



Parramatta
Mission



uniting
church
in Australia,
Synod of NSW & ACT

OUR NEWS
9th May 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.

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 of our congregations and give thanks that we are able once again meet together for worship, and also to have others able to be part of the service on zoom. We give thanks that various activities are gradually returning, as we are ever mindful of covid safety.
- We pray for the safety and well being of all people, and especially pray for the people of India and others there, who are being so severely effected by Covid 19. We pray for the doctors, nurses, and families separated and suffering loss of loved ones. For people all over the world in this time of stress, and danger.
- We pray for the Ministers and Staff and Management and leaders of Parramatta Mission in these times of change. We pray for insight, guidance, and dedication to serve the community and all we meet In God's name.

PM Korean Faith Community

- We pray for the Korean community in Western Sydney and for Rev Hyun 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.

Prayer Points

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 Galston 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, Robert, Coral, Rev Hyun Goo - and their families, as they support us to serve in mission.

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

Service & Zoom Information

Parramatta Mission Leigh Worship

Time: Sundays 9.30am

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5199089657>

Meeting ID: 519 908 9657

Or Dial by your location +61 2 8015 6011 Australia

Westmead Uniting Church Worship

Time: Sundays, service starts at 9.45am...

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

Westmead UC Bible Study

Time: Mondays 2pm

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

Meeting ID: 950 4369 5512

Or phone in +61 2 8015 6011 Australia

Parramatta Mission Leigh Fijian Worship

Time: Sundays 11.15am

Join Zoom Meeting <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/9134913679>

Meeting ID: 913 491 3679

FROM THE INTERIM LEAD MINISTER REFLECTION

Easter 6B

John 15: 9-17: “*You are my friends ...*”

I've loved you so long

Vladimir Korotkov

Introduction

There is a cute cartoon that came to life on the Internet after the swine flu virus emerged a few years ago with the caption:

“As the two friends wandered through the snow on their way home, Piglet grinned to himself, thinking how lucky he was to have a best friend like Pooh bear. Pooh thought to himself: “If the pig sneezes, he’s dead!”

Humorous and terribly human. Friends and family can both love and fear/hate each other, companionship lives with competition. Leo Tolstoy begins his novel *Anna Karenina* with the words: “All happy families resemble each other, but each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.” This is part of life.

Yet, the challenge here is that we can walk alongside our friends yet live at a great distance from each other. And this because each of our inner lives is inhabited by different discourse: meanings systems shaped by family, culture, socio-economic context, life experience, hopes, desires, and ... fears, and addictions. Pooh Bear gives greater power to phobia than *philos*, friendship; he is afraid that Piglet has the swine flu! The anxious mind unconsciously creates a fantasy that places the other “outside of this world” (Santner, *On the PsychoTheology of Everyday Life*, 40).

So, we walk alongside each other, but how often do we move beyond this fantasy world? We can live in parallel worlds, alongside but greatly distanced from each other. Even friendship lives at a distance.



1. **In our reading from John 15: 9-17**, John's Jesus describes his relationship with his followers as one of being "best friends". Gail O'Day in the *New Interpreter's Bible* on John writes that John uses the two Greek verbs for "love" (*agapao* and *phileo*) interchangeably ... so when Jesus speaks of friends ["*philos*"] here, he is really saying "those who are loved".

Jesus directs his followers "to abide", "to remain", that is, to maintain a mutual, interdependent relationship with each other, a communion of love. This love and friendship is like the intimate, organic relationship between the vine and the branches. It is to exist in honest recognition of each other regardless of the obstacles, fear, hatred, or competition, or any aspect of our Inner discourse that distances the other.

Yet, it seems that his followers may be engaging in the Piglet-Pooh Bear parallel-living without deep reciprocal engagement. William Loader suggests that John is addressing the issue of parallel-living for his own community:

"... a major crisis was developing within John's community which needed Jesus' instruction and his prayer - or, at least, the members needed to hear what Jesus would have prayed. The unity was not 'airy-fairy', but relational and practical. After the breakdown has occurred in these relations, we read in 1 John that such mutual love needed to express itself in real ways, in sharing material resources, in deed as well as word (1 John 3:17-18)."

2. **Friends and members of a family or community** can be distanced from each other and exist in parallel living.

In Ian McEwan's book, *On Chesil Beach*, the teenager Edward becomes distanced from his mother as result of a discourse about her mental health. His mother had been in an accident in which her skull was fractured, dislocating her personality, intelligence and memory (McEwan, 70). At the age of fourteen, his father had chosen to tell Edward that his mother was brain-damaged. This disturbed him, but explained things.

"He had never thought of her as having a condition, and at the same time had always accepted that she was different. The contradiction was now resolved by this simple naming, by the power of words to make the unseen visible. Brain-damaged. The term dissolved intimacy, it coolly measured his mother by public standard ..." (72)

One day she was a loved mother; a conversation later, she was a public category, of lesser humanity and value, a measurement of medical categorisation!

3. In the French film, *I've Loved You so Long*, Juliette Fountaine, powerfully played by Kristin Scott Thomas, is a former physician who returns to Nancy after a mysterious fifteen-year absence to live with her younger sister Léa and her husband and children. The reasons provided for her absence are only “awkward euphemisms about long trips, being ‘away’ and the most shattering admission from her long-estranged younger sister, Léa, that their parents told her ‘you no longer existed.’ (Linda Barnard, *Toronto Star*, Nov 07, 2008).



And Lea responds with great emotion to her husband’s cold and calculating demands that she talk to her sister and pressure her to find a place of her own:

“It takes time! It isn’t easy. My parents killed my sister in my mind!” Again, we witness how discourse can produce performative violence, and tear and divide the world of friends and family.

Enter McEwan’s statement, “the power of words to make the unseen visible”; for Lea, the murder of a loved other is brought to the surface through words making what was not seen visible and so, enabling Lea to test and change her parent’s standards.

“Brittle and unsure of herself, Juliette awkwardly stands to one side, sipping coffee while the family sits at the breakfast table, her status as outsider palpable. Léa is almost desperate to reconnect with her sister, inviting her to outings, dinner parties, the local pool, a weekend in the country. Slowly, tentatively she entices a wary, bitter Juliette to step back into the world, a world Juliette says she realised got along without her very well when she was gone.” (article above, Linda Barnard)

I won’t destroy this exceptional movie by telling you any more except that the writer-director Philippe Claudel has produced a moving metaphor about living beyond parallel-living, about negotiating friendship and love. Lea’s commitment to a respectful, honest, and brave relationship evidences a Christ-like person. To use psychoanalytic terms, her persistent yet respectful love and friendship intervenes into the dimension of fantasy that structures her sister’s inner world and brokenness. She is shutdown and emotionally near death. Yet Léa must also learn how she can reframe her own inner fantasy constructions, in which her parents, over 15 years, nearly destroyed her sister, so that she can become a real friend and companion. Both women are on a journey of ex-change and conversion.

4. **Paul writes, “You must speak the truth to one another** since we are all parts of one another” (Ephesians: 4:25), another way of imaging friendship. Along with this, we need to speak or discern “the truth” about ourselves and the discourse we inhabit, “the truth “that structures our identity and meaning, which can separate or unite. We avoid this inner “truth”, in fact deny it, as it contradicts what our “outward self” thinks it knows, and is very uncomfortable to encounter.

Richard Rohr, a Franciscan priest and teacher of the Enneagram, a spirituality process, writes, “your ability to accept me frees me” (Enneagram 2, 4). And again, “... community in the deepest and truest sense, [is] where people are empty enough of themselves to make room for the other, where I hold a place in my heart for the one who is not like me.”

Jesus, in our reading today, is inviting us to contemplate what it means that we are deeply connected, as a vine is to its branches, and that each branch shares a common source of life and love with other branches, as equal friends.

Yet to live as equal friends requires a ongoing cultivation process. To abide, to associate with each other as friends, to experience fruitful relationships, requires us to be like Léa: to discover what “words” hold us back from intimacy, with ourselves and with the other. To really love the other even when they push us away, ignore us, and avoid us. Yet, to do this we need to be comfortable with ourselves, to love our “self,” to face what we don’t like about ourselves. This is what cultivation is about. And prayer and therapy in all its forms is about cultivation, transformation, always for the sake of love that produces communion.

Conclusion

To conclude with the words of Bill Loader on our new equal status with Jesus, as friends, not dependent servants:

Notice also how 15:15 addresses the issue of status. It abandons the imagery of servitude in favour of friendship. While the language of serving and servitude has dominated Christian tradition, this little correction deserves more reflection. Could we say: God does not want slaves; God wants companions? It creates a different model of spirituality. Of course friendship also means letting the other be and acknowledging that otherness in its integrity and sacredness. Certainly there is no thought of ‘pocketing’ God or Jesus in a way which reduces either - a kind of power-play which makes them manageable (pocket-able and in my control). Some people either want to dominate or be dominated. The model here is different. It does not compromise the integrity or holiness of the other, but affirms companionship in such holiness.

Leigh Congregation

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!

Our deepest love, thanks & blessings for all the Leigh Memorial & Parramatta Mission Mums, grandmothers, great grandmothers and 'mother figures' this Mothers' Day, 2021. We also fondly remember the Mums and family members no longer with us and offer prayers of comfort. Following is a short poem for our dear Mums:



Mother (anon)

For all the times you gently picked me up when I fell down,
For all the times you tied my shoes and tucked me into bed,
For all the times I needed something and you put me first instead,
For everything we shared, including dreams and tears,
I love you with a special love that deepens through the years.

PASTORAL MESSAGE – PRAYERS FOR INDIA

We continue to hold PM staff and Mission/congregation leaders in our prayers as the time for many, significant changes at PM rapidly approaches, and send our thoughts to everyone who is in need of extra care and support at this time. Please contact Revs. Clive & Vladimir, or the congregation leaders, as needed and let us know if you need a pastoral visit, practical assistance, or wish to be added to the prayer list. Heartfelt prayers also for those around the world and particularly in India, who are dealing with extreme suffering associated with the pandemic. Our locations, and church communities, include many Indian families and we reach out to all those currently anxious or grieving for loved ones far away at this very challenging time. UnitingWorld are organising donations for India. Please see: <https://unitingworld.org.au/indias-corona-tsunami-devastating-for-a-church-on-the-frontlines/>

'WE WILL REMEMBER THEM'

Limited copies of this year's Heritage Committee ANZAC book – 'We Will Remember Them' – are still available (\$20 per copy). The book includes articles by Clive, Keith & Liz. Thanks to everyone who has purchased a copy so far. Please see Liz or Mario, or contact Reception: 9891-2277.

OPEN CHURCH

"Many thanks" to Jolame & the rest of the wonderful volunteers supervising 'Open Church' once again at Leigh Memorial after a long break due to the pandemic. It's great to know that our doors are now open for prayer, meditation and quiet time for staff, congregation members & members of the public between 10 – 2 on weekdays (or as covid guidelines permit). All welcome!

CONGRATULATIONS

Warmest congratulations to Rev. Alan Jackson (Parramatta Mission superintendent, 1988 – 1999), who was married last week. We wish Alan & Barbara much happiness now and into the future.

LEIGH MEMORIAL – SECURITY REMINDER

Everyone using our church and adjacent premises is requested to lock-up, turn off lights and appliances and remove rubbish when they leave. Please report any issues to Reception, 9891-2277.

REMINDER: “GROWING UP UNITING” – Uniting Church National History Society Conference: 11 – 13 June, 2021 @ the Centre for Ministry, North Parramatta. In-person & zoom and full or part-time attendance options are available. Final program pending. Tickets from eventbrite.

SAVE THE DATE: HERITAGE SUNDAY 2021

Members are asked to ‘save the date’ of Sunday 20 June this year for a Combined Parramatta Mission congregations celebration of our 200th anniversary (1821 – 2021) at Leigh Memorial & on zoom. Further details of the anniversary service and luncheon will be available soon. Guest preacher will be UCA Moderator, NSW/ACT, Rev. Simon Hansford.

Enquiries: Robert, via 9891-2277.

EPWORTH HOUSE – HISTORY

Due to the impending demolition of ‘Epworth House’ beside Leigh Memorial Church (opened 1956), a history of the building has been prepared by the PM Heritage Committee. This includes details of the building’s uses, significance to PM, and archived photos dating from the 1960s to the present (ie. big changes on Macquarie Street!). If any members would like a copy of this document emailed to them, or a hard copy, please leave a message for Liz via 9891-2277 or LeighMemorialUniting@gmail.com Please note that important heritage assets associated with the building & site in general, including the 1821 Lawry chapel stones, the original Epworth House glass sign and the old Leigh Memorial church gates, are all being safely preserved for use within a future heritage display. Many thanks to Ian & the PM property team for their assistance in facilitating this action.



FAREWELL JUNE

Our Leigh Memorial/ Parramatta Mission family is saddened to learn of the passing of **Mrs. June Squire** last week. June was part of Leigh Memorial for a significant portion of her life and a leader within our dynamic youth fellowships of the 1950s-60s under Gloster Udy and Don Hall. June and her husband, Malcolm, were also among an energetic and gifted cohort of volunteers who assisted in the conception, set-up, operation and leadership of numerous Parramatta Mission outreach ventures of the 1970s, including Life Line Parramatta, the Leigh Memorial community fetes and Hope Hostel. June, Malcolm and their daughters, were also part of the 'Midi Group' – a young families group at Leigh that was responsible for many fundraising initiatives in the era and also a considerable quantity of social consciousness raising – marching as they did under a racial reconciliation banner in a number of Parramatta Foundation Week parades. June is remembered as a kind, generous, faithful contributor and a loving wife, mother, grandmother and friend. A thanksgiving service for June was held at Wesley Uniting Castle Hill. "Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant."



Helen and I delighted Hope Hostel staff when we delivered 49 knitted rugs for the Women's Services at Thelma Brown Cottage & Kelly's Cottages. As the cooler months are upon us Angela Daynes was over the moon at the timely delivery of the rugs.

As from 1st July these services will be under the oversight of Uniting, however Uniting have expressed a strong desire to maintain connections with the congregations of Parramatta Mission.

Bearing in mind that the Key's now have limited space, I have arranged with Angela that we will be making more regular but smaller donations of rugs in the future.

So, please keep knitting the squares and contact Helen or me if you require us to pick up completed squares.

Shalom / Salaam / Peace

Robert Key



WESTMEAD CONGREGATION NEWS
SUNDAY 9TH MAY, 2021
Sharing the Hospitality of Jesus Christ
WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT WESTMEAD - 9.45 AM

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

Thank you to Rev. Clive Pearson who will lead the Worship Service at Westmead today.

COVID SAFE:

Please hand sanitise, register (Karen or Lorna), social distance, and if you are unwell, *please DO NOT attend.*

WISHING A VERY HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TODAY TO ALL MOTHERS present and Mothers past.

OPEN DOOR started back on Wednesday 5th May after 18 months. Thank you to Sue and Georgie for the opportunity to meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, to enjoy some company and play scrabble, dominoes, or just a chat, and of course, a cuppa. It was a most enjoyable afternoon. One new person joined the group and played her first ever game of scrabble. Then a nice surprise when Alysa called in for a little fellowship.

ALL WELCOME.



BIBLE STUDY on zoom each Monday afternoon at 2pm. All Welcome.
<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/9504369512>

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION ON ZOOM, led by Pastor Sarah Bishop
Tuesdays and Thursdays. Time - 6.25am
Contact Sarah for the zoom link.
Email: sarah@bluetardis.com.au
Phone: 0412 606 049
ALL WELCOME.

TAI CHI each Friday, 10-11am at Uniting, 1 Caroline Street Westmead.
Contact Jan Robson for details: 0418 438 901



WESLEY APARTMENTS: There will be a Gold Coin Collection on the first Sunday of each month to assist with providing Welcome Packs for new families arriving to stay while their children are having treatment in the Children's Hospital.

WESTMEAD LEADERS:

- Karen Banfield - Worship and Bible study 0488 101 469
- Lorna Porter - Finance and Administration 0408 365 478
- Jan Robson - Pastoral Matters & Prayer Chain 0418 438 901
- Biju Chako - 0420 275 396
- Mere Vulaono - No. 28 0488 137 067
- Alysa Biju - Technology Support 0467 674 251

Your Weekly Offering can be made electronically:

Account Name: PM DIRECT WESTMEAD BSB634634
Account Number: 100046885

시드니 조은 교회 Sydney Jo-Eun Church

20-20

부활후 여섯 번째 주일 (6th Easter of Sunday) 2021년05월09일 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 20 장 **통 41 장** 큰 영광 중에 계신 주

새 415 장 **통 471 장** 십자가 그늘 아래

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

성경 봉독 (Scripture Reading) 시편120:1-7

말씀(Preaching)- 전현구 목사 평화를 사랑하는 사람

봉헌 송(Offeratory Hymn)

새 410 장 **통 468 장** 내 맘에 한 노래 있어

나눔과 알림 (Announcement & Notices)

1. 전 세계가 전염병으로 힘들 때 주님과 동행하시는 성도가 됩시다.
2. '매일 성경' 말씀으로 주님과 교제의 시간(QT)을 갖고 격려하는 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
잠언6:20-35

새벽기도회 : 오전 5시
잠언5:1-8:21

Fijian Congregation

1. **Lotu ena sigatabu oqo 09/05** : Na lotu ena sigatabu oqo na nodra sigatabu na tinada. Era na veiliutaki tiko kina o iratou na marama. Eda na vakasigalevu vata tiko ena hall ni suka na lotu.
2. **Lotu ena sigatabu mai oqo 16/05** : Na lotu ena macawa mai oqo na veiliutaki tiko kina na matamasumasu naba tolu. Ka na qaravi talega na papitaiso nei makubui tuirara. E da na vakasigalevu vata ena hall ni suka na lotu.
3. **Lesoni ena macawa mai oqo** : Cakacaka 1:15-17, 21-26; Same. 1; 1 Joni. 5:9-15; Joni. 17:6-19
4. **Ascension Day 13/05** : Ena qarava tiko ko talatala Clive ena zoom na lotu ni nona kau cake ki loma ko Jisu. Gauna mai 7:00 – 7:20pm.
Lesoni : Cakacaka 1:1-11; Same. 47; Efeso. 115-23; Luke 24:44-55

Lolo kei Na masumasu - Veinanumi ena lolo kei na masumasu ena vei Vukelulu mai na 6am – 12pm se 6am – 6pm. Soli tu na galala ke o rawa ni qarava.

Masumasu Sema - Na noda masumasu sema vakai vavakoso ena matai ni veivakarauwai ni veivula mai na 7pm – 7am

Veinanumi ena Masu : Kerei meda veinanumi tikoga ena veimasulaki vei ira na nodatou qase Aqriu Rogoimuri, Vilikesa kei Mereoni Kamotu, S Qata, Violet Cama. Ko iratou na veiliutaki tiko ena nodatou vavakoso vaka viti kei na veivuvale kece sara ena loma ni nodatou vavakoso. Na nodrau vuli talatala ko Filikesa Kamotu kei Samu Sadrata. Na nodratou veiqaravi na Bula Feeding.

Wiliwili ni lotu: **18/04** – 48, **25/04** – 43, **02/05** – 50





THE CASE FOR A PASIFIKA THEOLOGY

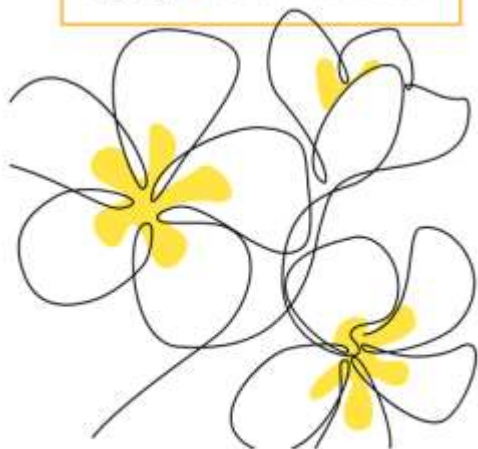
**21
MAY
2021**

**4PM FOR A
4:30PM LAUNCH**
UNITED THEOLOGICAL
COLLEGE
16 MASONS DRIVE
NORTH PARRAMATTA

You are warmly invited to celebrate the publication of this special issue of *Uniting Church Studies Journal*, and discuss the immensely important place of Pasifika communities and theologies in the UCA - past, present and future.

Register by May 17 2021 at:

tinyurl.com/pasifikatheology



Foster your faith this week

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Ps 1

1 Jn 5:9-13

Jn 17:6-19

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