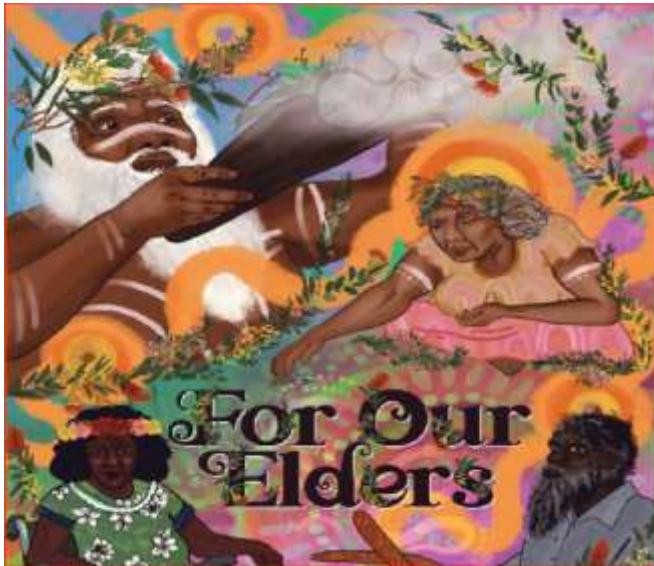


# OUR NEWS

9th July 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

## **Weekly Reflection**

### **Pentecost 6A, 2023**

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

#### **William Loader**

Matthew began his gospel by emphasising the continuity between John the Baptist and Jesus. A certain tension developed because John had foretold that Jesus would be the judge to come. He would come with fire and judgement (3:10-11). Matthew 11 begins with an account of John's pondering whether Jesus really is the one who is to come as judge (11:2-6). Why? Because he had not brought the judgement. Jesus replies in a way that reassures John yet also distinguishes himself from John's understanding. John is to understand Jesus' present role not just his future one. In Jesus not only is the kingdom announced; it is also coming to reality. Sometimes Matthew's emphasis on judgement to come is so strong we might wonder whether his theology is closer to John's, but then there are these passages which identify the kingdom breaking through into the present. What is awaited is not just judgement but hope of liberation and renewal. When we pray, 'Your kingdom come', we pray about the future but also open ourselves to the present. Something happens as a result - in the present!

The verses which follow (11:7-15) also both affirm John and distinguish John from Jesus and the disciples. In today's passage 11:16-19 include a similar twofold emphasis. Jesus identifies his mission with John's; yet they are different. The response of children (or it could equally be servants or slaves) to each other about dancing or wailing (11:16-17) is an image which serves to contrast John and Jesus and at the same time highlights the negative response to each. Does the dance image match Jesus and the mourning image match John? Both images would have been traditionally associated with special meals (wakes and weddings?).

John's austerity of not eating and drinking belongs to the period of waiting; the promise has yet to arrive. Jesus' celebratory lifestyle of eating and drinking belongs to the period of fulfilment. In Mark's story of controversy that John and his disciples fasted, but Jesus did not (2:18-20), we have a similar contrast. Jesus' response there is to claim that the wedding time had arrived. A celebratory lifestyle of eating and drinking would normally have brought one into bad company so it is not surprising to read the full accusation here: 'a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners' (11:19). Mark also has a story to illustrate that: associated with the call of Levi (2:13-17; of 'Matthew' in Matthew 9:9-13).

Such accusations may have been a standard denigration of people who failed to live up to the normal standards of restrained piety. Similar language appears in Deut 22:20 in speaking of recalcitrant children - who should be stoned! Jesus' celebratory lifestyle fitted his proclamation that God was already actively involved in the present bringing change. Sometimes we imagine he could have had joy only because he was seriously taking note of mission successes, as though natural joy at the presence of God is a kind of self indulgence. But that is not the picture. It is not a studied joy, a kind of guilty, restrained 'rejoicing' which can be forgiven because of great achievements. It is not so serious. It takes a light and fresh approach to tradition. Jesus' words, 'The sabbath was made for people not people for the sabbath' (Mark 2:27), for instance, probably had

nothing to do with meeting the needs of desperately hungry disciples who just had to pluck ears of wheat to survive, but more to do with an affirmation of the enjoyment of a few casually plucked heads of grain for a chew. It was not flouting the Law; it was enjoying the day God had made.

This affirmation of joy is not naive indulgence. Jesus knows that he reaps the fury of those who take it all so seriously that they miss the point. The words, 'Wisdom is justified by her works' (11:19), is a typical stance of Jesus. He sees himself in the tradition of the sage who knows God's wisdom and seeks to live by it. In this Matthew may be evoking those traditions which had speculated about Wisdom (Greek: Sophia) as God's companion, almost marriage partner. Jesus represents and embodies this kind of wisdom, God's wisdom, life's wisdom. Meals celebrate this presence just as they foreshadow the great dream of all peoples coming together in reconciliation in a great feast at the end of the days. Jesus was not only fond of feasting; he also employed the image throughout his teaching. It became the location for his famous last act of self giving which gave rise to the tradition of the eucharist. 'Eucharist' ('eucharisteia') means thanksgiving and needs to retain the joy of thanksgiving which characterised Jesus' ministry, which then makes sense of his death.

The closing verses of the chapter (11:25-30) also appear to draw on wisdom traditions. As wisdom is close to God, sometimes God's daughter, and the wise person God's child, so Jesus affirms his unique closeness to God (11:27). The religious wise who seriously go about trying to protect God have missed the point. Jesus' deeds of mercy and compassion are the evidence of God's will. That was what Jesus had been conveying to John's messengers (11:2-6). That was what justified the claim of true wisdom (11:19). That is why it was so offensive that Chorazin and Bethsaida refused to respond (11:20-24). There is something more serious than the immorality of the feasts; it is the denial of the miracles of compassion. The seriously moral frequently live in places like that.

The invitation of Jesus in 11:28-30 is beautiful. It is the kind of thing which sages said. Something very similar occurs in Sirach 51:26-27. It is not a summons to idol worship of Jesus, but a call to learn a new way, especially a new way of interpreting and understanding God's will. That will, God's Law, God's word, was commonly portrayed as assuaging the thirst and feeding the hungry souls. Remember the woman on the street in Proverbs who invited people to her feast (Proverbs 8-9) and Isa 55:1 with its splendid call to share free food? This is the same tradition. It is not a call to heaviness, but a call to lightness of being. It contrasts with the serious calls of those who interpret scripture as demand and stricture.

It is not by chance that Matthew will proceed directly from here to his version of the controversy over the sabbath (12:1-8). In his own way he will reshape the story to portray Jesus as an interpreter of the Law who focuses on compassion and adds to his account the words of Hosea 6:6, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice'. The promise is not joy one day after strictures now, but joy now, embedded in the life of God and located in the midst of the world in its joy and pain - also in its hostility. With such a sense of rest we can turn our attention to what really matters, people, and turn aside from the busy hassles of religiosity with its industry of piety which continues to make of many churches its factories.



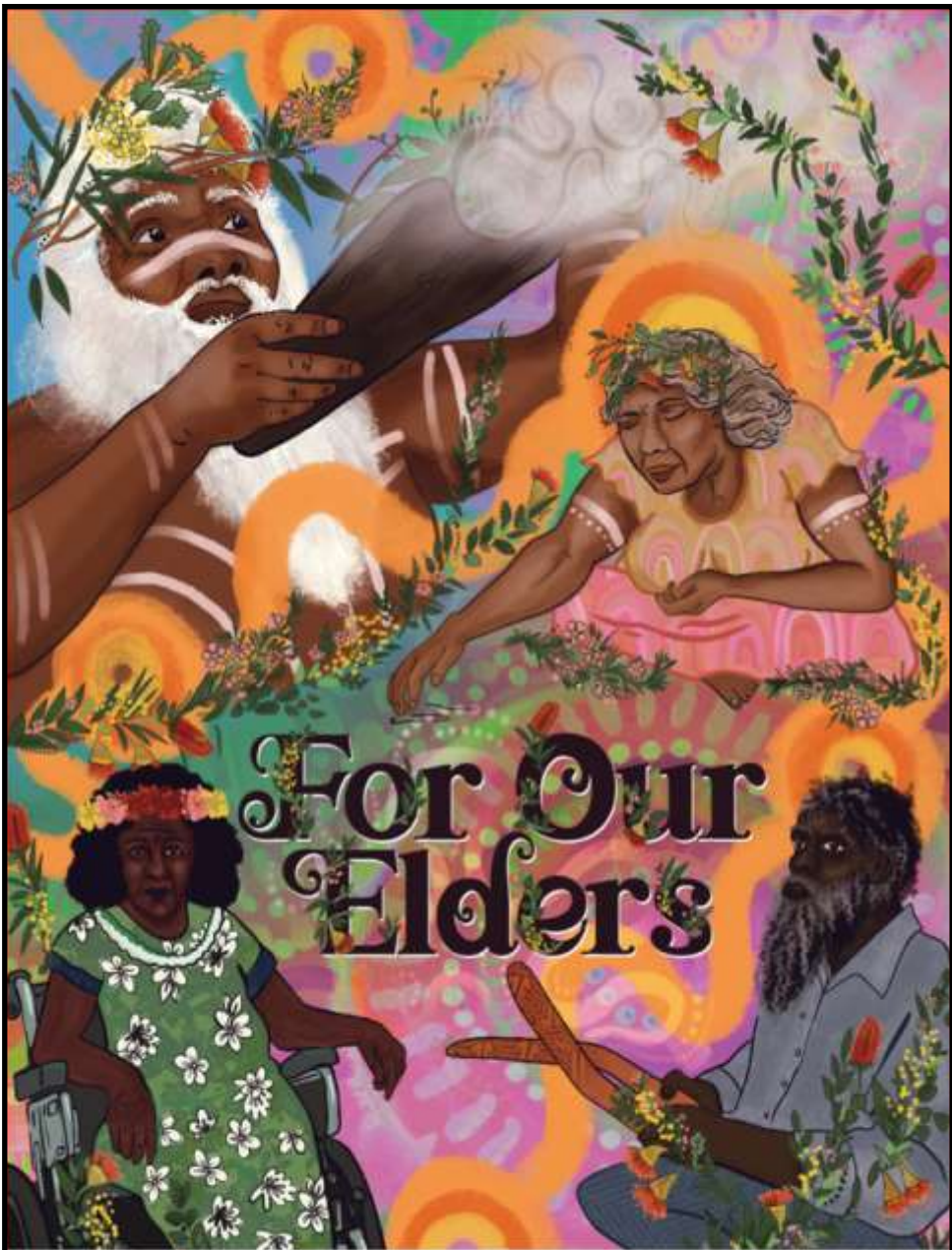
***Foster your faith this week***

Gn 24:34-38,  
42-49, 58-67

Ps 45:10-17 or  
Song 2:8-13

Rom 7:15-25a

Mt 11:16-19, 25-30



**NAIDOC Week**

2-9 JULY 2023

#NAIDOC2023 #ForOurElders

 @naidocweek
  @naidocweek
  facebook.com/NAIDOC

**For Our Elders, Bobbi Lockyer**

Where there is knowledge there are our Elders. Our Elders paved the pathways for us, taught us our knowledge, our history, they passed down their art, stories and wisdom. Our Elders are the foundation of our communities and role models for our children. With this poster I wanted to showcase how important our Elders are in passing down traditions and culture to our children and future.

Designed and illustrated by Bobbi Lockyer. Text and layout design by Lisa Morrison for the Creative Commons License. Original design by the NAIDOC Council. Original design by the NAIDOC Council.



naidoc.org.au



# Leigh Memorial

## **WELCOME TO WINTER WORSHIP**

**Rev Vladimir** will be with us at Leigh Memorial this **Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> July @ 9.30am.**

## **PASTORAL MESSAGE**

Our prayers remain with those in our worship community who are unwell, grieving or facing other challenges at this time, inc. Ruth, Nell, George, Jolame and Lalaja – and with everyone accessing Meals Plus and other support services this winter. The cold nights and heavy demand are resulting in many additional people seeking out shelter, warmth, food and other help this winter. Contact details for the ministry team are in the newsletter. To donate to Meals Plus, please go to the PM website.

## **THANK YOU ROBERT**

“Many thanks” to Robert Key, who recently retired as Mission Secretary after 15 years in the role. Robert’s dedication, warm support and meticulousness as an administrator have been greatly appreciated – and have made a significant difference to the efficiency, effectiveness and witness of the Council, the Mission, and the congregation over a long period of change and challenge. Robert will be continuing in a number of leadership, administrative, support and mentoring roles within congregational life. Great work Robert – “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

## **NAIDOC WEEK & BURRAMATTA ‘WARAMI’ 2023**

National NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia in the first week of July each year (Sunday to Sunday), to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

**Parramatta’s NAIDOC celebration will be held on Saturday 8 July at the Crescent, Parramatta Park.** <https://www.naidoc.org.au/about/naidoc-week>

## **“YARN FOR YES” WEBINAR**

Members are encouraged to attend the ‘Yarn for Yes’ webinar on the Voice referendum (organised as part of the UCA Assembly’s ‘Walking Together as First and Second Peoples’ initiative) – which will take place at **7.30pm on Thursday 13 July** – Registrations: <https://uniting.church/yarn-for-yes-2/>

## **CONGRATULATIONS ANAND!!**

**Anand Nandeti**, who was part of our congregation and Leaders team between 2015 and 2019 has recently completed his Bachelor of Theology at Pilgrim Theological College, Melbourne, and will be candidating as a minister. Warmest congratulations Anand on a wonderful achievement, and we pray that all goes well during the next stage of your life and career within the UCA.

## CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

A course in Christian Meditation is continuing to take place at Centenary Uniting Church, 46 Sorrell Street, North Parramatta on **Tuesday evenings, 7.00pm to 8.00pm**. Enquiries: Jon O'Brien: phone 0411 332 825 – or email, [jonmarkobrien@gmail.com](mailto:jonmarkobrien@gmail.com)

## MINI BORROWING LIBRARY

An even 'mini-er' version of the mini borrowing library in Leigh Memorial's vestibule is still available. If you're looking for a book to take home & read, please have a browse through the selection.

**"SAVE THE DATE": July, August, September...**

- \* **SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup> JULY:** The next combined PCUC service will take place at 10.00am on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July @ **Northmead Uniting Church**, followed by morning tea. There will be no service at Leigh Memorial that morning.
- \* **SUNDAY 20<sup>th</sup> AUGUST: 'WINTER CLASSICS' FUNDRAISING CONCERT @ LEIGH** – On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August at 2.30pm, a concert of classical and sacred music including strings and organ will be taking place at Leigh Memorial. Tickets will go on sale soon. **All proceeds will go to Parramatta Mission's 2023 Winter Appeal.**
- \* **SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> SEPTEMBER: COMBINED PCUC SERVICE, CONGREGATION MEETING & LUNCH @ Leigh Memorial.** Further information to follow.
- \* **SYNOD: TRANSFORMING SPIRIT**  
Please continue to pray for the preparatory phase of NSW/ACT Synod 2023, which will be held in Katoomba (**15 – 17 September, 2023**). The Synod website has further details.



***Historic Castlereagh Uniting Church (interior doorway decoration)***

## Sharing the Hospitality of Jesus Christ



**Sunday 9th July 2023, 9.30am**

Our Worship service today will be led by Pastor Fil - A very warm welcome, Fil, we look forward to hearing from you.

Last Sunday, Pastor Sarah reflected on “Welcoming the Stranger”. Christ is in those we pass by, those who are homeless, the poor, the ones we don’t smile at, in the not so nice places.

Sarah offered an example of looking into a mirror and asking of oneself to be as Christ - Christ calls us to be Christ-like and bring healing, love, respect, and unity. Thank you, Sarah, for your lovely reflection.

We continue to pray for those in our worshipping community who are unwell, grieving or facing other challenges at this present time. Those accessing Meals Plus, Bula Feeding and other community services this winter also remain in our prayers .

**PRAYER CHAIN:** For prayer support please know that you can always contact Jan if you would like to be included in the Prayer Chain. (Jan – 0418 438 901)

A funeral will be held for Phyllis Nichols on 12 July, 10.30am at Pinegrove. It will be a graveside service only.



**Thank you!** - to everybody on our Sunday duty roster and to all those who work behind the scenes. Please remember to contact your replacement if you are unable to attend on your rostered day.

### **COMBINED PCUC WORSHIP SERVICE**

The next combined PCUC worship service will take place at 10.00 am on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July at Northmead Uniting Church. The service will be followed by morning tea.

The CCLM (Church Council Leaders Meeting) as it was known, has had a change of name and is now known as the CLT (Congregation Leadership Team).

The name, PCUC (Parramata City Uniting Church) as it is known at this stage, has not been formally decided upon and all congregation communities will be asked to vote on a final name later this year.

**BIBLE STUDY:** Meets each Monday, 2.00pm

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

**MORNING MEDITATION:** Pastor Sarah Bishop.

Contact 0412 606 049 [sarah@bluetardis.com.au](mailto:sarah@bluetardis.com.au)

# Leigh Fijian

**1. Lotu ena macawa oqo 09/07:** Na lotu ena macawa oqo ena vunau tiko kina ko Talatala Samu Sadrata. Vunau vakarau Viliame Kamotu kei Taito Dovibua. Tu vakarau na veiliutaki matamasumasu naba 3.

**2. Lotu ena macawa mai oqo 16/07:** Na lotu ena macawa mai oqo na veisau vunau na Parramatta Nepian Presbytery (PNP) . Na vunau lesi Viliame Kamotu kei Taito Dovibua. Vunau vakarau Sosiceni Toa kei Epele Semani. Tu vakarau veiliutaki na matamasumasu naba 2.

**3. Lesoni ni macawa oqo 03/07 – 09/07:** Vakatekivu 24:34 – 38,42-49,58-67 Same 45:10 – 17 or Sere I Solomoni 2:8-18 Roma 7:15 - 25 Maciu 11:16 – 19,25-30

**4. Lesoni ni macawa mai oqo 10/07 – 16/07:** Vakatekivu 25:19-34 Same 119:105-112 Roma 8:1-11 Maciu 13:1-9, 18-23

**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. Me nanumi na FNC ni tou na veiwaseitaka na veiqaravi kei na tolu na valelotu Cambelltown, St Mary kei Berala. Ena qaravi tiko na FNC ena vula ko Jiulai ni yabaki mai oqo 2024 e Stanwell Tops.

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



Emosi Rogoimuri visiting Jolame who is admitted at the Westmead Hospital.

시드니 조은 교회 Sydney Jo-Eun Church 23-26

6 성령강림 주일 (6th Pentecost of Sunday) 2023년 7월 09일 오후 1시30분

개회 찬송 (Entrance Hymn) 왕이신 나의 하나님 다함께

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 10 장 통 34 장 전능와 오셔서

기도 (Prayer) 주기도문송 635 하늘에 계신 우리 아버지 다함께

성경 봉독 (Scripture Reading) 마가복음 10:35-45

말씀(Preaching)- 전현구 목사 새로운 세상

봉헌 송(Offertory Hymn) 새 208 통 248 내 주의 나라와

나눔과 알림 (Announcement & Notices)

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

폐회찬송(Final Hymn) 새 501장 통 255장 너 시은아 이소식 전파하라 (1절)

축도 전 현구 목사

QT나눔 & 성경공부  
오후 4:00

수요기도회: 오후 7시  
예레미야 3:19-4:4

새벽기도회: 오전 6시  
예레미야 2:29-5:6



# 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 in the congregation, and those who are unwell both that we know of and not – Lord grant Your healing and mercy on all and allow us to be renewed by Your love.
- For the countless numbers that have died/become injured in Ukraine, Myanmar and other war torn regions of the world – May You engage those that believe in You in these regions to spread and talk peace.
- For the homeless and those on the margins due to illness, finances or situations only known to them, for differences arising due to culture, faith, or colour – Lord inspire in us unity that we all walk together and be a neighbour to each other regardless.
- For the rising cases of animal cruelty and abandonment facing animals as they are taken in only to be abandoned in cruel ways – Lord let empathy and awareness arise and let the perpetrators be made aware.
- For the upcoming vote on the “Voice in Parliament” – May you help us to reach a just decision and may we act in accordance within our faith for humanity and equality.
- For refugees that have difficulties finding work and education – Bless those who volunteer time to teach and educate those in need of skills.

### **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 Korotkov, Rev John Barr, Rev. Hyun Goo, Chaplain Sarah, Ps Fil Kamotu, PMC Chairperson, David and Secretary Rob Eagleson, and all those who lead and serve.

## **Service & Zoom Information**

### **Leigh Memorial**

**Time: Sunday 9.30am on site & Zoom**

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

**Meeting ID: 519 908 9657**

### **PCUC online service**

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

### **Westmead**

**Time: Sunday 9.30am on site**

# Pastoral Contacts

Prayer Points may be sent to  
[wecare@parramattamission.org.au](mailto: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

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## 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 (Supply Minister)	0431 759 573
Rev John Barr (Supply Minister)	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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