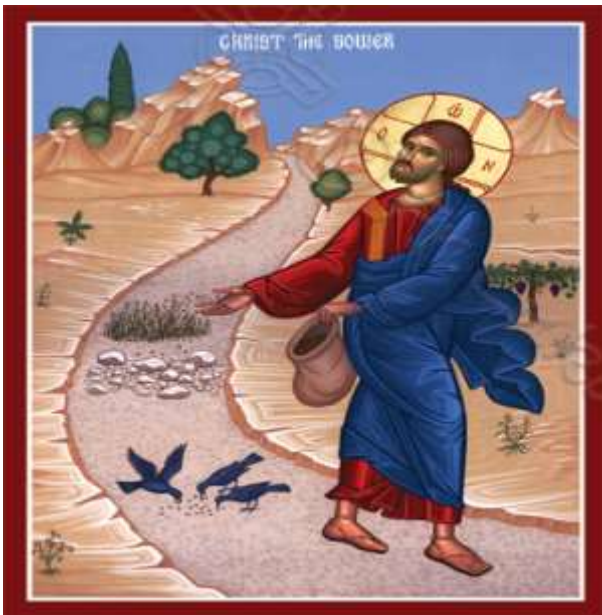


OUR NEWS

16th 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 7A, 2023

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Seeds, Soils and Reality Parables
Rev Nigel Robb, Church of Scotland

How controversial might this parable be? It seems like a gentle arable image, indeed the image we might have in our mind as we read the parable probably includes the sun just rising, the long shadow of the farmer stretching across the land as he throws with wild abandon, his seeds worrying not where they land. He probably has a smile on his face too as the birds circle overhead and all nature is at one. Nice.



Those who heard this passage, however, might have been apoplectic with Jesus as he smashed some long held beliefs and structure of their religion. If the land is a symbol of different people then some would have been very upset that Jesus suggests that God sows the seed among all people. They were adamant that God did no such thing. Some people believe this to be true even today. They are certain that God scatters the word out to Israel, or perhaps a particular nation today ('God bless America...' springs to mind), or denomination, or church. To imagine God throwing the seed universally (without our involvement, take note) would cause no little grinding of teeth on the part of some of his original hearers as it does for some today.

Not only that, it's not exactly a very good business model that the CEO of heaven has come up with here. It feels too random: just throw the word anywhere and maybe in some cases something will happen while in other cases nothing. There is no targeting, no market research, no best growth strategies which means, for a theology that likes to imagine an almighty God and a Messiah who enters the world with force (even if that is for the second coming), that the whole seed image may seem pretty shambolic and weak.

All of this also happens out of sight. The growth of the kingdom does not look that much of anything really. Indeed, while not impossible to find, you often have to look long and hard to find it. You might imagine God would use some strong arm tactic if you have an image in mind of an all powerful God ready to turn the world back to God.

The sower parable, in contrast, is somewhat lackadaisical, almost suggesting an image of a God who sits back in a deckchair having sown the seed wherever it will, watching the letting sun while chewing on a piece of dried grass with his hands behind his head and with no real concern about what the outcome might be.

Might this be a reality-parable? The four conditions of the land might represent the conditions we often experience in life. We are always gadding about trying to make things 'right' to sow the seed. We introduce more programmes in the church to turn us from extinction to mega-churches, we have plans and projects in order to make the field as fertile as possible. The reality is, however, all these different conditions exist and love

is sown into all of them, not by us, but by the sower. Every condition is a possible growing place and is given as much chance as any other.

Indeed, when Jesus explains the parable, he doesn't explain the sower, he explains the soil. The seed falls on different grounds regardless. Perhaps we would target our limited resources to those areas that will bring the biggest impact or return, carrying out cost/benefit analyses to aid our decision making, but this is not how it is done in the Realm of Love.

The Good News is given and offered and invited to grow no matter the condition you are in, the culture is in, the land is in, or the church is in. It is universally given and generously offered by the divine sower.



Foster your faith this week

Gn 25:19-34

Ps 119:105-112

Rom 8:1-11

Mt 13:1-9, 18-23

Leigh Memorial

WELCOME TO WINTER WORSHIP

Rev Geoff will be with us at Leigh Memorial this **Sunday, 16th July @ 9.30am**. Everyone is welcome, and after the service, we'll share morning tea next door. We look forward to seeing you!

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 assistance this winter. Contact details for the ministry team are in the newsletter. To donate to Meals Plus, please go to the PM website.

“SAVE THE DATE”: *July, August, September...*

- * **SUNDAY 30th JULY:** The next combined **PCUC service** will take place at 10.00am on Sunday 30th July @ **Northmead Uniting Church**, followed by morning tea. There will be no service at Leigh Memorial that morning.
- * **SUNDAY 20th AUGUST: 2.30pm Organ & Strings ‘Winter Classics Fundraising Concert’** – with primary & high school performers @ Leigh Memorial. Tickets will go on sale on Monday 17th July via Humanitix. All proceeds to Parramatta Mission’s Winter Appeal.



* **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.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

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

YOU'RE INVITED TO "JAZZ ON HAMMERS"

Northmead UC's 'Jazz on Hammers' is happening again this **Sunday, 16 July from 6.00pm**. Great music, food & company! Donations towards the cost of dinner are appreciated.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CALLUM!

"Happy birthday" to one of the youngest members of our Leigh Memorial worshipping community – Callum – who assists faithfully on Sundays as part of our tech team and also volunteers in multiple capacities for our church and Parramatta Mission each week. Callum helps to make crucial donation pick-ups and deliveries, supports worship team preparations and assists with church tours and other public and special events at Parramatta and the other PCUC sites. Enjoy your special day on the 16th Callum and thanks again for everything you contribute. It's greatly valued.



Leigh Memorial Uniting Church and Parramatta Mission...

The view looking west along the Light Rail line on Macquarie Street, July 2023.

Photo by Mario.

Sydney Organs Group Presents



WINTER *Classics*

Organ & Strings Benefit Concert

Sun 20th Aug 2023 - 2:30pm

Leigh Memorial Church, 119 Macquarie St, Parramatta

Tickets \$20 each or \$50 Family (2 adults and 2 children)

Sydney Organs Group is arranging and producing a benefit concert featuring Organ and Strings at Leigh Memorial Uniting Church, Parramatta, to raise funds for its associated Parramatta Mission. Parramatta Mission provides assistance to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our communities to assist them in transforming their lives.



The concert program is in two parts: In Part One an octet featuring string **students from primary and high schools** will be accompanied by organ in a selection of sacred music by Bach, Franck, Mozart and Schubert. A soprano will join the octet in the Schubert and Franck pieces. In Part Two, solo organists will perform one or two short pieces each by a variety of composers, including Clarke, Lemmens, Bach, Bruhns, Charpentier, Boellman, Attride and Collins.

A complimentary afternoon tea will be served in the Parramatta Mission coffee shop following the performance.

Seating is limited
Tickets on sale July 17th



To purchase tickets,
scan the QR code or visit
[https://www.events.humanitix.com/
winter-classics-concert](https://www.events.humanitix.com/winter-classics-concert)

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO



**SAT.
12 AUG
2023**

**NEWTOWN
MISSION**
9.30 AM -
12.30PM



WALKING TOGETHER 2023 *A VOICE TO PARLIAMENT*



THOMAS MAYO
National Indigenous Officer
of the Maritime Union of
Australia



REV. BILL CREWS
Radio Broadcaster and
Founder The Rev. Bill Crews
Foundation



NATHAN TYSON
Director, First Peoples
Strategy and Engagement,
Synod of NSW & ACT

The Synod of NSW and the ACT, in collaboration with Newtown Mission, is hosting a Forum about the proposed Voice to Parliament, the Synod's second annual Walking Together conference.

KEYNOTE: Thomas Mayo **O&A PANEILLISTS:** Rev. Bill Crews, Nathan Tyson and Thomas Mayo

TICKETS ON SALE NOW! GO TO:

tinyurl.com/RegisterWalkingTogether2023

\$25 In Person | \$10 Online Acces



Westmead



Sharing the Hospitality of Jesus Christ

16th July 2023

Reverend Vladimir will be leading us in Worship today. Thank you Vladimir, we look forward to hearing from you.

Last Sunday Pastor Fil reflected on “Rest for weary souls” – Fil reflected on the message that when Jesus says “Come to me all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest”, weariness encompasses burden of sin/shame and the struggle of Life. When we take the yoke of Jesus upon us, we willingly surrender and accept God’s will as we realise - He is the stronger of us both. The revelation of Christ’s message can be totally missed by the learned and the wise as they look for a more complex understanding – God’s message is “hidden from the wise but revealed to infants”. Thank you, Fil.

We keep in our prayers all the congregation and pray that God brings forth support, care and love for them in their daily lives.



SUNDAY 30th JULY: The next combined PCUC service will take place at 10.00am at Northmead Uniting Church, followed by morning tea. There will be no service at Westmead that morning.



The beautiful Bible Garden, Palm Beach

If you enjoyed the 1st bus trip post Covid to Palm Beach, then lets plan another outing on 30th August – destination to be decided.

BIBLE STUDY: Meets each Monday, 2.00pm

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

EVENING CHRISTIAN MEDITATION: Jon O'Brien

The evening meditation each Tuesday at Centenary Church continues
– 7.00pm – 8.00pm Contact: 0411 332 825

e-mail: jonmarkobrien@gmail.com

MORNING MEDITATION: Pastor Sarah Bishop.

Contact 0412 606 049 sarah@bluetardis.com.au

Leigh Fijian

- 1. Lotu ena macawa oqo 16/07:** Na lotu ena macawa oqo na veisau vunau tiko kina na Parramatta Nepean Presbytery (PNP). Rau na gole tiko yani ki Campbelltown ko Viliame Kamotu kei Taito Dovibua. Ratou na mai vunau veikedatou na valenilotu mai St Mary. Vunau vakarau chairman Sosiceni Toa kei Epeli Semani. Tu vakarau na veiliutaki kei na tali matamasumasu naba 1.
- 2. Lotu ena macawa mai oqo 23/07:** Na lotu ena macawa mai oqo na veisau vunau kei Fiji Parish. Na vunau lesi ki Fiji Parish ko chairman Sosiceni Toa kei Epeli Semani. Vunau vakarau Senitiki Qata kei Sikeli Duwai. Tu vakarau veiliutaki kei na tali na matamasumasu naba 2.
- 3. Lesoni ni macawa oqo 10/07 – 16/07:** Vakatekivu 25:19-34 Same 119:105-112 Roma 8:1-11 Maciu 13:1-9, 18-23
- 4. Lesoni ni macawa mai oqo 17/07 – 23/07:** Vakatekivu 28:10-19 Same 139:1-12, 23-24 Roma 8:12-25 Maciu 13:24-30, 36-43

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 Campbelltown, 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.

시드니 조은 교회 Sydney Jo-Eun Church

23-27

7 성령강림 주일 (7th Pentecost of Sunday) 2023년 7월 16일 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 8장 **통 9장** 거룩 거룩 거룩

기도 (Prayer) 주기도문송 636 하늘에 계신 우리 아버지 다함께

성경 봉독 (Scripture Reading) **출애굽 33:18-23**

말씀(Preaching)- 전현구 목사 당신의 모습에서 예수가 보입니다

봉헌 송(Offeratory Hymn) **새 289** **통 208** 주 예수 내 맘에 들어와

나눔과 알림 (Announcement & Notices)

1. 시드니 조은교회에 오신 여러분을 주님의 이름으로 환영합니다.
3. '매일성경' 묵상과 '공동체성경읽기' 통독으로 말씀을 적용하며 매일 주님과 동행하는 삶 살아가시길 바랍니다
4. 어려움을 겪는 이웃들을 위해 함께 중보기도 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
예레미야 6:16-30

새벽기도회: 오전 6시
예레미야6:20-8:3

PCUC YOUTH EVENT

Turned Up!!

July 2023

"AND START LIVING AGAIN"
RE-IGNITE YOUR JOURNEY WITH GOD OVER 5
INCREDIBLE WEEKS OF REDISCOVERY AND FUN

Parramatta City Uniting Church

15.JULY.2023
8AM - 10:30AM

Leigh Memorial Church
119 Macquarie Street
Parramatta 2150





A lone peasant in the left foreground scatters seeds on an upland pasture. The seeds he has already sown have multiplied in the fields below him to the right and in the middle distance. Across the river, a small crowd gathers to hear Jesus' preaching.

The Parable of the Sower, *Pieter Bruegel the Elder*, 1557

Prayer Points

The people of Parramatta Mission invite you to pray for **Our Community**

- We give thanks that some small gatherings are starting to take place. We give thanks for welcoming cafes and the disciplines we have learnt to help keep us all safe.
- We give thanks for coffee, tea, muffins and spiritually encouraging conversations.

PM Westmead

- For those that are going through challenging times of grief, ill health or carrying the burden of loved ones that are unwell – We pray for Your presence and Holy Spirit to nourish and strengthen weary hearts and minds.
- For those living on the margins of society due to severe financial issues, mental health, unemployment, and homelessness and for those suffering relationship breakdown – We pray for You to be with them, a silent friend bearing with them the pain and struggle they go through, and we pray for a positive change in circumstances.
- For the many that are afflicted by the war in Ukraine, Myanmar, Sudan, Nigeria, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and other parts of the world – We pray that equality, respect, and peace may arrive. We pray that where resources are unfairly hoarded by strong militant groups that conscience may arise to share without payback.
- For the upcoming Voice to Parliament – We ask that You may guide us in making our final decision and that we may effectively begin to set right what needs to be done. We ask for guidance on both sides that we may start to walk the path of reconciliation together.

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

Leigh Fijian

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