



**12 JULY 2026**

## Welcome

Welcome to worship, we hope you enjoy being with us.

## Lectionary Readings

### This week 12 July 2026

Genesis 25:19-34  
Isaiah 55:10-13  
Psalm 119:105-112  
Psalm 65: (1-8), 9-13  
Romans 8:1-11  
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

### Next week 19 July 2026

Genesis 28:10-19a  
Isaiah 44:6-8  
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24  
Psalm 86:11-17  
Romans 8:12-25  
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

## Hands And Feet Celebration Fundraiser Dinner

Hands and Feet are hosting their annual Fundraiser event at Canterbury Leagues Club, 26 Bridge Rd, Belmore, on Thursday 15 October from 7-10pm. The evening will showcase their work and the stories of some of their clients as well as a meal and live music.

Tickets are \$89 (it's a fund-raiser after all!) and can be purchased through their website, [handsandfeet.com.au](http://handsandfeet.com.au).

## Cumberland Community Prayer Dinner

You are invited to this special night where Christians and community members from across our region gather in unity.

### Event Details:

- **Date:** Tuesday, 25 August 2026
- **Time:** 7pm to 9.30pm
- **Venue:** Merrylands RSL Club, Swan Room, 8 Miller Street, Merrylands,
- **Guest Speaker:** *Jude Simion, founder & Executive Director of Philoi Global Ltd.*

This evening offers a unique opportunity to:

- Engage in collective prayers and enjoy musical performances
- Be inspired by our guest speaker's journey of faith
- Connect with fellow church and community members
- Share a delicious two-course meal with complimentary soft drinks

### • **Tickets are \$55 and can be purchased from:**

Cumberland Churches website, [www.cumberlandchurches.org.au](http://www.cumberlandchurches.org.au) or scan the QR code on the flyer on the back noticeboard

RSVP and Dietary requirements by 12 August



## **Greystanes Uniting Church**

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## **Rev Gail's Message**

### **Compassion and Acceptance**

The values of our church come as no great surprise considering we are a gathered people who center their lives on Jesus Christ. The values we will continue looking at in the Grapevine all have their foundation in Christ and in scripture.

This week we begin with a reading from Matthew:

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd (Matthew 9: 35-36).

In the reading above Jesus is moved by compassion. The word Matthew uses in the original Greek text is "splanchnizomai". It comes from splanchna, the bowels, the guts, the deep interior cavity of the body. In the ancient world, this was where the strongest emotions were believed to live. Splanchnizomai describes something that seizes you from the inside, a physical response so powerful it demands action. Your stomach turns. Your chest tightens. Your body knows something before your mind catches up. This is what happens in Jesus when he looks at the crowds. He sees them, and something moves in the deepest part of him". (<https://grahamjosephhill.com/jesus-compassion/>)

Jesus' compassion even extended to those who hated him. As the crowd gathered at the foot of the cross, sneering at him and dividing his clothes, Jesus prays, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

When we say we value compassion and acceptance how far are we willing to go? It is easy to have compassion for people we love, like and generally get along with, it is another thing altogether to have compassion for people we find difficult, annoying and hard to handle. When a church values compassion it must look to Christ the perfecter of our faith, to enable us to feel compassion for all people, yes, even the ones we do not like!

In the list of Greystanes Uniting Church values presented to me when I first began this placement, I noted with interest that the values appear in couplets. Compassion is coupled with acceptance. Again we must turn to Christ to learn acceptance because Christ accepts you and I, even though we are far from perfect. Understanding our own need for grace and forgiveness can help us to see other's in the same light. Jesus taught us a great lesson by asking, "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? (Matthew 7:3-5).

The church is a family of all sorts and families can be messy, however the love that unities us can bind us together. So in valuing Compassion and Acceptance let's remember above all, to clothe ourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony (Colossians 3:14).