



**Parramatta  
Mission**



**uniting  
church**  
in Australia,  
Synod of NSW & ACT

**OUR NEWS**  
**17th January**  
**2021**



**A Church-Based Community Transforming Lives**  
***Our Values* Grace, Inclusion, Dignity, Faith & 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.**

## FROM THE INTERIM LEAD MINISTER

### Epiphany 2B, 2021, John 1. 43-51

#### *Until I am seen, I do not exist*

“Nathaniel does not come to faith; Jesus has seen him first.” Francis J Moloney, *The Gospel of John*, 56.

#### **We want to own our view of Jesus, but Jesus “sees” us first**

We meet Jesus on his fourth day of engaging in the world. He “finds” and “sees” people who are keenly religious. Andrew, Simon, Philip and Nathaniel “see” Jesus and respond to him in various ways. Two days ago John the Baptist had “seen” the Spirit descending on Jesus and shared this experience with some of his disciples. But John informs us that their responses, expectations and expressions of faith are found limited and inadequate by John’s Jesus; their “seeing” is still a faith in progress.

“Nathaniel does not come to faith by seeing Jesus. Jesus has seen him first”, writes the New Testament scholar Francis J Moloney. John writes of Jesus, “In him was life, and the life was the light of humankind. The light shines in the darkness ... the true light that enlightens everyone.” (1:4, 5, 9) That enlightenment takes time, it is a process of learning.

Or is it unlearning? Or relearning? Becoming a human being means our parents were shaped by their particular culture and society; they created their values, habits, ways of thinking, acting, feeling; ways of telling or not telling truth, of being embarrassed or hiding it, or not being angry, or always being allowed to express any feeling. And the child is then shaped by this. We start in the “darkness” or limitedness of our geography, our culture, our community, our history.

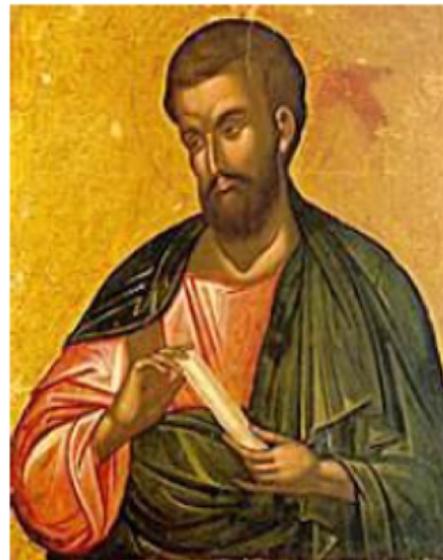
Philip says to Nathaniel, come and meet Jesus of Nazareth; Nathaniel expressed his geographical and cultural bias by asking, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” (1: 46) In the previous section in v 41 Simon shared, “We have found the Messiah”, and Nathaniel joins this chorus acclaiming Jewish first-century confessions with confidence; a culture shapes confession. But they miss the mark and are found wanting by Jesus. As Moloney writes, “exalted as these confessions may be they are bound by Nathaniel’s own culture, religion and history”. (56)

#### **I believe in Jesus! I don’t believe in myself! Until the “heavens open up”!**

We can also miss the mark at the level of our self-understanding and valuing of ourselves. In a former congregation I was surprised to discover someone who presented a strong faith, cared deeply for others, for her family and the congregation, yet did not value herself. I learnt that she did not feel worthy enough to be baptised! She was in her mature adult years, a follower of Jesus for most of her life! And like Nathaniel, she expressed exalted confessions about God and Jesus, and knew her scriptures really well. If you like, she believed she knew what God thought of her! I had to disagree, but I knew saying that would not persuade her. Stephen Grosz in his insightful book, *The Examined Life, How we Lose and Find Ourselves*, warns us that in such situations persuasion does not work, we only make ourselves feel better as we seek to rescue them. Instead, he suggests taking a supportive role, and to accompany them with useful questions and listening; an unlearning and relearning process! I also detected she was very defensive of her views, of God and herself, in an insecure way. I wanted to empower her, not increase her lack of self-worth by contradicting her views.

So I asked her if I could come and visit her once an week to hear her life story, and to read the book of Mark together, especially the story of the baptism of Jesus. I shared that in his baptism, before he had done anything, Jesus is “seen” and named as the beloved child of God. In this powerful experience, Jesus mysteriously encounters the loving, affirming and empowering presence of the transcendent God, a caring, compassionate, generative parent God. And that in our baptism, we accept that news, “unbelievable to how we view ourselves”, that we are “seen” and named, and loved as a beloved child of God no matter who we are or what we have done or not done! In time, it took some time, it was my great joy to baptise this “always-was” sister in Christ, who saw “the tearing open of the heavens” (John 1: 50), that is, that Jesus had “seen” her first through the life, teaching, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus, to “see” and rediscover herself through that story!

**Vladimir Korotkov**



**Nathaniel, Russian Icon**



Seeking

# God's Good News – in a time of Covid 19



Centre for Faith  
& Public Issues

**Thursday 18 February, 7pm-8:30pm**

**Zoom : <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/4399152776>**

Writing on the pandemic, Pope Francis reminded us that we do not belong to ourselves: we belong to God. The present is a time of 'sifting' what is in our hearts. It is a time for 'reflection'. What do we 'see', 'hear' and 'do'? The Oxford theologian, Angela Tilby, wondered what is our 'message' in a time of compliance and constraints and what can be done online.

**What are we 'thinking'? What are we 'singing'?**

Back in time, in the midst of a plague, Martin Luther spoke of the need to take care and to pay attention to the gospel in order to learn how to live well—and die well.

**Our discussion will be led by :**

**Rev. Dr Matagi Vilitama**, Georges River Presbytery, Sydney

**Dr. Janice Mcranal**, The Cooperative, Brisbane

**Rev. Michael Earl**, Bowral Uniting Church

**Rev. Simon Hansford**, The Moderator for the Synod of NSW-ACT, will provide an initial reflection.

There will be time for facilitated discussion.

**Please register with [amelia.pereira@parramattamission.org.au](mailto:amelia.pereira@parramattamission.org.au)**



## THANK YOU REV. DR. AMELIA!



As Amelia will be going on leave shortly (19 January), we send our love and prayers to her – and say a big “thank you” for everything. Amelia’s contributions have been many – and ones of significance to our congregations and the university during a busy and challenging period. We have deeply valued Amelia’s compassion, conscientiousness and dedication, and her musical gifts and many broader contributions. Amelia’s ministry at PM will officially close on 28 February and she will be taking up a position at Eastwood Uniting.

## WORSHIP @ LEIGH MEMORIAL - JANUARY

Please consult the weekly newsletters for updates regarding this month’s worship arrangements and special programming. For further information, please contact Reception: 9891-2277.

## LEIGH MEMORIAL ‘JANUARY SERIES’: RURAL COMMUNITIES

This year, our January series is utilising photographs and prayer points to highlight key church and community issues – and to remember those impacted by ongoing crises in Australia and throughout the world. Prayer Point – Rural Communities/ UCA Bush Chaplains: *Let us pray for our country’s farmers and their families - and both general and Aboriginal communities in rural Australia that are continuing to battle social injustice, educational and health care inequities, and extreme weather conditions in addition to mental health, family and financial struggles on the land.* About our UCA ‘Bush Chaplains’: *“Our Bush Chaplains fulfil a role that most people would struggle to do. Visiting people on properties for a cuppa and a chat, they are often on the frontline for identifying issues. They lend a sympathetic ear and can refer people to other service providers as appropriate. They provide practical, pastoral and spiritual support to those in need. Travelling tens of thousands of kilometres every year, our Bush Chaplains collectively visit thousands of families and individuals (including farmers and miners), but getting to remote locations is one of the biggest expenses. From just \$10 per month, you can gift an extra tank of fuel for one of our Bush Chaplains.”* To donate, go to: <https://frontierservices.org/how-we-help/bush-chaplaincy/> Photos: Australian landscape/ rural leadership program, 2020 (Sources: painaustralia/graincentral).



## LEIGH MEMORIAL GROUPS & PROGRAMS 2021

Most of our congregation groups take a break during January and resume in early February. Group coordinators will contact members when regular programs are ready to re-commence – and inform them about specific arrangements relating to COVID-safety, as needed.

## PASTORAL CARE

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

### FAREWELL TO DEAR JOAN

We are sad to convey the news of Joan Egan's passing this week. Joan was a loving wife, mother and friend, and long-serving member of the Leigh Memorial congregation. She contributed generously in a variety of capacities – including as a prayer support person to our ministers and congregation, a member of successive Leaders' teams, a member and participant in multiple congregation groups and programs, including those for the benefit of Parramatta Mission, and was a keen supporter of pastoral care initiatives. Joan has been missed since she entered a local aged care facility a few years ago and has been the subject of ongoing prayer. Thank you for everything Joan, including your great personal warmth and care for others, and we offer our prayers for your friends and family at this sensitive time. Funeral details will be provided. Enquiries: 9891-2277.



Rev. Dr Amelia Koh-Buttler donated quite a few books to the Church Library last year. These books are available to any interested congregation members and are based in the Church Office

"Paul: Apostle of the Free Spirit" by Bruce, F.F. ((Frederick Fyvie), 1910-1990);

"Christian religious education : sharing our story and vision" by Groome, Thomas H;

"The soul of a leader : finding your path to fulfillment and success" by Benefiel, Margaret;

"Gifted to lead : the art of leading as a woman in the church" by Beach, Nancy;

"Swimming between the flags : reflections on the Basis of Union" by Abetz, W. (Walter); Abetz, Katherine, 1951-;

"Building stronger communities" by Hughes, Philip J; Black, Alan; Kaldor, Peter; Bellamy, John; Castle, Keith;

"Spirit matters : how making sense of life affects wellbeing" by Peter Kaldor, Philip Hughes, Alan Black;

## WESTMEAD Congregation

Welcome to worship at Westmead today ON ZOOM  
ZOOM:<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/3958336709>

The service today will take place at the Westmead church, and will be led by the Young Adults Group, of the three congregations of Parramatta Mission. This is very exciting to have these young people leading the service for all of the congregations. Thank you to them all. Rev. Amelia will be with them and this will be her last service as part of Parramatta Mission, as she will be taking leave until her Closure of Ministry service at the end of February, 2021. Rev. Amelia will be moving to Eastwood Uniting Church after that time.

Last Sunday, 10th January, was perfect weather for the outdoor service held in Parramatta Park for the Leigh Fijian and Leigh Memorial congregations, while the Westmead congregation had a zoom service. It was very pleasing to have members of the other congregations, who were unable to attend in the park, join in the Westmead zoom service.

Lyn Graham has been Chaplain at Mayflower Retirement Village, now Uniting Westmead, for many years. Lyn is retiring and had her final day on Friday 15th January, 2021. Lyn will be greatly missed by all the people she has supported spiritually and emotionally through many experiences. We wish Lyn a long and happy retirement, and God's Blessings on her and her family too. A farewell service was held at Uniting Westmead on Thursday, 14th January, and also included a Blessing of the new chapel, and was watched via zoom by residents and friends. Trish Rooney, well known to many from Parramatta Mission, will commence as chaplain at Uniting Westmead in January, 2021. It will be great to see Trish around.

This month of January has seen some special birthdays.

Mere Vulaono celebrated her 70th birthday on 2nd January, and was treated to a very special rejuvenating experience by her family. Mere, more amazing than ever now! Mere is an elder of the Westmead congregation, and also a carer of the special friends from No. 28., who are part of the congregation. They are cared for like a family. God be with you Mere.

Also, Carol Scanlon, who is a resident of No. 28, on 13th January, 2021, celebrated her 60th birthday! Carol, we wish you a very Happy Birthday. You may have lots of new jewelery for your birthday? We will look forward to seeing it one day.





WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD is used for the Westmead Bible Study. It is time to re-order the books for the period following 14th February. WOULD YOU PLEASE LET LORNA KNOW IF YOU WISH TO ORDER A BOOK. Cost is \$5.

If you wish to purchase for one year, the cost is \$24. and you can purchase direct using credit card over the phone, or from the website [www.withlovetotheworld.org.au](http://www.withlovetotheworld.org.au)

WESTMEAD ELDERS:

KAREN BANFIELD (CHAIRPERSON) and contact person for WORSHIP 0488 101 469

LORNER PORTER - contact person for ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE 0408 365 478

JAN ROBSON - contact person for PRAYER CHAIN and PASTORAL 0418 438 901

BIJU CHAKO 0420 275 396

OFFERING: Your offering may be left at the reception of 175 Hotel, in an envelope marked Westmead congregation. It will then be collected by Lorna and deposited..

Alternatively, you may make electronic deposits, details as follows:

**Account Name: PM DIRECT WESTMEAD**

**BSB 634634**

**Account number: 100046885**

BIBLE STUDY is in recess until February, 2021

OTHER ACTIVITIES are in recess until further notice.



주현절 제2주째 (2nd Epiphany of Sunday) 2021년01월17일 오후 1시30분

개회 찬송 (Entrance Hymn) 예배를 위한 묵상

예배의 부름 (Calling) 인도자

송영 (Gloria) **새 1 장** **통 1 장** 만복의 근원 하나님 다함께

사도신경 신앙고백 (The Apostle's Creed) ..... 다함께

찬양/찬송 (Chorus & Hymns) 다함께

**새 86 장** **통 86 장** 내가 늘 의지하는 예수

**새 270 장** **통 214 장** 변함없는 주님의 사랑과

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

성경 봉독 (Scripture Reading) **데살로니카 4:7-12**

말씀(Preaching)- 전현구 목사 품격 있는 단정한 그리스도인

봉헌 송(Offertory Hymn)

**새 310 장** **통 410 장** 아 하나님의 은혜로

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)

**새502장** **통 259장** 너 시온아 이소식 전파하라 (1절)

축도 전현구 담임목사

QT나눔 & 성경공부  
오후4:00

수요기도회 : 오후 7시  
누가복음 7:18-35

새벽기도회 : 오전 5시  
누가복음 6:39-8:25

1. **Lotu ena sigatabu 17/01** – Eda na lotu cokovata tiko kei na lotu vakavavalagi ena sigatabu qo. Ena veiqaravi tiko kina nai Talatala Amelia kei ratou na tabagone ka sa otioti ni nona soli vunau vei kedatou ni sa vakarau gole yani ena nona lesilesi vou ni veiqaravi. Na sokalou ena qaravi tiko ena zoom.
2. **Veinanumi ena Masu:**  
Kerei meda veinanumi tiko ga ena veimasulaki vei ira na nodatou qase Aqriu Rogoimuri, Vilikesa kei Mereoni Kamotu, S Qata, ratou na veiliutaki tiko ena nodatou vavakoso vaka viti kei na veivuale kece sara ena loma ni nodatou vavakoso. Me nanumi tale tiko ena noda masu na veiqaravi ni Bula Feeding.

## ***PASTORAL MESSAGE***

The “heavens open up” the value of humanity

***Foster your faith this week***

*Jon 3:1-5,10*

*Ps 62:5-12*

*1 Cor 7:29-31*

*Mk 1:14-20*

# Prayer Points

*The people of Parramatta Mission invite you to pray for*

## **Our Community**

- We give thanks that some small gatherings are starting to take place. We give thanks for welcoming cafes and the disciplines we have learnt to help keep us all safe
- We give thanks for coffee, tea, muffins and spiritually encouraging conversations.

## **PM Westmead**

- We pray for chaplain Sarah and the ministry at the Children's hospital, for the teams and guests at 175 and Wesley Apartments, for those who are contemplating life changes, for those who grieve, especially Karen, Kath and Amelia. We pray for the researchers and health care responders at Westmead WSU campus.

## **PM Korean Faith Community**

- We pray for the Korean community in Western Sydney and for Rev Hyung Goo and Hannah.

## **PM Leigh Memorial**

Dear Lord,

Thank you for the beautiful blessing of Joan in our lives and for her many contributions. Fill our hearts with the shining light of her love, our minds with the joy of her memory and our future with the promise of your steadfast support and care for those who grieve. Amen.

- We pray especially for those whose health is not the best. We ask for calmness for people having treatments for illnesses and for the courage of their carers
- We particularly remember - Betty E (who is doing well and singing along to Songs of Praise on Sunday mornings) Himmi and family, Liz and family and Jolame.
- For those who are experiencing anxiety around home, work or life changes, we pray for supportive community. We continue to pray for those unable to gather, community members who are unwell, people who are unable to work and those who are lonely or depressed.

## **PM Fijian**

- We pray for those who are going through transitions from school to beyond.
- We pray for the Synod Pulse Team and Ofa's role as a newly commissioned Pastor in the Team, resourcing youth ministry across NSW/ACT.
- We pray for the guests at the Bula Feeding Ministry and Meals Plus and our wonderful volunteers. We pray for those who are unable to meet because of rain or storms and for those who have been sleeping rough.

## **Wider Work**

- for the Chaplaincy at Westmead and the transition of the Team as people come and go - we pray especially for Sarah as she continues while others change
- UC leaders doing the DIGITAL MINISTRY training with Rev Amelia, learning how to use technology to hold communities together during COVID times.

## **For Our Combined Parramatta Mission Team**

May God guide all our workers and volunteers to live out our values of grace, inclusion, dignity, faith and hope.

Rev Vladimir, Rev Mary, Rev Clive, Chaplain Sarah, Sunil, Robert, Coral, Rev Amelia,

Rev Hyung Goo - and their families, as they support us to serve in mission.

We ask for God's help to bless the world. AMEN

# Pastoral Contacts

Prayer Points may be sent to

[wecare@parramattamission.org.au](mailto:wecare@parramattamission.org.au)

For a conversation or to contact a Minister, please call

*Parramatta Mission Reception (9am-3pm)*

119 Macquarie Street Parramatta NSW 2150

9891 2277

*Leigh Memorial Church*

119 Macquarie Street Parramatta NSW 2150

9891 2277

*Westmead Church*

175 Hawkesbury Road Westmead NSW 2145

9891 9354

## **IN TIME OF PASTORAL NEED**

Our three ministers, Amelia Koh-Butler, Clive Pearson and Vladimir Korotkov are available to each congregation and members and your friends; their contact details are listed below.

Rev Vladimir Korotkov (Interim Lead Minister) 0431 759 573

Rev Dr Amelia Koh-Butler 0427 955 157 (on Leave from 19th January

Rev Dr Clive Pearson (Supply) 0409 523 024

*YOU CAN ALSO CONTACT THESE PEOPLE FOR PASTORAL ISSUES*

Rev Hyun Goo Jun (Korean Faith Community) 0433 320 588

Pr Sarah Bishop (Children's Hospital) 0429 912 943

Anare Vocea ( Fijian Vakatawa) 0432 772 852

 Parramatta Mission

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

