

OUR NEWS

2nd October 2022

Our Vision

A Community Transforming Lives



Our Values
Grace,
Inclusion,
Dignity,
Faith and Hope

Congregational life at Westmead & Parramatta,
Hospitality Services at 175 Hotel and Wesley Apartments
Meals Plus Services providing for those in need across the
Parramatta LGA

Parramatta Mission acknowledges that all of our work takes
place on the land of traditional owners.

We pay respect to the original custodians of the land on
which we gather, and acknowledge their elders past and
present, and their emerging leaders.

Weekly Reflection

Pentecost 17C, 2022 • Luke 17. 1-10

Doing Faith

Debie Thomas

This week's Gospel reading begins with a request you might recognize: "Increase our faith!" If you're anything like me, you've made this request more than once in your life, perhaps in the blunt, insistent language the disciples use in the Gospel of Luke. "I can't function on what I've got. You haven't provided enough. Give me more!"

To be fair, in the verses preceding the lection, Jesus has just delivered some heavy-duty teaching: "Things that cause people to stumble are bound to come, but woe to anyone through whom they come." And, "Even if your brother or sister sins against you seven times in a day and seven times comes back to you saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive them."

Hardly easy stuff — no wonder the disciples cry, "More!" Given the context, I'm inclined to applaud them. After all, their request feels so earnest, so well-intentioned. They're not asking for wealth, or physical comfort, or even safety from harm. They're asking for faith. What could possibly be wrong with that?

Something, apparently, because Jesus responds with uncharacteristic annoyance. "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed," he scolds them, "you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

Worse, he launches into a slave-and-master analogy that grates on the modern ear: "Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table?' Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done.'"

I'll confess up front: I don't like Jesus in this passage. He sounds harsh and impatient. He seems to promise the impossible — a mulberry tree that bears fruit in the sea? His usual social radicalism is nowhere evident; he sounds like an endorser of slavery — one who not only accepts the institution, but relies on its obnoxious abuses of power. Finally, he tells his disciples to regard themselves as worthless, and to expect no appreciation or gratitude for their labors.

What is happening in this passage?

I can sidestep the interpretative difficulty in part by acknowledging that the lection is disjointed, not a coherent Jesus story with an arc and a context, but a cobbled-together collection of sayings that probably didn't originate together. I can also minimize my discomfort by recognizing that the passage is rife with hyperbole. Jesus isn't talking



about literal mustard seeds, oceans, mulberry trees, or slaves; he's exaggerating on purpose to make a point.

But the passage still compels me to wrestle with it, because I care about the request at its heart. "Increase our faith!" the disciples ask. "Increase my faith!" I ask in some guise or another nearly every day. And Jesus says? Well, no. He says no. Why?

Maybe the only way to answer the question is to unpack what I mean by "faith." What exactly am I asking for when I beg God to give me more faith? Sometimes, I'm asking for "the faith that moves mountains" — a supernatural ability to impress or manipulate God into doing what I want. Sometimes, I'm asking for an intellectual boost — an increased mental capacity to believe in the more challenging tenets of traditional Christianity — the Virgin Birth, the Resurrection, the Second Coming. And sometimes, I'm asking for an antidote to anxiety. God, please take away the fear I feel as I face your invisibility and your silence. Grant me certainty so I'll feel happier, holier, stronger, braver. Rewire my brain and my heart so that it becomes impossible to doubt you.

When I take a hard look at my assumptions about faith, Jesus's "no" begins to make some sense. What if faith isn't quantifiable? What if it's not an emotion? Not an idea? Not a capacity? What if faith isn't even a noun?

What if, instead, faith is engagement, orientation, action? What if faith is a daily, hourly movement into the God-saturated, God-centered vocations we were created to fulfill? What if faith is something we do? Not something we have?

Whenever I read the Gospels, I'm struck by how often and how lavishly Jesus commends the faith of those who seek him out. "Your faith has saved you," he tells the woman who anoints his feet, the Samaritan leper who returns to thank him, the hemorrhaging woman who grasps his cloak. "Your faith has made you well," he tells a blind beggar. "Such faith I have not seen in all of Israel!" he exclaims about a Roman centurion.

What is it that Jesus commends in these people? As far as I can tell, the only thing they do is turn to him. Orient themselves in his direction. Trust him. What earns his admiration is their willingness — even in difficult, painful, and potentially risky circumstances — to lean into his goodness, healing, justice, and mercy.

"If you had faith the size of a mustard seed," Jesus says to his disciples. As if to say, "You do. Don't you understand? You have faith already. This is not about proportion. I can't give you a recipe. We're not balancing chemical equations with a neutron here and two protons there. You have faith — because you have me. You've seen me and known me. What else do you lack?"

I believe the invitation in this lection is for us to go forth and live in light of what we see and know. In other words, to do faith. To do the loving, forgiving thing we consider so banal we ignore it. Why? Because the life of faith is as straightforward as a slave serving his master dinner. As ordinary as a hired worker fulfilling the terms of his contract. Faith isn't fireworks; it's not meant to dazzle. Faith is simply recognizing our tiny place in relation to God's enormous, creative love, and then filling that place with our whole lives.

Barbara Brown Taylor writes that we waste a great deal of time and energy looking for the "key to the treasure box of More." All we lack, she argues, "is the willingness to imagine that we already have everything we need. The only thing missing is our consent to be where we are."

G.K. Chesterton, in turn, suggests that "The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult and left untried." If I'm honest, I must admit that when I ask God to increase my faith, what I'm really asking for is a spiritual life that's

easy, smooth, and uncomplicated. Jesus's response to his disciples, however, suggests that faith requires rigor. It grows stronger when it's exercised, and weakens when it's idle.

In other words, Jesus doesn't sidestep the disciples' request for faith out of callousness; he sidesteps it out of wisdom and deep love. Why? Because he knows the things that make for human flourishing. He recognizes the muscular living our hearts require in order to thrive. Do faith — and faith will increase. Do faith, and the astonishing fruits of that faith will reward you.

Foster your faith this week

Lam 1:1-6

*Lam 3:19-26
or Ps 137*

2 Tim 1:1-14

Lk 17:5-10

PCUC VOTE – 23 OCTOBER

When we gather on Sunday 23 October, a special time will be allocated for the “vote” regarding the ‘Parramatta City Uniting Church’ or PCUC (ie. the provisional name for the coming together of our regional UCA congregations into ‘one’ – while still worshipping at various sites and retaining some individual programs and site-specific goals). The congregations involved in the PCUC vote are Leigh Memorial, Leigh Fijian, Westmead and Northmead and Parramatta Centenary.

The proposition to be voted upon is as follows:

It is proposed that the Leigh Fijian, Leigh Memorial, Northmead, Parramatta Centenary and Westmead congregations of the Uniting Church in Australia, having listened faithfully to one another, join together as one entity (to worship at various sites), on the basis that this is in the best interests of the mission of the Church, its worship, witness and service.

You will be asked to indicate whether you agree or disagree with this proposal. Please note that the vote will be a secret ballot. We are investigating whether voting may also take place via Zoom (further information to be provided). Uniting Church meeting procedures do not permit any form of absentee or postal voting. It is important ahead of the vote that we have our membership rolls up to date, so a process to facilitate this will be underway in coming weeks. Any questions about the PCUC may be directed to David, Fiona or Jan.

Please keep an eye on the newsletters for updates.

Leigh Memorial Congregation

WORSHIP @ LEIGH MEMORIAL

We look forward to seeing everyone at Leigh this **Sunday, 2 October @ 9.30am** (Onsite + Zoom) with **Rev John Barr**. The service will include Communion.

OCTOBER @ LEIGH

Sunday 9 October – 9.30am Worship @ Leigh (Rev John Barr)

Sunday 16 October – 9.30am Worship @ Leigh (Rev Ben Gilmour)

Sunday 23 October – 9.30am Worship @ Leigh + PCUC Vote (Rev Vladimir Korotkov)

Sunday 30 October – 9.30am Combined PCUC service & Brunch at Leigh Memorial.

PASTORAL NEWS



Our warm support remains with members who are facing health and other challenges at this time. All are firmly in our thoughts and prayers, as are grieving families within all the PCUC congregations. In other news – Jolame was seen out & about near the church last weekend and looking very well & happy – as were Revs Clive & Mary who also stopped by to say ‘hello’. This week, we also warmly congratulate Vera & Gordon Blain who are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. Vera & Gordon were married by Rev Brian Heywood at Leigh in 1962. We wish them blessings always! Please note that contact numbers for the ministry team are included in the newsletter. Congregation news, queries and requests may be conveyed via the congregation email.

PCUC VOTE – 23 OCTOBER

When we gather on Sunday 23 October, a special time will be allocated for the “vote” as to whether the congregations of Parramatta Mission will join with Northmead and Parramatta Centenary to form a new entity, provisionally called Parramatta City Uniting Church. See the detailed note elsewhere in this newsletter. Any questions about the PCUC may be directed to David or Fiona.

LEIGH MEMORIAL WORKING GROUP

Last Saturday, the Leigh Memorial Working Group met onsite to explore proposed upgrades to the Church’s interior as part of broader changes at the Macquarie Street site. The Group is comprised of members of the PCUC, inc. Leigh Memorial, and among the topics for discussion were lighting, seating, disability access, design, technology and heritage. The group has also been reviewing the Temporary Accommodation proposal for Macquarie Street. Updates will be forthcoming. Enquiries: Ian.

LIBRARY NEWS

From this Sunday until the end of 2022, we'll be trialling a new "self-serve" 'Mini Borrowing Library' in the Leigh Memorial vestibule on Sunday mornings. Those wishing to take a book home are invited to record their name & chosen book on the clipboard provided. The selection of books will include a wide range of topics chosen from the collection held in our main Library (which is currently closed). Please help by bringing borrowed books back on time. Happy reading!

NEW SIGN

Following recent demolition work around the Macquarie Street site, and the recent opening of Parramatta's new 'Phive' (Library & Community) building directly behind Leigh Memorial Church, many members of the public are discovering Leigh Memorial for the first time. As a result, the Heritage Committee has added an identifying sign to the rear wall of the Church.

THANK YOU DONORS

Warmest thanks to Mrs Edna Oakes and the people of Hazelbrook UC and the lower Blue Mountains who have, for 5 years, made very generous, annual donations of clothing, food and handmade rugs, beanies and scarves to Parramatta Mission – including another batch last weekend. Due to health



concerns, Edna and her husband George (pictured) will soon be moving to the Central West to be closer to family, so we need to say 'thank you & farewell'. Edna's dynamism has been a driving force in facilitating the Hazelbrook donations and we are deeply appreciative of her energy and commitment over a long period. NB: PM's Davyn De Bruyn visited

Hazelbrook recently to update the donors on the Mission's work and the latest at Meals Plus – and efforts will be made to continue this relationship.

GO THE MIGHTY EELS!

A special shout-out to the many, loyal and in some cases, life-long Parramatta Eels supporters in our PCUC congregations and local communities! Here's hoping for a happy result from this Sunday's NRL Grand Final...

GO THE EELS!!!



Westmead Congregation

Sharing the Hospitality of Jesus Christ

Sunday 2nd October 2022 – 9.30am – ON-SITE

Our Holy Communion service today will be led by Pastor Sarah Bishop – we look forward to meeting you again and your leadership this morning, Pastor Sarah.

Thank you, Sam for leading us in Worship last Sunday with the message of gathering our riches in the right way, that we may live an eternal life, with our Saviour God.

Westmead thanks the Vision and Strategy Group (VSAG) - David Norris, Fiona Bennetts, Ken Murray and Jan Robson for visiting us last Sunday. It was a very good question and answer time regarding our way forward as part of the Parramatta City Uniting Church group. Information was shared that will help in our Worship services since most members of Westmead were present as a group that day. We look forward to our meeting on the 23rd of October to decide on the name "PCUC" as a name describing our current Church groups joined together – your attendance will be valuable.

Bible study resumes on a new day now, Tuesdays at 2pm. Anyone can join in this interesting journey of discussion and learning.

Dates

Sat 2nd Oct – CCLM meeting 10am at Centenary Church, North Parramatta.

Sat 22nd Oct – 10am-1pm Grantham Heights Uniting Church "Building Water Wells in West Papua" – a retiring offering to building water wells will be collected. (food and drinks provided).

Sun 30th Oct – 9.30am- Combined PCUC worship at Leigh Memorial English service. (transport being arranged by Lorna).

Worship Ministry Team October.

9 Oct. - Pastor Fil Kamoto

16 Oct - Pastor Fil Kamoto

23 Oct - Rev. John Barr

ACTIVITIES YOU CAN JOIN

BIBLE STUDY: Tuesday afternoons, **2pm.** All are welcome.

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

TAI CHI: Friday at Uniting Westmead **10am-11am \$10**

Christian Meditation on Zoom led by Pastor Sarah Bishop, on Tuesdays and Thursdays at **6.20am.** Contact Sarah for Zoom Link.

Email: sarah@bluetardis.com.au **PH: 0412 606 049**

ENQUIRIES:

Chairperson: Jan Robson

0418 438 901

Administration: Lorna Porter

0408 365 478

Prayer Chain Requests: Ruth Geggie

0430 271 205

Technology: Alysa Bijou

westmead@uca.gmail.com

Newsletter: Cheryl Shyam

0432 436 999



**PARRAMATTA NEPEAN PRESBYTERY
UNITING CHURCH ADULT FELLOWSHIP**



invites you to the next gathering at

GRANTHAM HEIGHTS UNITING CHURCH

on Saturday 22nd October

from 10am to 1pm

Guest Speaker is Rebecca Andrews
from Pitt Town Uniting Church

'Building Water Wells in West Papua'

Retiring offering to Water Wells
will be collected



ALL FOOD AND DRINK PROVIDED

for specific dietary needs contact Barbara Maxwell 9636 2252

Please RSVP before 15th October to either

Gail Kalaitzis: 9670 4602 or

Kevin Harkness: 0408 218 964

Nearest railway station is Seven Hills. Let us know if needing a pick up.

COVID SAFE RULES APPLY. PLEASE REMAIN AT HOME IF YOU ARE UNWELL.



GRANTHAM HEIGHTS UNITING CHURCH

cnr Mackenzie Boulevard

& Nipigon Road SEVEN HILLS

Leigh Fijian Congregation

1. Lotu ena macawa oqo 02/10: Na lotu vula vou ena sigatabu oqo, ka na qaravi tiko kina na sakaramede ni Turaga. Tuvakarau ena vunau Viliame Kamotu kei Taito Dovibua. Tu vakarau ena veiliutaki soqosoqo ni tabagone.

2. Lotu ena macawa mai oqo 09/10: Na lotu ena macawa mai erau na vunau tiko kina ko Viliame Kamotu kei Taito Dovibua. Tu vakarau ena vunau Emosi Rogoimuri kei Josefa Foiakau. Tu vakarau ena veiliutaki matamasumasu naba 1.

3. Lesoni ni macawa oqo: 26/09 – 02/10: Lele I Jeremaia 1:1-6, 3:19-26 Same 137 2 Timoci 1:1-14 Luke 17:5-1

4. Lesoni ni macawa mai oqo: 03/10 - 09/10: Jeremaia 29:1,4-7 Same 66:1-12 2 Timoci 2:8-15 Luke 17:11-19

5. Sa vakanuinui vinaka tu na lotu vakaviti e Parramatta vei kemudou na mata kei kemudou na veitokoni ena lakolako ni koniferedi ki Darwin. Ni na laki qaravi vakavinaka nai tavi do sa kacivi kina.

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

Veinanumi ena Masu : Kerei meda veinanumi tikoga ena veimasulaki vei ira na nodatou qase kei na vuvale ra sotava tiko na dredre ko Mereoni Kamotu, S Qata, Akisi Dovibua Baranski, Dia Allison Lotawa Family Satala Family Tuiloma Family. Ko ratou na veiliutaki tiko ena nodatou vavakoso vaka viti kei na veivuvale kece sara ena loma ni nodatou vavakoso. Na nodratou vei qaravi na Bula Feeding.

Gadrevi na noda veinanumi ena masu vei ira na lewe ni vavakoso era mai sasaga kei na nanumi talega ni nodra vuvale mai Viti.

시드니 조은 교회 Sydney Jo-Eun Church

21-40

성령강림 후 17주일 (17th Pentecost Sunday) 2022년 10월02일 오후 1시30분

개회 찬송 (Entrance Hymn) 예배를 위한 묵상

예배의 부름 (Calling) 인도자

송영 (Gloria) **새 3장** **통 2장** 성부 성자와 성령 다함께

사도신경 신앙고백 (The Apostle's Creed) 다함께

찬양/찬송 (Chorus & Hymns) 다함께

새 28장 **통 28장** 복에 근원 강림하사

새 250장 **통 182장** 구주의 십자가 보혈로

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

성경 봉독 (Scripture Reading) **민수기 24:1-9**

말씀(Preaching)- 전현구 목사 누가 보는 자인가?

봉헌 송(Offertory Hymn) **새 285장** **통 209장** 주의 말씀 받은 그날

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) **새 501장** **통 255장** 너 시온아 이소식 전파하라 (1절)

축도 전현구 담임목사

QT나눔 & 성경공부
오후 4:00

수요기도회 : 오후 7시
사무엘하 11:14-27

새벽기도회 : 오전 5시
삼하10:1-13:22

Faiths 4 Climate Justice 2022 Multi-faith service

St Patrick's Cathedral
1 Marist Pl, Parramatta
Thursday 13 October 9.30am



This multi-faith service supports the launch of an open letter, signed by senior faith leaders, that calls on the PM to limit coal and gas mining.

We invite people of all faiths or none to join us in solidarity with Pacific and First Nations peoples in their struggle for climate justice.



ARRCC

Answer calling Religious Response to Climate Change

Scan the QR
code for more info



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September, Meals
Plus asks for
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canned Spaghetti!

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FOOD**

Donate Now!



(02) 9891 2277



119 Macquarie St, Parramatta NSW 2150

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

- For those that are facing a recent loss of a loved one – Lord, grant Your love and gentle warmth to envelop them.
- For those caught in war, especially Ukraine – Lord we ask that you be present with those faced with joining in the war, those that are in and those that witness it daily – Lord have mercy- May there be peace.
- For those that are unwell in body or mind – Lord relieve them of their physical health conditions and pain. Allay anxiety and despair- provide support, strength, and courage.
- For those sleeping rough – Lord we ask that You provide a home for these and a safe haven.
- For those in East Africa and other regions experiencing extreme climatic events – Lord provide aid to be freed for them and distributed.
- For our Earth and Climate Change – Lord have mercy on us and teach us how to look after our resources. Help us to preserve our Earth and safeguard us from severe Climatic events.

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.

PM Korean Faith Community

- We pray for the Korean community in Western Sydney and for the revival of the church.
- We pray especially for Nak Su Baik, Kyeong Ok Hyeon (Those who are not in good health).

Prayer Points

PM Leigh Memorial

- We pray for congregation members, leaders and staff who are unwell, or having tests or procedures, and those experiencing anxiety surrounding work, study, family life or health. We particularly remember our members in need of additional support at this time, including those who are separated from their families or grieving. We also remember those within our congregations who are devoted carers to others in their family or within the community;
- We pray for wisdom and inspiration to infuse all current and forthcoming decision-making processes and actions by our dedicated ministers, leaders, managers and staff – and specifically pray for Paul and the team at Meals Plus, Cameron and his team at Westmead, the Bula Feeding ministry, and the life and witness of our fellow Parramatta Mission & Parramatta City Uniting Church congregations;
- We also pray for greater mutual respect, compassion and care within our local communities, and for the realisation of a community-wide spirit of inclusion and love for all people.

Wider Work

For our Combined Parramatta Mission Team

- May God guide all our staff and volunteers to live out our values of grace, inclusion, dignity, faith and hope;
- Rev. Vladimir, Rev. Hyun Goo, Chaplain Sarah, PMC Chairperson, David and Secretary Robert and all those who lead and serve.

Service & Zoom Information

Leigh Memorial Congregation

Time: Sunday 9.30am on site & Zoom

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

Meeting ID: 519 908 9657

Westmead Congregation

Time: Sunday 9.30am on site

Leigh Fijian Congregation

Time: Sundays 11.15am on site

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 2277

IN TIME OF PASTORAL NEED

Please contact our minister Vladimir Korotkov for any pastoral needs.

Rev Vladimir Korotkov (Transition Minister)	0431 759 573
Rev John Barr	0457 879 099
Pastor Fil Kamotu	0404 552 915

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



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