

OUR NEWS

18th December 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
Advent 4A, 2022
Matthew 1: 18-25

Bill Loader



Remaining at the level of ordinary experience, Joseph finds Mary is pregnant and he is not the father. Swirling around behind the text are cultural and moral values. She must have committed adultery is his conclusion. She is no longer a virgin which makes her 'less valuable'. She is pregnant with someone else's child. That is a disaster in families of the ancient world where keeping the family intact was vital and where inheritance was endangered by children born of men outside the extended family.

Virginity was worth a high price, monetarily.

Nothing like it applied to males. Women were at worst a commodity. Joseph had been cheated by another male. The whirl of values carries with it assumptions which we rightly question today, as we question what the real issues are with rape. The value of a woman is not her virginity but her being a person. If there is wrongdoing it is not just men who are wronged.

Swirling around behind the text are cultural and moral values ... The value of a woman is ... her being a person.

For Matthew Joseph is a model. He is 'righteous' (1:19). For Matthew that means Joseph will choose the less demeaning option: not public humiliation, but private divorce. Adultery required divorce; it was not an option. This was also true in cultures beyond Judaism. Here, too, we have come a long way. We have been learning about the possibilities of reconciliation. We have also learned that it is madness to make sexual intercourse so central; attitudes are just as significant, as Jesus, himself, taught.

Read in its world the drama does not end with divorce but a divine intervention. God created the pregnancy. This does not assume intercourse, but it does assume a botanical understanding of reproduction according to which the 'seed' has to be planted in the woman who is like the garden in whom the seed grows until birth. The quality of the soil contributes to the product; people also saw likenesses in those days between mother and child, but the person was in the seed and that was male.

In the wonder at what Jesus became Matthew's community has merged memories of divine interventions in the Old Testament to enable sterile woman to become pregnant with popular stories of miraculous pregnancies to offer another explanation of how Jesus, born of Mary, could become who he became and without slurring Mary. It is a wonderful story of a conception created by God, developed to celebrate a concept: God was in Christ. Some will sustain belief in the story; others will read its fabulous

assertions with a faith that affirms its intentions while not espousing the botanical biology.

Using one of those Old Testament prophetic passages which may already have graced the story, Matthew overlays the story with a popular etymology of Jesus' name. He comes to save his people from their sins and the consequences which sins bring. The disaster of 70 CE, the destruction of the temple, illustrates the failure of that aim with

The birth narratives are not really about the baby Jesus; they are about the Jesus whom we see in ministry and crucified under the banner 'King of the Jews'.

many of his people, according to Matthew. But some did respond. Matthew's community treasured Isaiah 7:14. Unlike the Hebrew, the Greek unambiguously speaks of a virgin and her child as Emmanuel. Originally a promise that Judah would gain relief from the impending threat from the alliance of northern Israel and Syria through the march of the Assyrians, the verse, excised from that context,

becomes a promise of God's presence to bring deliverance in any age and linked with the Mary story fits Jesus well. In Jesus' ministry God is with us! That is the point of the tapestry of allusions here and in what follows in chapter 2.

The Christmas stories always need connecting with the grown up Jesus if they are not to be sentimentalised. Don't put tinsel around the cross at Christmas. The magic of angels and the virginal conception are the embellishments to enable us to celebrate that life of compassion and self giving. In their own way they give us the radical message of inclusiveness: of the women, of the Gentiles, of the sexually suspected, of the pregnant girl. They lay before us the violence which grace confronts: the all maleness, the righteous Law observance, the willingness to abandon the pregnant girl, the murderous ruler, the slaughtered children, the aspiration to kill 'the king of the Jews'. We have to work hard to keep it all from being reduced to jingles to promote shopping sprees or being perpetuated as just a bit more Christian naivety in a world where the same geography and the same issues exist.

Foster your faith this week

Is 7:10-16

Ps 80:1-7, 17-19

Rom 1:1-7

Mt 1:18-25

Leigh Memorial Congregation

WORSHIP @ LEIGH MEMORIAL

We look forward to seeing you onsite or via Zoom **this Sunday, 18 December @ 9.30am**. During worship, we'll enjoy carols and readings – and the fourth Advent candle will be lit. The fourth candle represents PEACE and is often called the "Angels' Candle." It is purple to represent love & peace through Christ. Following our worship time together, we'll also be enjoying an end-of-year morning tea and everyone is invited to bring a plate of festive food to share. During morning tea time, there will also be an opportunity to write an encouraging Christmas message on one of the Mission's cardboard 'plates' for someone accessing Meals Plus in the lead up to Christmas.

JOIN US ON CHRISTMAS DAY!

Our Christmas Day service at Leigh Memorial will commence at 9.00am (onsite + Zoom). We'll be combining with Leigh Fijian and having a very special morning together. *All welcome!*

PASTORAL MESSAGE – THANK YOU & HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

As 2022 gradually draws to a close, we express our warmest thanks to all our supportive Leigh Memorial attendees, and everyone throughout the PCUC for their community & friendship during this busy, landmark year. Thanks also to the ministry team, our reps on Mission Council, VSAG & the CCLM, plus the Leigh Memorial worship team and our tech and morning tea crews. Your kind support, skills & service throughout the year have been deeply appreciated. Our prayers also remain with members who are unwell and needing additional support at this time, and we wish those who worship with us from home a very happy Christmas & New Year! Please note that the Mission office & Meals Plus will be closed on the public holidays: 26 & 27 December and 2 January. Regular worship at Leigh will continue throughout January. Updates regarding the PCUC will be forthcoming.

THANK YOU – “GIVING TREE” @ LEIGH

This Sunday is the final morning of the 2022 Giving Tree. Thank you to everyone who has made a contribution!

“OPEN CHURCH” @ LEIGH ON 23 DECEMBER

This year, as part of Parramatta Mission's Community Christmas Lunch on Friday 23 December – Leigh Memorial Church will also be open to the public between approx. 11.00am and 3.00 pm, offering a contemplative space amid the hustle & bustle of Christmas. We'll also provide a craft/reading corner and some cool refreshments. Congregation helpers are needed to supervise the church, plus provide a friendly welcome for visitors – so if you'd like to help, even just for an hour (or simply drop by & be part of the experience), please see Liz or contact: LeighMemorialUniting@gmail.com

DECEMBER & JANUARY PROGRAM

18 December – 6.00pm: ‘Jazz on Hammers’ Christmas celebration at Northmead Uniting, inc. Carols and a BBQ. No rsvps are required.

23 December – Community Christmas Lunch @ Parramatta Mission

24 December – 7.30pm – PCUC Christmas Eve service @ Centenary Uniting

25 December – PCUC Christmas Day services: 8.00am (Northmead) or 9.00am (Leigh Memorial)

1 January – New Year’s Day service: 9.30am @ Leigh with Rev Vladimir (inc. Communion)

8 January – 9.30am @ Leigh with Rev John

15 January – 9.30am @ Leigh with Pastor Fil

22 January – 9.30am @ Leigh with Rev John

26 January – Parramatta Mission Australia Day Balloons fundraiser

29 January – PCUC Combined Service (location to be advised)

MINI BORROWING LIBRARY

Would you like to do some good holiday/summer reading? Check the Mini Borrowing Library box in the Leigh Memorial vestibule. Just choose your book, record your name & happy reading!

THANK YOU PCUC CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEERS!

“Many thanks” to everyone from our Leigh Memorial, Leigh Fijian, Westmead & Northmead-Centenary sites who have volunteered for the 2022 Parramatta Mission Community Christmas Lunch – and to all those who have supported the Mission’s services and fundraising in other ways throughout the year. It’s greatly valued, and the dedicated team at PM send along their warmest appreciation and Christmas blessings. If anyone would like to ‘Donate-a-Plate’ of food to a vulnerable person or family this Christmas, please check the link:

<https://www.parramattamission.org.au/donateaplate/>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: AUSTRALIA DAY BALLOONS FUNDRAISER

Hot air balloons (tethered) will be back at Parramatta Park on the morning of **Australia Day, 26 January 2023** as part of Parramatta Council’s public holiday festival. Members of the public will be invited to buy tickets for a ‘ride’ in one of the balloons. Parramatta Mission volunteers will be looking after ticketing on the day - with the Mission receiving a portion of the ticket proceeds as a donation. The event commences around dawn and the time commitment is approx. 2 - 3 hours. (NB: exact times & other details will be supplied). ** If you are able to come along as a volunteer - please contact the event coordinators (details below). Many thanks!



Chao Zhou: Chao.Zhou@parramattamission.org.au

Jenny Fuda: jenny.fuda@parramattamission.org.au

Westmead Congregation

Sharing the Hospitality of Jesus Christ

Sunday 18th December 2022 – 9.30am

This week's worship will be led by Pastor Fil – we all look forward to your leadership and having you amongst us.

We thank Pastor Fil Kamotu for presenting to us that the real message Jesus was sending out about “seeing” the prophet John the Baptist in the wilderness was not to see what he did and how he appeared, but rather for people to concentrate on their inner relationship with God. We are to build our relationship with Him, rather than be swayed by outward occurrences. Thank you, Pastor Fil.

At this time we are holding up Bev Beaman and Karen Banfield in our prayers. We also pray for those who are going through illness and a difficult time especially over this Christmas season. We pray for God's blessings to be upon you, upholding you.

There was a lovely annual Christmas lunch organized by Eileen for the Bible group that meets weekly, on Tuesday 13th. The group met at the church and had a small reflection and then various fun activities. It was a great time of fellowship with like minded people. Thank you for your beautiful effort Eileen in preparing your tasty Christmas cake and organizing the festivities. We look forward to a new session of Bible studies in the new year!



Bible Study Christmas Fellowship at Westmead Church 13-12-22

ADVENT GIVING

Christmas Bowl 2022

The 'Act for Peace' Christmas Bowl envelopes are now available in the Westmead church foyer.

If you prefer, the web link is: <https://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au/>

World Vision charitable gifts: catalogue available

Women's Refuge: leave a children's Christmas gift under Westmead church Christmas tree to suit a child aged between baby and 10 years. Gift needs to be labelled boy or girl, plus age suitability.

Donations will be received until Sunday, 18 December. These gifts will be delivered to the Women's Refuge on the 20th December.

ADVENT ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

Friday 23rd December – Meals Plus Christmas Day Community Lunch, 11am – 2.00pm

The 'Act for Peace' Christmas Bowl envelopes are now available in the Westmead church foyer.

If you prefer, the web link is: <https://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au/>

World Vision charitable gifts: catalogue available

Women's Refuge: leave a children's Christmas gift under Westmead church Christmas tree to suit a child aged between baby and 10 years. Gift needs to be labelled boy or girl, plus age suitability.



Sunday, 18th December, 6.30pm – 'Jazz on Hammers' Christmas Celebration (incl. carols & BBQ) at Northmead Uniting Church.

Saturday 24 December, 7.30pm – Christmas Eve Carol Service at Centenary Uniting Church, North Parramatta.

THERE WILL NOT BE A CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE HELD AT WESTMEAD ON 25TH DECEMBER

Sunday, 25 December – Christmas Day

PCUC CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SERVICES WILL BE HELD ON SITE

AT :

NORTHMEAD UNITING CHURCH SERVICE - 8.00am

LEIGH MEMORIAL CHURCH, PARRAMATTA - 9.00am &

also available via Zoom link: <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5199089657>

ACTIVITIES YOU CAN JOIN

TAI CHI: 10am - 11am, Friday group meeting at Uniting Westmead - \$10 per session.
Friday, 16 December, will be the last meeting day of this group for 2022.
Tai Chi will recommence on Friday, 27 January 2023.

BIBLE STUDY: Bible Study is now in recess and is planning to recommence in February.
It has been decided to revert back to Mondays, usual time, 2pm – date to be confirmed.

ENQUIRIES:

Chairperson:	Jan Robson:	0418 438 901
Administration & Liturgy Co-ordinator:	Lorna Porter:	0408 365 478
Prayer Chain Requests:	Ruth Geggie:	0430 271 205
Newsletter	Cheryl Shyam:	0432 436 999
Technology:	Alysa Biju:	E-mail: westmead.uca@gmail.com



Parramatta City Uniting Church

ADVENT 2022

Special Events – All welcome!



Friday 25 November

6.30pm: Christmas Carols & Sausage Sizzle – The Hills School, Mary St; Northmead

Thursday 8 December

6.00pm: 'Service of Solace' – Uniting Retirement Village/Aged Care, Caroline St; Westmead

Sunday 18 December

6.00pm: 'Jazz on Hammers' Christmas Celebration (inc. Carols & BBQ)
@ Northmead Uniting Church

Friday 23 December

11.00am – 2.00pm: Community Christmas Lunch & 'Open Church'
@ Parramatta Mission

Saturday 24 December

7.30pm: Christmas Eve Carols Service – Centenary Uniting Church

Christmas Day services

8.00am: Northmead Uniting Church

9.00am: Leigh Memorial Uniting Church

(Onsite + Zoom: <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5199089657>)

PCUC Sites:

Centenary Uniting Church – 46 Sorrell Street, North Parramatta

Northmead Uniting Church – 3-7 Hammers Road, Northmead

nucchurch@bigpond.net.au / 9890-5814

Leigh Memorial Uniting Church & Parramatta Mission – 119 Macquarie Street, Parramatta

Westmead Uniting Church – Cnr Queens & Hawkesbury Rds; Westmead

LeighMemorialUniting@gmail.com / <https://www.parramattamission.org.au/> 9891-2277.



**Parramatta
Mission**



**uniting
church**
U. AUSTRALIA
Sydney & NSW & ACT

Leigh Fijian Congregation



대림절 네 번째 주일 (4th Advent of Sunday) 2022년 12월 18일 오후 1시30분

개회 찬송 (Entrance Hymn) 예배를 위한 묵상

예배의 부름 (Calling) 인도자

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

사도신경 신앙고백 (The Apostle's Creed) 다함께

찬양/찬송 (Chorus & Hymns) 다함께

새 126 장 **통 126 장** 천사 찬송하기를

새 250 장 **통 182 장** 구주의 십자가 보혈로

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

성경 봉독 (Scripture Reading) **누가복음 1:34-38**

말씀(Preaching)- 전현구 목사 **주의 길을 예비하라**

봉헌 송(Offeratory Hymn)

새 112 장 **통 112 장** 그 밝고 환한 밤중에

나눔과 알림 (Announcement & Notices)

1. 전 세계가 권염병으로 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 501 장 **통 255 장** 너 시온아 이소식 전파하라 (1절)

축도 전현구 담임목사

QT나눔 & 성경공부
오후 4:00

수요기도회 : 오후 7시
요한일서 2:12-29

새벽기도회 : 오전 5시
요한일서 1:1-4:10

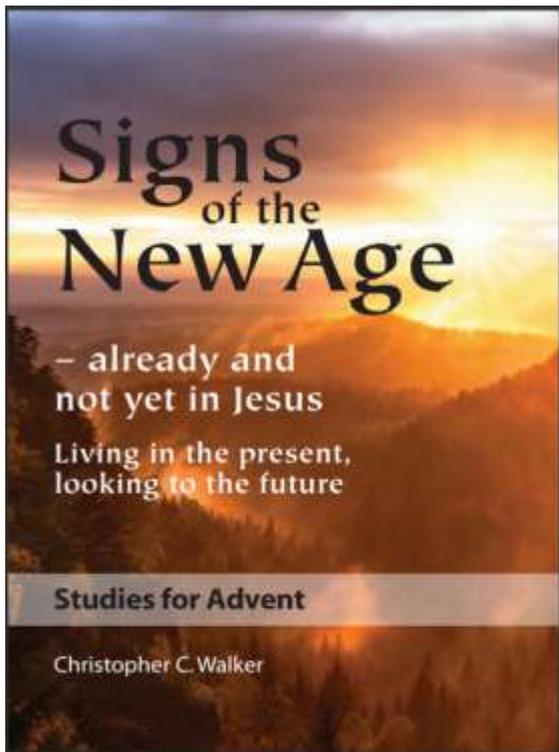
Advent Study

As you prepare for Advent, there is a new resource and study:

Chris Walker's new Advent Study *Signs of the New Age - already and not yet in Jesus* is now available. It includes not only considering the lectionary readings but includes stories, quotes and prayers. It is selling for \$11.95 by MediaCom.

You can obtain it from: mediacomeducation.org.au He will be conducting it from 7.30 - 9.00pm on 21, 28 November and 5, 12 December at Auburn. The Zoom link is:

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/93347342432> for those who would like to join by Zoom.



HUMANITY STARTS WITH CHARITY

MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



For the month of
November, Meals
Plus asks for
TOILETRIES

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(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 in the congregation and others known to us undergoing medical For those who are unwell at hospital or at home. For those who are now facing the end of their journey here – Lord we uphold all these dear people to You for your care and love to shine upon them.
- For the families of those whose lives have been cut short in the line of duty recently in Queensland – May we learn to be grateful for the love and care shown by these people who were doing their work. Lord, we ask for Your divine support for their family and friends right now.
- For doctors, nurses, health care workers and the police as they work throughout the Christmas season holding responsible positions – May You lead and guide in accordance with Your will. Bestow Your blessings upon these.
- For Your church, aid work and support agencies as they continue to spread Your goodwill.
- For those that are homeless, abused, neglected, those in financial hardship- Lord may Your love and protection be around them. Let a change of circumstances occur for the better for them.

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



Parramatta Mission



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