



Parramatta
Mission



uniting
church
in Australia,
Synod of NSW & ACT

OUR NEWS

7th March 2021



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.

FROM THE INTERIM LEAD MINISTER

Lent 3B, 2021

John 2: 13-22

Whipping up fruitful, just, open institutions

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the outer court of the Temple found people selling cattle and sheep, and pigeons, and the money changers seated at their counters there.

Making a whip out of small rushes (chords), Jesus cast them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over ...

*Hope has two beautiful daughters.
Their names are Anger and Courage:
Anger at the way things are,
and courage to see
that they do not remain the way they are.
St. Augustine of Hippo*

1. Making a whip of small rushes, Jesus casts them all out

All four Gospels present this story. John alone locates it at the beginning of Jesus ministry, at the time of the Jewish feast of the Passover. To celebrate the Passover, “a powerful symbol of hope and redemption” (Moloney) from the time of the Exodus, Jewish pilgrims made an annual visit to the Temple in Jerusalem before it was destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE. It is estimated that 300,000 pilgrims would have been in Jerusalem at this time.

To celebrate this feast, pilgrims would proceed to the outer court to sellers of money and animals for sacrifice; because Roman money had images that were offensive to Jews and so coins had to be exchanged for Tyrian money, so that animals could be bought to be sacrificed - the wealthy would buy cattle and sheep, the poor bought the cheaper pigeons/doves.

So what drove Jesus to create a whip and “cast out”, scatter, sellers of money and animals and their tables? Unless we understand life and religious expression in that ancient world we will read our own world back into it, and so, separating the sacred and secular; while in the ancient world, both existed together, religious and economic spheres. As *Relevant Magazine* staff put it:

During festivals and pilgrimages, visitors to the temple would be required to pay the annual half-shekel tax. ... currency exchange stations and collection stations would have been essential The mere presence of the money changers' booths wasn't anything shocking or offensive.

Pilgrims would also come to make required sacrifices, which they would need to purchase since they couldn't exactly carry all their own animals with them — especially since there were purity requirements on those animals. So again, the mere presence of the tables selling doves and other sacrifices wasn't anything shocking or offensive.

William Loader presents his suggestion as to what drove Jesus to exorcise people, as he exorcised demons, from this situation, it was: that Jesus objected to what the temple had come to represent: power and exploitation. The otherwise innocent structures of exchange and sale were part of a system which he ... saw as corrupt and fit only for destruction.

Wealth was accumulated by the ruling elite of priests, the King, and the Romans; economic power grew, banking and lending; small loans to peasant farmers allowed exploitation and loss of land through poverty and inability to repay. The temple was an employer of local businesses. Ched Myers writes that a whole industry existed to support sellers and buyers in the Temple area: “curtain makers, barbers, incense manufacturers, goldsmiths, trench diggers, bakers, and countless others.” (*Relevant Magazine*) The Jewish political power of Jerusalem which was aligned with Roman rulers, which was expressed in and through the Temple.

2. Was Jesus violent?

In reading articles for this text I was surprised that some commentators were both concerned by Jesus act of creating a whip and using it, and tried to soften the strength of the anger of Jesus. And as Dan Clendenin confesses with honesty that he can make Jesus so familiar that he

... sometimes put Jesus into a nice-n-neat little box. From there, it isn't hard to fall into what Donald McCullough calls ‘the dangerous illusion of a manageable deity’.

Or a manageable, self-managing, middle class, blue-eyed Jesus!

I would add to this that as Jesus moved and ministered among people in their life-worlds he had seen the effects of systemic power and exploitation; the poverty, sickness, starvation, loss of work and land, impossible religious requirements and so on. These are the people to whom he expressed compassion. And saw they were leaderless and that the Temple leaders were not true shepherds. And he was deeply

distressed by this unfair, unnecessary suffering! Angry! As I have been when I have observed poverty and suffering caused by aspects of our society.

3. Whipping up fruitful, just, open institutions

John and Mark, in their versions of this story, make it clear that Jesus was not only concerned to challenge the Temple system and its power which created powerlessness and suffering. John and Mark, by the stories which they use to surround this story, suggest more!

In John, what precedes this story is the wedding at Cana. It was a celebrative, wine in abundance, welcoming. As Bill Loader writes:

So the water has become wine, the old temple, a new one in the person of Jesus. That 'leaving behind' is also part of the story's theme. And all this for new life, to become new institutions ushering in life for the poor and marginalised.

And in Mark's Gospel, there is the story of the fig tree and its withering! Ched Myers informs us that within Jewish culture and writings, the fig tree is "a metaphor for the temple-based nation and its cultus." Telford (quoted by Myers) further informs us that

The blossoming of the fig-tree and its giving of its fruits ... depicts Yahweh's visiting people with blessing...
the withering of the fig-tree ... [carries] the theme of judgement ...
... a corrupt Temple cultus and sacrificial system ...

So, I suggest that Mark's Jesus is also whipping up institutions to become open, just, and life giving institutions.

Conclusion

Over time, human institutions in their variety morph into mechanical systems. You can observe how young, fresh and vibrant they are at birth and early life, like a new relationship. Over time, as certain people, age, gender, cultures, ideas take over, power imbalances grow like moss on sunless rocks. And like relationships, our institutions need to be regularly whipped up into fruitful, open, sunlit spaces.

Unfortunately, those who seek to challenge and transform our "shaped lives together", are unwelcome prophets, even crucified, literally or figuratively.

In this time of our transition and transformation, as the new Parramatta Mission is being born, we have opportunities to whip up fruitful, just, open, equal-power sharing "Temples", as we identify that we are becoming the new body of Christ!

Vladimir Korotkov

Thank You from Keith & Julie Hamilton

On behalf of Julie and myself, thank you for the gifts and farewells, the words of appreciation and good wishes, that culminated in the service of closure of ministry placement last Sunday. Thank you to all who made that possible.

We wish all at Parramatta Mission, congregants and staff, and all who are part of this *church-based community transforming lives*, best wishes and God's blessings in the new season that is commencing.

Keith and Julie Hamilton

Foster your faith this week

Nm 21:4-9

Ps 107:1-3, 17-22

Eph 2:1-10

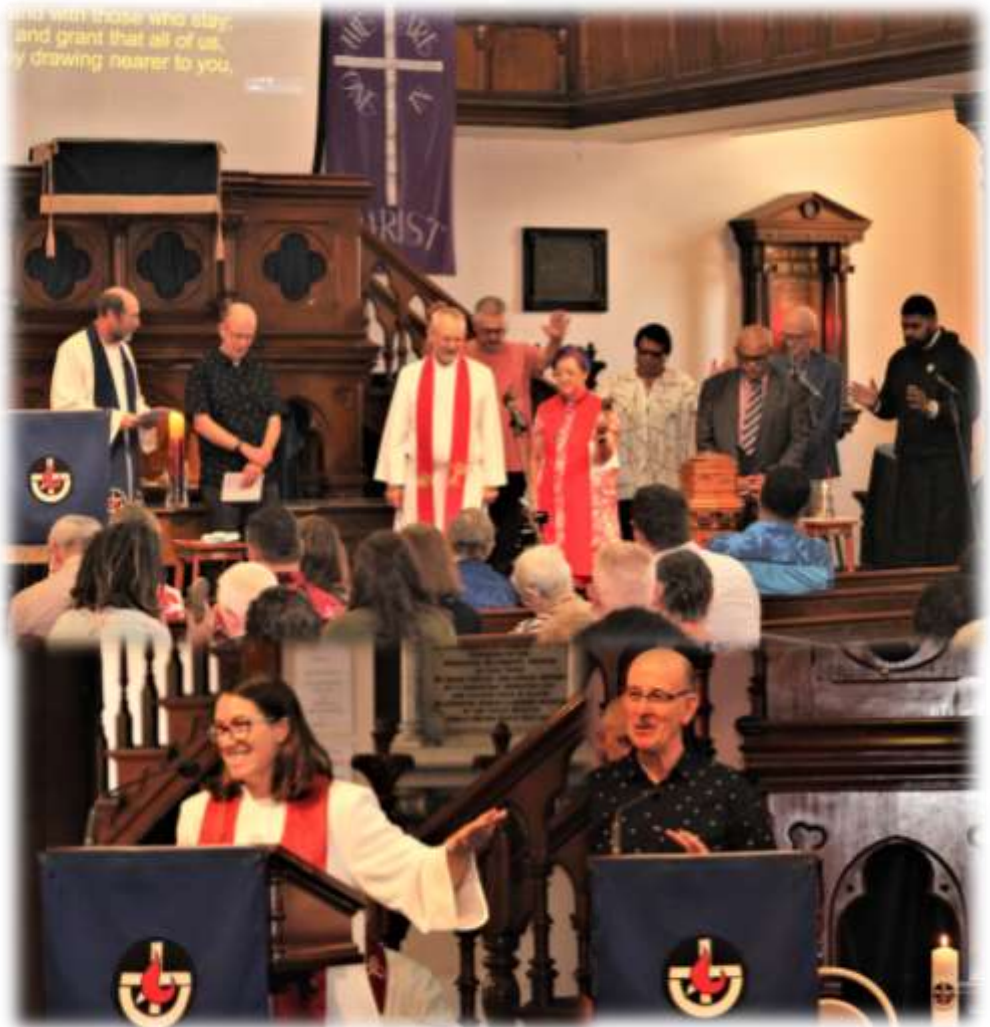
Jn 3:14-21

PASTORAL MESSAGE

The life of Jesus comes like a whiplash,
striding into places of pain and suffering,
releasing passion upon complacency

**CLOSURE OF MINISTRY SERVICE: REV. KEITH HAMILTON & REV. DR. AMELIA KOH-BUTLER: 28 February, 2021
@ Leigh Memorial Church**

Last Sunday, we sadly said "thank you & farewell" to two very much-loved Parramatta Mission ministers, Keith and Amelia. Over 100 people from the PM congregations attended the Closure of Ministry service at Leigh Memorial Church, with many more viewing online. Attendees included political, community, Presbytery and PM staff representatives. Many thanks to everyone involved in the organisation of the service, which was a meaningful time of thanksgiving and celebration for what has been - and strengthening and refreshment for the journeys yet to come. Guest preacher for the service was Rev. Bec Lindsay. Thank you to the Fijian congregation for providing our lovely morning tea!





Leigh Congregation

COME & JOIN US FOR WORSHIP @ LEIGH MEMORIAL

Please consult the weekly newsletters and emails for updates regarding in person + Zoom worship arrangements and special programming/services. For further information or assistance, please call 9891-2277. We look forward to seeing you SOON!!

WELCOME TO THE BAPTISM OF BEAUTIFUL MACIE!



This Sunday, 7 March, we are welcoming parents Ashley and Philip, and their lovely little daughter, Macie Louise Trescott, to Leigh Memorial for baptism. Blessings for Macie and her family on this very special occasion, and we extend them a warm welcome to our Leigh Memorial family. Many thanks to Rev. Clive and Baptisms coordinator, Samantha, for their organisation of Macie's baptism.

CLOSURE OF MINISTRY ROUND-UP

Last Sunday's Closure of Ministry service at Leigh Memorial was a special time of thanks and farewell to Revs. Keith and Amelia, and one that included a broad range of positive contributions and inspiring words by all involved, including guest preacher Rev. Bec Lindsay, community reps and PM members. Among other gifts presented to Keith by the congregations was a 'presentation booklet' from Leigh Memorial containing photos from his long period of service at PM, in addition to an inscribed, framed print of Robyn Dunbar's moving Meals Plus artwork 'Jesus in the food line.' Amelia received a beautiful kaffir lime plant for her balcony and both received advance copies of this year's anniversary book. Photos from the service are in this week's newsletter. Many thanks again to everyone who contributed on the day, and a big thank you to Leigh Fijian for providing the refreshments.

SPECIAL SERVICE – HEADS OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Last Sunday afternoon, students and staff of the MLC Uniting Church girls' school, Burwood, including Senior Chaplain, Rev. Viniana Ravetali, hosted a service at Leigh Memorial to close a three day conference held in Parramatta for AHISA – the Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia (NSW/ACT branch). During the service, students from the school provided beautiful music, including instrumental selections. MLC & Leigh Memorial have something in common: The founding principal of the school, Rev. Prescott, was a minister at Leigh Memorial in 1883-85.

NEW LIGHTS – MINISTERS VESTRY

Many thanks to Coral, and PM maintenance coordinator Candice, for facilitating new light fittings for us in the Ministers (Walter Lawry) Vestry. The previous ones had been broken for a long time. The new lights plus other electrical repairs are a useful upgrade in this space.

SOME DIARY DATES, MARCH – APRIL, 2021

Lenten studies: 'Interpreting the Way of the Cross' – in person on Saturday mornings in the Choir Vestry @ Leigh Memorial (20 & 27 March) and via Zoom on Wednesday evenings (17 & 24 March). Please see the newsletter for further information. All welcome.

Synod Climate Conference: Centre for Ministry, Nth Parramatta, Sat. 20 March.

Easter 2021: Maundy Thursday (no foot washing), Good Friday & Easter Sunday services, 1 – 4 April.

PASTORAL CARE

We continue to hold everyone in our warmest thoughts & prayers, including PM staff and congregation members who are unwell, grieving, separated from us, or otherwise in need of extra care at this time. Continued prayers for Keith & Amelia following the conclusion of their PM ministries last week. Please note that Clive and Vladimir may be contacted for support and assistance as needed.

PARRAMATTA MISSION CHRISTMAS VIDEO

Parramatta Mission's 'Festival of Christmas' in 2020 was a great source of encouragement to many at the end of a very tough year.

See - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mdvxo-QNDmQ>

LENT EVENT 2021: 17 FEB – 29 MARCH

Although we are unable to host a 'Lent Event' program at Leigh Memorial this year, members are invited to check the Uniting World website for information about this year's program and suggestions re participation and donations: <https://donate.unitingworld.org.au/event/lent-event/home>



Last Friday 26th February was a HUGE day in Meals Plus, but it went smoothly thanks to the team from The GPT Group who cooked and served our meal, sorted and stocked the pantry and cut up a lot of onions for our Bunnings BBQ Saturday 27th

Thank you to the Rapid relief Team AU for donating the yummy burgers for lunch, to the liver bus for visiting to attend to our guests, and to the Helping Hands group from the Kellyville Church of Later Day Saints for the 4 carloads of groceries and toiletries.

Without your generosity and assistance we could not do what we do each day.

Thank You



THANKS

시드니 조은 교회 Sydney Jo-Eun Church

20-10

세 번째 사순절 주일 (3rd Lent of Sunday) 2021년03월07일 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 14 장 **통 30 장** 주 우리 하나님

새 270 장 **통 214 장** 변함없는 주님의 사랑과

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

성경 봉독 (Scripture Reading) **요한복음 16:17-24**

말씀(Preaching)- 전현구 목사 신앙의 기쁨과 감사

봉헌 송(Offertory Hymn)

새 365 장 **통 484 장** 마음속에 근심 있는 사람

나눔과 알림 (Announcement & Notices)

1. 전 세계가 전염병으로 힘들 때 주님과 동행하시는 성도가 됩시다.
2. '매일 성경' 말씀으로 주님과 교제의 시간(QT)을 갖고 격용하는 훈련을 합니다.
3. 말씀, 기도, 전도 생활로 하나님이 기뻐하시는 삶을 사는 성도님들이 되시기 바랍니다.

폐회찬송(Final Hymn)

새502장 **통 259장** 너 시은아 이소식 전파하라 (1절)

축도 전현구 담임목사

QT나눔 & 성경공부
오후4:00

수요기도회 : 오후 7시
시편 60:1-12

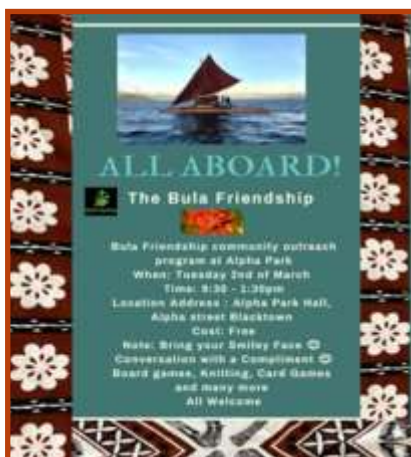
새벽기도회 : 오전 5시
시편58:1-누가복음17:37

Fijian Congregation

1. **Lotu ena sigatabu 28/02** : Na lotu ena sigatabu oqo ena qaravi tiko kina na lotu ni veitalatala veirau na nodatou l talatala, talatala Amelia kei talatala Keith. Eda na lotu cokovata kei na vavalagi. Na lotu ena tekivu ena 10am. Ena qaravi tiko ga l valelotu kei na zoom. Ke o via tiko ena soqoni oqo e gadrevi nai wiliwili ka mo na rejisita rawa ena <https://events.humanitix.com/closure-of-ministry>. Sa kerei talega vei kemuni na vavakoso ko ni lotu e valelotu, mo ni qai rejisita ena Eventbrite ena vuku ni covid-19.
2. **Lotu ena sigatabu 07/03** : Na lotu ena sigatabu mai oqo na lotu vulavou ena veiqaravi tiko kina nai talatala Clive ka na qaravi tiko kina na sakaramede. Ena qaravi tiko ga l valelotu kei na zoom. Na lotu ena kena gauna 11:15am.
3. Sa kerei tiko ga vei keda na vavakoso na vei masulaki vei Sigani ni curu tiko l valebula.
4. **Youth/Sunday school Fun day 20/02**



5. Bula Feeding Ministry



**Interpreting the Way of the Cross
During a Season of Covid 19**

Lenten Study 2021

two times, two modes.

Saturday mornings, 10:00 am to 11:30

20th and 27th March

On site in the choir vestry, Leigh Memorial

Wednesday evenings, 7:00-8:00pm

17th and 24th March

On zoom, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3602745736>

Every year in England the national church puts out a Lenten study. This year Sam Wells, the Dean of St. Martins-in-the Fields in the centre of London, has published *The Cross at the Heart of God*. That title is no surprise. The lectionary gospel for the year is the gospel of Mark. It turns upon a 'journey to the cross': along the way the disciples learn more about who this Jesus is and how he differs from their expectations.

This Lenten season we are able to reflect upon this journey in the light of the continuing presence and legacy of Covid 19. Throughout the past year we have been told what we can do and what we can't do. It has been a time of necessary compliance. The church has often had to respond to pandemics in the past. It has always sought to understand how the life of faith, the gospel, fits into this kind of situation. In our time the Pope and Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, have provided much helpful food for thought.

This study will combine the themes of Mark with how members of the church responded to their Covid 19 equivalent.

WESTMEAD Congregation



Sharing the hospitality of Jesus Christ

ACCESS TO WESTMEAD SITE

Access to 175 Hotel and the Chapel at Westmead is currently through the Queens Road gate. This will be the entry point and the exit point until the completion of this stage of the light rail construction. A traffic controller is stationed at the gate 24/7 to assist with entry and exit

QR codes at Westmead -

Worship Services and Bible Study at Westmead: use Westmead church QR code

All other functions and short visits – please use 175 Hotel QR code.

Thank you to Clive, Mary, and to all who prepared and presented the Closure of Ministry Service for Rev. Keith and Rev. Amelia.

Thank you Alysa and David for representing Westmead Congregation by your inclusion in the service.

Sunday 7th March – We look forward to Rev. Vladimir joining us today and preaching at our zoom service.

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/3958336709>

Bible Study – Mondays, 2pm – 3.30pm

Hosted by Westmead Congregation.

On Monday 8th March, Mary Pearson will join us again and members from all three congregations are warmly invited to participate.

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/95043695512>

Next Westmead Worship on site - Sunday 21st March 2021

LEADERS

Karen Banfield	Worship & Bible study, 0488 101 469
Lorna Porter	Finances & Administration, 0408 365 478
Jan Robson	Pastoral matters & prayer chain, 0418 438 901
Biju Chacko	0420 275 396
Mere Vulaono	No 28, 0448 137 067
Alysa Biju	Technology support, 0467 674 251

OFFERING & OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

May be left at the reception of 175 Hotel in an envelope marked Westmead Congregation ('Offering ' or 'Gold Coin'...etc). It will be collected by Lorna and deposited.

Finding a hobby can be great for your mental health....

Learning a new skill also engages your brain and can give you a sense of purpose and achievement. There's a reason everyone was doing giant jigsaw puzzles in lockdown!

<https://www.bodyandsoul.com.au/.../60a9886da577c070d3fbb3...>

[#mentalhealth](#) [#hobbiesformentalhealth](#)



Save the date!

**Synod Climate Action
Conference - Future Directions**



When:

Saturday March 20, 9.00am – 5.00pm

Where:

Centre for Ministry and on-line via Zoom

In 2019 the Synod meeting initiated the Synod Climate Action Strategy. The strategy grew from our church's long standing commitment to care for creation.

As a church we resolved to:

- Advocate to all levels of government for reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- Stand with young people in their concerns about climate change
Work to reduce our emissions in all parts of the church

Since then five task groups have been working to bring the strategy to life in tangible ways.

In the wider world much is happening to re-focus attention on the need for decisive action on climate change: a change of government in the US; our major trading partners recently committing to net zero emissions by 2050; the next UN Climate Conference in Glasgow this November.

With the Synod meetings approaching it is timely to consider what our priorities should be in the next phase of the Climate Strategy. What actions will make a difference?

What can we as a church distinctively contribute to this movement for a safer climate future and flourishing world for all?

What can you do?

If those questions stir you in some way, if you want to be part of answering them in thinking and action, then we would love to have you at the conference. There will be a range of speakers and workshops stimulating our reflection on issues like:

- Climate leadership and what types of action can achieve positive change
- Understanding what other climate actors are doing and where we connect
 - Faith, politics and living and voting our values
 - First Nation's perspectives on care for creation

What it will take to have an impact for our Pacific Island neighbours

Due to the changing nature of COVID restrictions physical places may be limited. We hope that many Uniting Church people, especially in regional and rural areas, will be able to participate via Zoom. Either way, please register early by going to:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/.../climate-action...>

We hope to see you there.

The Uniting Advocacy team on behalf of the Synod Climate Strategy.

If you have any questions or would like more information please contact Jon O'Brien on 9407 3225 or joobrien@uniting.org.au

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 all affected by the covid virus and those families who are losing loved ones in the battle.
- We also pray for the front line workers e.g. doctors, nurses, ambulance workers, police and the families of front line workers too.
- We pray especially for David and Eileen and their loved ones in South Africa.
- We pray for those going through illness and complete changes in their lives.
- We pray for all of our dear congregation members who are now in aged care and feeling quite isolated because of the Covid related restrictions.

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.

Prayer Points

Wider Work

We pray for Camden Uniting Church.

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 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

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