

OUR NEWS
25th December 2018



Parramatta
Mission



uniting
church
in Australia,
Synod of NSW & ACT

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



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

Parramatta Mission acknowledges that all of our work and
our 36 sites are on the land of traditional owners.
We pay respect to the traditional custodians of the land on
which we gather, and acknowledge Elders past and present,
and emerging leaders.

Luke 2:1-20

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 them.

(Translation by Keith Hamilton)



Reflections

The centrepiece for Christmas Day for most people is a meal. Yes, there may be a tree and presents, but the meal will be the time of sharing. For some people that might be in solitude, with the intention of perhaps meditation and reflection. For others the home alone meal might not be desired and may be a lonely experience. Places like Wayside, Exodus, and today Parramatta Mission, will provide lunch to thousands. It is not so much the lunch as the companionship over a meal. It is a privilege that we are able to do this today. Our congregations initiated Christmas Day lunch in about 1990, and that became the forerunner of Meals Plus. I think I can say that all of us at Parramatta Mission are delighted to have this opportunity again.

Aligned with our vision: *A Church-based community transforming lives*, and our values of *grace, inclusion, dignity, faith and hope*, we have worked to make the lunch today a wonderful experience for all involved.

Grace - expressed as hospitality – we welcome everyone with a big smile;

Inclusion – we make sure everyone is included, not lonely, and everyone has a great time. We remember everyone has a job: the congregations job is to be the hosts. The staff and volunteers have the job of setup, serving and pack-up.

Dignity – we respect the dignity of everyone, and therefore our behaviour will express that respect.

Faith and Hope – we are people who have experienced through Jesus Christ God's grace, inclusion and have a God-given dignity. We live as people of faith and hope.

Of course, while Julie and I and many others will be in Meals Plus, many of our PM people will be having lunch elsewhere. We can all live our PM values where we are as well, and maybe invite people we know who might be lonely to our lunch, or dinner. We can all join the angels in singing "*Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among people of goodwill*" and work to make the angels song come true today, wherever we are.

The offering in churches today across Australia will go to the Christmas Bowl Appeal. Through the National Council of Churches in Australia it will be used to support local partners around the world to both meet urgent need and create change that lasts; equipping communities affected by conflict and disaster with the skills they need to solve their own problems and get back on their feet. "Alone the impact we can make is limited, but through working in partnership we can help renew the world." Christian Aid, Act for Peace's local partner in Bangladesh.

Blessings, Keith Hamilton

Worship Services at Parramatta Mission

Mon to Fri 9.00am - 2.00pm

Tuesday 1.10pm

Sunday 9.30am

9.45am

11.15am

1.30pm

7.00pm



Open Church @ Leigh Memorial

Holy Communion @ Leigh

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: Rev Dr Clive Pearson, Supply Minister 0409523024

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

Children's Hospital Chaplain : Sarah Bishop 0429 912 943

PM WSU Chaplain : Rev Dr Amelia Koh Butler 0427 955 157



For all e-tree news follow the link below
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