



Parramatta
Mission



uniting
church
in Australia,
Synod of NSW & ACT

OUR NEWS

4th October
2020



**A Church-Based
Community
Transforming
Lives**

Our Values

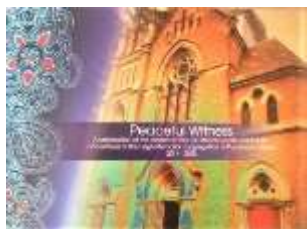
Grace,
Inclusion,
Dignity,
Faith
and Hope.

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.

BOOK: PEACEFUL WITNESS



At the Conclusion of Ministry service held last Sunday at the CFM, Rev. Manas was presented with a special thank you gift on behalf of our congregation – a book titled, ***Peaceful Witness: A celebration of the ministry of Rev. Dr. Manas Ghosh and the life and witness of the Leigh Memorial congregation, 2014–2020***. The book was compiled by Liz, with contributions from Bruce, Robert, Ken & Mario inc. over 200 photos. Ken's vibrant cover depicts Leigh

Memorial Church accented by intricate cultural designs honouring Manas and Nita's Indian heritage. The book contains a record of Manas's time at Parramatta, his broader interfaith and ecumenical contributions within the UCA and some additional features. Please note that it is a limited edition and not for sale, however copies will be deposited with the State Library & UCA archives. A 'soft copy' of the book has been sent to members who have email. If anyone doesn't have email and wants to borrow a copy of *Peaceful Witness*, this can be arranged via Reception (9891-2277). At the service, Nita received a bouquet of native flowers in recognition of her many personal contributions, and special thanks were also conveyed to Christine and Clive. We continue to pray for Manas and Christine as they move into new pathways of Christian service.

BEST WISHES TO REV. KEITH HAMILTON



Our thoughts are with Rev. Keith, PM's Senior Minister/CEO, as he commences a period of long service/study leave on 6 October. Keith's leadership – including his dedicated support of the PM congregations – is greatly valued. We also gratefully acknowledge his many efforts this year to manage issues relating to the pandemic, while supporting PM staff and leaders, and helping to facilitate the Mission's transition into a new era as a focussed and transformative presence in the Parramatta LGA. We wish him well as he continues to pursue his PhD studies on 'Parish Missions.' The conclusion of Keith's

placement is scheduled for 28 Feb, 2021. Prayers for Keith in the coming months and warmest thanks and prayers for Julie – the Leigh Memorial Leaders team & congregation.

WELCOME!

A warm welcome to PM's incoming 'Interim Lead Minister,' Rev. Vladimir Korotkov – and continued thoughts & prayers for the new Pastoral Team, Mission Council, Board, CCLM, Acting CEO Mark Newton, PM staff and members across the Mission who need additional support at this time.

CLOSURE OF MINISTRY SERVICE

CENTRE FOR MINISTRY, 27 SEPTEMBER, 2020

Rev. Dr. Manas Ghosh, Rev. Christine Bayliss Kelly and Rev. Clive Pearson

Many thanks to everyone from the Pastoral Team, Mission Council, CCLM and the PM congregations, for helping to make last Sunday morning's Closure of Ministry service such a heartfelt and memorable one.



More LEIGH Congregation

HERITAGE COMMITTEE: 'TIMES ARE A-CHANGIN'

When Bob Dylan released his famous folk song, 'The Times – They are A-Changin' back in 1964, he was referencing the massive socio-political changes impacting the US and the world at that time. However, human history is always "changin" – and perhaps never more so than in this landmark year of 2020. Not only is the world experiencing its first pandemic in a century, but closer to home – the six month lockdown of our churches marks the longest in their history, and changes at PM this year collectively represent a major, historical turning point. As with many heritage groups and associations this year, the PM Heritage Committee is endeavouring to record and archive all such changes and information relevant to 2020 for future generations. On the eve of his period of extended leave, our committee also wishes to acknowledge Rev. Keith Hamilton (one of our founding members) and thank him for his many, ongoing contributions to the sharing and preservation of heritage at Parramatta Mission. We wish him well during his leave.

VOLUNTEER AWARD

Well done to Leigh Memorial's Moses Vedamathu, who has been recognised by the State gov't. for his efforts to support refugees and uni students via food parcel deliveries in our local area.

PARRAMATTA MISSION COMMUNITY CARE NETWORK BOARD

The Parramatta Mission Community Care Network Board has determined that the minutes of its meeting should be made available to any interested congregation members. The only exception would be matters of a sensitive or confidential nature.

A copy of the minutes of the September Board meeting may be obtained by contacting Robert key on 9624 1797 or robert.key@parramattamission.org.au

A United Theological College/ Charles Sturt University subject taught as a week-long intensive in North Parramatta. Available for a degree or as a single subject, as well as to those wanting to audit the subject for interest.



THL211: CREATION AND ECOTHEOLOGY

RESPONDING TO THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Australia and the Pacific are at the forefront of climate change and its devastating effects.

How do we as Christians begin to grapple with make and sense of this new reality? What are our responsibilities to those who are most impacted (e.g. Pasifika peoples, many in rural areas, poorer communities, wildlife?) How do we begin to understand and unravel the patterns and logics that have led to this crisis (e.g. colonialism, whiteness, neoliberalism)? How can Scripture and Christian theology help to orientate and sustain us?

This subject will include readings and presentations on the climate emergency itself, as well as on theological figures and concepts that can assist with a response. Among other things, readings and presentations will focus on creation, the Anthropocene, ecotheology, Pasifika theologies, and Christian activism.

Class Times: Monday to Friday 9.30am – 4.30pm

Date: November 9th – November 13th 2020

Location: United Theological College,
16 Masons Dr, North Parramatta

Information and Enrolment: Please contact Joanne Stokes on joannes@nswact.uca.org.au or phone (02) 8838 8967.



Dr Dianne Rayson is a Bonhoeffer scholar and has held a number of lecturing posts in Australia in theology and humanities.

She is a public theologian with special interest in climate change, ecoethics, and ecofeminism.



**Fiji Day Church Service
Celebrating 50th Anniversary of
Independence**

11th Oct @11:15am

**Parramatta Leigh Fijian Congregation
invites you to join in on zoom - link.....**

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5450786355>

**Special Guest Preacher- Director of
Communication of MCIF Rev Wilfred Regu**

**Please when logging in make sure you are
named and not anonymous.**

**Vinaka Rev Dr Amelia Koh-Butler and Rev
Dr Clive Pearson for your support.**



FIJIAN Congregation

1. Ni sa sureti mo ni qai sarava na Bula Feeding Ministry ena Parramatta -Nepean Presbytery's FIRST SUNDAYS Facebook program: today at 4pm. simply click on the link anytime from 4 pm onwards:

<https://fb.me/e/1CSbNvd3D>

2. Na lotu ena I ka 18 ni Okotova (3 ni sigatabu) ena vei qaravi tiko kina na soqosoqo ni tabagone.

3. Sigatabu ena macawa mai qo ena I ka 11 ni Okotova ena qaravi tiko kina na vakananumi ni yabaki 50 ni tu vakataki koya o Viti (Fiji Independence Day). Ena veiliutaki kina o ratou na matasiga naba 3.

What is a Public Theology?

There are many different callings that arise out of our response to Jesus' question, 'Who do you say that I am?' Some have to do with our personal journey of faith; some have to do with our life together through worship and pastoral care and outreach.

From its inception, the Uniting Church believed that the Christian life should also address the well-being of society at large and show a concern for neighbours around the world. The discipline of a Public Theology concerns itself with how the Christian faith positions itself in this world beyond our individual selves and the inner life of the church.

A Public Theology takes seriously 'who is your neighbour'? (the parable of the good Samaritan); 'what does it mean to do good to all? (Galatians 6:10); 'as you did to the least of these you did to me' (Matthew 25). It pays particular heed to the saying of Jesus to 'discern the signs of the times' (Luke 12:54-56).

What might these mean for us today? What are the signs of our times?

We have two ways of exploring these themes even in a time of Covid 19. For those who like to read there is a book; for those who like to discuss issues there is an online facilitated workshop, 'Theology for the Common Good' on 22 October 2020 from 10 – 1 pm via Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/4399152776>
You can email reception@parramattamission.org.au to register.

Enacting a Public Theology is an anthology edited by Clive Pearson. It is available from Reception [or from Clive] at a cost of \$20. It deals with such diverse things as indigenous Australia, faith and democracy, faith and climate change, the importance of compassion, what is home and how do we belong.

Reflections

This is my last newsletter reflection. My first was for the first week of February 2008! I go on leave from 6 October until 22 February 2021 before concluding my placement at Parramatta Mission on 28 February 2021. I take this opportunity to thank Tracey Taylor who has had the responsibility of producing the newsletter each week. Also, my thanks to Coral Harris who assisted, and produced the newsletter when Tracey has been on leave. I also acknowledge and thank the many people from the three congregations and Korean Faith Community, as well as staff, who have provided regular pages of content. The "Our News" newsletter will continue. Discussions are underway with the new interim pastoral team regarding the reflections, as well as a review of the newsletter.

What follows are some verses from Paul's letter to the church in Philippi. I think there is much that these letters offer to us today.

In chapter 4:4-9, Paul writes:

4 Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice. 5 Let your gentleness be known to all people. The Lord is near. 6 Be not anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God. 7 And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, sisters and brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovable, whatever is pleasing, if there is any excellence, and if anything worthy of praise, 9 think of these things; which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, practice these; and the God of peace will be with you.

Translation by Keith Hamilton

Earlier Paul has spoken of where to place our trust and hope, in God revealed to us as Jesus Christ, and from there comes confidence to face each day. Paul then encourages humility and goes on to speak of the humility of Jesus who did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but humbled himself taking the form of servant as a model for us all. Lastly, Paul encourages the reader to rejoice in all things. This is not to rejoice for those unpleasant things that happen to us, but in them to rejoice for the life in Jesus Christ that gives hope to face any eventuality. Rejoicing in God, developing a disposition of gratitude opens the way to experience life hopefully. I am reminded of a series that Julie did with the congregations that encouraged people to review each day with gratitude; what were the expected and unexpected experiences of the day for which we give gratitude.

Long term readers of this newsletter might recall the series I did on the book by Henri Nouwen, *Reaching out: The three Movements of the Spiritual life*. Nouwen identified the three movements as:

- Loneliness to solitude
- Hostility to hospitality
- Illusion to prayer

These three movements are what Nouwen describes as living a life in the Spirit of Jesus Christ. This movement is dynamic, meaning, we can move between these poles. Reaching out to God begins by acknowledging our situation. Acknowledging our loneliness, our hostilities, our illusions. Having acknowledged our situation, we can reach out to God in prayer and begin the movement from loneliness to solitude, from hostility to hospitality, from illusion to prayer.

Loneliness is endemic. Loneliness can be behind the desire to have constant noise and avoid of silence. Yet it is in silence that we hear the still small voice of God speaking through our sub-conscious minds. We need to move from loneliness to solitude to hear God in the silence. Solitude, which literally means alone, is the place of being comfortable when alone. It is only when we have reached a place of solitude, that we can truly enter into the lives of others.

The movement from hostility to hospitality begins with the acknowledgement that there are some people to whom we are hostile, and there are triggers that can make us hostile.

Our illusions begin with the notion of immortality. We know we are going to die, but we live as if we will live forever and therefore worry about things we cannot control. A hostile word or a rejecting gesture can plunge us into self-complaint or loss of peace. Lonely people often misread the intentions and gestures and words of others. Sentimentality and violence are symptoms of the illusion that our lives belong to us. But our lives do not belong to us; we do not choose the time and place of our birth, nor of our death.

The movement from loneliness to solitude is a gradual conversion from an anxious reaction to a loving response. When hostility is converted into hospitality then fearful strangers can become guests revealing to their hosts the promise they are carrying with them.

Nouwen says that reaching out to God in prayer, in prayer from the heart, is the movement of conversion from illusions to prayer, from loneliness to solitude, from hospitality to hospitality. In this life we will always be prone to illusions, always prone to loneliness, always prone to hostility, and so always need to reach out to God in prayer. Prayer may well start off as of formulaic, but as the people of faith through the centuries have said, keep praying until it becomes prayer of the heart. Prayer is both a gift of God and a work. We keep praying until we receive the gift of prayer. And then keep praying.

News

The Church Council in December 2019 decided to reframe the strategic vision of the past 10 years Parramatta Mission from NSW and ACT wide, to focus on the new vision of the City of Parramatta Local Government Area. In line with that decision, all Parramatta Mission programs outside that area will move to another part of the Uniting Church. Following a review, that means that all the government funded programs, except one chaplaincy, will be transmitted. A discernment process of engagement with Uniting NSW.ACT and Wesley Mission that included briefing sessions and workshops lead to a proposal that management took to the Interim Board and then the Mission Council. The management, and the potential partners were deliberately seeking the mind of Christ in this decision of preferred partner. The Board and the Mission Council likewise. The Mission Council has decided that the preferred partner for the transmission is Wesley Mission, subject to due diligence. The intention is that the due diligence will be undertaken between now and before the end of November. The transmission would occur before the end of April 2021. This work has begun in earnest.

The Mission Council also made other decisions in May, including that the placements of Rev Christine Bayliss Kelly and Rev Dr Manas Ghosh would conclude 30 September.

Rev Dr Amelia Koh-Butler has been redeployed to transitional ministry with the congregations, for 85% of her time, and continuing as the PM interfaith Chaplain at WSU for 15% of her time. This arrangement until 30 December. Rev Dr Clive Pearson has been called to provide 50% transitional supply ministry across the three congregations commencing 1 October until 30 June 2021.

Rev Vladimir Korotkov has been appointed by the Presbytery of Parramatta-Nepean as Interim Lead Minister for Parramatta Mission until 30 June 2021.



Above: At lunch with the executive this past week.

Blessings, Keith Hamilton

WESTMEAD Congregation

ZOOM LINK <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5450786355>
PASSWORD = LEIGH

Meeting ID: 545 078 6355
One tap mobile+61280156011,5450786355# Australia
Dial by your location+61 2 8015 6011 Australia

Rev. Amelia Koh-Butler will lead the worship service at Westmead today, assisted by Sunil. including Communion. Welcome.

Communion will now be held on the first Sunday of the month.

Rev. Christine has now begun her new ministry at Penrith, and we all wish her well. Westmead has benefited greatly under her leadership, and she will be missed. However, Westmead is most appreciative of the assistance and leadership being offered to the leaders and the congregation, and we look forward with anticipation, to a new way of working together with the three congregations of Parramatta Mission, with the ministry team of Rev. Vladimir Korotkov, Rev. Amelia Koh-Butler and Rev. Clive Pearson, during the next 8 - 9 months.

Elders of Westmead Congregation are: KAREN BANFIELD (CHAIRPERSON), LORNA PORTER, BIJU CHAKO, MERE VALAONO (NO. 28), AND JAN ROBSON.

Please contact any of the elders if you have questions or enquiries, as we go forward.

If you have your little coins saved for the Fellowship of the Least Coin, can you please arrange to pass them on to Lorna. The service where this money is donated, is only 4 weeks away.

We continue to provide support to families at Wesley Apartments as needed.

Offerings may be dropped off at reception at the 175 Motel between 9am and 3p.m. each week day, and they will be collected by Lorna for processing. **OR** offerings may be made electronically.

BIBLE STUDY AT 2P.M. MONDAY, as usual. Link to be sent. Hope you can join.

DEEPENING FAITH and RELATIONSHIPS with others Worship

Sundays 9.45am via zoom

Bible Study- Via Zoom Mondays 2.00pm

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 **On hold**

Play Group – Mondays and Thursdays 9.15-10.45am **On hold**

Open Door -Wednesdays 1.00-3.30pm **On hold**

Tai Chi- Fridays 10.00-11.00am **On hold**

ENJOY A SAFE AND HAPPY LONG WEEKEND.

Pastoral message for this week....

Behold the stars!

God has enabled creation to breathe

Foster your faith this week

Ex 32:1-14

Ps 106:1-6, 19-23

Phil 4:1-9

Mt 22:1-14

성령강림후18주일(18th Pentecost of Sunday) 2020년 10월 3일 오후 1시 30분

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 36장 **통 36장** 주 예수 이름 높이어

새 270장 **통 214장** 변함없는 주님의 사랑과

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

성경 봉독 (Scripture Reading) **신명기 24:19-24; 예레미야 2:14-16**

말씀(Predaching)- 전현구 목사 **평화와 화해의 성찬**

봉헌 송(Offeratory Hymn)

새 401장 **통 457장** 주의 곁에 있을 때

나눔과 알림 (Announcement & Notices)

1. 전 세계가 전염병으로 힘들 때 주님과 동행하시는 성도가 됩시다.
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 시은아 이소식 전파하라 (1절)

축도 전현구 담임목사

QT나눔 & 성경공부
오후 4:00

수요기도회 : 오후 7시
고후 9:1-15

새벽기도회 : 오전 5시
고후 8:1-11:33

Prayer Points

The people of Parramatta Mission invite you to pray for:

- ♥ *PM congregants and staff. The people we contact every day that we might exhibit the values of grace, inclusion, dignity, faith and hope.*
- ♥ *PM Leigh Memorial: The Manton Family, Himmi and Family, Phillip, Rev. Manas & Nita, Mae & Stephen, Liz & family, Bruce S, Jolame, Betty E, Joan, Hazel, Beverly, Neil & Darlene, Betty B, George, Robyn & Malcolm, the Leigh Memorial Leaders team, the Church Council, our fellow PM congregations, Open Church, SPOW, Couples & Friends, our Sunday School teachers and children, Youth Group, and those who are unwell, currently having medical tests or treatment, or grieving – plus – all those impacted by COVID-19, inc. community members who are unwell, unemployed or at the frontline of medical, mental health, pharmacy and scientific care.*
- ♥ *PM 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: Natasha and her family, Naomi and family, Carol, Karen and Kath, Rosemary and Peter and families, Matthew's mother, Nyema, Carol, Aunty Jean, 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, Robyne and Phil. All farmers and their communities, Sharon, 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, May, Rajes (Sandra), Henry, Phyllis, Vita, Al, Mrs G and family, Judy, Lyn, Ruth and Lela, Mr and Mrs S.*
- ♥ *UC congregations of the Parramatta-Nepean Presbytery that extends from Galston to Bargo, Lidcombe to Blackheath.*
- ♥ *We pray for Parramatta Centenary Uniting Church*



Pastoral Contacts



Leigh Memorial Congregation: - 9891 2277
Rev Manas Ghosh is on leave until the closing service

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: 9891 2277

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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 Parramatta Mission

Visit our website and blog www.parramattamission.org.au