meditation in motion through this ancient Chinese tradition.

Thursday, 8:45 am to 9:45 am

### Funny Bible Jokes

**What's a missionary's favourite kind of car?**

A convertible!

**Who was the greatest babysitter in the Bible?**

David—he rocked Goliath to sleep!

**What do they call pastors in Germany?**

German Shepherds!

**Who was the first comedian in the Bible?**

Samson—he brought the house down!

*“God doesn't require us to succeed; He only requires that we try.”*

**— Mother Teresa**