



Parramatta
Mission



uniting
church
in Australia,
Synod of NSW & ACT

OUR NEWS

1st March 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

THANK YOU!

Last Sunday's morning tea & bric-a-brac sale raised \$128.70 for both the UCA's 'DRCN': Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Network & Lent Event 2020. Thank you to everyone who contributed!

'LENT EVENT' 2020

This year, our Sunday School & Youth will be raising funds for Ambon, Indonesia, while exploring the 2020 theme: '**Building Peace – Beating Poverty**'. Each week, we will watch a Lent Event information video and there will be various opportunities to donate or participate in the 40 day challenge. Johana will be coordinating some of the Lent Event fundraising for us this year, with help from other young adults. Thanks Johana! The youth are also challenging us to 'give up' something or 'live simply' and make a donation for Lent this year. Ideas can be found at:

<https://fundraise.unitingworld.org.au/event/lent-event/live-simply>



Fundraiser – Sunday 1 March: PANCAKES – belated 'Shrove Tuesday' pancakes will be available at morning tea this Sunday – cooked by our Sunday School kids and promising to be delicious! All pancakes for a coin!
Enquiries: Anne & Samantha.

Fundraiser – Sunday 8 March: BRIC-A-BRAC – due to popular demand – Sunday School will be holding a second bric-a-brac sale for Lent Event on Sunday 8 March after the service. All items for a coin! Enquiries: Liz

HAND SANITISERS

In response to congregation & visitor requests, we have installed pump action antiseptic hand sanitisers in the vestibule and rear of the church. To maintain this important public health service, donations of sanitiser pumps will be greatly appreciated. Please see Liz/ stewards.

MARCH CALENDAR

2 March – 7.00pm, Couples & Friends

4 March – 7.30pm, LEAP (Leave Everything & Pray)

6 March – World Day of Prayer

7 & 21 March – 6.30pm, Leigh Youth Group

15 March – 9.30am, 'Parramasala' Service + Multicultural Brunch

29 March – 10.00am, Combined Service

NB: The 'Pot Luck' Dinner scheduled for 27/3 has been moved to 18 April.

SONGS FOR THE LENT & EASTER SEASON

Join Rev. Amelia at Leigh Memorial Church, 5.30 – 6.30pm on Mondays 2 March, 9 March & 16 March, to practice some songs for Lent & Easter 2020. All welcome!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – Friday, 6 March: This year's inspiring theme is *Rise! Take your mat and walk!* (John 5: 2 – 9a). Please see Ruth & Pat from Leigh Memorial for information regarding Friday's World Day of Prayer service & morning tea at St. Patrick's Hall, Parramatta. Continued prayers for the people of Zimbabwe and all nations. The feature bible verse: Romans 8: 38-39.

<https://www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org/>

Palm Sunday 2020

**You're invited to join us at the
2020 Walk for Justice for Refugees-
the Decade for Difference**



We are entering into a new decade - the future of the next decade is in our hands. Whatever justice we offer refugees and people seeking asylum today, helps lay the foundation for a just climate transition, which must involve protecting the most disadvantaged and vulnerable populations within and across countries.

Uniting is working alongside a number of other faith groups, service providers, and unions to organise the event, and we call on all Uniting Church members & Uniting staff to take part and show our commitment to the rights and protection of refugees! It's critical that the Australian government establish a fair process for claiming asylum. No one deserves to be locked up for attempting to seek safety.

Palm Sunday connects Uniting's commitment to justice with the Christian celebration of Palm Sunday, and Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey, a symbol of peace, and an affirmation that the redemption of the world would be achieved by the power of love and not the love of power

We encourage you to bring a friend, family, or even better come as a group from your church, school or workplace! We are in it together. Organise a group and come together with your congregation/group banner.

When: Palm Sunday 5 April, 2:00- 4:00 pm .
Where to go: Belmore Park- next to central station

More information and registration to indicate you are coming:

<https://mailchi.mp/8bf16c6cc51b/unitingpalmsunday2020>

LENT & EASTER

@ LEIGH MEMORIAL CHURCH, PARRAMATTA MISSION

All events/services will be held at Leigh Memorial, 119 Macquarie Street, Parramatta.



Songs for Lent & Easter with Rev. Amelia:

Mondays 24 February & 2, 9 & 16 March, 5.30-6.30pm.

Lenten Studies with Rev. Clive:

'Truly this man was God's son': Exploring the Easter story told by Matthew.
3 studies: Saturdays 21, 28 March and 4 April, 10.00 – 11.30am.

Ash Wednesday Worship:

Wednesday 26 February, 7.00pm.

Palm Sunday Worship:

Sunday 5 April, 9.30am (Leigh Memorial) & 11.15am (Leigh Fijian).

NB: A 'Hosanna' palm walk will take place in Centenary Square from 9.15am.

Maundy Thursday/ Tenebrae (inc. Light Meal):

Thursday 9 April, 6.30pm.

Good Friday Worship:

Friday 10 April, 9.00am.

Easter Sunday Worship (inc. Easter Morning Tea):

Sunday 12 April, 10.00am.



ALL WELCOME! Further enquiries: 9891-2277.

*Are you troubled by someone's drinking?...
...Did you grow up with a problem drinker?*

*Join us at Al-Anon Family Group
Parramatta Mission
119 Macquarie St, Parramatta
'Coffee Shop'
Thursdays 5.30-6:30pm*

Al-Anon Family Groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength, and hope in order to solve their common problems.

We believe alcoholism is a family illness and that changed attitudes can aid recovery.

For more info go to: www.al-anon.org.au

ph: 1300 ALANON (1300 252 666)



COUPLES & FRIENDS MARCH MEETING



In 2009 the Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Network was established to assist people in NSW who have been affected by disasters and major emergencies within their communities.

This ecumenical network was auspiced by the Uniting Church in Australia and, as the lead agency, our Church has the oversight of ensuring that there are Chaplains in all disaster evacuation centres.

Rev Christine Bayliss Kelly, Minister of our Westmead Congregation, is an accredited chaplain for this Network.

Please join us on Monday 2nd March, 2020 at 7.30p.m. in the Fellowship Centre and hear some of the stories from Christine's roll during the recent bush fires. As always we will conclude with a delicious supper.

The Galston Concerts 2020 series to start Sunday 22 March

Happy New (Musical) Year to friends of our concerts in Galston.



A year perhaps needing a little extra happiness, so we've planned five very enjoyable programs. We hope that you will be able to join us for all (or at least some) concerts ... and we ask the added favour please, of your telling your friends about the pleasures of our Sunday afternoon musicales - and afternoon teas!

While greater detail is available on our www.trybooking.com website listing (search Galston) and from our series brochure (please advise us if you'd like an emailed copy) we hope that you'll be tempted by these musical highlights

- our customary balance of easy-listening 'Classical and Contrasts' styles;
- music by great composers across the ages, around the world;
- a spectrum of sounds: instrumental/keyboard/vocal plus a hint of jazz & folk;
- Beethoven cameos in each program to celebrate his 250th birthday year;
- a new feature of pre-concert preludes with our historic pipe organ

and other benefits

- leading Australian professional performers of international attainment;
- cameos by their talented student proteges & other young performers;
- relaxed conversational presentation style;
- no change to series and single concert ticket costs (still at 2016 prices);
- inclusive of a delicious post-concert meet-the-performers afternoon tea.

Three's Company starts our series on **22 March** with soprano, clarinet & piano plus cameo strings; **Cellissimo** offers a cello feast plus piano and organ on **24 May**; a **World of Music** on **26 July** includes harp, piano, and Latin American flair; **Beethoven & The Blue Danube** take centre stage **20 September**; the series finale includes rising stars in an **International Gala** on **22 November**. More details in future newsletters. Until then please join us - and spread the word to friends to help our audience grow in another successful year of concerts.

The Galston Concerts team ... *Elizabeth Garlick, Robert Harris, Dorit Herskovits, Kathleen Michael, Geoff Smith*

Phone enquiries to Elizabeth on 9653 2039 or Robert on 0428 248 348

Songs for the Lent and Easter Season (for the notices up to March 15)
Come and learn a few new songs for the Lenten season... with Chaplain Amelia
Monday evenings @ Leigh, 5.30-6.30pm 24 Feb, 2 March, 9 March, 16 March

Are you interested in learning to Lead Worship or becoming a Lay Preacher?

The following course is being taught at North Parramatta on Saturday
March 7 by our Uni Chaplain Amelia

<https://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/event/intro-to-uca-worship-20200307/>

If you register as a Parramatta Mission member, you can attend for free.

Volunteers needed for WSU Chaplaincy...

Thursday 27th Feb is the Welcome to new students at Parra City campus.

Chaplaincy will be running a Special Welcome Soup Kitchen from 5pm-7pm.

Chaplain/Talatala Amelia is looking for people to help for any 60-90 minute slot
from 4.30-7.30 (4.30-5 is set up, 5-7 is service and 7.30 is pack up).

Please SMS to 0427955157 if you can help.

Blessings,
Amelia

Foster your faith this week

Gn 12:1-4a

Ps 32

Rom 4:1-5, 13-17

Jn 3:1-17 or

Mt 17:1-9

‘Open Church Volunteers Needed’

We are looking for committed volunteers to assist on a regular basis with
opening and securing the Church Building each week-day
between 9am – 1.30pm.

Your role will include showing care and concern for those
seeing the love of God.

If you want to find out more, or are interested, please contact
bianca.ferrari@parramattamission.org.au

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

This is an opportunity to learn more about the Christian Faith, our Discipleship and how to share our faith in ordinary and everyday ways.

**WESTMEAD CONGREGATION
PARRAMATTA MISSION
UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA**



Parramatta
Mission



uniting
church
in Australia,
Synod of NSW & ACT

Wednesdays 7.00pm

4th, 11th, 18th, 25th March and 1st, 8th April

Thursdays 12.00md

5th, 12th, 19th, 26th Mar, 2nd, 9th April

175 Hawkesbury Rd

Westmead

(Parking available— see Reception at Hotel for boom-gate code)



WESTMEAD Congregation

BOARD AND CHURCH COUNCIL

The Board met on Tuesday 25th. The Board oversees many of the 'business' aspects of PM. Please pray for the members of the board and the executive staff who also attend this meeting. The Church Council meets on Tuesday 10th March. The Church Council oversees the Board, the Congregations and the broader work of Parramatta Mission. Please pray for the Church Council members. Please continue to pray for Rev Geoff Stevenson as he continues the work of meeting with the congregations and working with the Church Council.

REMEMBERING MADHU

There will be a special service and gathering to remember Madhu on Saturday 7th March, 4.00pm, at the Red Gum Function Centre in Wentworthville. Following the service there will be a meal. All are invited to attend but please RSVP to Arun for catering purposes. For further information please see Arun.

TOWELS

We are collecting clean towels in good condition for Meals Plus. New towels are OK but do need to be washed several times before use to enable them to be effective. Please see Rev Christine.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

As we journey through the season of Lent there will be a Lenten Bible Study **which is open to anyone who would like to attend. Wednesdays at Westmead- 7.00pm and Thursdays at Westmead 12.00pm.** Tea and Coffee provided. The Study will have a focus on understanding Christianity, Discipleship and how to share your faith in everyday ways. Enquiries Rev Christine.

Thought for the month:

'Let today be the day you give who you have been for who you can become'

DEEPENING FAITH and RELATIONSHIPS with others Worship Sundays 9.45am

Bible Study- Mondays 2.00-3.30pm

Fellowship- These meetings will occur occasionally.

Please stay tuned for information re bus trips.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Time Out Café (TOC)- Wednesdays 10.00-1.00pm

Play Group – Mondays and Thursdays 9.15-10.45am

Open Door -Wednesdays 1.00-3.30pm

Tai Chi- Fridays 10.00-11.00am

첫번째 사순절 주일(Lent 1st Sunday) 2020년 03월 01일 오후 1시30분

개회 찬송 (Entrance Hymn) 예배를 위한 묵상

예배의 부름 (Calling) 인도자

송영 (Gloria) 새 1장 통 1장 만복의 근원 하나님 다함께

사도신경 신앙고백 (The Apostle's Creed) 다함께

찬양/찬송 (Chorus & Hymns) 다함께

새 14장 통 30장 주 우리 하나님
 새 270장 통 214장 변함없는 주님의 사랑과

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

성경 봉독 (Scripture Reading) 창세기 17:1-7; 15-16

말씀(Preaching)- 전현구 목사 아브람과 아브라함

봉헌 송(Offeratory Hymn)
 새 382장 통 432장 너 근심걱정 말아라

나눔과 알림 (Announcement & Notices)
 1. 오늘 함께 예배 드린 여러분을 주님의 이름으로 환영합니다. 
 2. '매일 성경' 말씀으로 주님과 교제의 시간(QT)을 갖고 적용하는 훈련을 합니다.
 3. 말씀, 기도, 전도 생활로 하나님이 기뻐하시는 삶을 사는 성도님들이 되시기 바랍니다.

폐회찬송(Final Hymn)
 새 502장 통 259장 너 시온아 이소식 전파하라 (1절)

축도 전현구 담임목사

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| QT나눔 & 성경공부 오후4:00 | 수요기도회 : 오후 7시 마가복음2:1-12 | 새벽기도회 : 오전 5시 마가복음 1:21-3:35 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|

15 Artists reflect on
**Suffering and the Human Spirit:
Stations of the Cross 2020**

Monday March 30- Sunday April 12
Exhibition Opening Monday 30 March 6.30-8.30pm
Exhibition Space, Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School



Stations of the Cross by Euan Macleod, 2020, Oil on Canvas, 100x100cm

Harrie Fasher
James Drinkwater
Lesley Salem
Toni Hassan
Jenny Little
Girges Nagieb
Matthew Calandra
Tony Mighell

Chris Wyatt
Joe Furlonger
Chris Auckett
Jeanette Siebols
John Forrester Clack
Reg Mombassa
Euan Macleod

Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School and Northmead Uniting Church invite you to an exhibition

**15 Artists Reflect on Suffering and the Human Spirit:
Stations of the Cross 2020**

Exhibition Opening Monday 30 March 6.30-8.30pm
Exhibition Space, Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School,
bottom end of Campbell Street Northmead.
6.30pm curatorial tour

7.30pm Official Opening by Gabrielle Mordy Director, Studio A, Crows Nest

March 30 – April 12. 10am-4pm daily

Guided Tours 2pm on weekend days or by appointment.
Eremos quiet half day Retreat Saturday April 11 10am-1pm

Other events see Facebook page, Stations of the Cross Northmead 2019

www.stationsofthecross.net.au

Information: Northmead Uniting Church 9890 5814, Northmead CAPAHS 02 96304116

Last week the Staff Engagement day visited our new headspace site in Mount Druitt. Here below Daniel (top right) is speaking about the great work of headspace and the uniqueness of Parramatta Mission's headspace programs compared to other headspace programs'.



Lenten Devotions

Wednesday of this coming week is Ash Wednesday. It marks the start of Lent, and the preparation by the church for Easter. From Ash Wednesday to East is 40 days, not counting Sundays, and correlates with Jesus being in the wilderness for forty days after his baptism, tempted, yet found without sin. Christians the world over give attention during this time to their relationship with God, reflecting upon growth in faith, how the faith is expressed in relationship with others. This year the pastoral team are encouraging Lenten devotions through providing a daily set of Bible readings and reflections.

A Bible reading will be chosen for each day, and a member of the team will write 100 word reflection for that day. People are encouraged to use these reflections as part of the daily devotions, using prayers of your choice. If you have other devotional material, you might like to either suspend that, or augment that material with what is provided through the newsletter. The daily prayer guide from the Uniting Church is also included, for those who wish to take this up.

Reflections will be written by: The Old Testament: Rev Dr Clive Pearson, Psalm: Rev Dr Amelia Koh Butler, Epistle: Rev Dr Manas Ghosh, Gospel of John: Rev Christine Bayless Kelly, Gospel of Matthew: Rev Keith Hamilton

Blessing Keith Hamilton

Lent began with Ash Wednesday. As is the recent practice of PM, a service was held in the evening. It included a reaffirmation of baptism, a signing of the cross on the forehead with ash as a sign of repentance, and a lighting of a candle as a sign of commitment to discipleship in Jesus Christ. Rev Dr Clive Pearson brought a reflection or sermon, which is included below.



Way before there were choruses; way before there was talk of a prosperity gospel; way before the first Tahitian missionaries landed in Fiji; way before Samuel Lee, Walter Lawry and co; way before Charles Wesley composed any of his great musical anthems, way before all these things there had been a very rich tradition of Christian devotion, Christian contemplation, Christian spirituality - so much of which is scarcely known today. And that is to our loss.

Now and then there are hints of it: Pope Francis wasn't born Pope Francis. He wasn't even born Francis or Francesco. His birth name Jorge Mario Bergoglio. When he was elected Pope he had to choose a new name for himself: the name he chose for himself was Francis - he wished his papacy to imitate the example of Francis of Assisi; he explained why he chose that name in the beginning of his important encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care For Our Common Home*.

The new pope referred to Francis as that attractive and compelling figure who is the best example of care for the vulnerable and our created order; he did so with no long face, no hint of complaint, but did so with joy. For Christ's sake, and in Christ, he felt a call to care for the gift of God-given life.

We know of Francis of Assisi partly through hymns like: All creatures of our God and king; we also know of him because it was he who inspired and set up the first observances of a Christmas manger scene. But maybe, just maybe we should remember him at this time of year for Francis partly because of our ash-strewn creation, partly because he transformed the way in which the people of his time understood who Jesus Christ was for them and how they should seek to imitate him.

In the years before, the people of town worshipped in a richly adorned church: the Christ beheld was crowned in gold and glory. If townspeople were conscious of sin, then the chief sin was pride which made itself felt in the way in which they sought to praise their own achievements and outdo God.

While recovering from the aftermath of war Francis had a vision of Christ on the cross; he went outside the town and restored an old, barely standing church and placed over the table, in full view of the future congregation, a rude cross, one which spoke much more strongly of suffering and self-giving, of sacrifice and abandonment.

The spirituality of Francis was not just towards brother sun, sister moon, all creatures of our God and king; it also embraced the poor, the needy, those excluded and, in a rather startling way, he embraced the equivalent of the coronavirus sufferers of today: he touched the leper.

Francis transformed the way the church saw Christ. So much so that he himself was called the second Christ. In place of pride Francis insisted that the chief vice was not pride, but greed - that is, the desire for more and more upon more. The chief virtue became humility rather than mere outward obedience. Francis did not write much. But we do have a prayer that was composed for this season of the year:

Almighty, eternal, just and merciful God,
give us miserable ones the grace to do for You alone
what we know you want us to do
and always to desire what pleases You.
Inwardly cleansed, inwardly enlightened
inflamed by the fire of the Holy Spirit,
may we be able to follow in the footprints
of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
and, by Your grace alone,
may we make our way to You, Most High. Amen.

Francis - that is Francis of Assisi is not alone: there were many people in past centuries who gave up careers and the normal everyday way of living to live a disciplined life of faith where they might fast on a regular basis, practice silence in order to listen for the word of God; they were willing to withdraw from the crowds and thus lessen the risks of hypocrisy, and allow the life with God to be weighed up in secrecy.

Francis was not alone: the company of mystics included Hildegarde of Bingen, Marjery Kempe, Richard Rolle, Ignatius of Loyola, Julian of Norwich, the unknown author of the Cloud of Unknowing, St John of the Cross, Teresa of Avila... one after another, many more, in their different ways they sought to live lives that were close to the will of God for them in their time. It is a rare resource seldom visited by congregations these days but it is there.

The one who stands out most for me on this Ash Wednesday is Thomas á Kempis, the author of his much famed *The Imitation of Christ*. This text is one of the great devotional works of the Christian faith. It is the most widely read book of Christian devotion outside the Bible. It belonged to a movement which was designed to stimulate the life of piety and spiritual growth understood as depth. There are over 1000 different versions of the book in the British Museum. Such has been its popularity. But it is scarcely known now though its themes are so right, so appropriate for this season of the Christian year.

It is a book which is divided up into four parts. It is the first two parts that appealed to me this Ash Wednesday. It did so because of our readings taken this evening from the gospel of Matthew (6:1-6, 16-21). Once again we find ourselves in the company of the sermon on the Mount. Jesus is teaching the crowds: the Beatitudes have come and gone; so has the call to let your light your light shone and for you to be like salt, adding a little seasoning to the life around you. Those things have slipped into the background.

Now we find ourselves in a section which warns of the hypocrisy of going through with the outward actions of faith, those actions which are plain for all to see, making the right moral claims but in a way which do not come from the heart. And so, according to the gospel writer, alms giving - that is giving the poor, fasting, praying - all those sorts of things can be done for show: they are good acts but the motive for such is one of duty, one of a felt obligation, one of looking for the good report of others rather than springing from the wellspring of love and faith.

So much depends upon the purpose; so much depends upon the state of our hearts in a spiritual rather than a medical sense. Forget your pacemaker for a moment. For Matthew it is a case of where does your treasure lie. Is it to be found in the kingdom of God, the purpose of God, or somewhere else? The emphasis is upon what happens in secret - and here secrecy is not secrecy imposed upon others.

It is not the secrecy of closed session or dealing with things in confidence. It is a very different kind of secrecy. It is the secrecy of the heart ; it is dealing with what the Japanese theologian Kosuke Koyama called 'the emotive regions of the heart' which he believed to be one of the underexplored dimensions of faith.

What is it which lies within the privacy of the heart which leads us to think this and do that, rather than something else? What is it that lies within our hearts that presupposes us to organize our life of faith around this set of Jesus' stories or cultural practices rather than some others?

In terms of the life of faith these Ash Wednesday readings are designed to help us see ourselves not from the perspective of others; their opinion is not what matters most: it is how we see ourselves in the sight of God and how we act in the light of that knowledge. It is a secret knowledge. It is between us, our heart, and God, the Spirit and Christ. It is inward.

Which brings me back to Thomas á Kempis. We live in a time where we are always being seen, it seems. Sometimes we like to be seen; sometimes we are on camera; we take photos; we take selfies of ourselves; we photoshop; we download ourselves; we're on CCTV; the car behind us has dash cam. There's nowhere it seems that we can hide and all our little mistake can easily become public property.

We live in a time and place that likes us to look good; and so we go to the gym; we flex a muscle or two or wonder where they've gone. We remember them. We live in a time where we do things which can be visible to others; we are accountable, responsible; there are times when we need a good impression to others and so we need to sell ourselves; we need, it seems, to have the best possible CV or reference. We commit ourselves to good deeds, good causes.

We live in the public eye and the public eye can shape us.

Thomas' world was different; *The Imitation of Christ* was published in the first quarter of the 15th century. He lived a world apart; he lived a monastic life where he turned his back on what he described as 'the vanities' of the world. Thomas was concerned with the life within. He wished to imitate the life and habits of Christ which meant coming to terms with the who he - Thomas - was. He wished to put aside a blindness of the heart and to become enlightened - that is, someone who lives in the light of Christ.

And that meant Thomas need to wrestle with himself. The choices before him were not ones of career: would this job be better for me or that one? They weren't a matter of how much money he made and what he could afford; his wrestling had to do with the kind of person he is - and whether the Spirit might lead him to a life of humility, peacemaking and whether he could be truthful, whether he could avoid false hope and pride - and whether indeed he could rest in Christ - and that for Thomas was not something someone else could do for him.

This season of Lent which begins tonight is not just about giving this up, or giving that up. It has to do with who I am, who you are, who we are as a church, as a culture. It has to do with our inward life. It is a secret business. It is secret because God sees in secret, so scripture says, so Jesus advises. The great Protestant reformer Martin Luther put it differently: he said we are called to live our lives *coram Deo* - that is, 'before the face of God'. It means living the whole of life in the sight of God.

Ash Wednesday sets in motion a time of penitence, self-examination and reflection. That may sound heavy ,,and it may be for some .. but it need not be. .. the end of this season is good news, freedom, resurrected life in Christ, that baptismal promise.

Thomas á Kempis is one of the great mystics from another time, another place who wants to set before us the pathway of imitation ... and, in his experience, from a less on-line, overly public, world. Thomas reckoned that this pathway was a journey within; it is an interior journey: we become more aware of our self as we seek to take up our cross and follow Christ.

For Thomas the Imitation takes the form of a conversation between him and Christ - as, indeed it does in this prayer for Ash Wednesday with which I will close.

O most sweet and loving Lord,
you know my weaknesses, and the needs I endure.
You know how many evils and sins I am involved in;
how often I am weighed down, tempted, and disturbed by them.
I ask for your consolation and support.
I speak to you, for you know all things,
to you all my inward thoughts are open,
and you alone can perfectly comfort and help me.
You know what things I stand in most need of.
Behold, I stand before you poor and naked,
calling for grace, and imploring mercy.
Refresh your hungry supplicant,
kindle my coldness with the fire of your love,
enlighten my blindness with the brightness of your presence.
Do not let me go away from you hungry and dry,
but deal mercifully with me,
as you always deal wonderfully with your saints. Amen.

© Clive Pearson, Ash Wednesday, 2020.

Fijian Congregation

| | Vunau e Parramatta | Vunau Lesi | Vunau Vakarau | Tu Vakarau Veiliutaki | Tali Vunau |
|-------|---|------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------|
| 01/03 | Rev Clive Pearson Sakaramede/ Vulavou | | Rev Amelia | M2 | |
| 08/03 | Re Amelia (M Worship) | | I Foiakau | Youth | |
| 15/03 | Campbelltown/ Rooty Hill | S Toa | S Oatu | M3 | M1 |

LESONI Ni MACAWA

01/03

Vakatekivu 2:15-17, 3:1-7 Same 32 Roma 5:12-19 Maciu 4:4-11

Lay Preachers—Introduction to Worship and continuing Introduction to New Testament

07/03 (9am - 5pm)

Introduction to Worship day at UME
(with Rev Amelia)

09/03 (7pm - 8.30pm)

Watching the Visual Bible
Gospel of Matthew Film

1. Sa vakabibitaki tikoga na noda masumasu vakavule ena kena gauna o ni sa lokuca vakavuvale.
2. Sa vakabibitaki tale tikoga vei kemudou na matamasumasu e 3 na kena masulaki ni lotu e Parramatta kei na veivuvale yadudua kece sara.
3. Kids Camp Out – Qaravi tiko ena I ka 7/03 – 8/03 mai na Wedderburn Christian Campsite. Ni qai vei taratara kei Ofa me baleta na volai ni yaca koya era lako.
4. Kerekere me soli vei Dauniyau na sau ni Tee Shirts kei na vo ni sau ni waqavuka ka dodonu me suka vei Dauniyau.
5. Youth sota ena yakavi ni veivakaraubuka ena 7pm ena coffee shop.



Lighthouse photo supplied by:
Stonemeadow Photography

Facilitators:

Dr Annemaree Bickerton (Child, Adolescent and Family Psychiatrist) and
Toni Garretty (Clinical Coordinator Family and Carer Program Illawarra
and Shoalhaven Mental Health Service) presents:

“Staying Connected When Emotions Run High”

An intervention workshop for

FAMILIES, PARTNERS and FRIENDS

Proudly sponsored by Parramatta Mission

This **FREE** workshop will provide you with additional communication skills to support someone (between 12yrs to 100yrs) who experiences any of the following:

- Has relationship difficulties
- Demonstrates changing emotions and strong overwhelming feelings that can make communication difficult
- Sometimes behaves in a way that makes them a danger to themselves or others

These symptoms can be experienced in those with mental health issues, drug and alcohol dependence, developmental and learning disorders.

DATE: 24th March 2020

Time: 9:30am – 3:30pm. Please arrive at 9am for registration.

Venue: Holiday Inn Parramatta

Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

Places are limited so RSVP: 18th of March 2020 to:

**Name: Family & Carers Mental Health Program
Western Sydney**

Phone: 8599 4880



Lighthouse photo supplied by:
Stonemeadow Photography

Facilitators:

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Toni Garretty (Clinical Coordinator Family and Carer Program Illawarra
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DATE: 25th March 2020

Time: 9:30am – 3:30pm. Please arrive at 9am for registration.

Venue: Springwood Sports Club

Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

Places are limited so RSVP by 20th March to :

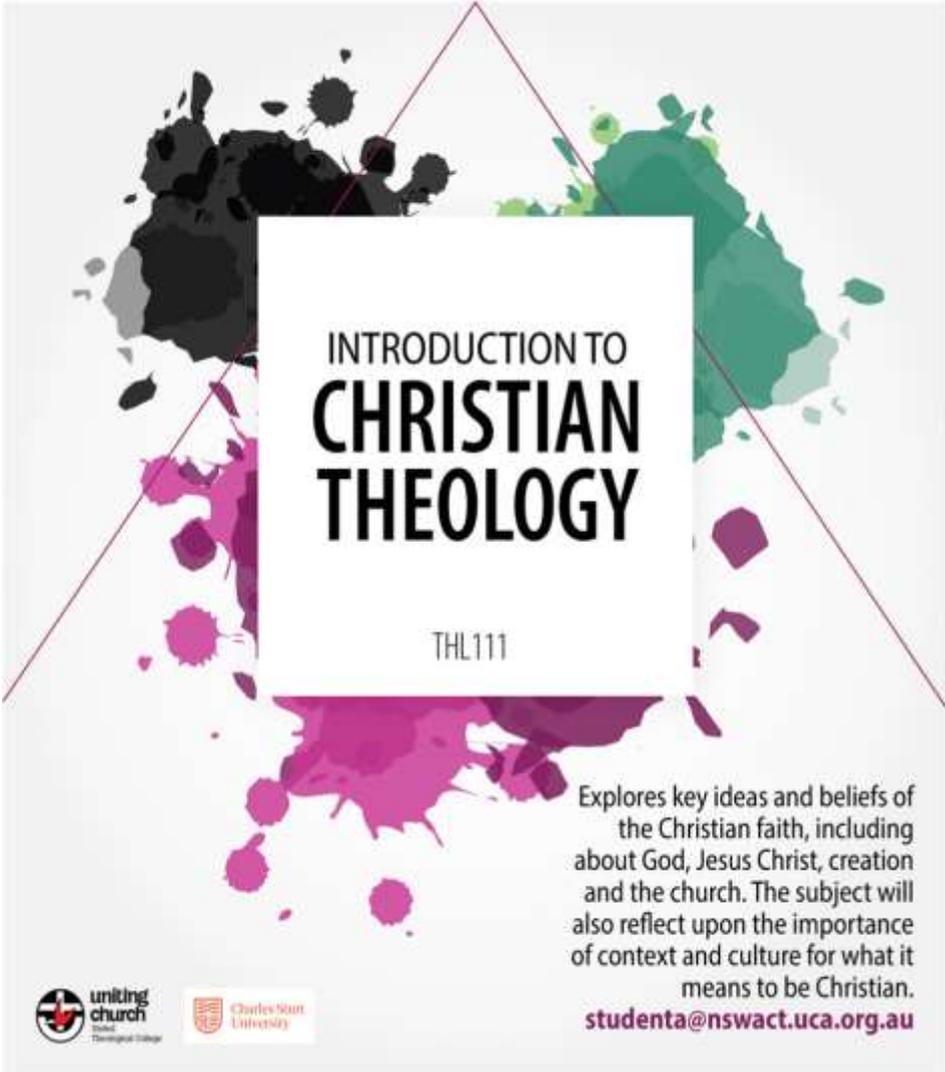
Name: Family & Carers Mental Health Program

Nepean Blue Mountains

Phone: 8880 8160

Interested in exploring theology and reflecting on faith?
Come and join us on Monday evenings for THL111:
Introduction to Theology at the United Theological
College, Parramatta. Available as a single subject,
part of a degree, or for audit.

Any questions contact Dr Mike Mawson:
mmawson@csu.edu.au



INTRODUCTION TO
**CHRISTIAN
THEOLOGY**

THL111

Explores key ideas and beliefs of
the Christian faith, including
about God, Jesus Christ, creation
and the church. The subject will
also reflect upon the importance
of context and culture for what it
means to be Christian.

studenta@nswact.uca.org.au



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, Bruce S, Jolame, Betty E, Joan, Hazel, Beverly, Neil & Darlene, Betty B, George, Robyn & Malcolm, Rev. Manas & Nita, the Leaders team, Open Church, SPOW, Couples & Friends, Sunday School teachers, children and families, Youth Group, inc. this year's HSC students and first time uni students, and all those who are unwell, currently having medical tests or treatment, or grieving.*
- ♥ *PM Leigh Fijian: Adriu Rogoimuri Niko Balavu, 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: Matthew's mother, Nyema, Aunt Jean, William, Karishma and family, Isaac and family, Amelia and her family, Joanna and family, Shirley and family, Faith and her sisters, Yvonne, Rietha, Marly, Rita, Ruth, 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, 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 Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Andorra, Monaco and San Marino*
- ♥ *We pray for Blacktown Uniting Church.*

Pastoral message for this week....

Temptation....choose wisely

Worship Services at

Mon to Fri 9.00am - 2.00pm Open Church @ Leigh
Tuesday 1.10pm Lunch time service @ Leigh
Sunday.....

9:30 am Leigh Memorial Congregation @ Leigh

9.45am Westmead Congregation @ Westmead

11:15 Leigh Fijian Congregation @ Leigh

1.30pm Korean Faith Community @ Leigh

7.00pm Praise, Prayer, Cake & Coffee @ Leigh



Pastoral Contacts

Leigh Memorial Congregation: Rev Dr Clive Pearson 0409 523 024

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>

 Parramatta Mission

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