

OUR NEWS

6 August 2023



Parramatta City Uniting Church

inc. Parramatta Mission, with its values of *Grace,*
Inclusion, Dignity, Faith & Hope.



Parramatta City Uniting Church acknowledges that we worship, work, witness and serve on the land of traditional owners, the Burramattagal clan of the Darug people. We pay respect to the original custodians of the land, and acknowledge elders past and present, and emerging leaders.

Weekly Reflection

Pentecost 10A, 2023

Matthew 14: 13-21

Feeding Broken Dreams

Rev Andrew Prior



The stories [about Herod and John the Baptist] occur across the gospels. Mark highlights Herod's entanglement with John with more detail and sympathy than Matthew. But Matthew links the story of John and the story Feeding of Five Thousand, much more closely to each other. In Mark the stories' position together is almost coincidental. But in Matthew, (13) "when Jesus heard [of John's murder], he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself.... When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick." Then he fed them.

This was not a great banquet of the powerful and entitled. It was a feast for the poor and the powerless, and the sick. This feast was not in a palace of power, but in the desert; the Greek word does not come from deserted, as when we mean isolated and lonely, but from *eremos*, as in desert. The old King James translation says he went away to a desert place, the last refuge of those excluded from society.

The feeding story itself, contains many allusions to Israel's expectations of a Messiah, and many echoes from the scriptures. We need to remember these to appreciate the depth of the story. I've lifted a list from the ever thorough Brian Stoffregen.

- the wilderness setting for the people of God, en route from captivity to the promised land (Ex 13:18, he notes that "wilderness" occurs 92 times in Exodus-Deuteronomy)
- recalcitrant [or might we say realistic?] Israelites/disciples, who doubt that food can be provided in the wilderness (Ex 16:2-3 = Mk 6:35-38)

- God leads the people, who are like sheep without a shepherd (Num 27:17 = Mk 6:34)
- the people are arranged in military companies (Ex 13:18 = Mk 6:40)
- God as shepherd recalls Psalm 23 and its "green grass" (Ps 23:2 = Mk 6:39...
- the giving of the manna (Ex 16; Num 11; developed especially in the Johannine version (John 6:1-58)
- Elisha's miraculous provision of food (2 Kgs 4:42-44). The miracle followed the death of Elijah (John, in the Gospel story). Elisha overcame protests and had a quantity left over -- all of which are paralleled in the Gospel story.
- Jesus, accused of being a glutton (11:19) provided table fellowship to all, including "publicans and sinners."
- Jesus' eucharistic last meal with his disciples (Mk 14:17-25 = Mt 26:20-29), in which he assumes the role of head of the new family he is creating, providing food and pronouncing the table blessing (particularly appropriate in Matthew, where this story follows closely on 13:53-58)
- the messianic banquet as part of the eschatological imagery, which will include not only bread but also fish or sea creatures (cf. 2 Bar 29:3-8; 4 Ezra 6:52; cf. Ps 74:14; Isa 27:1) [pp. 323-324]

We can also note that John follows his telling of this story of the feeding with extended reflection on the Eucharist. Matthew changes Mark's emphasis on the meaning of the feedings. In Mark (6:30-44) it serves to celebrate the nourishment of salvation offered to Israel, just as the feeding of the 4000 (8:1-10) will celebrate the offer also to the Gentiles (see also 8:16-21). Matthew is not so happy to use the stories in this way. In his composition both feedings are nourishment of Israel... (Loader)

But it is when I look at "Herod's Eucharist," the feast which offers John's life, breaks his body, and presents his head on a platter, as a worship to lust, greed, and revenge, that the story of the feeding comes alive.

For then we see Jesus, and his feast, driven not by power and twisted propriety, but by compassion. We see the kingdom of God linked not to status, and conspicuous exploitative consumption, but to service and healing.

We see the realm of God happening not in the halls of commerce or the high houses of the hills face, but in plainer picnicking in the poor parks of second class suburbs.

When I look at Herod’s feast, I see its reflection in the glitter and exploitation in my local shopping centre, along with its three-hour shifts for school kids. Even the people at the top are left with empty hopes. Once you’ve bought food and a blanket, most of the rest is pointless. In this light, the crazy compassion of Jesus, counter cultural, foolishly extravagant, and never going to get rich, is not something even more foolish and sentimental than cooing over the puppies in the window. It is a lot more sane, and far more hopeful than the empty promises paraded before us.

Rev Andrew Prior

One Man’s Blog

Becoming human in Australia

Foster your faith this week

Gn 32:22-31 Ps 17:1-7, 15

Rom 9:1-5 Mt 14:13-21



PILGRIMS OF THE PLANET

Coming to terms with Climate Change and the shift to the Anthropocene.

12-14 September 2023 | Centre for Ministry, North Parramatta

Dear friends,

We have excellent speakers and presentation topics for the upcoming conference: *'Pilgrims with the Planet'*, 12-14 September at the Centre for Ministry, North Parramatta. See the [attached poster](#) and please share it around.

The aim of this conference is to engage the discourse of the "Anthropocene" in order to explore what theology – broadly conceived – might add to what must be a multidisciplinary discussion.

Along with keynote Ernst Conradie, other speakers include:

- **Gerald West** – biblical scholarship and social engagement in South Africa (and beyond)
- **Vicky Balabanski** – Earth Bible Project and Principal at the UCA college in Adelaide
- **Clive Hamilton** – Australian public intellectual & former Climate Council member

We'd love to see you for one session or the whole event. Register [here](#)! Please contact us at StudentA@nswact.uca.org.au if you have any questions.

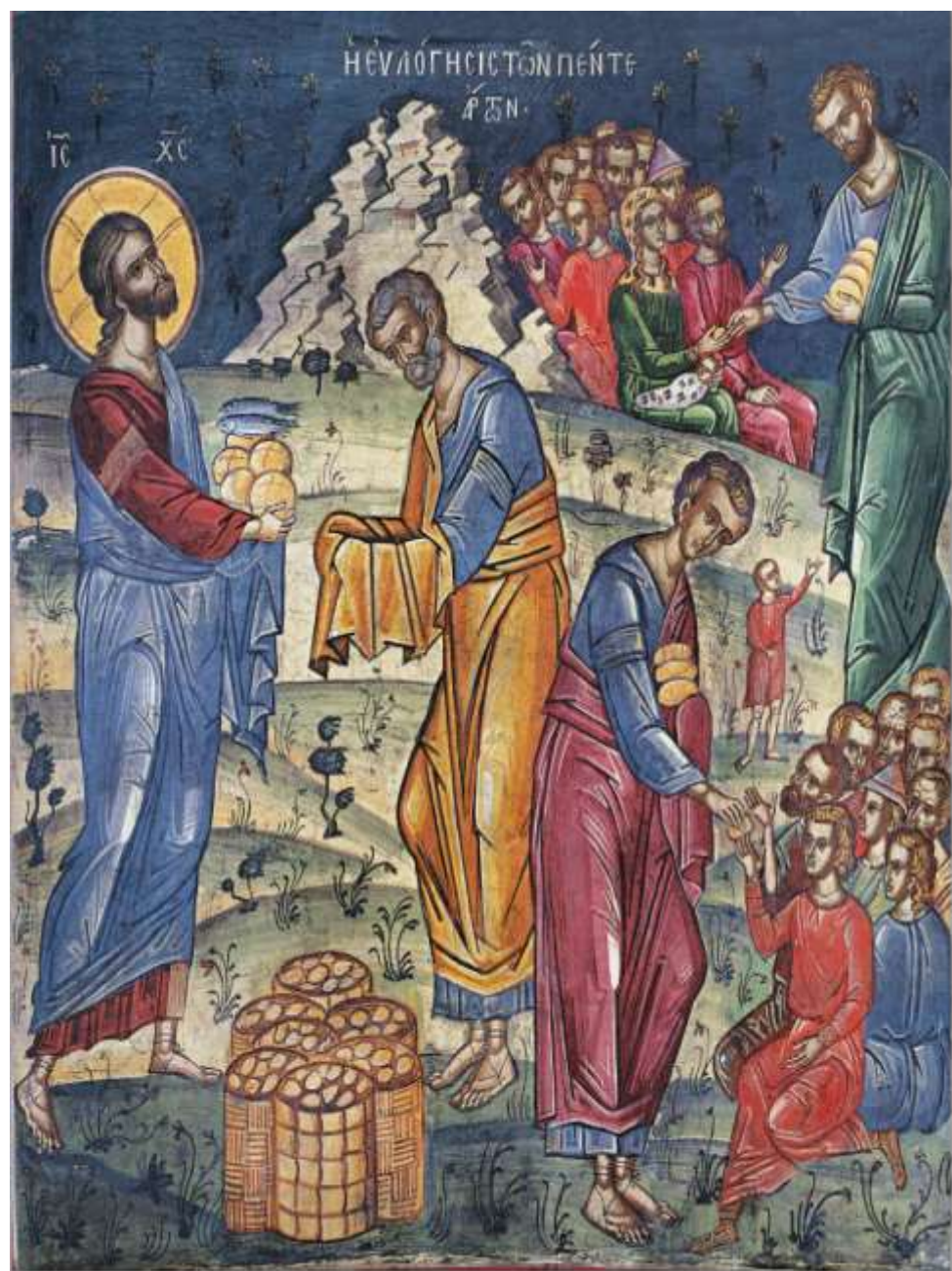
Best wishes,

Rev Dr Peter Walker BA (Hons) BTh PhD
Principal | United Theological College
Director of Education | Uniting Church NSW & ACT

REGISTER HERE



Uniting Church
SYNOD OF NSW & ACT



UNITING
CHURCH
NATIONAL
HISTORY
SOCIETY

4th
Biennial
History
Conference

*Truth-Telling:
from Colonising
to Covenanting*

Thursday 24th August to
Sunday 27th August 2023

Bookings Close Friday 4th August
DON'T MISS OUT!!



Artist: Frances Rrikili Garrawurra

HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday 24 Aug

Evening Meal, Welcome to Country,
Smoking Ceremony and Keynote Speaker
Yingyi Mark Guyula, MLA

Friday 25 Aug

9 Speakers
Visit to Chung Wah Society
Temple and Museum
Morning/Afternoon Teas and Lunch

Saturday 26 Aug

Tour Nungalinga College & 7 Speakers
Lunch/Dinner/Tea Breaks
Yolnu Storytelling, Singing and Dancing

Sunday 27 Aug

9.30am Service celebrating 150 years
UCA President Rev Sharon Hollis
Light Lunch

Venues

Darwin Memorial Uniting Church
Nungalinga College

In Person \$260

Online \$80

For more information
go to

<https://ucnhs2023.my.canva.site/>

To Register
go to

<https://www.trybooking.com/CGJUQ>

Contact Us
ucnhs2023conference@gmail.com

Leigh Memorial

WELCOME TO WINTER WORSHIP!

Rev Geoff Smith & Pastor Fil Kamotu will be with us this **Sunday, 6th August** @ Leigh Memorial at 9.30am – including Communion. All welcome!

PASTORAL MESSAGE

Our warmest prayers remain with those in our worship community who are unwell, in hospital or rehab, grieving or facing other significant challenges at this time – and everyone accessing Meals Plus and other support services this winter. Contact details for the ministry team are in the newsletter.

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS SPECIAL FUNDRAISING EVENT!

'WINTER CLASSICS' CONCERT @ LEIGH MEMORIAL CHURCH

This special event – with some very talented primary & high school performers plus a soprano and gifted organists – will take place at Leigh Memorial on Sunday 20th August at 2.30pm. Tickets are on sale now. **100% of proceeds will go to Parramatta Mission's Winter Appeal.**

Link to buy tickets – https://events.humanitix.com/winter-classics-concert?_ga=2.241644170.927831356.1689549140-3705648.1688607006

SAVE THE DATE: CONGREGATION MEETING

On **Sunday 24th September**, a Combined PCUC service, PCUC Congregation Meeting & Lunch will take place at Leigh Memorial from 10.00am.

SAFE CHURCH TRAINING

Training in Safe Church Awareness is available at various workshops during the year. See the website:

<https://www.nswact.uca.org.au/shared-services/safe-church-unit/safe-church-training/>

PCUC COMBINED SERVICE LAST SUNDAY



Thanks to everyone who made last Sunday's Combined Service at Northmead such a meaningful event, including all those involved in advance planning and those who contributed to a lovely morning tea. The next combined gathering will be on Sunday 24 September.

HERITAGE & ARCHAEOLOGY OPPOSITE LEIGH MEMORIAL

Below are a couple of photos from last Saturday's Metro open day opposite Leigh Memorial Church. Archaeologists hosted a series of tours between Macquarie and George Streets, and also provided a fascinating display of colonial and later artefacts found during the digging that included multiple glass bottles, smoking pipes, buttons, hair pins, horse shoes, bones, china fragments and other evidence of European occupation. The site also once included convict huts, cellars, a two-storey stable and various shops dating from the late 18th and 19th centuries – and was in close proximity to the town's main roads, transport links, marketplace and churches, including St. John's Anglican and the Parramatta Wesleyan Chapel (the first church on the Parramatta Mission site). It is interesting to note that some of the site directly opposite Leigh Memorial Church and to the east has yielded far less archaeological finds than other areas on the Metro excavation site due to the severity of 20th century development impacts. The area with less finds includes the rear of 'Kia Ora' (the old cottage opposite the church) – which dates to the 1840s and was originally the home of John Batman, the 'founder' of Melbourne and later, renowned local architect, James Houison. As a neighbourly gesture, Houison provided free architectural services to the Parramatta Wesleyan Church when it re-built its parsonage in 1861. NB: First Nations archaeology has also been collected from the Metro site in consultation with traditional owners.



UNITING CHURCH NATIONAL HISTORY SOCIETY – CONFERENCE

The UCNHS's biennial conference – with the theme, ***Truth Telling – from Colonising to Covenanting*** – will be taking place at Darwin Memorial Uniting Church in the NT between 24 and 27 August this year. Bookings to attend in-person and online close on Friday 4 August. Liz will be attending the conference online on behalf of the PCUC and providing feedback. NB: You don't have to be a member of the Society to attend – all interested people are welcome. For further information about conference content or registrations, please contact: uchs2023conference@gmail.com

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, Attridge 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://events.humanitix.com/
winter-classics-concert](https://events.humanitix.com/winter-classics-concert)

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO



Parramatta
Mission



Westmead



Sharing the Hospitality of Jesus Christ

Sunday 6th August 2023, 09.30am

This morning we look forward to meeting Paster Sarah Bishop who will lead us in Holy Communion and Worship. Welcome back Sarah and a heartfelt Congratulations on your new appointment with the Mental Health Unit at Westmead, Cumberland and Blacktown Hospitals – our thoughts and prayers are with you as you step more fully into this role.

Last week's Combined Parramatta City Uniting Church Worship service at Northmead was very well attended. All thoroughly enjoyed Reverend Geoff's reflection, the Fijian choir, and the music. Callum from Leigh beautifully played the Bongo drum with piano accompaniment! A special thanks to everyone who brought in a plate and as well the Northmead ladies for our catering – all in all it turned out to be a very nice and sunny Sunday get-together.



COMBINED CONGREGATION SERVICE/MEETING

Sunday 24th September

A combined PCUC Service, PCUC Congregation Meeting and Lunch will take place at Leigh Memorial from 10.00am.



MYSTERY TOUR - Wednesday 30th August

The next bus trip is being planned, no other details at this stage.



Sunday, 20th August 2.30pm



Organ & Strings Winter Classics Fundraising Concert at Leigh Memorial Parramatta.

All proceeds to Parramatta Mission's Winter Appeal.

Single tickets \$20; Family \$50 (2 adults and 2 children)

For bookings details see full page advert in this Newsletter.

SAFE CHURCH TRAINING

Leaders are being asked to attend training or refresher course of Safe Church Awareness. Various workshops are available during the year. The website contains extra information about the Safe Church program – plus a registrations link for anyone interested in attending a course:

<https://www.nswact.uca.org.au/shared-services/safe-church-unit/safe-church-training/>

BIBLE STUDY: Meets each Monday, 2.00pm

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

PreachFest! 2023

Proclaiming the Inspirational and Transformational Word

1-3 NOVEMBER

- SYDNEY: St Stephen's Uniting Church
- MELBOURNE: Wesley Church
- ONLINE

PreachFest! is a 3-day festival focusing on the vocation of preaching. People from around Australia will gather to be inspired by experienced preachers and learn more about the craft from world-class teachers and theologians.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



AMY-JILL LEVINE

Rabbi Stanley M. Kessler Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies, Hartford International University for Religion and Peace University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies Emerita, Mary Jane Wehrman Professor of Jewish Studies Emerita, Vanderbilt University



STAN GRANT

Vice Chancellor's Chair of Australian/Indigenous Belonging at Charles Sturt University

GUEST SPEAKERS



MEGAN POWELL DU TOIT



SALLY DOUGLAS



MICHAEL JENSEN



CHARISSA SULZ

Tickets are on sale now!
Visit Preachfest.org.au



Visit Preachfest.org.au
or scan the QR Code for
more information.



Uniting Church
SYNOD OF NSW & ACT



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

10 성령강림 주일 (10th Pentecost of Sunday) 2023년 8월 06일 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 80 장 통 101 장 천지에 있는 이름 중

기도 (Prayer) 주기도문송 635 하늘에 계신 우리 아버지 다함께

성경 봉독 (Scripture Reading) 마가복음 1:1-8

말씀(Preaching)—— 전현구 담임목사 주의 길을 예비하라

봉헌 송(Offertory Hymn) 새 89 통 89 사탄의 꽃 예수

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 해주시기 바랍니다.
5. 하나님의 기쁨인 전도사명에 동참하시길 부탁드립니다.

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

축도 전 현구 담임목사

QT나눔 & 성경공부
오후4:00

수요기도회: 오후 7시
예레미야 17:1-18

새벽기도회: 오전 6시
예레미야 16:1-18:23

Leigh Fijian

- 1. Lotu ena macawa oqo 06/08:** Na lotu ena macawa oqo na lotu ni vulavou ka na qaravi tale tiko ga kina na sakaremede ni Turaga. Na veiqaravi na soqosoqo ni tabagone. Ena vunau tiko kina ko Pastor Ofa Foiakau. Vunau vakarau Pastor Filikesa Kamotu.
- 2. Lotu ena macawa mai oqo 13/08:** Na lotu ena macawa mai oqo na vunau tiko kina ko Di Akisi Allison kei Suguta Rogoimuri. Vunau vakarau Rev Samu Sadrata. Tali matamasumasu naba 2.
- 3. Lesoni ni macawa oqo 31/07 – 06/08:** Vakatekivu 32:22-31 Same 17:1-7, 15 Roma 9:1-5 Maciu 14:13-21
- 4. Lesoni ni macawa mai oqo 07/07 – 13/08:** Vakatekivu 37:1–4, 12-28 Same 105:1-6, 16-22 , 45 Roma 10:5-15 Maciu 14:22-33
- 5.** Na veisureti ni Parramatta Nepean Presbytery ena vakatikori nei Rev Liva Tukutama Intercultural Ministry Strategy Leader kei Rev Dirk Van Doorene Presbytery Minister Wellbeing ena 13 ni Okosita (13/08) ena qaravi tiko ena Auburn Uniting Church ena 2pm.

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.

Leigh Fijian Congregation singing at the PNP Fijian combine church service at Berala Uniting Church on the 30th of July.



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.

Westmead

- We hold up in prayer those that are unwell and those undergoing medical treatment – We pray now for recovery, easing of pain and discomfort and Your Almighty presence with their families.
- For those who have undertaken new roles, those sitting assessment exams, especially Yr12 students – May Your strength and presence be felt by these. We ask for guidance for the future.
- For wars that carry on in various places of the world right now, causing food and resource shortages and higher end prices – We pray for peace and halting of hate and violence and for resources to be mobilised.
- For climate crises unfolding, for countries suffering famine and disease – We pray for Your Holy Spirit to cause climate reprieve and for aid to arrive where it is needed.
- We bring to You in prayer those affected by grief, anxiety or other worries unseen by another and ask for Your compassion, peace and love to be around them.

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.

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

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 Parramatta City Uniting Church and Parramatta Mission teams

- May God guide all our staff, leaders, members and volunteers to live out our conjoined values of grace, inclusion, dignity, faith and hope.
- We pray for the work, witness and service of Rev Geoff Smith, Rev Vladimir Korotkov, Rev John Barr, Pastor Fil Kamotu, Pastor Sarah Bishop, and Rev Hyun Goo.

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 ministry team with 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

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