

OUR NEWS

14th May 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

GOD, WHERE ARE YOU? Acts 17:22-31



Rev John Barr

Have you ever asked the question, "where is God?"

A story goes that one day a distraught young student asked this very question and, in an act of desperation turned to his computer and typed into his Google search engine the words: "God, where are you?"

Google search engines are good for lots of things, but I am not sure they are able to come up with the answers here!

For you see, this is not an easy question – and it's not a new question. Right from the very beginning people have asked: "God, where are you?". It's a question that is part and parcel of who we are as human beings.

We want to make sense of life, we long to discover meaning and purpose in life, we yearn for order and direction for life - and in doing so we look for answers in terms of a higher authority or a reality beyond the limits of who we are.

My interest has always been in different cultures and the way they seek answers to this critical "God" question. In Thailand and Sri Lanka, the quest for God is bound up in the teachings of the Buddha. In India such a quest is grounded in complex Hindu beliefs and rituals. In Indonesia, where I have spent a significant part of my life, the quest for God is bound up in Islam and in the teachings of Muhammad as set out in the Koran.

Then in so many other parts of the world, the quest for God is tied up in efforts to scale the depths of unknowing or to ascend levels of consciousness through various, often complicated spiritual practices or through a devotion to lesser gods who then appeal on seeker's behalf to a mysterious high god.

In the modern, secular world, a world that we encounter every day, the quest for God is so often bound up in material things, in worldly success or even in the worship of our very selves.

So, "God, where are you?"

Paul, the apostle of Jesus, was well aware of this question. In our reading from the New Testament today Paul is in Athens, a highly sophisticated city in ancient Greece. Here Paul engages with people at a place called the Areopagus.

Now, the Areopagus was to the people of Athens what the Sydney Opera House is Sydneysiders or the Melbourne Cricket Ground is to Melburnians. It was a place of civic activity, cultural pride and worship. People gathered on the Areopagus to make sense of things, to celebrate life, to delve into the mysteries of things and to seek guidance and direction for the future.

In this place Paul declares a number of things to people who were searching for God which, I believe, help us greatly to make sense of the question: "God, where are you?"

Firstly, Paul says the search for God means we need to look beyond ourselves and our limited understanding of things. In other words, God cannot be defined or experienced in terms of what we can see or touch in world around us.

God is much bigger than this because God is not part of, or subject to, the creation.

Rather God is Creator. God is the source of all life. God stands at the heart of everything – things known and unknown, things that can be explained and things that cannot be explained, things that can be controlled by humankind and things that cannot be.

Secondly, it is God who gives us life. It is this God who establishes order and purpose in life. It is this God who gifts us with the past, who offers possibilities in the present and who promises us a future.

Thirdly, God does all this for a reason. That reason is to establish a relationship with God's people. In other words, God's focus is wholly on being in relationship with people – of being in relationship with you and with me.

This means we don't actually have to go looking for God. Rather God comes looking for us. God does so out of deep love for God's people and out of a deep longing to walk besides us in all the experiences and events of life. In other words, God is never, never far from us!

Then Paul goes on to declare: "*For, in him we live and move and have our being*" (Acts 17: 28).

This means who we are and what we do is inextricably connected to God and to who God is. We are intertwined with God. We are knitted into the very fabric of God who is the source and the inspiration of all that we are.

For you see, we are more than mere creatures whose lives are subject to the mercy of a remote, distant God. We are more than beings who live at the whim of an unapproachable, disinterested deity who has absolute power over us. Rather we are deeply connected to God. We are connected in the most profound, intimate ways.

Friends, here we encounter a most marvellous truth. It's a truth that says we are made in the very image of God.

In Paul's words, we are "God's offspring". We, in our humanity, bear the marks of God and because of this, we carry the thread of the divine and are, therefore, of immense value and concern to God and to one another.

Finally, in all of this, Paul calls on his listeners to turn away from their human inspired efforts to find God. Paul challenges the people of Athens to stop trying to define God or to nail God down in a way that meets their expectations or suits their understandings.

Paul says such things are ultimately futile and vain. It gets us nowhere.

Friends, I believe Paul's talk here is such an important one. For, it says God is much, much bigger than anything we can comprehend.

It says God is Creator and, therefore, can never be defined or limited by the creation in which we live. It means God is not subject to the creation. The fears, the anxieties and doubts that we live with have no power over God. Things like suffering, death, evil and hate can never dismiss or defeat God. God stands way beyond all these debilitating, limiting things.

It says God creates things for a reason. God creates and gives us life out of a deep longing to be one with us. This means true purpose and real meaning is found in a life that embraces God.

It says we never have to search for God. Rather God searches for us.

It says to "find" God is to simply wait upon God with an open mind and heart – and God will find us!

It says we are God's "offspring". We are God's children. We bear the image of God and because of this we are all of immense significance, value and concern.

Finally, Paul says this all means we are challenged to change our ways and to see the world differently. We are to do so by rising above our simple need for God by embracing God's need for us!

When I first read this address by Paul to the people of Athens as a young adult, I was deeply moved by what was said here. As a somewhat naive university student studying history, psychology and sociology, I was struggling to make sense of many things.

So much of what I encountered in life seemed inconsistent and contradictory. I was deeply puzzled by conflicting values that appeared to promote good but fostered evil. I was profoundly confused by a world that said humankind was in control when so much of what was really happening was beyond our control.

I was rather put off by religion that seemed so self-assured and certain about itself while deep-rooted injustices, ongoing threats of war and the marginalisation of vulnerable people continued unabated.

I wasn't sure where my life was going, why I was doing what I was doing, and what all this meant. Paul's address on the Areopagus helped me through this dilemma because it pointed me to an awesome, loving, deeply personal, caring God.

I pray Paul's words will also speak to you today. They are wise, incredibly important words that speak of an amazing God who is there for us at all times.

And if you would like me to sum all this up in a nutshell, let me simply say, look to Jesus.

Welcome Jesus as your friend. Receive Jesus as Lord of your life.

For Jesus is the very face of God. Jesus is the embodiment of God. Jesus is the most profound expression of who God is and of what God calls us to be. Jesus exemplifies the kind of people we are created to be.

So, open your hearts and minds to this extraordinary God. Be followers of Jesus. Trust in him and bear his name in all that you do.

For here is life, life in all its fullness!

Amen.

Foster your faith this week

Acts 17:22-31

Ps 66:8-20

1 Pt 3:13-22

Jn 14:15-21

UNITING FOR THE VOICE: UCA STATEMENT



The Uniting Church in Australia Assembly and the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) welcome the launch of the campaign to vote Yes in the Referendum which seeks the support of the Australian people for a constitutionally enshrined First Nations Voice.

“We support the Yes vote for the Voice as a pivotal step toward the full implementation of the Uluru Statement, so that as a nation we can finally confront the truth of our past and present and make way for justice.”

Together Uniting Church President Rev Sharon Hollis and UAICC Interim National Chair Rev Mark Kickett affirmed their strong support for a Voice to Parliament as a critical step toward honouring the sovereignty of First Nations Australians in this land and furthering the work of truth-telling and treaty.

“This is an historic opportunity for Australia to acknowledge and honour First Nations people and their deep spiritual ties to this land and to walk together as a nation toward a better future,” said Rev Hollis.

“We support the Yes vote for the Voice as a pivotal step toward the full implementation of the Uluru Statement, so that as a nation we can finally confront the truth of our past and present and make way for justice.”

Rev Kickett said now was the time for Australians to unite in support of justice for First Peoples.

“The Uluru Statement is an invitation given by First Nations people to the people of Australia,” said Rev Kickett. “A constitutionally enshrined Voice will shape and guide the relationship between First and Second peoples in this country by enabling our people to have a say in the decisions that impact our communities.”

“In the same way the 1967 Referendum brought Australians together, this is an opportunity for all of us to unite in a big way as we seek to restore justice and promote healing for First Nations people in this land,” said Rev Kickett.

Rev Hollis said the Voice to Parliament was a moral and theological issue, not a political one.

“In the Uniting Church we believe we share a common destiny with our UAICC siblings, and First Nations people. This is an opportunity for us to honour that commitment.”

“As Second Peoples and as Christians in this land, we are called to confront the oppression, dispossession and racism faced by First Nations people.”

Rev Kickett said the Covenant in the Uniting Church tied First and Second Peoples together in a binding way so that together we may contribute to a more just Church and nation.

“Now is the time for us to hear the call of God to seek justice by doing what is right for our nation,” said Rev Kickett.

“Like Jesus, we are called to be bearers of justice, not just in our words, but in our actions and by changing systems which continue to deny the place and rights of the first Australians.”

As the campaign begins, Rev Hollis and Rev Kickett encourage Uniting Church people and communities to inform themselves about the Uluru Statement and what it asks of our nation and to create respectful spaces for yarning about the impact a First Nations Voice will make.

Find resources to begin that conversation here:

<https://uniting.church/voice/>

<https://yes23.com.au/>

<https://ulurustatement.org/>

<https://www.ncca.org.au/first-nations-resources/resources/item/2991-a-voice-to-parliament>

‘VOICE TO PARLIAMENT’ – COMMUNITY FORUM

The ‘**Reconciliation for Western Sydney**’ group is inviting interested people to attend a Community meeting about the ‘Voice’ referendum on **Wednesday 17 May, 7 – 9pm**, at the Reg Byrne Centre, Darcy Rd & Fyall Ave; Wentworthville. There will be three indigenous guest speakers and an opportunity to obtain information, ask questions and participate in discussion. Enquiries: Richard Maguire: 9896-3839. The event is free, but places must be booked in advance via Humanitix.

PARRAMATTA CITY UNITING CHURCH WEEKLY ONLINE SERVICE

Each week an online service is available for those who cannot attend the church service in person. To access the online service (usually available by 8pm Saturday evening), visit the **Northmead Uniting Church Website** and **click on the “Worship” tab at the top of the screen**. The online service is a pre-recorded service including similar liturgy and reflections as the church service. - please click on link below for NUC website:

<https://northmead.uca.org.au/>

Leigh Memorial Congregation

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!



Our love & thanks this Mothers' Day for all the Leigh Memorial, Parramatta Mission & PCUC Mums, grandmothers, great grandmothers & aunts – and all the treasured 'mother figures' – who fill our lives with warmth & support. We also fondly remember the Mums and family members no longer with us and offer prayers of comfort for loved ones. Following Sunday's service, we'll be enjoying a special morning tea in honour of Mothers' Day. All welcome!

NEXT WORSHIP ARRANGEMENTS – MAY

Sunday 21 May – Worship @ 9.30am with Rev John Barr

Sunday 28 May – Worship @ 9.30am with Rev Vladimir

PASTORAL MESSAGE

Our thoughts and prayers remain with those in our worship community who are unwell at the present time or facing other challenges. Contact details for the ministry team (Rev Geoff, Rev Vladimir, Rev John, Pastor Fil & Pastor Sarah) are in the newsletter. For assistance from the leaders' team, please contact LeighMemorialUniting@gmail.com

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LOST PROPERTY IN THE CHURCH

We have quite a bit of lost property accumulating at Leigh Memorial! Members are reminded to check that they have their bags, glasses, Bibles, drink bottles, umbrellas, hats and other personal items with them when they depart the church. Enquiries about lost items can be directed to the stewards.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SYNOD 2023: *TRANSFORMING SPIRIT*

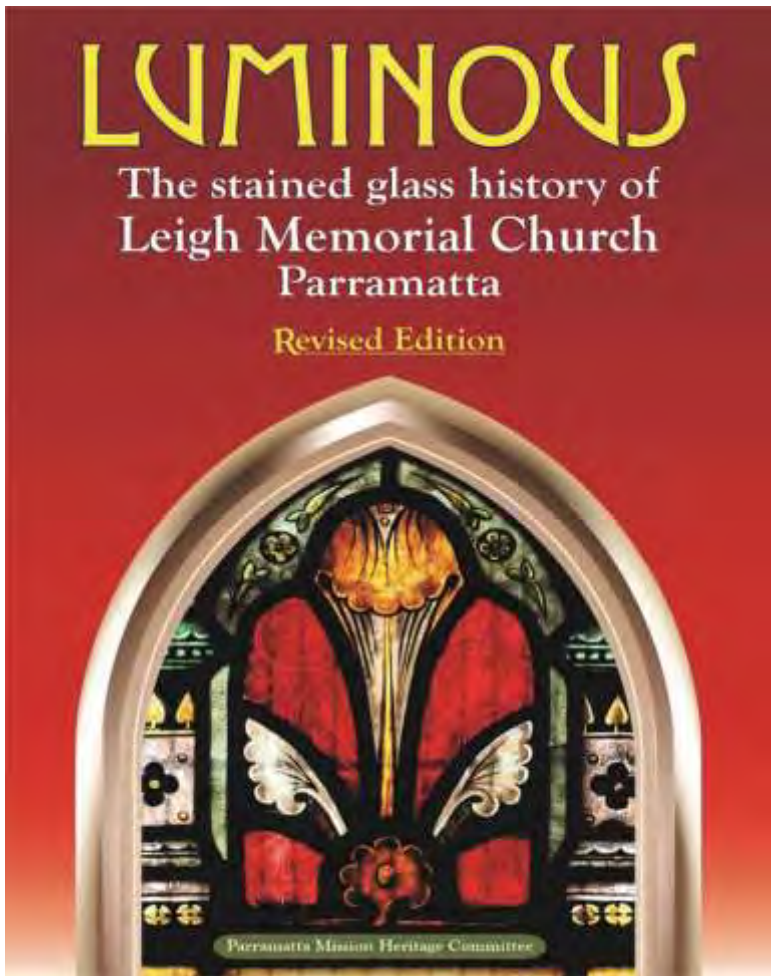
The next Synod NSW/ACT conference will be held on the weekend of 15 – 17 September in Katoomba. It will be the first time 'in-person' since 2019. Keynote speakers are Mark McCrindle and Rachel Perkins. Please pray for those organising Synod 2023, and for the event to have great results in terms of vision & practical planning, inc. for rural centres. For details, go to:

www.nswact.uca.org.au

MEALS PLUS UPDATE – MAY

Parramatta Mission provides food and support services to assist the most vulnerable people in our community. This includes meals and emergency grocery assistance as well as onsite access to services to assist those who may be homeless, at risk of homelessness or facing crisis. Over the past few years, Meals Plus has also provided regular, free flu & COVID vaccination clinics onsite – including one this month. Meals Plus is open for breakfast and lunch from Monday to Friday, and between January and April this year, served over 15,000 meals. **Many thanks to everyone who regularly supports Meals Plus!** Donations of non-perishable food, blankets and good quality second-hand warm clothing are always welcome.

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



NEW BOOK!

This Mothers' Day, 14 May, our PM & PCUC Heritage Committee is releasing a new book: ***Luminous, Revised Edition***.

The book details the history of Leigh Memorial's stained glass windows and includes new information and photos, plus the stories behind feature windows at the Westmead, Northmead and Centenary Uniting Church sites. The wonderful cover design is by Ken Morgan.

The books are \$20 each & will be available from Liz after the service, or an order can be placed via LeighMemorialUniting@gmail.com

To all ministry agents and congregation and presbytery office bearers:

Dear Friends

The Uniting Climate Action Network is gathering to plan next steps, and you're invited!

The Uniting Climate Action Network (UCAN) was established in 2021. It's a way of connecting people in the Uniting Church and wider community who believe care for the earth and all its life matters. For many in the church this care is an important dimension of their faith, discipleship, and mission. For others, it's a core personal conviction and value. For all, it's a motivation to act – on climate change, protecting forests, reducing waste and pollution, for the health of our rivers, and many other concerns.

UCAN's vision is to foster, support and grow this type of action. Of course, we encourage members to join in advocacy on climate change as part of the Synod Climate Action Strategy (this Strategy was established by a resolution at the 2019 Synod meeting). But we also aim to support the different issues and grassroots initiatives that our members and congregations are engaged in.

To focus our efforts, UCAN is having an [online next steps gathering on the evening of Monday May 22, from 7.00pm-8.30pm](#) . You and all interested people are invited to be part of it.

Why now?

It is nearly one year since the Federal election. There have been some positive developments in climate policy and practical action since then. But the latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reminds us [we need to ramp up the scale and urgency of action if we are to secure a safe climate future for all.](#)

At the UCAN gathering we will:

- Reflect on what has happened in climate since the election and where we are at now
 - Remind ourselves of how climate action fits with the faith and values of the Uniting Church and our own values
 - Identify the key actions needed to reduce emissions nationally and what part we can play in those, as well as other concerns of members
- Hear what resources and training we offer to support network members in both broader climate action and other grassroots environmental issues

You don't have to be an existing UCAN member to join in the forum. All those with an interest in environmental care and action on climate change are welcome.

You can [register for the UCAN next steps gathering here.](#)

If you have any questions or need more information please contact Jon O'Brien in the Uniting Advocacy team, on 0477 725 528 or at joobrien@uniting.org

Jon O'Brien

Social Justice Advocate

UNITING

Westmead Congregation

Sharing the Hospitality of Jesus Christ

Sunday 14th May 2023, 9.30am



A Happy Mother's Day to all mothers and mother figures - We especially remember those dear mothers that are no longer with us.

Today's worship will be conducted by Reverend John Barr – it will be good to see you once again Rev. John.

Last Sunday Pastor Sarah reflected on the Acts passage of stoning Stephen. Sarah brought in a collection of stones and had built a loose wall encased in wire with them pre-hand. In her reflection Sarah commented on the stones as "living stones". Each stone has a story, but it cannot speak – our place of worship is built by the stones brought in by every single person, past and present. Whilst stones can be very useful in creating, they can also be used to tear down and destroy people. Thank you, Sarah, for your beautiful still imagery and reflection.

THE BUS TRIP that was planned for the 17th May has been cancelled for the interim period. However, a new date will be announced once things are underway.

We continue with the prayer chain and keep Robyn Hallinan and others that we become aware of, in our prayers.

WESTMEAD WORSHIP LEADERS: May 2023.

7th May : Pastor Sarah Bishop

14th May : Rev. John Barr

21st May : Rev. Vladimir/Rev. Geoff Smith

BIBLE STUDY: Each Monday, 2.00pm

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



MORNING MEDITATION with Campfire in the Heart

Each weekday morning at 7.45-8.20am

Campfire in the Heart – Morning Prayers

Each weekday morning at 7.00-7.30am

Saturday, 20th May 2023, 9.00am – 2.00pm
Market Day at Pitt Town Uniting Church,
Bathurst Street, Pitt Town

The Market Day is being held to raise further funds for the building of freshwater wells in West Papua.

PITT TOWN'S  

MASSIVE

MARKET DAY & GARAGE SALE

SATURDAY MAY 20

At the Uniting Church, Bathurst St.

9AM-2PM

BOOKS, PLANTS & CAKES

FREE STALLS
Book a spot & sell your garage items, books, clothes, old wares etc.
"Your stall, your money"
Take home what profit you make!

FEATURING THE FANTASTIC KT DANCERS

TEA & COFFEE

LIVE MUSIC & SINGING

PLUS LOTS MORE

HUGE FRUIT & VEG STALL

OUR MISSION IS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR CLEAN WATER WELLS IN WEST PAPUA!

All enquiries call 0439 309 303 or for stall bookings call Christine 0422 930 028



Life-giving and sustaining God, we give you thanks for the gifts women bring. On this Mother's Day we especially thank you for our mothers. We thank you for their caring love, their cradling of children, their willingness to give and not count the cost, their tenderness and warm embrace. We thank you for our mothers in the faith who have helped us know and experience your love. We thank you for their words of wisdom and the ways they have nurtured and cared for us.

Our lives are the richer because of their influence and example. Strong, compassionate God like a mother you tenderly care for your children. You pick us up when we fall over Your face smiles on us. You sing songs to us of your love. Like our mother you feed us from your hand, you search for us when we are lost, you bind up our wounds, you comfort us when are hurting.

Thank you for those who have been mothers to us in nurturing our faith. We honour them this day and ask that you would help us follow the example of love they have shown. We thank you for the ongoing leadership of women and ask that you would uphold and strengthen all mothers this day remembering the important role they play in our families and in the life of the church and community.

We ask this day that you would strengthen our families. We know that no family is perfect. Heal our families where they are broken. May You be present in our families guiding and sustaining us this day and into the future. We pray in Jesus name who spoke of himself as a mother hen who seeks to gather her chicks under her wings.

Amen

(Source: Helen Richmond, posted on Prayers that Unite Facebook page May 2018)

시드니 조은 교회 Sydney Jo-Eun Church

23-18

부활후 네 번째 주일 (4th Easter of Sunday) 2023년 05월 14일 오후 1시30분

개회 찬송 (Entrance Hymn) 왕이신 나의 하나님 다함께

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 36장 통 36장 주 예수 이름 높이어

기도 (Prayer) 주기도문송 635 하늘에 계신 우리 아버지 다함께

성경 봉독 (Scripture Reading) 사무엘하 1:21-27

말씀(Preaching)- 전현구 목사 부모와 자식

봉헌 송(Offertory Hymn) 새 579장 통 304장 어머니의 넓은 사랑

나눔과 알림 (Announcement & Notices)

1. 시드니 조은교회에 오신 여러분을 주님의 이름으로 환영합니다.
3. '매일성경' 독상과 '공동체성경읽기' 통독으로 말씀을 적용하며 매일 주님과 동행하는 삶 살아가시길 바랍니다
4. 어려움을 겪는 이웃들을 위해 함께 증보기도 해주시길 바랍니다.
5. 하나님의 기쁨인 전도사명에 동참하시길 부탁드립니다.

폐회찬송(Final Hymn) 새501장 통 255장 너 시온아 이소식 전파하라 (1절)

축도 전 현구 목사

QT나눔 & 성경공부
오후4:00

수요기도회: 오후 7시
민수기 30:1-16

새벽기도회 : 오전 6시
민수기 28:16-32:19

Leigh Fijian Congregation

- 1. Lotu ena macawa oqo 14/05:** Na sigatabu mai oqo na sigatabu ni tina. Era na vakaitavi tiko kina o ira na marama. Eda na vakasigalevu vata ni suka na lotu.
- 2. Lotu ena macawa mai oqo 21/05:** Na lotu ena macawa mai oqo na lotu cokovata ni Parramatta Nepean Presbytery (PNP). Ena qaravi tiko ena valenilotu e St Marys.
- 3. Lesoni ni macawa oqo 08/05 – 14/05:** Cakacaka 17:22-31 Same 66:8-20 1 Pita 3:13-22 Joni 14:15-21
- 4. Lesoni ni macawa mai oqo 15/05 – 21/05:** Cakacaka 1:6-14 Same 68:1-10, 32-35 1 Pita 4:12-14, 5:6-11 Joni 17:1-11
5. Vakavinavinaka vei na Bula Feeding ena vei qarava totoka eratou mai qarava tiko. E vakayagataki e 20 na veleti ni kakana ena siga tusiti, lako vata kei na kena tea, coffee kei na muffins.

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.

Traditional Fijian welcome and lunch accorded to Talatala Geoff Smith on his first church service (07 May 2023) with the Fijian Congregation.





Sailosi's Birthday



Bula Feeding servicing the homeless on (09 May 2023)



Parramatta City Uniting Church:

Introduction to Christian Meditation - a six-week course

"Be still and know that I am God" Psalm 46:10

A six-week introductory course on Christian Meditation
is being offered at Centenary Uniting Church.

Where: Centenary Uniting Church,
46 Sorrell Street, North Parramatta

When: Tuesday evenings, May 30 – July 4

Time: 7.00pm to 8.00pm



Meditation is an ancient form of silent prayer, sometimes called contemplation or the prayer of the heart. Its roots lie in the teaching of Jesus and the practice of the Desert Fathers in the 4th century. Its aim is to bring the distracted mind to silence and stillness and simply be in the presence of God. Even in our busy lives, this is possible. A Christian meditation group has met for several years at Northmead Uniting. With the commencement of Parramatta City Uniting Church, it seems timely to offer a new group. Why not come along and try this simple and peaceful form of prayer? The introductory course provides an opportunity to experience Christian meditation in a small group. We will learn about its origins and its relevance as a form of prayer that is so needed in today's world. Most importantly we will learn by doing, with a time of meditation each week. Those who wish to can continue as a meditation group after the six weeks.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Jon O'Brien: 0411 332 825 or jonmarkobrien@gmail.com You will also find a wealth of information and resources at the website of the **World Community for Christian Meditation: <https://wccm.org/>**

SYNOD 2023 TRANSFORMING SPIRIT



15-17 SEPTEMBER

KATOOMBA CHRISTIAN CONVENTION CENTRE



Come and hear about the transformational work and mission of the people of God already on the way.

Keynote Speakers:



Mark McCrindle



Rachel Perkins

Let's discover together about progressing and resourcing our commitments through **Future Directions:**

- **Reimagining ministry** in and with rural and regional areas,
- **Reaching and empowering** people in the first third of their lives,
- **Walking Together** with First Peoples
- **Acting and advocating** for climate justice; and
- **Working with Presbyteries** across the Synod to stimulate growth in and through our congregations.

IMPORTANT DATES

NOMINATIONS
19 May 2023

PROPOSALS FOR DISCERNMENT
19 May 2023

SUGGESTIONS FOR AGENDA
19 May 2023

PRESBYTERY REPORTS
July 2023



Talk to your Minister or Church leader about **how you can be involved** in the Synod Meeting 2023 today!

Find out more about Synod 2023 here:

www.nswact.uca.org.au or Email synodmeeting@nswact.uca.org.au

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 unwell, those that are burdened by thoughts of loved ones ill that are separated by distance – May you grant comfort and healing to them.
- Those who are experiencing challenges either physical or mental – we pray that you pour out Your Holy Spirit upon them and help them to rise.
- For wars that devastate and tear down people's lives, with the chaos that happens with supply chains of food and essentials as a result – Ukraine, Myanmar .
- For those that struggle with homelessness, addictions and poverty – Lord create effective pathways that will change their circumstances. Place Your hand and strengthen them that address their difficulties and help them.
- For Your churches all over the world that they may inspire those who come in – we pray for guidance in ministry and in Your work that is undertaken.
- For those struggling with grief and life situations that are becoming difficult – we pray for Your intervention. May You give the strength and courage to walk on and may You provide friendship and love to surround and motivate 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 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

PCUC online service information

<https://northmead.uca.org.au/>

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



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