



**Parramatta  
Mission**



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

**OUR NEWS**  
**24th 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 3B, 2021

#### Mark 1: 14-20

*called out of ourselves and into the lives of others* Jean-Luc Marion

#### A “call” as a common to human experience

The gospel reading this week is about responding to “a call” and following it with faithfulness.

The blog “sacraconversazione” shares Jean-Luc Marion’s insight that “the call” is a common human experience that can come from anyone, anywhere at any time. Marion continues: “...a call... decides the choice of a spirit, a soul, a life.” It calls us out of ourselves and into the lives of others.

We witnessed the power of a “call” common to human experience in the US on January 6 when Donald Trump’s loyal followers stormed the Capitol, for the second time since 1814 when it was occupied by the British army. In a childish reaction to the election result, Trump sent out “a call” on December 18 to his loyal followers on Twitter, *“Big protest in D.C. on January 6th. Be there, will be wild!”* And his right-wing extremist followers shocked the country and the democratic world by actually believing they had the right to carry out a purging of the government. And many were conservative Evangelical Christians who believed God was using Trump to bring about a better world, in their cultural terms, this time through his disciples. And around 30% of Republicans were supportive of this violent dissent!

And the theme I am suggesting from Marion, *called out of ourselves and into the lives of others*, could be applied to Trump’s followers and to that of other Christians. One woman confessed this week that she was fully convinced that Trump wanted his followers to take these riotous and violent steps, and she obeyed him. The depth of their commitment and discipleship, even, for some, to face death, is astounding.

And, we must confess, that Christians over the last two millennia have abused “the call” of Jesus on many occasions: such as not just leaving family, but having nothing to do with them unless they accept their cult-like expression of Christianity.

#### **Jesus called followers out of their cultures, themselves and into the cultures and lives of others**

In our text in Mark 1: 14-20 we find Jesus walking through the community and lives of others, in the area of the sea Galilee. Political power has arrested John the Baptist, yet Jesus shares the good news that something new is dawning, that God remains near, the “kingdom of God” approaches.

To make the term “kingdom of God” clearer to us today in our democratic society, the blogger from the girardian lectionary suggests an alternative term, “the culture of God”. This is extremely helpful, especially if we understand “culture” in that tradition of cultural anthropology that combines culture and society. Using this term then, to repent would mean personal and cultural transformation, changing how we think, feel, and act in society, and transforming families, communities, cultures and society; this from the foundation of the new relationship with God.

## **So what would this mean for the disciples Jesus calls in our story?**

The context in which they are called influences discipleship. Ched Myers informs us that Jesus meets these fishers in the social setting of a large freshwater sea/lake in Galilee, 11kms wide and 21 kms long, with many villages working in the fishing industry. Herod built a new capital city, Tiberius, on its shores which regulated this industry. The Romans owned the lake, the fish, and taxed many aspects of the fishing trade. As in all economies, Ched informs us:

... the fishing industry was being steadily restructured for export, so that the majority of fish were salt preserved or made into a fish sauce and shipped to distant markets throughout the empire. All fishing had become state-regulated for the benefit of the urban elite—either Greeks or Romans who had settled in Palestine following military conquest or Jews connected with the Herodian family.

Ched continues to inform us that the urban elites profited from leases, taxes, from fishing rights awarded not to individuals but kinship-based “cooperatives,” and from tolls on transport, with local administrators and tax collectors adding their costs.

Leases, taxes and tolls were exorbitant, while the fish upon which local people depended as a dietary staple was extracted for export. Thus fishermen were falling to the bottom of an increasingly elaborate economic hierarchy. Elites looked down on them, even as they depended upon their labor: [Fishing was] “The most shameful [of] occupations ... (Ched Myers)

Carpenters were needed for the massive ongoing urban reconstruction, which is why Jesus may have been there.

Jesus sees and assesses the oppressive aspects of this culture and its economics. And the peasant fishers he “calls” would have experienced various forms of oppression as socio-economic injustice. So they would have already sensed “a call” from their context and that “... decides the choice of a spirit, a soul, a life”, in Jean-Luc Marion words. Their heart and life is prepared! As Ched stresses,

... the point here is that following Jesus requires not just assent of the heart, but a fundamental reordering of socio-economic relationships. The first step in dismantling the dominant social order is to overturn the “world” of the disciple: in the kingdom, the personal and the political are one.

## **Conclusion**

Yes, the dominant social order is “within us”, as it was in the Trump supporters. As white supremacists, their minds inhabited and believed in a hierarchy of values, in which the highest beings were white, male, working class and so on.

We are “called” to humbly assess what reordering is required of us, as individuals and the church community: as the disciples have to when they follow Jesus through the many events to which they are exposed, facing their competitive aspects, desire for power, embeddedness in the tradition of their cultures, to name a few.

But the “culture of God” is driven by the powerful vision and values that Jesus experiences and shares in his experience of baptism: that we are “seen” and named, and loved as a beloved children of God no matter who we are or what we have done or not done! It is this that empowers us to share power with each other equally, no matter who we are.

Do you hear “a call” to at this time in Parramatta Mission? “A call” to enter a phase of transformation to reorder our culture-cultures in Parramatta Mission so that we can work together with God for the reordering of the culture and society around us?

**Vladimir Korotkov**



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)**



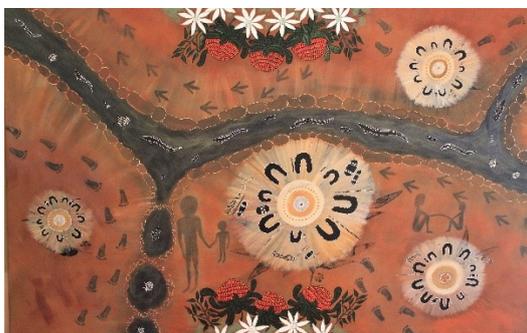
Please consult the weekly newsletters for updates regarding all this month's worship arrangements and special programming. For further information, please contact Reception: 9891-2277.

## 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.

## LEIGH MEMORIAL 'JANUARY SERIES': RECONCILIATION

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 - Reconciliation: *Let us pray for equity & recognition for Australia's First Peoples on Survival Day, 26 January – and in perpetuity.* **NB:** Each year on the Sunday before Australia Day/Survival Day, the Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia invites church and community members to mark a Day of Mourning acknowledging and reflecting upon the effect of invasion, colonisation and ongoing inequities on Australia's First Peoples. Members are encouraged to pray for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people on 26 January and for wisdom, peace and courage among all Australians during the ongoing journey of Reconciliation. Please note that Uniting Church President Dr Deidre Palmer recorded a Survival Day video message in 2019 with young Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Congress leader Sean Weetra on Ngarrindjeri country in South Australia: <https://vimeo.com/312045406>  
Images: 'Buraga' ('Arise') by Darug artist, Leanne Watson, 2019/ Australian Aboriginal flag.



## SECURITY REMINDER

Members are asked to observe all correct processes for locking up and taking care of personal safety after using our church and Macquarie Street premises. Please also switch off lights/electricals and remove rubbish. Report any hazards, issues or concerns to the Mission office: 9891-2277.

## DIRECT GIVING

Offerings to support our Church & Mission can be made by direct electronic transfer. Bank acct. name: *Parramatta Mission Giving Direct*. Acct. number: 100025901. BSB: 634 634. Many thanks to everyone who has, and is, contributing in this vital way.

## PULSE: YOUTH GET-TOGETHER

High School students and Young Adults from Leigh Memorial joined others from PM and St. Mathew's Uniting Baulkham Hills at a special 'Pulse' get-together at Westmead UC last Saturday. The program included a picnic lunch and scavenger hunt in Parramatta Park, in addition to thought-provoking devotions and other fun activities. A great time was had by all. (NB: 'Pulse' is a program of Uniting Mission and Education and Synod of NSW and the ACT dedicated to building life-supporting relationships between young people and Uniting Church communities).

## WESTMEAD Congregation

**WELCOME** to worship at Westmead today. Rev. Vladimir Korotov will bring the message to us today, on zoom. <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/3958336709>

Last Sunday, the service was led by the Young Adults group of Parramatta Mission, from the Westmead Church, and others viewed the service on zoom. Rev. Amelia led the service, which was her last service at Parramatta Mission. Alysa Biju from Westmead congregation has written a short account of this time together.

The Youth Retreat Yourself event hosted by UCA Pulse, was held on 15th and 16th January, and kicked off with a Zoom cookoff where young people together, learnt and made Burek - a baked filled pastry. It was interesting to cook at the same time while being connected from different kitchens!

On Day 2 of the retreat, young people gathered at Westmead Uniting Church. The theme for this year was ENCOUNTER. We participated in worship, had devotions and discussions around the Bible readings from Psalm 40 and Luke 4:14-22. We reflected and shared our thoughts and faith stories in small groups and then came together to summarise what we learnt from these readings as well as answered some reflective questions.

We had some lovely morning tea and lunch prepared by Rev. Amelia. We were given a few hours break where we could travel anywhere we wanted to, as well as participate in a scavenger hunt where we had to click photos of different ways we encounter God in our lives, such as through culture, community, generosity, hospitality, in the mundane, etc. We decided to hang out at Parramatta Park, where everyone had their lunch, (we met Rev. Clive there too) and then went for a walk around the park, exploring the beautiful nature. We then came back to our final session, which involved Communion, and feeling sand, rocks, and SLIME! A very fun and interesting experience, which was based on the Psalm 40 reading.

A big thank you to all who organised it, special shout out to Ofa and the UCA Pulse team, Rev. Amelia and all our guests who came along.



You may be interested.....Uniting Westmead, at 1 Carolyn Street, has a SENIORS GYM. Some people from Westmead congregation have joined. It is open to the public, and if you would like further information, you can phone 1800 864 846.

There is something new at Westmead campus. KERAMIC is a coffee shop/restaurant and is now open for business. Lots of people are hearing about the good coffee, and food. This is a new venture, with the approval of the Parramatta Mission Council and Westmead leaders. We thank Cameron of 175 Hotels for assisting in providing an opportunity for more financial support for the work at Westmead. "Keramic" is the original name of the building and it is nice to have the history acknowledged in this way.

As we face the New Year, and look forward to gradually resuming some of our activities, it is hoped that we may form a group who would make a monthly visit to members of our congregation who now reside in Aged Care Facilities. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED in being part of this group, will you please speak to an Elder.

WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD is the book used by the Westmead Bible Study . The lectionary readings are followed. It is time to order the books for this year, and if you would like to have a book, would you please let LORNA know as soon as possible. Cost is \$5 each quarter.

BIBLE STUDY will resume on Monday 1st February, 2021 at 2pm.

Other activities are in recess until further notice.

**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 PASTORAL AND PRAYER CHAIN 0418 438 901

BIJU CHAKO 0420 275 396

MERE VULAONO - No. 28 Elder

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, electronic deposits can be made, details as follows:

**Account Name: PM DIRECT WESTMEAD**

**BSB 634634**

**Account number: 100046885**

주현절 제3주제 (3rd Epiphany of Sunday) 2021년01월24일 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 41 장** **통 20 장** 큰 영광 중에 계신 주

**새 270 장** **통 214 장** 변함없는 주님의 사랑과

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

성경 봉독 (Scripture Reading) **잠언2:1-11; 마태복음24: 32-44**

말씀(Preaching)- 전현구 목사 지혜와 명철을 구하고 찾아라

봉헌 송(Offertory Hymn)

**새 382 장** **통 432 장** 너 근심 걱정 말아라

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 하나님께서 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 9:18-27

새벽기도회 : 오전 5시  
누가복음 8:40-9:62

## Fijian Congregation

1. **Lotu ena sigatabu 24/01** – Na lotu ena sigatabu ena veiqaravi tiko kina na matamasumasu naba tolu. Ena soli vunau tiko kina na qase vakacegu Josefa F. Ena qaravi tiko ga na lotu ena zoom.
2. **Lotu ena sigatabu 31/01** – Eda na lotu cokovata tiko kina kei na vavalagi ena 10am. Ena qaravi tiko ena valelotu e Leigh Memorial kei na zoom. Sa kerei vei kemuni na vavakoso ko ni lotu e valelotu, mo ni qai rejisita ena Eventbrite ena vuku ni covid-19.
3. **Veinanumi ena Masu:**  
Kerei meda veinanumi tikoga 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 veivuvale kece sara ena loma ni nodatou vavakoso. Na nodratou vuli talatala nei Filikesa Kamotu, Samu Sadrata kei Ofa Foiakau. Na nodratou veiqaravi ni Bula Feeding.

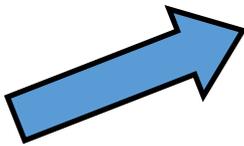
## **PASTORAL MESSAGE**

Hear “the call” inviting us out of ourselves  
and into the lives of others.

***Foster your faith this week***

*Dt 18:15-20 Ps 111*

*1 Cor 8:1-13 Mk 1:21-28*



**Fifth Sunday in the Month**

**31 January 10am**

This service will be led in dual mode.

You can join in online; or you can worship in person, onsite at Leigh Memorial Church.

We will be observing Covid 19 health safety requirements. Please bring a mask if you can (there will be some onsite if you forget). Also, to assist us in planning for numbers within the building, please register on Eventbrite or via reception by noon Saturday.

Please note that parking is most easily available at Harwood Place car park or the Westfield Centre (then come down by the station, through the tunnel into Parramatta Square).

We look forward to seeing you either in person or online.

# 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**

- 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**

We pray for Rev Mosese Taufa, Auburn Uniting Church - Multi Centre.

- 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 two ministers, 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 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



@parramission



Parramatta Mission

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