

OUR NEWS

25th December 2019



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.

Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus was like this. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; and before they came together she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. 19 But her man, Joseph, being just and not wishing to shame her, decided to secretly release her. 20 And while he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream saying, "Joseph son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife; for that which is begotten in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 For she will give birth to a son; and you shall call his name Jesus; for he shall save his people from their sins. 22 Now this has come about in order that he might fulfil the prophecy spoken by the Lord through the prophet saying 'Behold, the virgin will conceive and will have a son, and will name him Emmanuel'" (which translated means 'God with us'). 24 Then Joseph, waking from his sleep, did as he was ordered by the angel of the Lord and he took Mary as his wife 25 but he did not know her until she bore a son; and he called his name Jesus.

(Translation by Keith Hamilton)



Reflections

The theme of Christmas for this year is in the meaning of the word Emmanuel, which translated means 'God with us.' Noteworthy this name is given in a dream to Joseph. Joseph is often overlooked in the Christmas story. Mary and the angels and the shepherds dominate the popular knowledge and imagination of Christmas. But Matthew portrays Joseph as a person of faith. It was thought that people who dreamed were open to God. It is relevant that the name of Emmanuel – God with us – is given in a dream. The dream exemplifies God with us. The birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus will make this unequivocal.

Many people miss the message of these Christmas stories. They dispute the stories because they can't be logically true. That entirely misses the point. These stories are stories of faith. They are true because they convey a timeless central truth. Jesus is God's only Son, who reveals to us that God is with us in all aspects of life, and death and beyond death. The Christmas stories invite us to open ourselves to the abiding presence of God with us. This opening ourselves to God, takes place through daily prayer – a conscious and disciplined effort to talk to and listen for God. A pattern of daily prayer and Bible reading most often assists this to happen. That pattern of prayer might include praise, confession, thanksgiving, and intercession. Any of our pastoral team would welcome the opportunity and gladly assist people develop a daily routine of prayer.

The Pastoral Team wish all at Parramatta Mission a Merry Christmas and best wishes to all in 2020.



May God's abiding presence be a blessing to you this Christmas.
Keith Hamilton

Worship Services at

Open Church 10.00am - 12.30am

30th - 31st January only

Sunday 10.00am

**Combined Leigh Memorial Congregation
@ Leigh and Leigh Fijian
Congregation @ Leigh**

9.45am

Westmead Congregation @ Westmead

1.30pm

Korean Faith Community @ Leigh

7.00pm

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 0409 523 024

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

Leigh Memorial Church, 119 Macquarie St, Parramatta , 9891 2277

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



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