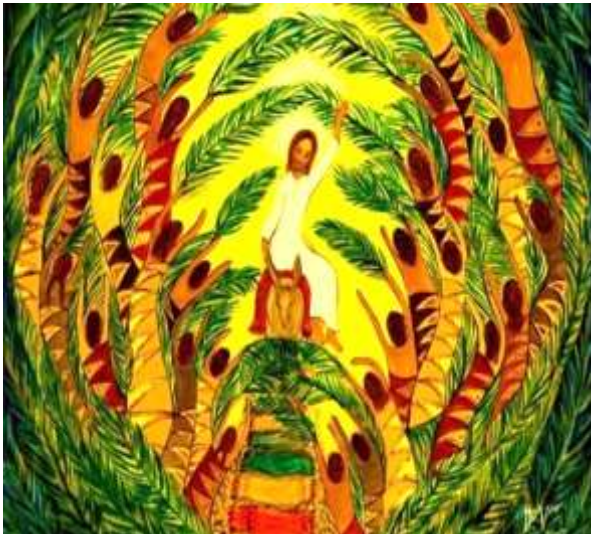


OUR NEWS

2nd April 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.

PALM SUNDAY – 2nd April 2023



Palm Leaves and the Cross

Rev John Barr

Did you know that palm branches symbolise triumph and success? In Greek mythology, the palm leaf was the symbol of Nike, the winged goddess of victory while in ancient times victorious armies would return from the battlefield to be welcomed by people jubilantly waving palm branches.

Today we witness such a welcome. Jesus enters the city of Jerusalem to be received by an enthusiastic crowd waving palm leaves and spreading their cloaks before him on the road. People were affording Jesus the honours of a conquering hero. Some suggest this echoed a coronation procession bestowed upon the previous kings of Israel.

The Gospel account that we read today points to the prophet Zechariah who, some five hundred years beforehand, wrote about a Messiah-king who would enter Jerusalem to liberate the people and bring about a time of peace and prosperity. Here, on this Palm Sunday, people are hailing Jesus as the One prophesized by Zechariah.

Jerusalem was, at the time, packed with people who had come from near and far to celebrate the Passover. One ancient historian claimed the city would, at the time of Passover, swell to a population of two million or more. And here Jesus turns up to an enthusiastic, expectant crowd looking for something special to happen.

Jesus certainly had earned a reputation. Back in Galilee Jesus had turned water into wine, he had walked on water, healed those who were deaf, blind or who had suffered terrible skin diseases, and Jesus had just, on the day before in the nearby village of Bethany, raised his friend Lazarus, from the dead.

So, you see, Jesus was quite a star. One could say he was a bit of celebrity – and like all 'hotshots', Jesus drew a crowd.

But there was also a seething discontent in Jerusalem at the time. Rome was in firm control and, as occupiers, they were brutal. To be quite frank, the people were sick and tired of being put down by foreigners. First it was the Assyrians, then the Babylonians, then the Persians, the Greeks and now it was the Romans.

Revolts against these oppressors were common. In one such incident Rome rounded up some 2,000 Jews, strung them up on crosses that lined a major highway and left them to die a most agonising, barbaric death. This was a warning to all – don't mess with Rome!

For those angry, seething crowds in Jerusalem, was Jesus the answer? Would this Messiah-king finally do what everyone longed for. Would he take on the Romans and chuck them out?

So, you see, there are two things at play here. Is Jesus a celebrity, a superstar who draws a crowd of curious, enthusiastic onlookers with the expectation that something miraculous is going to happen, that Jesus will pull off another miraculous 'trick'?

Or is Jesus a firebrand, a revolutionary who will take on those rotten, oppressive Romans and get rid of them once and for all?

I must admit, I have a bit of a problem with Palm Sunday. It seems to me that we risk getting caught up in the hype here. I feel we put ourselves in danger of being carried away with the fanfare of it all. And in doing so we lose perspective on what's really going on.

Listen to these words of a song that is recommended for Palm Sunday:

*You're marvellous, you're glorious, beautiful Jesus,
You're wonderful, you're powerful, great I am Jesus.*

*Your name is lifted high over all, the King of Kings and Lord of all Lords,
The angels cry, the earth proclaims, Jesus is the King.*

Now, I do not deny that these words are true. But the reality of what's happening on that first Palm Sunday causes us, I believe, to step back for a time and to consider what's really going on.

For you see, in a matter of days those enthusiastic, jubilant cries of "hosanna" (which means "please, save us!") change into a callous, crushing call to "crucify him!".

The crowd who fervently "cheer" Jesus soon lambaste him with words that blatantly "jeer"!

In a matter of days that ticker-tape parade, that heady, euphoric cavalcade becomes a sombre, humiliating journey of shame as Jesus, beaten and bruised, stumbles his way through the laneways of Jerusalem known as the "Via Dolorosa" or "Way of Suffering".

What's going on here?

The truth of the matter is that beyond Palm Sunday there are no celebrities. Beyond Palm Sunday, accolades turn into slurs, blessings become curses. There are no superstars, no revolutionaries, only a condemned, maligned person stripped naked, hanging on a cross in a god-forsaken place called Golgotha.

Friends, does this mean Jesus ends up being a failure? Is this man who performed miracles, who fed the poor, who preached love and forgiveness, who embodied peace, who brought well-being and wholeness to so many lives and who advocated justice for all, indeed, who promised so much, destined to be wiped off the face of the earth? Is Jesus being consigned to the dustbin of history?

I think not.

For you see, the palm leaves point to something quite different. On Palm Sunday, the palm leaves must always be waved, not the wake of triumph and success, they must be held up in the shadow of the cross. And this means that what we celebrate on this day is not a glitzy success story. Nor is it an easy, painless, "piece-of-cake" way to fame.

Rather Palm Sunday begins what we call Holy Week. It's the week when Jesus cleanses the temple by throwing out the money-changers and merchants. It's the week when Jesus agonises and sweats it out in the Garden of Gethsemane.

It's the week when Jesus is betrayed by Judas. It's the week when Jesus is mocked and ridiculed by the religious authorities. It's the week when Jesus is denied by his best friend. It's the week when Jesus is handed over by Pilate to be crucified. It's the week when Jesus is tortured, nailed to a cross and executed in the most harsh and brutal way.

For you see, Palm Sunday makes little sense without the cross!

But what does this mean?

Some twenty years ago I was involved in working with my colleagues in East Timor during a very turbulent and somewhat brutal period. For decades, the East Timorese resisted domination by their powerful neighbour. Hundreds of thousands of people died as a result of Indonesian military occupation. It was an ugly, deeply violent, troubling time. And, as we advocated for justice and peace, I remember my friend, Sam (a Timorese minister) telling me that freedom never comes easy. Freedom always comes at a cost.

Sam worked tirelessly for his people. It was risky, hard work. Life was stressful as Sam never knew when military intelligence would knock on his door in the middle of the night. Sam's health was compromised. Sam lived in great fear and stress that his family would be targeted.

Sadly, Sam died not long after, leaving a wife and two young adult children. He was just fifty.

Meanwhile the East Timorese did gain their freedom – but only after a long struggle involving intense suffering and the death of hundreds of thousands.

For Sam and for all East Timorese people, palm branches could only be waved in the shadow of the cross.

Do you get my vibe here?

The way of Jesus is not the way of glitz and glamour. It's not the way conquest and triumph. On the other hand, the way of Jesus is never about the way of domination, manipulation, fear or coercion.

Rather, the way of Jesus is to point to higher ideals where popularity or the approval of the majority is not all that matters. Moreover, the way of Jesus is not about seizing power, engaging in revenge or exchanging an eye for an eye.

Friends, the way of Jesus is a sheer, self-giving love that values who we are as people created in the image of a gracious God. The way of Jesus is a way of life that and considers the real needs and well-being of those around us no matter what the cost.

And here it means exhausted parents are pulled out of bed in the middle of the night for 3am feedings. Here it's like the parent who waits patiently with open arms for the child who has rejected them, shamed them or walked out on them, to return home. It's a way that is consistent with the shepherd who searches high and low for that stupid sheep who has got lost.

The way of Jesus causes us to commit to our partners when the going gets really tough. The way of Jesus says we are to put up with those irritating, annoying people who come to church. The way of Jesus says we speak up when someone hurts or abuses another. The way of Jesus declares that we work for the benefit, not just for those who are special to us, but for the benefit and common good of all.

The way of Jesus says we set aside our own personal aspirations, where personal wants, personal agendas and personal longings are quarantined to embody the hope that is gifted to us in Jesus Christ, a hope that sees the world transformed into a place that is respectful, inclusive, compassionate and just.

Friends today in many churches around the world Palm Sunday is also acknowledged as Passion Sunday. I think this makes sense. For the passion of Jesus, his self-giving, world-defying, all embracing love is what it's really all about.

Palm leaves are not meant to be raised in isolation. They are always meant to be waved in the shadow of the cross.

On this Palm Sunday and as we wave those palm leaves, let us focus on the cross and what that reality means for each and every one of us.

Amen.

Foster your faith this week

Is 50:4-9a Ps 118:1-2,19-29

Phil 2:5-11 Mt 21:1-11

EASTER 2023

PARRAMATTA CITY UNITING CHURCH



Thursday 6 April:

'Tenebrae'

Centenary Uniting Church – 7.00pm

(Combined PCUC service, 46 Sorrell Street, North Parramatta)

Friday 7 April:

Good Friday

Westmead Uniting Church – 9.00am

(Combined PCUC service, cnr Hawksbury & Queens Roads, Westmead)

Sunday 9 April:

Easter Sunday

Leigh Memorial Uniting Church – 10.00am

(119 Macquarie Street, Parramatta)

(Combined Leigh Memorial & Leigh Fijian service)

Northmead Uniting Church – 9.30am

(3 – 7 Hammers Road, Northmead)

Westmead Uniting Church – 9.30am

(cnr Hawksbury & Queens Roads, Westmead)

Enquiries:

LeighMemorialUniting@gmail.com

pcchurch@bigpond.net.au



INSPIRE
PARRAMATTA

Leigh Memorial Congregation

WORSHIP ON PALM SUNDAY

This **Sunday 2 April** – Palm Sunday and the 6th Sunday in Lent – we'll be gathering for worship Onsite + Zoom (inc. Communion) at Leigh Memorial at 9.30am with **Pastor Fil Kamotu**. **NB:** Palm Sunday procession: On Sunday, we'll be proceeding from the vestibule into the church at the start of the service. Members are welcome to bring some palm leaves or other greenery from home to carry with them.



"They took branches of palm trees and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna!"

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" (John 12:13)

PLEASE JOIN US! – PCUC EASTER PROGRAM 2023

Thursday 6 April – 7.00pm: Combined Tenebrae (Maundy Thursday) @ Centenary.

Friday 7 April – 9.00am: Combined Good Friday worship @ Westmead.

Sunday 9 April – 10.00am: Combined Leigh Memorial & Leigh Fijian Easter Sunday worship @ Leigh Memorial, followed by morning tea.

EASTER SUNDAY – COMBINED MORNING TEA

Following the Leigh Memorial & Leigh Fijian Easter Sunday service on 9 April at 10.00am, we'll be sharing a combined morning tea. ** Members of both worship communities are invited to bring some food to share.

PASTORAL MESSAGE

Our prayers remain with all those in need at this time, including Lalaja, Mae, Jolame and everyone within our worship community who isn't 100% at the moment or is in need of some additional support. Please note that contact details for the ministry team (Rev Geoff Smith, Rev John, Pastor Fil & Pastor Sarah) are in the newsletter. Rev Vladimir remains on leave. The Leigh leaders/worship team can be contacted via the Leigh Memorial email:

LeighMemorialUniting@gmail.com

SYDNEY METRO UPDATE

Changes to pedestrian and car traffic due to increased Sydney Metro underground rail construction work will take place in the vicinity of Leigh Memorial/Parramatta Mission from 1 April. Pavers will also be laid in certain areas.

Access to the church car park from Macquarie Street will be unaffected, however from this weekend, all traffic leaving the church will need to use 'Macquarie Lane' (one way) to Smith Street (instead of the current exit via Horwood Place onto George Street). Metro staff will be on hand to direct anyone who isn't sure. The majority of construction in April will take place Mon – Sat. during work hours, however some out-of-hours work on Sundays and overnight will also occur. A Metro community information line is available: 1800 612 173. The link to further Metro details for Sydney's West is as follows:

<https://www.sydneymetro.info/west/project-overview>

PHOTOS: ELECTION DAY FUNDRAISER (@ NORTHMEAD UC)

Many thanks to the team of 15+ members of the PCUC worship communities who volunteered at the fundraising sausage sizzle at Northmead Uniting on Election Day last weekend. It was a great result and a wonderful opportunity to liaise with the local community and each other!



Westmead Congregation



Sharing the Hospitality of Jesus Christ

Sunday 2nd April 2023, 9.30am

Reverend Geoff Smith will be leading us in Holy Communion service this Palm Sunday. An especially warm welcome to you Rev. Geoff, for your first service here at Westmead!

Last Sunday, Reverend John Barr reflected on God in the person of Jesus – that “He is deeply aware and deeply affected by realities around us. Jesus shines a light and comes to stand beside us and pilot us”. As He grieved upon the death of Lazarus, He asked him to “Rise up and live”. We can be sure that “in the face of hurt, injustice, despair and death Jesus does not look the other way”- Jesus shines a light and shows us the way out of the valley of death”. Thank you, Rev. John, for this very encouraging message.

Our prayers are with Greg Hallinan who is in hospital, and his wife Robyn Hallinan at this very challenging time. As it stands, it is Greg’s birthday today – the congregation would like to wish him God’s care and almighty protection on his birthday and always.

WESTMEAD WORSHIP: MARCH – APRIL 2023 (All services 9.30am except Good Friday)

2nd April Palm Sunday + Holy Communion: Rev. Geoff Smith

7th April **9.00am** Good Friday (Combined Church at Westmead): Ministry Team

9TH April: Pastor Fil Kamotu (Easter Sunday)

16th April: Pastor Fil Kamotu

23rd April: Pastor Fil Kamotu

EASTER SERVICES:

Thursday 6 April – 7.00pm, Tenebrae Service (Maundy Thursday) at Centenary Church, North Parramatta

Friday 7 April – 9.00am Good Friday Combined Service at Westmead

Sunday 9 April – Easter Sunday. Usual Westmead time of 9.30am



Saturday 1st April – CCLM meeting at Centenary Church. (Westmead will be hosting. Please bring a plate for morning tea if you are able).

Thursday 30 March - Parramatta Mission will be hosting a 'Rich Person-Poor Person' fundraising dinner in the Parramatta Mission Hall, 6.00 – 8.30pm. Further information is included in this Newsletter.

Sunday 16 April - There will be a Thanksgiving service at Westmead. Lorna has kindly assisted with a suitable list of non-perishable items that you could bring in – these items will be donated to Meals Plus, after the service is over.

REV. GEOFF SMITH'S INDUCTION:

Sunday. 30 April - Geoff Smith's induction as the PCUC's Lead Minister will take place from 2.00pm at the Centre for Ministry, North Parramatta. There will be no worship services held at PCUC churches on that Sunday.

BIBLE STUDY: Each Monday, 2.00pm

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

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

Leigh Fijian Congregation

- 1. Lotu ena macawa oqo 02/04:** Na macawa oqo na sigatabu ni gone. Era na vakaitavi tiko kina na luveda. Ena qaravi tale tiko ga na sakaramede, ena vei qaravi tiko kina ko talatala Same Sadrata. Tuirara ni vakayakavi ni turaga SosiToa kei Epeli Semani.
- 2. Lotu ni siga ni mate 07/04:** Na lotu ena siganimate e da na lotu cokovata kei Westmead. Ena qaravi mai Westmead.
- 3. Lotu ni sigatabu ni tucake tale 09/04:** Na lotu ni siga ni tucake tale e da na lotu cokovata kei na vavakoso vakavavalagi e valelotu. Ena tekivu ena 10am.
- 4. Lesoni ni macawa oqo 27/03-02/04:** Aisea 50:4-9, Same 118:1-2, 19-29, Filipai 2:5-11 Maciu 21:1-11
- 5. Lesoni ni siga ni mate 07/04:** Aisea 13-53, Same 22, Iperiu 10:16-25, 4:14 -16, 5:7-9, Joni 18:1-19
- 6. Lesoni ni sigatabu ni tucake tale 09/04:** Cakacaka 10:34-43, Jeremaia: 31:1-6, Same 118:1-2,14-24, Kolosa 3:1-4, Cakacaka 10:34-43, Joni 20:1-18, Maciu 28:1-10
7. Ena siagatabu oqo eda na vakasigalevu vata ni suka na lotu.

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 vei qaravi na Bula Feeding. Me nanumi na FNC ni tou na veiwaseitaka na vei qaravi kei na tolu na valelotu. Ena qaravi tiko na FNC ena Okotova ni yabaki mai oqo 2024.

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



Nai taba ni induction nei Talatala Samu Sadrata ena yavi ni vukelulu.

시드니 조은 교회 Sydney Jo-Eun Church

23-14

종려주일 (Palm of Sunday) 2023년 04월 02일 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 149 장 **통 147 장** 주 달려 죽은 십자가

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

성경 봉독 (Scripture Reading) 시편 22:1-10; 마가복음 15:33-41

말씀 (Preaching) - 전현구 목사 나의 하나님! 나의 하나님!

봉헌 송 (Offertory Hymn) **새 150 장** **통 135 장** 갈보리산 위에

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 시온아 이소식 전파하라 (1절)

축도 전현구 담임목사

QT나눔 & 성경공부
오후 4:00

수요기도회 : 오후 7시
마태복음 27:11-26

새벽기도회 : 오전 5시
마태복음 26:57-27:66

Temporary Job Vacancy - Temp counsellor

Northmead Uniting Church

Northmead Uniting Church has funding under the Targeted Earlier Intervention Program to employ an Adolescent and Family Counsellor to provide Counselling, Parenting Programs and Education and Skills Training to young people, parents, and families where the young person is experiencing mental health issues and/or is at risk of disengagement from school.

Our current Counsellor is planning to take some extended leave in the second half of this year.

We are looking to recruit a replacement Counsellor to fill this role on a part time basis (19 hours/week) for a period of approximately 25 weeks from 3 July 2023 to 22 December 2023.

If you know anyone who might be interested in applying for this position a more detailed advertisement and position description are available from either Jenny at nuchurch@bigpond.net.au or Wendy McGuirk at wmcguirk@optusnet.com.au or 0402031843.

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

- Those that are in hospital care especially within the congregation, sick at home or undergoing medical tests – We ask that Your Holy Spirit fall on them, healing them.
- For drought-stricken countries, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, and other countries now experiencing drought – We pray for Your divine mercy in sending forth rain and easing climatic change – may aid reach where it is needed.
- Ukraine and other countries in the grip of a never-ending war – May consciousness of human life, respect and peace arrive.
- For those who have lost jobs due to downsizing, the unemployed who are seeking work – May there be hope, encouragement and success for them.
- For those living in less than perfect homes due to violence, abuse, neglect – may you guide compassion and love into hearts. May the right people arrive to guide and help.
- For the homeless, the hungry and the refugee – May you provide support systems to help these that are in need.

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 members who are unwell, and those experiencing anxiety and grief.
- We prayerfully support those in our local communities who need additional care and support at this time, including people experiencing hunger, homelessness, addiction, family crisis and loneliness, in addition to those who assist them – such as devoted care-givers, nurses, doctors, community support teams and emergency workers;
- We pray for wisdom and inspiration to infuse all current and forthcoming decision-making processes and actions by our dedicated ministry team, leaders, managers and staff – and specifically pray for Paul and the team at Meals Plus, Cameron and the team at Westmead and for the life, witness and outreach work being conducted by our fellow Parramatta Mission & Parramatta City Uniting Church communities;
- We pray for greater mutual respect, compassion and peace throughout the world, and for the realisation of an international spirit of inclusion, acceptance 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 Geoff Smith, 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 Lead Minister Geoff Smith for any pastoral needs.

Rev Geoff Smith (Lead Minister)	0407 416 377
Rev Vladimir Korotkov (Transition Minister)	0431 759 573
Rev John Barr	0400 694 540
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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Parramatta Mission

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