UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

ASSEMBLY RESOURCING UNIT

Calendar & Lectionary Year B 2026 - 2027

Following Jesus: A Journey Through the Gospel of Mark

As we begin a new lectionary year, the Gospel of Mark invites us to encounter Jesus Christ afresh and to consider a question that runs throughout its pages: Who is Jesus, and what does it mean to follow him?

Mark opens with a bold declaration: "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (Mark 1:1). There is an urgency to this Gospel. Jesus announces that God's kingdom has come near, calling people to repent and believe the good news (Mark 1:15). Through his teaching, healing, and encounters with those pushed to the margins, we see God's love breaking into the world, challenging established boundaries, and transforming lives.

At the heart of Mark's Gospel is a question Jesus puts to his disciples: "Who do you say that I am?" (Mark 8:29). Peter recognises Jesus as the Messiah, yet struggles to understand that his mission involves suffering, rejection, and death. Jesus then calls those who would follow him to take up their cross. Mark reminds us that recognising who Jesus is cannot be separated from understanding the way he calls us to live.

This becomes particularly confronting in Jesus' teaching about power. Greatness is not measured by status or authority, but through service and responsibility for one another (Mark 10:42–45). The way of the cross challenges not only our personal assumptions but also the relationships, communities, and structures we create. In Jesus' death and resurrection, we encounter God's self-giving love and the promise that death does not have the final word.

For us in the Uniting Church in Australia, these readings come at a significant moment. As we approach fifty years of Union, Mark invites us to consider not only where we have come from, but who Christ is calling us to become. We are a pilgrim people, still being formed by God's Word and called to remain open to the renewing work of the Spirit.

As we journey through Mark together, may we listen with humility, allow Christ to challenge what we have grown comfortable with, and find the courage to follow him in ways that reflect God's justice, compassion, and reconciling love.

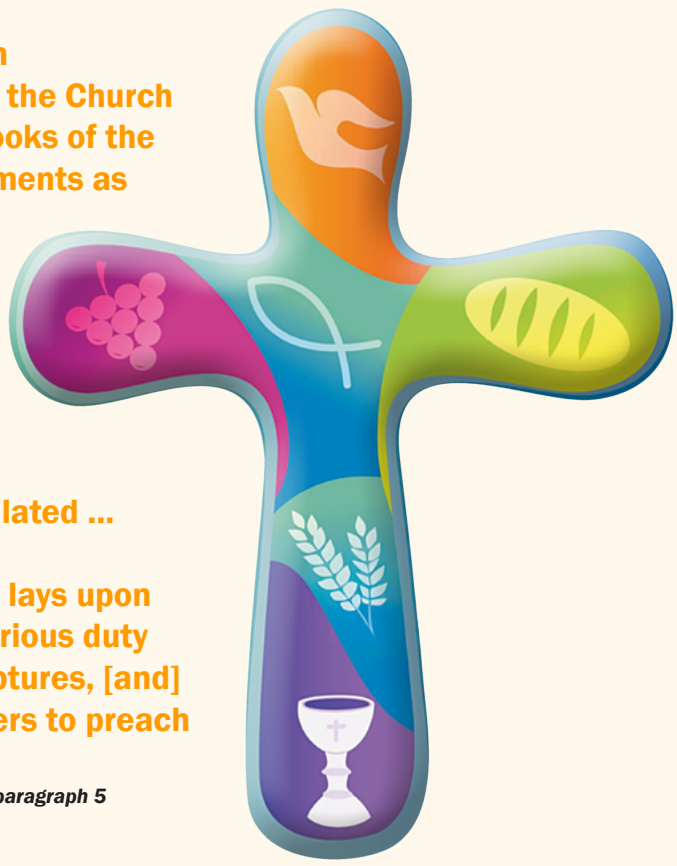
The question remains: Who do we say Jesus is, and what will our lives and our communities reveal about our answer?

Rev Charissa Suli
President, Uniting Church in Australia

'The Uniting Church acknowledges that the Church has received the books of the Old and New Testaments as unique prophetic and apostolic testimony, in which it hears the Word of God and by which its faith and obedience are nourished and regulated ...

The Uniting Church lays upon its members the serious duty of reading the Scriptures, [and] commits its ministers to preach from these ...'

Basis of Union (1992 Edition), paragraph 5



A Short Guide to Using the Lectionary

The Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) offers for 4 readings for each week, in a three-year cycle:

First Reading from the Old Testament
Psalm
Second Reading from the apostles' writings
Gospel following a three-year cycle: Matthew (Year A), Mark (Year B), and Luke (Year C).

The three-year cycle follows the Gospels who see together the story of Jesus (often called "syn-optics"), telling the story with a similar narrative structure. The Gospel of John is used as a supplement across the whole cycle, particularly around Christmas, Lent, and Easter.

The lectionary encourages us to connect the stories of our lives to the story of God's faithfulness throughout Scripture. These texts are not simply offered to focus our sermons, but also to shape all of our worship in prayer and song. It is worth keeping in mind these words from the *Basis of Union:*

> **"The Word of God on whom salvation depends is to be heard and known from Scripture appropriated in the worshipping and witnessing life of the Church."** *(Paragraph 5)*

The connection between Scripture and our worshipping and witnessing life should invite flexibility and pastoral sensitivity in how we use the lectionary. You might choose to follow the lectionary for key seasons: Advent / Christmas, Lent / Easter, and focus on locally chosen texts in other seasons. Or the readings might serve as a guide as you preach through the whole text of a particular book from the Hebrew Bible / Old Testament, the Gospel, or other New Testament text.

Lectionaries offer us a sign of unity with other churches who share in the same readings week by week. At the same time, the *RCL* often omits stories about women, minority figures, and more difficult texts within Scripture. Local leaders should consider making sure the full witness of Scripture is heard across the life of the community, which may mean departing from the *RCL* from time to time. You might also consider how often our focus is on the Gospel text, often to the neglect of the Old Testament reading or apostles' writings.

Before Trinity Sunday the Old Testament readings complement the Gospel reading. After Pentecost the Uniting Church follows a semi-continuous narrative within the Old Testament, connections between the First Reading and Gospel reading are not intentional at that point.



More RCL resources are available on the Assembly website, which is updated regularly. Please scan or click the QR code.
https://uniting.church/lectionary-resources/

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Year 'B'

REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY 2026 – 2027

(Below in the right hand column : C = Colour; P = Purple; W = White; G = Green; R = Red; B = Black)

ADVENT

A season of preparation, beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, in which the church recalls its hope and expectation in the coming of Christ, past, present and future.

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
Nov 29 2026	Advent 1	Is 64:1-9	Ps 80:1-7,17-19	1 Cor 1:3-9	Mk 13:24-37	P
Dec 6 2026	Advent 2	Is 40:1-11	Ps 85:1-2,8-13	2 Pt 3:8-15a	Mk 1:1-8	P
Dec 13 2026	Advent 3	Is 61:1-4, 8-11	Ps 126 or Luke 1:46b-55	1 Thes 5:16-24	Jn 1:6-8,19-28	P
Dec 20 2026	Advent 4	2 Sm 7:1-11,16	Lk 1:46b-55 or Ps 89:1-4,19-26	Rom 16:25-27	Lk 1:26-38	P

CHRISTMAS

The Christmas season includes Christmas Eve/Day and the twelve days of Christmas. It recalls the stories of the birth and infancy of Christ. The Church in this time celebrates the wonder of the incarnation. (Any of the Nativity selections may be used either for Christmas Day or Christmas Eve services.)

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
Dec 24/25 2026	Nativity 1	Is 9:2-7	Ps 96	Ti 2:11-14	Lk 2:1-14, (15-20)	W
	Nativity 2	Is 62:6-12	Ps 97	Ti 3:4-7	Lk 2:(1-7), 8-20	W
	Nativity 3	Is 52:7-10	Ps 98	Heb 1:1-4,(5-12)	Jn 1:1-14	W
Dec 27 2026	Christmas 1	Is 61:10–62:3	Ps 148	Gal 4:4-7	Lk 2:22-40	W
Jan 1 2027	Naming of Jesus	Num 6:22-27	Ps 8	Gal 4:4-7 or Phil 2:5-11	Lk 2:15-21	W
Jan 1 2027	New Year's Day	Ecc 3:1-13	Ps 8	Rev 21:1-6a	Mt 25:31-46	W
Jan 3 2027	Christmas 2	Jer 31:7-14	Ps 147:12-20	Eph 1:3-14	John 1:(1-9), 10-18	W

EPIPHANY

An 'Epiphany' is a revealing, appearing or manifesting of something or someone, and in this season the Church reflects on the manifestation of Christ to all people. The length of this period varies depending on the date of Easter.

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
Jan 6 2027	Epiphany	Is 60:1-6	Ps 72:1-7,10-14	Eph 3:1-12	Mt 2:1-12	W
Jan 10 2027	Baptism of Jesus	Gn 1:1-5	Ps 29	Acts 19:1-7	Mk 1:4-11	W
Jan 17 2027	Epiphany 2	1 Sm 3:1-10, (11-20)	Ps 139:1-6,13-18	1 Cor 6:12-20	Jn 1:43-51	G
Jan 24 2027	Epiphany 3	Jon 3:1-5,10	Ps 62:5-12	1 Cor 7:29-31	Mk 1:14-20	G
	Day of Mourning					
Jan 31 2027	Epiphany 4	Dt 18:15-20	Ps 111	1 Cor 8:1-13	Mk 1:21-28	G
Feb 2 2027	Presentation of the Lord	Mal 3:1-4	Ps 84 or Ps 24:7-10	Heb 2:14-18	Lk 2:22-40	G
Feb 7 2027	Transfiguration of Jesus	2 Kgs 2:1-12	Ps 50:1-6	2 Cor 4:3-6	Mk 9:2-9	W

LENT

A season of preparation and discipline that begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes at sundown on Holy Saturday. During the forty weekdays and six Sundays in Lent, the church remembers the life and ministry of Jesus and renews its commitment to him in Christian discipleship. This season is the traditional time to prepare for baptisms and confirmations to be celebrated at the Easter Vigil or on Easter Sunday, or during the season of Easter.

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
Feb 10 2027	Ash Wednesday	Jl 2:1-2,12-17 or Is 58:1-12	Ps 51:1-17	2 Cor 5:20b–6:10	Mt 6:1-6,16-21	P
Feb 14 2027	Lent 1	Gn 9:8-17	Ps 25:1-10	1 Pt 3:18-22	Mk 1:9-15	P
Feb 21 2027	Lent 2	Gn 17:1-7, 15-16	Ps 22:23-31	Rom 4:13-25	Mk 8:31-38 or Mk 9:2-9	P
Feb 28 2027	Lent 3	Ex 20:1-17	Ps 19	1 Cor 1:18-25	Jn 2:13-22	P
Mar 7 2027	Lent 4	Nm 21:4-9	Ps 107:1-3,17-22	Eph 2:1-10	Jn 3:14-21	P
Mar 14 2027	Lent 5	Jer 31:31-34	Ps 51:1-12 or Ps 119:9-16	Heb 5:5-10	Jn 12:20-33	P
Mar 21 2027	Passion Sunday	Is 50:4-9a	Ps 31:9-16	Phil 2:5-11	Jn [18:1-40] 19:1-42 or Mk 14:1—15:47	P
Mar 21 2027	Palm Sunday	Is 50:4-9a	Ps 118:1-2, 19-29	Phil 2:5-11	Mk 11:1-11 or - Jn 12:12-16	P
Mar 22 2027	Monday in Holy Week	Is 42:1-9	Ps 36:5-11	Heb 9:11-15	Jn 12:1-11	P
Mar 23 2027	Tuesday in Holy Week	Is 49:1-7	Ps 71:1-14	1 Cor 1:18-31	Jn 12:20-36	P
Mar 24 2027	Wednesday in Holy Week	Is 50:4-9a	Ps 70	Heb 12:1-3	Jn 13:21-32	P
Mar 25 2027	Maundy Thursday	Ex 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14	Ps 116:1-2,12-19	1 Cor 11:23-26	Jn 13:1-17, 31b-35	P
Mar 26 2027	Good Friday	Is 52:13–53:12	Ps 22	Heb 10:16-25 or Heb 4:14-16, 5:7-9	Jn 19:1-42 or Mk 14:1—15:47	B or R
Mar 27 2027	Holy Saturday	Job 14:1-4 or Lam 3:1-9,19-24	Ps 31:1-4,15-16	1 Pet 4:1-8	Mt 27:57-66 or Jn 19:38-42	B

EASTER

The great fifty days of Easter includes eight Sundays beginning with the Easter Vigil and concluding on the Day of Pentecost. The season celebrates the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
Mar 28 2027	Easter Vigil	Gn 1:1–2:4a	Ps 136:1-9,23-26			W
		Gn 7:1-5,11-18; 8:6-18;9:8-13	Ps 46			
(A minimum of 3 OT readings to be read; Ex 14 & 15 always included)		Gn 22:1-18	Ps 16			
		Ex 14:10-31; 15:20-21	Ex 15:1b-13,17-18			
		Is 55:1-11	Is 12:2-6			
		Prv 8:1-8,19-21; 9:4b-6	Ps 19			
		Ez 36:24-28	Ps 42 and 43			
		Ez 37:1-14	Ps 143			
		Zep 3:14-20	Ps 98			
			Ps 114	Rom 6:3-11	Mk 16:1-8	
Mar 28 2027	Easter Day	Is 25:6-9	Ps 118:1-2, 14-24	1 Cor 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43	Jn 20:1-18 or Mk 16:1-8	W
Mar 28 2027	Easter Evening	Is 25:6-9	Ps 114	1 Cor 5:6b-8	Lk 24:13-49	W
Apr 4 2027	Easter 2	Is 65:17-25	Ps 3	1 Jn 1:1–2:2	Jn 20:19-31	W
Apr 11 2027	Easter 3	Is 6:1-8	Ps 40:1-8	1 Jn 3:1-7	Lk 24:36b-48	W
Apr 18 2027	Easter 4	Zech 10:1-12	Ps 80:1-7 or Ps 23	1 Jn 3:16-24	Jn 10:11-18	W
Apr 25 2027	Easter 5	Ex 19:1-8a	Ps 118:19-25	1 Jn 4:7-21	Jn 15:1-8	W
May 2 2027	Easter 6	Gn 35:9-15	Ps 101	1 Jn 5:1-6	Jn 15:9-17	W
May 6 2027	Ascension Day	Dn 7:9-10 [11-12] 13-14	Ps 68:15-20, 32-35	Eph 1:15-23	Lk 24:44-53	W
May 9 2027	Easter 7	Jer 10:1-10a	Ps 108	1 Jn 5:9-13	Jn 17:6-19	W
May 16 2027	Day of Pentecost	Ez 37:1-14	Ps104:24-34, , 35b	Rom 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21	Jn 15:26-27: 16: 4b-15	R
May 23 2027	Trinity Sunday	Is 6:1-8	Ps 29	Rom 8:12-17	Jn 3:1-17	W

AFTER PENTECOST

A period of time that varies in length depending on whether Easter is early or late. In this period, the church recalls its faith in the Holy Trinity. It seeks to relate its faith as a people of God to Christ's mission in the world. It commences with Trinity Sunday and concludes with the feast of Christ the King.

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
May 30 2027	Pent 2 [9]	1 Sm 3:1-10,(11-20)	Ps139 1-6,13-18	2 Cor 4:5-12	Mk 2: 23-3:6	G
Jun 6 2027	Pent 3 [10]	I Sm 8:4-11,(12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15)	Ps138	2 Cor 4:13-5:1	Mk 3: 20-35	G
Jun 13 2027	Pent 4 [11]	1 Sm 15:34–16:13	Ps 20	2 Cor 5:6-10 (11-13) 14-17	Mk 4:26-34	G
Jun 20 2027	Pent 5 [12]	1 Sm 17:(1a,4-11, 19-23),32-49 or 1 Sm 17:57 - 18:5,10-16	Ps 9:9-20 or Ps 133	2 Cor 6:1-13	Mk 4:35-41	G
Jun 22 2027	UCA Anniversary	2 Chr 30:1-9	Ps 127	Eph 2:19-22	Jn 17:1-11	R
Jun 27 2027	Pent 6 [13]	2 Sm 1:1,17-27	Ps 130	2 Cor 8:7-15	Mk 5:21-43	G
Jul 4 2027	Pent 7 [14]	2 Sm 5:1-5, 9-10	Ps 48	2 Cor 12:2-10	Mk 6:1-13	G
Jul 11 2027	Pent 8 [15]	2 Sm 6:1-5, 12b-19	Ps 24	Eph 1:3-14 Acts 2:37-47	Mk 6:14-29	G
Jul 18 2027	Pent 9 [16]	2 Sm 7:1-14a	Ps 89:20-37	Eph 2:11-22 Acts 4:32-37	Mk 6:30-34,53-56	G
Intercultural Neighbouring Day						
Jul 25 2027	Pent 10 [17]	2 Sm 11:1-15	Ps 14	Eph 3:14-21 Acts 6:1-7	Jn 6:1-21	G
Aug 1 2027	Pent 11 [18]	2 Sm 11:26–12:13a	Ps 51:1-12	Eph 4:1-16 Acts 8:26-40	Jn 6:24-35	G
Aug 8 2027	Pent 12 [19]	2 Sm 18:5-9, 15,31-33	Ps 130	Eph 4:25–5:2 Acts 11:19-30	Jn 6:35,41-51	G
Aug 15 2027	Pent 13 [20]	1 Kgs 2:10-12; 3:3-14	Ps 111	Eph 5:15-20 Acts 16:6-15	Jn 6:51-58	G
Aug 22 2027	Pent 14 [21]	1 Kgs 8: (1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43	Ps 84	Eph 6:10-20 Acts 18:1-3, 18-21, 24-28	Jn 6:56-69	G
Aug 29 2027	Pent 15 [22]	Song 2:8-13	Ps 45:1-2,6-9	Jas 1:17-27	Mk 7:1-8,14-15, 21-23	G
Sept 1 2027	Creation in Christ	Prv 8:22-31 [32-35]	Ps 104:1-4, 14-24 Ps 104:1-2a. 5-6. 10, 12. 24, 35c	Col 1:15-20	Mt 6:25-33 or Jn 1:1-5	
Season of Creation begins (World Council of Churches)						
Sept 5 2027	Pent 16 [23]	Prv 22:1-2,8-9, 22-23	Ps 125	Jas 2:1-10, (11-13),14-17	Mk 7:24-37	G
Frontier Services Sunday						
Sept 12 2027	Pent 17 [24]	Prv 1:20-33	Ps 19	Jas 3:1-12	Mk 8:27-38	G
Sept 19 2027	Pent 18 [25]	Prv 31:10-31	Ps 1	Jas 3:13–4:3,7-8a	Mk 9:30-37	G
Sept 26 2027	Pent 19 [26]	Est 7:1-6, 9-10;9:20-22	Ps 124	Jas 5:13-20	Mk 9:38-50	G
Oct 3 2027	Pent 20 [27]	Jb 1:1;2:1-10	Ps 26	Heb 1:1-4;2:5-12	Mk 10:2-16	G
Older Persons Sunday						
Oct 10 2027	Pent 21 [28]	Jb 23:1-9,16-17	Ps 22:1-15	Heb 4:12-16	Mk 10:17-31	G
Oct 17 2027	Pent 22 [29]	Jb 38:1-7,(34-41)	Ps 104:1-9,24,35c	Heb 5:1-10	Mk 10:35-45	G
October 18 ... Anniversary: National Apology to Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse						
Oct 24 2027	Pent 23 [30]	Jb 42:1-6,10-17	Ps 34:1-8,(19-22)	Heb 7:23-28	Mk 10:46-52	G
Oct 31 2027	Pent 24 [31]	Ru 1:1-18	Ps 146	Heb 9:11-14	Mk 12:28-34	G
Nov 1 2027	All Saints Day	Is 25:6-9	Ps 24	Rev 21:1-6a	Jn 11:32-44	W
Nov 7 2027	Pent 25 [32]	Ru 3:1-5,4:13-17	Ps 127	Heb 9:24-28	Mk 12:38-44	G
Nov 14 2027	Pent 26 [33]	1 Sm 1:4-20	1 Sm 2:1-10	Heb 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25	Mk 13:1-8	G
Nov 21 2027	Christ the King/ Reign of Christ	2 Sm 23:1-7	Ps 132:1-12, (13-18)	Rv 1:4b-8	Jn 18:33-37	W

Keep up to date at uniting.church/worship-community/

Readings for significant days and feasts which do not fall on a Sunday may be substituted for the Sunday before or after.

The beginnings or endings of some Psalms vary from those in *Uniting in Worship 2*; you may wish to use the verse selections in *Uniting in Worship 2*

ORTHODOX DATES	
GREAT FRIDAY	10 April 2027
EASTER	2 May 2027
PENTECOST	20 June 2027
CREATION DAY	1 September 2027