

OUR NEWS

19th February 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 Epiphany 7A, 2023, Matthew 5.37-48

Vladimir Korotkov

*Love your enemies
Do good to those who hate you.*

*You shall love your crooked neighbour
With your crooked heart.*

1. "Love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you."

This is a challenging instruction. And the church has not really understood what Jesus is teaching. It requires us to deal with ourselves first; we don't do this well.

The Greek word for enemy in our text is *echthros*, which literally means, "hated". Is Jesus saying, love those whom you hate, do good to those who hate you?

Crucial to this teaching is to create an honest, courageous and reflective relationship with our own powerful feelings of dislike or hate, and what we feel when others dislike and hate us! As William Loader implies this when he writes:

Many people get a buzz out of hate and find solidarity (communion) in hating common enemies. It can shape national and ethnic identities, as it can denominations, and ideological and theological movements. To live with all people with respect, accepting the need for difficult negotiations and for courageous conflict resolution is demanding. Short-cuts through complexity do violence not only to the truth but also to people.

Yes, as Loader reminds us, it is easier to express strong, aggressive feelings about others we do not like or who have harmed or upset us, than to step outside the overwhelming emotions and create a dialogical, reflective relationship with the complexity, humbly discerning our part in the violence, even through remaining passive.

We are to always create unexpected, transforming relationships with difference. We are to live with the compassion of God, and this means respecting others, living with integrity and truth, creating equal, dialogical relationships, even if we don't like them or agree with them.

The Greek word for enemy in our text is *echthros*, literally means, "hated". It is intricate because we are implicated with and construct the enemy at an intellectual, feeling, sensate and imaginative level. This meaning implicates both parties; ourselves and the enemy, the one who hates me/us and the one I/we hate in retaliation. Stated in another way we are entangled with the enemy.

Jesus reminds us that we can hide behind God's laws and principles. We can make our statements of faith, that we will love our neighbour! Yet they remain empty words unless we truthfully acknowledge and reconnect with the last person or group that we were angry with, that we avoided, that we had an argument with, or hated, or disliked, that we did not love! That is an impossible possibility!

The impossible possibility! Many debates have raged about how to interpret this teaching, especially the conclusion, that we be perfect as God is perfect! Is this a



utopian ideal? Rules for leaders? At times the church has used them a legalistic measure of behaviour, producing guilt, shame and frustration. But as William Loader reminds us, this is not the intention of Matthew's Sermon on the Mount:

"Perfect" is not flawless, unstained purity, but integrity and truth. For the young man, later in 19:21, where Matthew introduces "perfect" again, it means ... grown-up, mature faith which shows itself in a deep commitment to the poor. The same word means "perfect" and "mature". It is about grown-up faith. It is not about partial or part-time religiosity. There is for Matthew only one way for all - being completely open to love, to receive it and give it.

And as we will see in my next point, love is not just a matter of feeling for the other.

2. Beyond a code of ethics into a psychology of ethics



What we have before us, are sayings of Jesus that "go beyond a 'code' of ethics into a 'psychology' of ethics, they stimulate our "imagination" so we go deeper into all that motivates us". Yes, actions are crucial outcomes! But without dealing with underlying aspects that inform and shape our actions, as Susan Scott warns us, we remain high-task functionalists, overvaluing performance while reduced humanity and emotional intelligence.

As the philosopher and theologian Paul Ricoeur suggests, in these sayings, biblical morality shatters every definition of goodness, and leads us into 'hypermorality'. As such, similarly to modern psychology, sociology and politics, what Jesus does is to uncover "not just our actual, public actions, but our deepest motives, moods, attitudes, and emotions". The inner space of the unconscious by which we are unknowing shaped. And all this is beyond the conscious, rational ego, and shapes and directs the rational.

Yet the radical nature of Jesus' teaching is that we are to learn to love the enemy, the people we don't like, in the act of loving them! This is the paradox, a dialectical process of practising and learning, which means, it is complex and multidimensional: act, feel, evaluate, learn, reflect, act, feel and so on. Integrity means involving thinking, feeling, and acting. It means being aware of hidden, unconscious schemas that influence and shape us, as well as utilising all our intellectual, emotional and outcomes capacities. This is what holistic spirituality is! What Jesus practised!

3. Imagining changing adversarial encounters: Generating impossible possibilities

We seek mutual respect with our enemy. We turn the other cheek. We give our coat. We walk the extra mile.

Let us pause here and unpack the complexity in these acts, which Matthew's Jesus suggests to his ancient listeners. In these examples, Jesus is using exaggeration and hyperbole to stimulate our imaginations. To activate the listener's engagement in simulated situations, in which our feelings can emerge and be processed, like role-plays: so that fear, anger, anxiety can rise, and we can sense what they do to us, and grow in emotional intelligence, and allow our minds and behaviour to be engaged in these underlying scripts.

We need to note that these situations that Jesus suggests are unjust, and God is not on the side of the oppressor or wants us to masochistically seek them out. These are examples for our empowerment, for strategic action, for learning how to build

relationship of challenge and reconciliation.

Let us examine the meaning of three of the sayings of Jesus in our text.

Do not resist the evildoer: This is not to allow violence against us, or the vulnerable. Jesus resisted evil! Rather, the Greek word means do not violently resist the evil others do.

Now, added to this act of non-violent resistance, is to process our feelings when we are confronted with such aggression. As with the "dealing with anger" teaching of Jesus, we can learn what feelings emerge in us as we face angry people or anger in ourselves.

Whoever strikes you to the right cheek, turn to him the other: As the left-hand was unclean, people struck others with their right hand. The only way to do this was to hit the other person, woman, slave, or child, as was the unfortunate practice in the ancient world, with a back-hand slap, which was an insult, an expression of power and dominance. As John Petty reminds us, Jesus never encouraged us to be passive!

If someone backhands you on the right cheek, lift your head back up, turn your cheek and expose the left one as well. You have dignity as a human being. Don't let someone else take that away from you. Don't hang your head and accept servility. Stand there with head held high. That way, you are defining your own self and not letting someone else define you as "lesser." This is how to resist evil non-violently.

Whoever forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile: This relates to the law the Romans made by which their soldiers could demand that Jews carry their armour. Jews resented it, and there were widespread abuses by the Romans. Going the second mile meant that you were making the choice. It was a strategy counteracting power and humiliation, a refusal to comply with injustice. As Warren Carter writes:

Instead of feeling superior, the soldier is surprised and off guard.

... The subservient has seized the initiative, chosen the action, made the oppressor worry, possibly opened the way to a different relationship, and manifested God's empire.

To be human and particularly to be a person of faith means to be open to taking new steps in our personal, relational and group life. We can only do this when we are grounded in love and a holistic sense of self, with emotional intelligence, broad reflective capacity, and courage to engage in brave new outcomes. The soil of love always grows into new things. New things grow regularly. And love, received and held in our hearts and minds, is the fuel that drives our facing our differences and conflicts, as we face them in all aspects of our lives.

Conclusion

William Loader helps us conclude:

The priority of love in handling conflict leaves its traces at various points in the gospel. The beatitudes hail the peacemakers. People need help to hear each other's pain beyond each other's anger. The Sermon on the Mount warns against condemning others (Matthew 7:1-5) and at its heart speaks of forgiving others as God forgives us (6:14-15). Its call to be "perfect" (Matthew 5:48) reformulates the call found in Luke to be "merciful" or "compassionate" (Luke 6:36).

Foster your faith this week

Ex 24:12-18 Ps 2 or Ps 99

2 Pt 1:16-21 Mt 17:1-9

**ASH WEDNESDAY
COMBINED PCUC SERVICE**

with Rev John Barr

When? 7.00pm, Wednesday 22 February, 2023

Onsite + Zoom – meeting ID: 519 908 9657

Where? Leigh Memorial Uniting Church, 119 Macquarie Street, Parramatta.



All welcome

Enquiries: LeighMemorialUniting@gmail.com

Leigh Memorial Congregation

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

This **Sunday, 19 February**, we'll be gathering for worship Onsite + Zoom at Leigh Memorial at 9.30am with Pastor Fil Kamotu. *All Welcome.*

FEBRUARY – MARCH @ LEIGH MEMORIAL

NB: Members and visitors are warmly invited to join us for morning tea after worship each Sunday.

Sunday 19 February – 9.30am with Pastor Fil

Wed 22 February – 7.00pm PCUC Ash Wednesday service with Rev John

Sunday 26 February – 9.30am with Pastor Fil

Sunday 5 March – 9.30am with Pastor Sarah, inc. Communion

Sunday 12 March – 9.30am with Rev Vladimir

PANCAKES MORNING TEA + FUNDRAISER

This **Sunday 19th February** following our 9.30 service, we'll be enjoying some “early Shrove Tuesday” pancakes for morning tea – with “many thanks” to Sally, Jane and Anne for their kind assistance. NB: During morning tea, coin donations for Uniting World's 2023 'Lent Event' fundraising campaign – plus Red Cross Australia's Turkiye-Syria Earthquake Appeal – will be gratefully accepted. For further information regarding this year's Lent Event program, please check the website:

<https://donate.unitingworld.org.au/event/lent-event/home>

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE @ LEIGH

On **Wednesday 22 February from 7pm**, a PCUC Ash Wednesday service will be taking place at Leigh Memorial, led by Rev. John Barr. All welcome. ** If anyone is able to help set-up and/or participate on the night, please see Liz asap or contact: LeighMemorialUniting@gmail.com

PASTORAL MESSAGE

Our love & support remain with those in need of solace, healing and strength at this time, including members who are unwell, grieving and requiring additional care & support. NB: Contact details for the pastoral team (Revs Vladimir & John and Pastors Fil & Sarah) are in the newsletter.

INVITATION: 'INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY' HIGH TEA

PM's Community Meals Coordinator, Sue Rogoimuri, is organising a Women's High Tea for **2pm on Saturday 4 March** at Parramatta Mission in recognition of International Women's Day.

RSVPs are needed by 24 February to Sue's mobile: 0411 382 281.

Theme: Purple (the colour of the International Women's Movement).

All are welcome!

JAZZ ON HAMMERS

'Jazz on Hammers' 2023 gatherings at Northmead UC will be re-commencing this **Sunday 19 February** from 6.00pm (inc. dinner).

No RSVPs required.

LENT & EASTER DIARY DATES

Wednesday 22 February – 7.00pm: PCUC Ash Wednesday service @ Leigh

Saturday 18 March – 9.00am – 1.00pm, PCUC 'Vision & Values' Morning at Centenary UC

Thursday 6 April – Tenebrae (Maundy Thursday) (arrangements to be confirmed)

Friday 7 April – Good Friday: PCUC service @ Westmead

Sunday 9 April – Easter Sunday: Combined Leigh Memorial & Leigh Fijian @ Leigh + services at Northmead UC and Westmead.

Westmead Congregation

Sharing the Hospitality of Jesus Christ

Sunday 19th February 2023, 9.30am

Our Worship service today will be led by Rev. Vladimir – a very warm welcome to you Vladimir, from the Westmead congregation.

Thank you, Pastor Fil, for your reflection last week focussing on 'Tough Lessons'. Fil spoke on following the Cross and the illuminated path of salvation by growing in faith. In age we may be adults, but we are still "infants" needing encouragement and guidance if we are to follow Christ's way.

A welcome back to Don Haddon, our volunteer pianist! It's lovely to have your accompaniment to our hymns. As well, Fil also led us with his guitar – thanks Fil!

WESTMEAD WORSHIP - FEBRUARY 2023

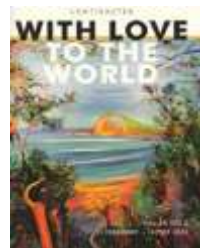
All services begin on site at 9.30am

19 February: Rev. Vladimir

26 February: Rev. Vladimir

The next issue of the Bible Study booklet 'With Love to the World' is now available.

The booklet covers Lent and Easter. Cost: \$5.00



Dates

Wed 22nd Feb – Combined PCUC Ash Wednesday Service 7.00pm @ Leigh Memorial with Rev. John Barr.

Tues 28th Feb – Sydney Alliance Election Meeting 6.15pm @ The Morley Centre, Catherine McAuley School, Westmead.
(Check details in Leigh Memorial's News).

Sat 4th March – CCLM meeting for nominated members @Centenary Church (TBA).

Sat 4th March - International Women's Day High Tea 2-4pm @ Parramatta Mission.

Sat 12th March – Jazz on Hammers @Northmead Church including dinner.

Sat 18th March – 9am- 1pm PCUC "Vision and Values" Morning @Centenary Church including lunch.

(OTHER DATES- PLEASE CHECK LEIGH MEMORIAL'S NEWSLETTER FROM LAST WEEK).

ACTIVITIES YOU CAN JOIN:

BIBLE STUDY: Re-commencement planning for 2023 is underway.
(Zoom Link: <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/95043695512>)

TAI CHI:



Tai Chi held each Friday, 10am - 11am at Uniting Westmead

Cost: \$5 per session.

All welcome to join the group for a fun morning and finish with a nice cuppa at the Uniting Community

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 Bijou:	E-mail: westmead.uca@gmail.com



The NSW election is just around the corner.
Join us in setting the agenda for that election at:

Sydney Alliance Election Assembly
Tuesday 28th February 6:15pm
The Morley Centre, Westmead
2 Darcy Rd, Westmead NSW 2145, Australia
Register

**When you register for the event please put down
Parramatta Mission as their organisation that would be much
appreciated**

Leigh Fijian Congregation

- 1. Lotu ena macawa oqo 19/02:** : Na lotu ena macawa oqo ena vunau tiko kina ko Sireli Tuiloma kei Senitiki Qata. Vunau vakarau nai vakatawa Anare Vocea kei Serupepeli Nagatalevu. Tu vakarau ena veiliutaki matamasumasu naba 2.
- 2. Lotu ena macawa mai oqo 26/02:** Na lotu ena macawa mai oqo ena vunau tiko kina nai vakatawa Anare Vocea kei Serupepeli Nagatalevu. Tu vakarau ena vunau Viliame Kamotu kei Taito Dovibua. Tu vakarau ena veiliutaki matamasumasu naba 3.
- 3. Lesoni ni macawa oqo (Lent 1) 20/02-26/02:** Vakatekivu 2:15-17, 3:1-7 Same 32, Roma 5:12-19, Maciu 4:1-11

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. Ko ratou na veiliutaki tiko ena nodatou vavakoso vaka viti kei na veivuvale kece sara ena loma ni nodatou vavakoso. Na nodratou veiqaravi 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

23-08

주현 후 제7주제 (7th Epiphany of Sunday) 2023년 02월 19일 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 35 장 **통 50 장** **큰 영화로신 주**

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

성경 봉독 (Scripture Reading) **갈라디아서 1: 6-10**

말씀(Preaching)- 전현구 목사 **복음 중에 복음**

봉헌 송(Offertory Hymn) **새 400 장** **통 463 장** **협한 시험 물 속에서**

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) **새 502장** **통 259장** **너 시은아 이소식 전파하라 (1절)**

축도 전현구 담임목사

QT나눔 & 성경공부
오후 4:00

수요기도회 : 오후 7시
마태복음 13:1-17

새벽기도회 : 오전 5시
마태복음 12:31-13:58



PARRAMATTA MISSION

Meals Plus UPDATE

The following is a summary of our impact over the previous year:

We provide services meeting the health needs of the most vulnerable member of the community in Western Sydney, and patients receiving services at the Westmead hospitals.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and supporters over the past 12 months, Meals Plus has provided our guests with 46,060 meals, 36,890 coffees, 7,655 food parcels, 1,477 home deliveries, 2,154 essentials aid, 503 showers, and 417 loads of laundry!

We have also provided free haircuts, podiatry services, hearing tests, vaccinations, assistance with bills, accommodation, identification, and outreach services.

The last few years, we experienced the cumulative impacts of covid, natural disasters, inflation and the rising cost of living. For some, these obstacles and stresses have pushed them to the brink. We now see an increase in the number of guests visiting for assistance. Meals served each month has increased by 39% since January 2022.

Thank you for playing your part in our mission!

Mark Newton
Executive GM

P.S. Thanks to the Mission's Davyn De Bruyn and Parramatta MP, Andrew Charlton, 'Meals Plus' got a mention in Federal Parliament on 07 Feb 2023 !



Parramatta
Mission



uniting
church
In Australia
United Methodist Church

International Women's Day High Tea

Dear Friend,

You are invited to a High Tea to celebrate International Women's Day, 2023.

The afternoon tea will take place on **Saturday, 4th March, 2.00 – 4.00pm** at the Parramatta Mission Hall,
119 Macquarie Street, Parramatta.

Come and share special moments with friends over a cup of tea or coffee and cakes – and listen to some inspirational stories.

Theme: Purple (the colour of the International Women's Movement).

RSVP: Sue Rogoimuti – 0411 382 281 - by Friday, 24 February.



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 undergoing medical procedures for their health and well being and for those that are unwell – we pray for guidance of the medical teams attending and for Your divine power in healing the unwell.
- For the rescue efforts undergoing in Turkey and Syria – Lord we ask for strength of mind and body for the people affected by the devastating earthquakes. May rescue arrive quickly for those still surviving and we pray for full aid to reach. May conflicts and tensions occurring in the area cease.
- For the peace to arrive in Ukraine and other war- torn regions of the world- Grant Your Holy Spirit to work in ways that bring about peace between Ukraine and Russia. May the effects of the Ukraine war in escalating cost of goods and services for the poorer nations settle.
- For the battles of unemployment, cost of living, cost of education that is being faced by our fellow Australians – Lord we pray that our Government may address problems of inflation and housing. We pray for increased aid to fall upon those that need it.
- For those suffering silently due to inner pain, or mental health challenges- Lord we ask that Your Holy Spirit may fall afresh on them and bring relief.

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