



Parramatta
Mission



uniting
church
in Australia,
Synod of NSW & ACT

OUR NEWS for 25th December 2017



Merry Christmas



*Congregational life @ Westmead & Parramatta,
Hospitality, Community and
Mental Health Services across
Greater Sydney, Central Coast, Hunter and
Mid-North Coast*

Our Vision

*A Community Transforming Lives
Our Values, Grace, Inclusion,
Dignity, Faith and Hope*

Luke 1:1-20

2:1 Now it happened that in those days a decree was issued from Caesar Augustus that all the inhabitants of the Roman Empire were to be entered in a register. 2 This was the first census to be made when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all travelled to be enrolled, each one to their city. 4 And so Joseph went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was out of the house and family of David, 5 to be enrolled with Mary, who had been betrothed to him, and who was pregnant. 6 And while they were there the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And she gave birth to her first-born son, wrapped him in cloths, and put him to bed in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. 8 And there were shepherds in the district, living in the fields and keeping guard in the night over their flock. 9 And an angel of the Lord came to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Do not fear, for hear this, I announce to you great joy, which will be to all people, 11 because to you is born today a Saviour in the city of David, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger". 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly army praising God and saying: 14 "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among people of goodwill". 15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another: "Let us go to Bethlehem and let us see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us". 16 And they came with haste and found both Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger; 17 and seeing they made known the word spoken to them concerning this child. 18 And all those who heard marvelled about the things spoken by the shepherds to them; 19 but Mary treasured all these things, reflected upon them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned glorifying and praising God at all the things they heard and saw, as it had been told to them.

(Translation by Keith Hamilton)

Reflections

Christmas reminds us that the future is open. The past does not have to determine our future, for God meets us in the present opening up a new future.



Rena, closest to camera is the PM volunteer coordinator, and also the Christmas coordinator. Rena organised multiple volunteers from many organisations including corporates, community groups, schools, churches and individuals to pack the hampers and distribute them to people throughout PM services and other organisations. The work included raising funds and receiving donations of goods. This year over 1,500 hampers were produced, and over 1,000 gifts handed out. It is a massive effort, under the leadership of Rena.

Well done Rena.

Also facing the camera is Jenny, marketing and fundraising coordinator, who assisted Rena in this work. Paul also provided great assistance. Thank you to all three of you, and to all staff and volunteers involved in the big effort. The point of it all is to assist families and individuals who would otherwise not celebrate, to assist people to 'see' people who are at risk of homelessness and become givers through donations of food and effort, to communicate that no one is alone and to strengthen the ties that bind us all together as humans.



The Light Rail staff helped out in handing out hampers in the lead-up to Christmas



HASI team in Taree at their Christmas party.

Pastoral message for this week....

The baby Jesus brings God's free gift of hope, joy, peace and love. May these gifts be yours this Christmas.

Blessings to all this Christmas from the pastoral team and reception staff, Keith Hamilton

Worship Services at Parramatta Mission

Open Church in recess until 22nd January 2018

Sunday	9.30am
	9.45am
	11.15am
	1.30pm
	7.00pm

Leigh Memorial Congregation @ Leigh
Westmead Congregation @ Westmead
Leigh Fijian Congregation @ Leigh
Korean Faith Community @ Leigh
Praise, Prayer, Cake & Coffee @ Leigh

Contacts

Leigh Memorial Congregation: Rev Dr Manas Ghosh 0429 892 548

Leigh Fijian Congregation: 9891 2277

Leigh Korean Faith Community Minister: Rev Hyun Goo Jun 0433 320 588

Leigh Memorial Church, 119 Macquarie St, Parramatta

Westmead Congregation: Rev Christine Bayliss Kelly 0409 925 607

Westmead Church: 175 Hawkesbury Road Westmead: 9891 9354

Senior Minister/CEO: Rev Keith Hamilton 0417 487 446

Church Office: 9891 2277 **Email :** wecare@parramattamission.org.au



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