

OUR NEWS

9th 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.

PARRAMATTA CITY UNITING CHURCH

Easter Day – 9th April 2023

Matthew 28:1-10



WHY GALILEE?

Rev John Barr

The story of that first Easter day is told in different ways according to the four Gospels. Mark's Gospel confronts us with an empty tomb. Luke also leaves us with an empty tomb but on that same day Jesus reveals himself in a most dramatic way to his disciples on the road to Emmaus. John's Gospel is more touching as Mary Magdalene, in a very tender, intimate moment, encounters the risen Christ in the garden.

Matthew's account is quite striking. The ground shakes and there are flashes of lightning as the women are confronted with a heavenly angel and then with the risen Christ himself.

Reading these four accounts of that first Easter day is quite interesting and I do not see any real conflict here. For this most remarkable, dramatic, electrifying story of Easter is told by these four Gospel writers from their own particular perspectives. The story is told from their own particular, dazzling experiences, none of which were necessarily the same.

Mark leaves us in awe, simply wondering. John's account focuses on personal, tender encounters with Jesus. Luke confines the whole story to the bustling city of Jerusalem while Matthew, especially, makes the point that it is in the region of Galilee, and not Jerusalem, where the impact of Jesus' resurrection really hits the road.

"He is going ahead of you to Galilee" the women are told in Matthew's Gospel as they gaze into the empty tomb.

"Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me" says the risen Jesus as he meets the women on their way home.

"Galilee" – in the midst of this Easter drama why does Galilee come into play? Why does Jesus go ahead of them to Galilee?

What's so significant about Galilee?

Well, Galilee was very much a regional centre. It was far from the centre of power in Jerusalem where the autocrats, the bureaucrats, the lobbyists and the fat cats lived.

Galilee was a region characterised by ethnic diversity. Moreover, most of the population were tenant farmers, peasants who barely survived after returning huge proportions of their harvest to their landlords and then paying huge taxes their Roman occupiers.

Galilee was also a region with a long-recorded history of unrest. In Jesus' day insurrections and revolts were common. These were brutally put down by the military who took no prisoners.

And Galilee was sometimes referred to as the "Galilee of the Nations", the "Galilee of the Gentiles" or the "circle of heathens". This is because Galilee was influenced by outside forces who were seen to undermine the "purity" of Israel's faith and tradition.

So, you see, Galilee was a cosmopolitan and often controversial place. It was largely poor. The people could be pretty rough and volatile while most of population lived under a regime that afforded them little freedom or dignity.

Friends, this is why Galilee and Jesus' return to Galilee is important. For, when you think about it, Galilee pretty much typifies what much of the world is like. Galilee embodies how most people around the world live and what they experience in life.

There is no mistake here. The risen Jesus chooses Galilee to reveal himself. Galilee is chosen as the place where the reality of resurrection is declared and takes root. And Galilee is chosen because this is the kind of place God chooses to reach out to. This is the kind of place where God's heart lies. This is the kind of place in which resurrection speaks most profoundly.

And this is the kind of place where we are called to be the church and minister today.

Secondly, Galilee is significant for another reason.

As I reflected on this matter it occurred to me that Jesus, now risen from the dead, actually returns to origins here.

Jesus' earthly ministry began in Galilee. This where Jesus largely healed and taught. This where Jesus called his disciples and commissioned them to be apostles. This is where Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount. This is where Jesus first spoke about the in-breaking kingdom of God's grace, mercy, justice and peace.

In returning to Galilee, to the place where it all started, I believe Jesus is inviting us to return to our "origins" to re-read the story, to re-experience all that Jesus offered during his earthly ministry - and to do so in the light of his resurrection which declares - light overcomes darkness, life triumphs over death, hope stifles despair, good vanquishes evil, love conquers all.

This is to see and experience the story, this is to re-focus our faith through the lens of resurrection. This is to identify resurrection as the reference point, the fulcrum around which everything we understand and do as Christians revolves. This is to place the resurrection at the very heart of things as we bear witness to the story of Jesus and as we are called to be the church today.

As I pondered these matters in more depth, I realised there is a lot to this. Resurrection faith means Jesus is not just a hero from the past. The ministry of Jesus is not simply an event confined to the annals of ancient history. Rather, in his resurrection, Jesus becomes a living reality. Jesus becomes a constant empowering presence that re-shapes, re-forms and indeed, transforms, lives even today.

It also occurs to me that resurrection is not just a happy ending to a tragic story. We could easily see it that way. But resurrection is much more than this. Resurrection involves moving on by seeing things in a different way. Resurrection marks the beginning of something vital and fresh by offering radically new possibilities.

I believe resurrection takes the story of Jesus up a notch. It does so by claiming resurrection is much more than an event locked into the past. It means resurrection doesn't have to stand or fall on the basis of empirical evidence or the need to prove it in a court of law. Moreover, resurrection doesn't have to be contained or held captive by narrow dogmatic statements.

Rather, resurrection is a profound reality to be embraced. Resurrection is a mind-boggling truth to be lived - right now!

So, why Galilee?

Firstly, Galilee mirrors the kind of world so many people experience. And this means resurrection is for the world. Resurrection is for the whole world. Resurrection is for everyone. Resurrection is for you and for me.

Why Galilee?

Secondly, the risen Jesus' return to Galilee invites us to go back and re-read the story where-ever we are. Jesus' return to Galilee challenges us to re-experience the faith, not through a blind adherence to historical events or by signing up to narrow dogmatic statements, but through the transforming, renewing, life-giving reality of Jesus who, in his resurrected power, is present with us now.

Why Galilee?

Friends, Galilee is an important metaphor for life. Galilee is a significant embodiment of what it means to follow Jesus today.

So, be open to the truth that Easter is a day for all people. Easter is a day that impacts on the whole world. Easter engages with people in the midst of their lives, unremarkable or challenging, hopeless or hopeful, bad or good, loveless or love-filled, they may be.

And be assured, resurrection is not a historical legacy from the past. On this day we don't simply remember or commemorate the resurrection of Jesus – we are invited to experience it!

We are beckoned to allow it to re-focus and re-shape how we see things. We are summoned to enable it to re-form and transform the way we do things.

For resurrection cuts to very essence of who we are. Light overcomes darkness, life triumphs over death, hope stifles despair, good vanquishes evil and love conquers all.

Resurrection is a way of life, it's a way of being – right now!

Amen.

Foster your faith this week

Acts 10:34-43

Ps 118:1-2, 14-24

Col 3:1-4

Jn 20:1-18

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

HAPPY EASTER – CHRIST IS RISEN!



PARRAMATTA CITY UNITING CHURCH – EASTER PROGRAM

Thursday 6 April – 7.00pm: Combined Tenebrae gathering (Maundy Thursday) @ Centenary UC (Sorrell St; Nth. Parramatta). Parking is available onsite. The evening will include a light supper.

Friday 7 April – 9.00am: Combined Good Friday worship @ Westmead UC (cnr. Queens Street & Hawkesbury Rd). Parking is available onsite. Enter via the 175 Hotel driveway on Hawkesbury Rd.

Sunday 9 April – 10.00am: Combined Leigh Memorial & Leigh Fijian Easter Sunday worship @ Leigh Memorial with Rev John Barr, followed by an Easter morning tea. Please bring a plate of food to share (Easter eggs supplied...!)

EASTER PASTORAL MESSAGE

We hope that everyone enjoys a happy, safe and meaningful time with family & friends this Easter, and our thoughts and prayers remain with Lalaja, Jolame, Mae and all those in our worship communities who are unwell at the present time or facing other challenges. 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

WORSHIP – APRIL

Sunday 16 April – Worship @ 9.30am with Rev John Barr

Sunday 23 April – Worship @ 9.30am with Rev Geoff Smith

Sunday 30 April – There will be NO services at Leigh Memorial on the morning of the 30th. Instead, from 2.00pm, the **Induction service for Rev Geoff Smith** will take place at the Centre for Ministry (Masons Drive, North Parramatta), followed by afternoon tea. All Welcome.

LENT EVENT 2023

Thanks to everyone who has generously supported Lent Event 2023. Uniting World's inspirational, long running program seeks to transform lives in international communities through the provision of improved educational and small business opportunities, clean water and other forms of practical and prayerful support. For further details – or to donate – please check the website: <https://donate.unitingworld.org.au/event/lent-event/home>

CONGRATULATIONS!

Warmest congratulations to Ken and Jenny's youngest daughter Jessie, who is being married to her fiancé on the weekend after Easter. Our prayers for a wonderful day and a happy life together!

A WEEK IN PHOTOS: 30 March – 5 April

- The Parramatta Mission 'Rich Person Poor Person' fundraising dinner;
- Palm Sunday@ Leigh Memorial with Pastor Fil on guitar;
- The latest of the Mission's high school group visits to Leigh Memorial & Meals Plus. The Year 11 students enjoyed a tour of the church – inc. a photo in the high pulpit – and also heard from Paul and assisted with lunch and hamper preparations at Meals Plus. Another two groups from the same school will visit in June and September, with other schools visiting in between. The visits are a great way to introduce young people to the history, values and practicalities involved in the life, work and witness of Parramatta Mission.





시드니 조은 교회 Sydney Jo-Eun Church

23-15

부활주일 (Easter of Sunday) 2023년 04월 09일 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 159 장 **통 149 장**

기뻐 찬송하세

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

성경 봉독 (Scripture Reading) **마가복음16:14-20**

말씀(Preaching)- 전현구 목사 새로운 삶의 시작

봉헌 송(Offertory Hymn)

새 161 장 **통 159 장** 할렐루야 우리 예수

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
민수기 12:1-16

새벽기도회 : 오전 6시
민수기 11:1-14:10

Westmead Congregation



Sharing the Hospitality of Jesus Christ

Good Friday 7th April 2023, 9.00am (Combined Service at Westmead)

Today congregations of the Parramatta City Uniting Church, will combine at Westmead Church for a Good Friday service. As we gather today, we silently reflect on Christ's unconditional love poured out for all humanity -we thank Reverend Geoff Smith and Reverend John Barr who will lead us in worship.

Westmead Church had the pleasure of meeting Rev. Geoff Smith who led us in Palm Sunday and Holy Communion service, last week. Rev. Geoff reflected on how Jesus, aware of the threat He was posing to the government of the time, and thus a threat to His very own self, persevered to march for peace/hope/love and the kingdom of God. Thank you, Rev. Geoff, for sharing with us the very interesting and moving snapshots of The Mount of Olives and the surrounds when you visited Jerusalem.

A reminder that April 16th, next Sunday, will be a Thanksgiving service at Westmead. You are invited to bring non-perishable food items as Thanksgiving which will later be donated to Meals Plus.

WESTMEAD WORSHIP: MARCH – APRIL 2023

(All services 9.30am except Good Friday)

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



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.

Activities You May Join

BIBLE STUDY: Each Monday, 2.00pm

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

MORNING MEDITATION

with **Campfire in the Heart**

Winter Time change! 3 April 2023 - 29 Sept 2023



Meditation:

NSW: 7:45-8:20am

QLD: 7:45-8:20am

TAS: 7:45-8:20am

NT/SA: 7:15-7:50am

Each weekday morning.

Campfire in the Heart zoom:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7794705793?
pwd=RmJKNm5lcVdXekVXRm5XdjBhcXA3Zz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7794705793?pwd=RmJKNm5lcVdXekVXRm5XdjBhcXA3Zz09)

Meeting ID: 779 470 5793

Passcode: welcome

Any questions: Sarah Bishop
sarah@bluetardis.com.au
0412 606049

you are also welcome to join:

Campfire in the Heart

Morning Prayers

Morning Prayer:

NSW - 7:00-7:30am

QLD - 7:00-7:30am

TAS - 7:00-7:30am

NT/SA - 6:30-7:00am

We follow the lectionary ([https://universalis.com/1000/
mass.htm](https://universalis.com/1000/mass.htm)) and also the Rule of St Benedict on Fridays.

The basic format is: Thanksgiving, Reading and sharing around the scriptures of the day, prayers for the world.

You can participate either by sharing or listening or both.

Leigh Fijian Congregation

1. **Lotu ni yakavi siga Lotulevu 06/04:** Na lotu cokovata ena qaravi tiko ena yakavi ni lotulevu mai na Centenary UC e North Parramatta. Tekivu na lotu ena 7pm.
2. **Lotu ni siga ni mate 07/04:** Na lotu ena siganimate e da na lotu cokovata kei Westmead. Ena qaravi tiko mai Westmead UC, tekivu na lotu ena 9am.
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 na lotu ena 10am.
4. **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
5. **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, Joni 20:1-18, Maciu 28:1-10
6. Vakavinavinakataki na kena mai qaravi vakavinaka na nodra sigatabu na luveta. Totoka na nodra vakaitavi.
7. Na Kids Camp Out ena qaravi tiko ena I ka 22 kina 23 ni vula oqo.

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.

Palm Sunday 2023



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 hold up to You those who are ill, especially those who are succumbing – Lord grant Your care, healing and comfort where it is needed, and especially be with their loved ones as they wait.
- For the fields of war on the plane of this earth – Lord we ask for peace to arrive especially in Ukraine.
- For climate change effects causing droughts, flooding and hurricanes – We pray that we may unite as one in preserving our natural environment and reduce our carbon footprint.
- For those who suffer anxiety, depression or other mental health challenges, for those who are physically challenged – We pray that life may start to hold “meaning” to them, that they may see hope and joy.
- For the homeless, poverty stricken, hungry and thirsty – Lord bring the right resources to them – let them not suffer and keep watch over them.
- For the travellers this Easter season – grant Your protection on them that they may arrive at their destination, safely.

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

Combined Leigh Memorial Congregation & Leigh Fijian

Time: Sunday 10.00am on site & Zoom

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

Meeting ID: 519 908 9657

Westmead Congregation

Time: Sunday 9.30am 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



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