

OUR NEWS

1st January 2023

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
CHRISTMAS 1 A, 2023
Matthew 2: 13-23

John Petty

For Matthew, Jesus is the "new Moses." It is not surprising, therefore, that certain thematic elements from the life of Moses would be "replayed" in the life of Jesus. As noted earlier, Matthew likes groupings of five. The number five is symbolic of the five books of Moses.

In Matthew's Christmas story (chapters 1-2), for example, there are five dreams. Three of them are in this text. In the third dream, an angel of the Lord "appeared." The word is *phanetai*, which means "brought forth into light." (It is the root that forms the word for "epiphany.")

Joseph is instructed to take the family and flee to Egypt, which is a traditional place of refuge. (Uriah fled to Egypt in Jeremiah 26: 21.) They must flee to Egypt because Herod wants to "destroy" Jesus. This recalls Pharaoh, "who sought to slay Moses" (Ex 2: 15).

There are also five Old Testament citations in Matthew 1-2. Again, three of them are in this text. ...

Just as Pharaoh commanded the murder of male children in the day of Moses, so Herod commands the murder of male children in the day of Jesus. In his history of the period, Josephus [the Jewish historian, writing around 70AD] says nothing about this slaughter of Herod's, although Herod was certainly capable of this kind of thing. When he came to power, appointed by rare agreement between Octavian and Mark Antony in 37 BC, Herod murdered the entire Sanhedrin. ...

Herod knew that he would not be mourned when he died so he ordered that dozens of executions take place right before his death so that there would at least be mourners in the city. The order, fortunately for three hundred or so of Jerusalem's citizens, was not carried out. Matthew's purpose is to lift up this truth about Herod, that he was a power-mad murderer, and associate him in peoples' minds with Pharaoh.

Herod wanted to kill all the male babies "in and around Bethlehem." Bethlehem itself was a relatively small town. There would be only a few male babies there. If you include "in and around Bethlehem," however, then we may be talking about Jerusalem as well since it is only about five miles from Bethlehem. The idea of killing all the male children under two years of age, in the whole region, is a way of saying that human escape from the situation was not possible.

Incidentally, this episode ought to give pause to those people who argue that Jesus' main purpose was to die on the cross. If all Jesus was here for was to die, then it wouldn't have mattered if Herod had, in fact, killed him as an infant. If all he's here for is to die, what difference does it make how old he was when it happened?



...

Notice that, unlike other Old Testament citations in Matthew, the murders themselves do not fulfill God's intention. (Matthew lacks the "in order that" clause which he normally uses in these cases.) The murders affirm what had already been spoken by the prophets, but do not have God's endorsement.

Herod died in 4 BC. His son, Archelaus, inherited his rule of Judea, Samaria, and Idumea, and lasted until AD 6 when the Romans threw Archelaus overboard and installed Quirinius. (His father's son, Archelaus promptly killed 3000 Jewish leaders when he came to power.)

As to the dream itself, Matthew most likely has in mind Exodus 4: 19 where God instructs Moses to go back to Egypt "for all those who are seeking your life are dead." ...

Matthew vaguely cites "the prophets" as saying that "he will be called a Nazarene." He couldn't specify a particular prophet since none had ever spoken of Nazareth. In fact, the word "Nazareth" does not appear in the Old Testament at all. Matthew made this one up because, somehow, he had to get Jesus to Nazareth since everybody knew that Jesus was, in fact, from Nazareth.

Matthew presents the birth of Jesus as a recapitulation of the history of Israel. He survives assassination, as did Moses. He goes to Egypt, as his people once did, and comes out again, as his people also did. He is afflicted by Herod, as Moses was afflicted by Pharaoh. Rachel, the mother of the nation, is his mother too. Thus, he is a fitting "Messiah," one who encapsulates the history of his people, and one who will lead them into a new relationship with God, with each other, and even with their enemies.

http://www.progressiveinvolvement.com/progressive_involvement/2010/12/lectinary-blogging-matthew-2-13-23.html

Foster your faith this week

Is 63:7-9

Ps 148

Heb 2:10-18

Jn 2:13-23

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

2023

A NEW YEAR POEM

When the carols have been stilled...when the star-topped tree is taken down...
when family and friends are gone home...when we are back to our schedules,
the work of Christmas begins: *To welcome the refugee, to heal a broken planet,
to feed the hungry, to build bridges of trust, not walls of fear, to share our gifts,
to seek justice and peace for all people, to bring Christ's light to the world.* (©
'When the Work of Christmas Begins' by Michael Dougherty, a variation on H.
Thurman's 'When the Song of the Angels is Stilled').



Rev John's knitted Nativity figures – Leigh Memorial, Christmas morning.

NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP @ LEIGH MEMORIAL

We look forward to seeing you **onsite or via Zoom this Sunday, 1 January – New Year's Day, 2023 @ Leigh Memorial Church** – commencing at the regular time of 9.30am. *All welcome!*

WORSHIP, JANUARY 2023

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

8 January – 10.00am @ Leigh with Rev John (combined with Leigh Fijian)

15 January – 10.00am @ Leigh with Pastor Fil (combined with Leigh Fijian)

22 January – 9.30am @ Leigh with Rev John

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: AUSTRALIA DAY BALLOONS FUNDRAISER

If anyone is able to volunteer for the Mission's Hot Air Balloons fundraiser at Parramatta Park (early morning) on Australia Day – please have a chat to Robert Key or register directly with Jenny Fuda:

jenny.fuda@parramattamission.org.au

SYMPATHIES

We are saddened to learn of the passing, just before Christmas, of Mr George Oakes of Woodford, aged 88. George was the husband of Edna Oakes, daughter of Rev Arthur Brawn & Mrs Jean Brawn, who were missionaries in Papua New Guinea and great friends and supporters of Dr Gloster Udy and Parramatta Mission in the late 20th century. George was a missionary in PNG too, and a generous, well-read and benevolent contributor to the UCA throughout his life. George's autobiography, *Return to Papua New Guinea* (2020) is a treasured part of Leigh Memorial's special books collection.



**PM COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LUNCH, 23 DECEMBER:
A DAY OF GRACE, INCLUSION, DIGNITY, FAITH & HOPE**
*Thank you to everyone who supported this event in prayerful
& practical ways.*









Westmead Congregation

Sharing the Hospitality of Jesus Christ

Sunday 1st January 2023, New Year's Day – 09.30am On-site

Pastor Sarah will lead us this Holy Communion Sunday, the first service of the year. A warm welcome to you, Sarah.

The festivities and the warmth of the Christmas season is still present as we are reminded that our Saviour Jesus is forever with us and will meet us right where we are in our lives today.

As we gather, we wish everyone a



A New Year Foretold

This New Year has been foretold.
Your future is at hand.
God knows the fate and outcome
of each and every man.

God has chosen the narrow road.
His wisdom is leading the way.
His great strength can carry your load.
His compassion you will feel every day.

With a new dawn over the horizon,
and the Lord to lead the way,
you can spread your wings like an eagle
and soar through every day.

Copyright: Debra L. Brown

DATES:

Thursday, 26th January 2023 - **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**
AUSTRALIA DAY BALLOONS FUNDRAISER

If anyone is able to volunteer for the Mission's Hot Air Balloons fundraiser at Parramatta Park on Australia Day – please have a chat to Robert Key or register directly with Jenny Fuda: jenny.fuda@parramattamission.org.au

Sunday 29th January 2023 - Combined PCUC service (Date TBA).

ACTIVITIES YOU CAN JOIN

BIBLE STUDY: In Recess till February 2023, date TBC . All are welcome.

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

TAI CHI: In Recess and will recommence on Friday 27th January 2023.
10am - 11am, Friday at Uniting Westmead - \$10 per session.

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 &

Technology: Cheryl Shyam: 0432 436 999

Technology: Alysa Biju: E-mail: westmead.uca@gmail.com



주현절 제1 주례 (1st Epiphany of Sunday) 2023년 01월 01일 오후 1시30분

개회 찬송 (Entrance Hymn) 예배를 위한 묵상

예배의 부름 (Calling) 인도자

송영 (Gloria) **새 1장** **통 1장** 만복의 근원 하나님——다함께

사도신경 신앙고백 (The Apostle's Creed) 다함께

찬양/찬송 (Chorus & Hymns) 다함께

새 550 장 **통 248 장** 시온의 영광이 빛나는 아침

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

성경 봉독 (Scripture Reading) **마가복음 1:9-15**

말씀(Preaching)- 전현구 목사 내가 너를 좋아 한다

봉헌 송(Offertory Hymn)
새 551 장 **통 296 장** 오늘까지 복과 은혜

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 하나님이 기뻐하시는 삶을 사는 성도님들이 되시기 바랍니다.

폐회찬송(Final Hymn) **새502장** **통 259장** 너 시온아 이소식 전파하라 (1절)

축도 전현구 담임목사

QT나눔 & 성경공부
오후 4:00

수요기도회 : 오후 7시
민수기 3:14-39

새벽기도회 : 오전 6시
민수기 2:1-4:49

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 uphold those who need healing at this time. Especially Lord watch over those and grant peace and ease from suffering for those nearing the end of their life's journey here on earth.
- For peace in war zones in the world and climate restoration efforts to be worked towards continually in the New Year.
- For those struggling with crises of homelessness, hunger, poverty, lack of drinking water and essential medicines – we pray for Your help in these areas of need. May aid become fully available.
- For Your Church to grow not just in a building but outside with neighbourly love.
- For those experiencing mental health issues - Lord we pray for Your love and Holy Spirit to encourage and guide them.
- For the downhearted, grief stricken, or lonely people – Let the warmth of Your love envelop and ease discomfort in these Your beloved.

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



@parramission



Parramatta Mission

Visit our website and blog www.parramattamission.org.au