

OUR NEWS  
30th 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.



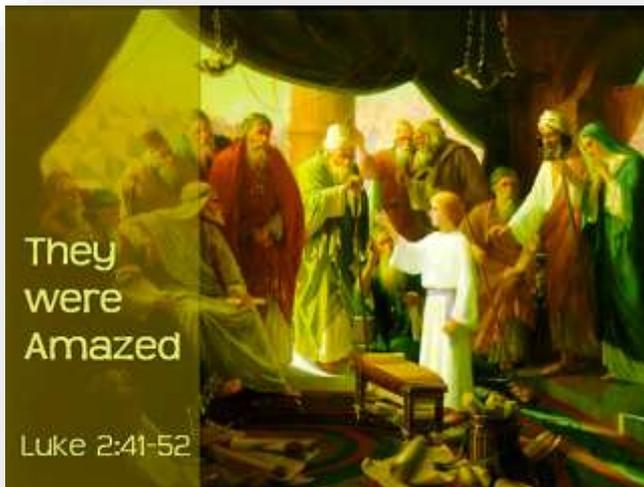
Congregational life @ Westmead & Parramatta,  
Hospitality, Community and Mental Health  
Services across Greater Sydney, Central Coast,  
Hunter and Mid-North Coast

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 2:41-52

41 Now every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. 42 When he was 12 years old, they went up as usual for the festival. 43 When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. 44 Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. 45 When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 All who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." 49 He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" 50 But they did not understand what he said to them. 51 Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

(Translation by Keith Hamilton)



# Reflections

This baby grows fast! It is just a few days after Christmas and we have a story of a twelve years old Jesus. He is a boy growing up, and yet he is unlike any other.

There is scant detail of the young Jesus, and people are prone to speculation. What was his development like? How did he relate to other children? Was he mischievous? Did his parents have to discipline him? Luke does not provide any detail. He is making a theological point. Jesus was indeed fully human as well as fully divine. Luke is heading for verse 2:52 to emphasize the point that Jesus grew in both human and divine wisdom.

The point of these birth and childhood narratives is to emphasize the humanity of Jesus. He did live a life. There was a history between the incarnation and the cross, a point that some of our well-loved songs and hymns overlook. At the same time, the Christian faith is that Jesus was also fully God. We see glimpses of that in these childhood narratives as well. It is important that in our language of faith we hold this human divine tension. The church is both human and divine. We see the human actors who are sometimes very frail in behavior. That is not an excuse for bad behavior. The Christian faith speaks of human sin, brokenness, and of confession and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. We also need to look for the presence of God's Spirit in the church. The church is not a gathering of like-minded people, like social club. It is a gathered community of faith with the Spirit of the risen Christ in the midst.

Of course, Christian hope is grounded in the resurrection of Jesus, of life beyond the grave. At the same time, there is a full life in the present, and for this Jesus came. Our hope transforms the present to live life fully in the present. The purpose of Jesus' coming was not to enable people escape the present life, to live such a future oriented life that the here and now is neglected. The reign of kingdom of God has begun in Jesus Christ. The so-called division between sacred and secular is artificial. God who created the whole world continues to be involved in the whole world, and take an interest in the affairs of the whole world, just as the twelve years of Jesus did in Luke's gospel. We live in the here and now and indeed it is the future promises of resurrection that transforms the present from despair, or from escapism or avoidance to hope, peace, joy and love in the present and in the future. This message of hope inspires Christians to share that good news in words and actions.

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](mailto: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  
<http://www.parramattamission.org.au/etree>

 Parramatta Mission

 @parramission

 Parramatta Mission

Visit our website and blog [www.parramattamission.org.au](http://www.parramattamission.org.au)