



Hornsby Uniting Church News for October 18, 2026

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



The latest issue of **Frontier News** magazine, and the new **NCEA 'Reaching'** newsletter are available for you to take - on the foyer cupboard.

Along with your email today, you'll receive an invitation to take part in an Aged Care survey. The survey can be accessed here:

<https://consultations.health.gov.au/aged-care-reform-and-policy/in-home-aged-care-consultations/>

News from the new Northern Presbytery

Presbytery Standing Committee Elected - The meeting also affirmed the election of the inaugural Presbytery Standing Committee (PSC). Those elected to serve were Stephen Nicholson, Carolyn Sharp, Ian Lawrence, Serena Paea, Rev. Dr Rosalie MacLarty, Eldrene March, Glen Bradshaw, Rev. Glenys Biddle, Rev. Michele Shumack and Joanna Drayton.

Members expressed appreciation for those who have accepted the call to serve during this important formation period. The Standing Committee will provide leadership and governance between meetings of the Presbytery and help guide the next stages of the transition.

Rev Richard Harris Elected PRC Chairperson

Members also affirmed the appointment of Rev. Richard Harris as Chairperson of the Northern Presbytery's Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC). The meeting recognised the valuable leadership Richard has already provided through the transition process and expressed confidence in his continued support of ministers, congregations and mission across the Presbytery.

SOME MICROPHONE TIPS FOR READERS !

Stand Close - the microphone should be pointed at your mouth, and not more than 20 cm from you.

Speak Up - this may sound counter-intuitive, but you should speak louder than normal - as though you were speaking to the person in the back seats. The microphone can be turned *down*, but it can't amplify a sound that isn't already there. If you have a naturally quiet voice, stay aware of your volume.

Maintain the Volume - Some speakers start at good volume, but then quickly trail away. Keep your voice up at all times.



October 18 Lectionary Reflections, from Insights Magazine
Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

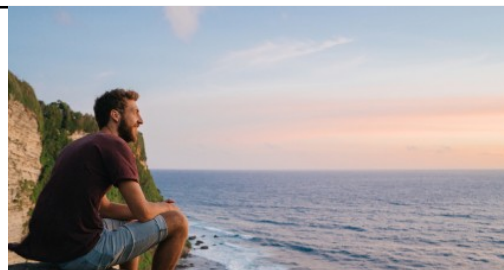
In Matthew 22:15–22, the Pharisees attempt to entrap Jesus, asking whether it's lawful to pay taxes to Caesar. Taxation was no minor matter. Taxes were exacted to line elite pockets. They were high, crushing the poor and, unlike in Australia, not used to administer social services. Refusal to pay Roman taxes was viewed as rebellion. Sometimes taxation sparked peasant uprisings.

If Jesus answered that paying taxes was lawful, he'd be accused of colluding with Rome and sanctioning exploitation. If he said it wasn't lawful, he'd be accused of rebellion against Rome, an executable offence.

Jesus refuses to answer. Asking instead to be shown a coin, he shows that his opponents are carrying Caesar's image with them. That is, they're carrying an idol (Exodus 20:4). It's an astute response.

Jesus goes on: "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." What belongs to Caesar, exactly? The coin? Perhaps; his face is on it, after all.

But doesn't Psalm 24:1 say that "The earth is the Lord's and *all* that is in it"? If everything belongs to God, then what's left for Caesar? Certainly not the loyalty of human beings...



Busy preparation is underway for the **Kids' Christmas Club**, December 21-23 with a special Christmas Even celebration on December 24. Can you assist, even for a day?

You can help by telling neighbours and friends! The numbers are limited. **For registrations, go to :**

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe7HaMcfywhpz64pdvLgwxZg25CY1iHAqS7X_jxYjvWUpYsog/viewform?usp=dialog

HORNSBY UNITING CHURCH

Kids' Christmas Club

Join us for Christmas craft, art, singing, parachute games, cookie decorating, stories, songs, friendship and fun. **All children will play a special part in our 4 - 4.30pm Christmas Eve service on Thursday 24th Dec!**

MONDAY DECEMBER 21, TUESDAY 22, & WEDNESDAY 23 FROM 9.30 - 3.00PM

THURSDAY 24 NO MORNING SESSION
ARRIVE 3.30PM

SPACES LIMITED! BOOK EARLY!!

For ages 7-13 years
\$20 per child total
\$5 discount for each sibling
Morning & afternoon tea provided

Register **HERE** or contact Rev. Minh Towner
minister.hornsbyuc@gmail.com
(M) 0410 885 632



Join us to celebrate

CHRISTMAS EVE

Come and share in a beautiful remembering of the birth of Jesus with singing, candles and costumes
ALL are welcome

THURSDAY 24 DECEMBER,
4 - 4.30PM

Then, a **FREE** community BBQ dinner
4.45 - 6pm. **ALL** welcome

HORNSBY UNITING CHURCH
24 WILLIAM ST HORNSBY



Family-friendly Service

YOUR GUIDE TO REGULAR EVENTS at the Worship & Activity Centre

Blue Bin

The Blue Food Bin is in the foyer or the office, for donations of non-perishable foods to be distributed to those in need.



Tai Chi (Movement for Missions)

8:45 - 9:40am Thursdays

A short time of gentle exercise led by experienced helpers.



Lunch at Magpies

(opposite Waitara railway)

Every Sunday after the service.

Get together for lunch and chat at Magpies.



Ladies Fellowship

2:00-4:00pm, 3rd Monday of month, Jan - Nov.

Play Mahjong

1:00 - 5:00pm Fridays

Play Mahjong for fun; for experienced players or come and learn the game.



Thursday Club

10:00am to Noon Thursdays

Social group for everyone... not just church folk! Morning tea, slides, games, carpet bowls, talks and craft. Invite your friends or neighbours!



Asquith Markets

Monthly on the fourth Saturday, corner of Royston Pde and Baldwin Avenue. Community event hosted by Asquith and Hornsby members; bring your money! Enjoy a coffee.

Carpet Bowls

1:30 - 3:30pm, 3rd Tuesday

Carpet Bowls for fun and fellowship!

