



Parramatta
Mission



uniting
church
in Australia,
Synod of NSW & ACT

OUR NEWS

5th January 2020

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.

Leigh Congregation

During January last year, our 'Summer Series' focussed on Nativity paintings from around the world. This year, our series will utilise **Australian artworks, dating from 1889 – 2019** – and provide accompanying prayer points for those impacted by **bushfires, drought, rural issues and reconciliation**.



Painting 1: Lloyd Rees – Fire haze at Gerringong (1980).

Prayer Point: *Those impacted by the fear and devastation of extreme heat & bush fires.*

PRAYER FOR THOSE INVOLVED IN BUSH FIRES

God of life and death, our prayers today are where our hearts and minds have been during these last days and where they have been drawn so early in this season; with those communities and individuals whose lives have been damaged in differing ways by the bushfires.

Extract: <https://www.insights.uca.org.au/prayer-for-those-involved-in-bushfires/>
Bushfires Article: <https://assembly.uca.org.au/news/item/3075-standing-with-bushfire-affected-communities>

MODERATOR'S BUSHFIRE APPEAL

The Moderator's Appeal distributes funds where they are most needed:

<https://nswact.uca.org.au/about-us/giving/moderators-appeal/>
or phone (02) 8267 4342 for assistance.

LEIGH MEMORIAL GROUPS & PROGRAMS

Most of our congregation groups take a break during some or all of January and resume in early February. Group coordinators will contact members when regular programs are due to re-commence.

PASTORAL CARE

Anyone needing pastoral care/support during January - or - any additional information and assistance, please contact the Pastoral Team via the Mission office, 9891-2277.

Summer @ Leigh Memorial Church

The combined services for the two Parramatta congregations on 5 and 12 January will be at 10am.

On the 19th January: Leigh Memorial at 9:30 Leigh Fijian at 11:15

On the 26th January (Australia Day).

Combined service: Leigh Memorial, Leigh Fijian and Westmead - Parramatta Park, 9:30 am

If wet, in the Westmead church.



Leigh Memorial Church: Open Church, Post-Christmas - New Year.

Tuesday, 7 January 10am-12:30
(including communion service 12 noon),
Wednesday, 8 January 10am-12:30

**For pastoral situations while Manas is on leave, please contact:
Clive Pearson, 0409 523 024**

HAPPY NEW YEAR

A happy New Year to everyone in the Westmead Congregation and wider Parramatta Mission Community.

CONGRATULATIONS

We extend our congratulations to Alfred and Claudine Hensman on the safe arrival of the first child, Isaac Reign Hensman. We welcome Isaac and look forward to meeting him. Please pray for the family as they enter a new phase of life. Congratulations to Great Grandmother Grace, Grandparents Cynthia and Prabah (and Claudine's parents) and Great Great Aunt and Uncle Ponmany and Joseph.

THANKSGIVING FOR TERRY

A Thanksgiving service for Terry Butler will be held on January 14th at the Parramatta South Campus of Western Sydney University (Rydalmere), 5.00pm. Please continue to hold Amelia and family in your prayers.

JANUARY- OPEN CHURCH

The church will be open from 9.00-3.30 on Wed 8th January and each following Wednesday across January. We anticipate that families with children will come earlier in the day and those wanting a cuppa, scrabble or dominos or simply to chat will come afterwards. Please byo lunch but tea and coffee will be provided.

Thought for the month: *Preparation for Christmas includes the preparation in our hearts and lives for the advent of Jesus- Emmanuel- God with us. Are we being prepared?*



DEEPENING FAITH and RELATIONSHIPS with others Worship

Sundays 9.45am

Bible Study- Mondays 2.00-3.30pm

Fellowship

Returns Monday 27th January

Returns Tuesday 4th February

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Time Out Café (TOC)- Tues/Thurs 11.00-1.30pm Return date tba

Play Group – Mondays and Wednesdays 9.15-10.45am Return Mon 3rd Feb

Open Door -Wednesdays 1.00-3.30pm

Returns Wed 5th Feb

Tai Chi- Fridays 10.00-11.00am

Returns Friday 7th Feb



WEST MEAD
Congregation

Matthew 2:1-12

1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea in the days of Herod the King, unexpectedly, wise men trained in astrology and dream interpretation, arrived in Jerusalem from the East. 2 They enquired, "Where is the one who has born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east and we came to worship him." 3 When King Herod heard this, he, and all Jerusalem with him were troubled, 4 and calling all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired from them where the Christ was born. 5 And they said to him,

In Bethlehem in Judea, for it has been written by the prophet,

6 'And you Bethlehem, Lord of Judea, are by no means least among the Governors in Judea. For out of you will come forth a governor who will shepherd my people Israel.

7 Then Herod secretly, called the wise men and found out from them the time the star first became visible 8 and sent them to Bethlehem, saying,

Go and make careful inquires concerning the child and when you find him report to me so that I too might come to worship him.

9 When they had listened to him they went and, yet again, the star which they had seen in the east, went before them, until it came and stood over where the child was. 10 When they saw the star they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy 11 and they went into the house and saw the child with Mary his mother and they fell and worshipped him, and opening their treasures they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed by another way to their country.

(Translation by Keith Hamilton)

Reflections

While some have moved on through the Boxing Day sales to the New Year, sales, with hot cross buns not far away, Christmas has twelve days and ends with Epiphany, 6 January. It is ok to keep the tree up and the lights lit at least until then! Epiphany celebration began with the church in the East celebrating the epiphany or theophany or the manifestation or the revelation of God to the world in Jesus Christ. It is possible that 6 January was chosen because it was the date of the winter solstice in the East (according to the calendar in use at that time), also because it was the pagan festival of the birth of a god. Traditionally, the story of the visit by the magi, today's Gospel, is used. That story is associated with the Bible reading from Isaiah 60:1-6:

1. Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. 2 For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. 3 Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. 4 Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. 5 Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. 6 A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord. (NRSV Translation)

The reference to light overcoming darkness connects with the theme of epiphany as an other-worldly event entering this world. Illumination is brought to bear on the big questions of life, such as who am I, why am I here, where am I going? The arrival of the Magi and the gifts they bear point to Matthew's theme that Jesus is God with us, and in trusting in Jesus we have revealed to us the answers to these core human questions.

Matthew endeavours to show that there is something very different about this child. Even the stars point to the unusualness of this child. Gifts of gold were brought to a king, gifts of incense for God and gifts of myrrh – a perfume – for one who is to die.

There are a number of points that Matthew would draw to our attention. There is a pointer to Easter some way off.

Further, in God's purposes being worked out through the unlikely agents of the magi, of Joseph and Mary, God can do the impossible. It is not a question of goodness. It is a question of willingness. God is present in our world doing astonishing things in unexpected places using ordinary people to achieve his purposes.

Finally, one of the signs of the Spirit in ancient times as well as in our time is the guidance of the Spirit of God through dreams. These can be dreams that predict what might happen, or dreams that encourage, or dreams that warn. Clearly the characters in the story were open to God and led by God's Spirit. They responded in faithful action.

God being made present is celebrated by the church on 6 January, the Epiphany of the Lord. We join the wise in discerning God's presence and guidance in our lives and we join the wise in worship of Jesus, God's Son.



ABOVE: Food and Toys delivered to Centre for Ministry for the PM Christmas drive. Great work from Bianca Volunteer Manager, Jenny Fundraising & Marketing and our volunteers for their sorting and coordination in getting all to our services .

May God bless your New Year with the light of God's presence. Keith Hamilton



LEFT
The greeting line
after the Christmas
Day service at Leigh
Memorial church.

BELOW
Christmas Day
At
Parramatta Mission



성탄절후 첫번째(1st Christmas of Sunday) 2019년 12월22일 오후 1시30분

개회 찬송 (Entrance Hymn) 예배를 위한 묵상

예배의 부름 (Calling) 인도자

송영 (Gloria) 새 5 장 통 3 장 이 천지간 만물들아 다함께

사도신경 신앙고백 (The Apostle's Creed) 다함께

찬양/찬송 (Chorus & Hymns) 다함께

새 301 장 통 460 장 지금까지 지내온 것

새 270 장 통 214 장 변함없는 주님의 사랑과

기도 (Prayer) 구기도문송 새 635 장 하늘에 계신 우리 아버지 다함께

성경 봉독 (Scripture Reading) 빌립보서 4:1-7

말씀(Preaching)- 전현구 목사 참 자유인

봉헌 송(Offertory Hymn)

새 302 장 통 408 장 내 주 하나님 넓고 큰 은혜는

나눔과 알림 (Announcement & Notices)

1. 매일 건강과 마음의 평강을 위해 함께 기도합니다
2. 매일 성경 말씀 묵상으로 주님과 친밀한 교제의 시간을 누리며 승리하시기 바랍니다
3. 기도제목: 전도와 선교에 앞장서는 하나님의 자녀로 살아갑시다.

폐회찬송(Final Hymn) 새 502 장 통 259 장 빛의 사자들이여 어서가서 (1)

축도 전현구 담임목사

QT나눔 & 성경공부
오후 4:00

수요기도회 : 오후 7시
창세기 1:1-13

새벽기도회 : 오전 5시
시편 149:1-창2:26

Foster your faith this week

Is 42:1-9 Ps 29

Acts 10:34-43 Mt 3:13-17

Pastoral message for this week....

Follow the star of wisdom

THE BUSHFIRES

'Apocalyptic' is a term not used lightly yet has been used a lot in recent days. It would be hard to imagine anyone in Australia unaware of the catastrophic conditions wrought by drought, fire and smoke. Apparently, the fires are creating their own weather patterns. Even the air is on fire. Towns and cities such as Canberra, far from fire are full of smoke for days on end. 40 degree plus days are now a regular occurrence. It is not too extravagant to say Australia is on fire. Lives lost. People traumatised. Property destroyed. Our first action is empathy, and support. There is a place, not for magical thinking, but for prayerful action. Action to stand with all who are hurting. A helping hand, a listening ear, a shoulder to lean on. There is a further prayerful action we ought to take. People of faith believe that the earth and all that is therein is God's. As such people of faith believe that looking after the world is a faithful response. Yet, not just people of faith. Nor is it a 'Green' issue, it is our responsibility as humans living in the world. If we live in someone's house, we have a responsibility at the least not to trash it, and even to look after it. That is what good tenants do. So, we might pray that the God who can do the impossible might work an epiphany in the hearts and minds of people to act on the climate emergency. It requires Governments of all levels to act and to lead; it also involves you and me, all of us, to do our part in care of the environment, reduce carbon emissions, reduce land fill, look after waterways. It is no longer a green issue to look after trees and animals, the environment. All of us must learn to 'tread the earth lightly.' Pray that we do just that.

Blessings Keith Hamilton

Prayer Points

The people of Parramatta Mission invite you to pray for:

- ♥ *PM congregations and staff. For headspace, the Parramatta redevelopment negotiations. The people we contact every day that we might exhibit the values of grace, inclusion, dignity, faith and hope.*
- ♥ *PM Leigh Memorial: Mae & Stephen, Jolame, Wilhelmina, Joan, Betty E, Hazel, Betty B, George, Neil & Darlene, plus grieving individuals & families including Beverly, and the Grays and de Relands. Also, Manas & Nita, the congregation leaders team, Open Church - and both leaders and members of the Music Team, SPOW, Couples & Friends, Sunday School & Youth Group. Please advise the Leaders' team of any additions to this listing.*
- ♥ *PM Leigh Fijian: Sosi Toa and family, Adriu Rogoimuri and Rogoimuri family, Niko Balavu, Mili Sigani, Terry Butler and Talatala Amelia Koh Butler, Ravetali family, Tuiloma family, Sunday School Ministry, Young Adults and their families, Bula Feeding Ministry, Soup Kitchen Ministry, Samu Sadrata.*
- ♥ *PM Westmead: Isaac and family, Amelia and her family, Joanna and family, Shirley and family, Faith and her sisters, Yvonne, Rietha, Marly, Rita, Ruth, Wendy, Jan's neighbours, Sunny and family, Corey, Lara and James, Judy, Grace, Lisa, Reg and Heather, Robyne and Phil. All farmers and their communities, Sharon, Keith and Noeleen, Debbie and Michael, Kevin, Jean, Caroline and David A, Josh and his family (Kerryn, Peter and Ben), Mrs E and family, Mary and Aloy and the boys, Silvano, Jinky, Isabella and Gerard, Mary, Justice and family, Aravind and family, Tanzida, Paula and Geoffrey, Garry, Chris and family, Rob, Jodie and Family, May, Rajes (Sandra), Henry, Phyllis, Vita, Al, Mrs G and family, Judy, Shanika and family, Rebecca, Ashima and Anusha Saxena, Lyn, Ruth and Lela, Mr and Mrs S, Carmen and Rob, David and Christopher.*
- ♥ *UC congregations of the Cumberland Zone: Dundas/Ermington, Northmead, North Rocks, Carlingford, West Epping, Centenary, Wentworthville, Holroyd, Greystanes, Grantham Heights, Parramatta Mission, Auburn.*
- ♥ *We join the World Council of Churches in prayer Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Yemen, Iran, Iraq*
- ♥ *We pray for Sydney Tamil - Congregation.*

Worship Services at

Open Church 10.00am - 12.30am 7th & 8th 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: 9891 2277

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



For all e-tree news follow the link below
<http://www.parramattamission.org.au/etree>

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