OUR NEWS 13 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 11A, 2023

Matthew 14: 22-33

SINK OR FLOAT? Rev Andrew Prior

The realm of Heaven is a treasure for which you would sell everything you have. We may glimpse it in that contradictory community called church. where some people bear



great fruit, and some seem more like weeds. But the weeds are allowed to stay. Tiny like a mustard seed, the realm of Heaven grows to shelter people of all sorts. It corrupts the way of the world, leavening its horrors. The kingdom of Herod is luxurious and exclusive, but deadly. Full of fear and insecurity, it abuses and kills. Herod kills the last of the great prophets before Jesus.

But Jesus takes his disciples to a desert place where, despite the grief of one more flight from the Herods, the realm of Heaven bursts in with food left over. It feeds five thousand men, plus women and children; the number for the Torah. Twelve baskets are left; the number of tribes in the restored Israel. In a place where there is no luxury, the realm of Heaven is a place and space of plenty. It includes everyone. It gives without hesitation until people are filled.

Does Matthew's church sees itself here? After the feast Jesus leaves his disciples and goes up the mountain to pray. There's a hint of Moses in his actions, and even a foretaste of The Ascension, when the church is left without his physical presence.

Before leaving he sends them— he compels them— to cross the sea without him. He sends them out over the deep where all kinds of unfathomable uncertainties and evils lurk. He sends them into the world. [It is Jesus who dismisses the crowds without the disciples, which might have its own message for those of us who are keen to control the church, or shepherd it too closely.]

Matthew's church is like the disciples, feeling on their own, battered by the waves, until the early morning. It's long enough to have any bravado about "living the realm" thoroughly doused. By the fourth watch of battering cold, even the kind of fierce joy that sometimes comes from doing God's work well in the storm, is replaced by realisation that this storm, erupting out of Herodian depths, may drown us.

. . .

When Jesus appears to the boat of the church he seems to be of the same order as all the other terror which threatens their life! He does not come in the way we expect.

But Peter understands. In a moment of transcendence Peter sees that all this terror is actually the path of the realm. This is the Way! We are not mere nothings in our mercy, and compassion, and feeding, and crying for justice. In a perspective we only dimly see— which we often lose sight of— we are facing down principalities and powers, and the weapons of Herod, and are being the realm of Heaven.

If this is true, he cries, call me out of the boat. If this is the realm, I will do more. And he begins to sink.

Preachers often say "he took his eyes off Jesus." The text does not say that; only that he saw the wind and was frightened. Others say the point is that he cried out to Jesus, and Jesus saved him and took him into the safety of the boat.

I think that when we get out of the boat we will sink. The realm of Heaven is not a solo effort. We belong in the boat. Even Jesus does not walk across the sea with impunity. Herod and Pilate will hang him from their mast.

Yet Jesus also calls us out of the boat. Sometimes there is a service to be done which means we go alone. The boat may follow. Or we may even do what is needed and walk back to the boat! But the story that is remembered is the story where we sink. Is this the default for discipleship? Have I fed the hungry, given drink to the thirsty, welcomed the stranger, clothed the naked, cared for the sick, and visited those in prison? (Matthew 25:31-46) Or have I pre-empted the angels of God and torn up the weeds (Matthew 13:29) uprooting all around?

And most of all, have I been at the seat of power in Herod's kingdom, killing, excluding, silencing the prophets? Or am I sinking, crying out to

the Christ, scrambling for the leaky boat which is struggling through the waves toward the realm of Heaven? Because if I am warm, safe, and comfortable in life, floating along in the seat of power, maybe I am in the wrong boat. Or just a barnacle on its bottom; a weed.

• • •

I'm not a boat person, so this is not a story I relate to all that well. I'm more for the desert.

It is also a story to be claimed, not a story to be imposed. To say to someone that they should see Jesus walking on the water in their particular storm is to use the gospel as a weapon against them. It is an abuse. If Paul felt like all things worked for the good for him, well, great. He has no right to tell me that as I am sinking, and I have no right to tell you. If, however, you feel a hand grasp you, hold on tight!

Andrew Prior One Mans Blog Andrew is a Uniting Church Minister

Foster your faith this week

Gn 37:1-4,12-28

Ps 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b

Rom 10:5-15

Mt 14:22-33

Combined PCUC service and congregational meeting

On 24 September 2023 there will be a PCUC combined service at Leigh Memorial commencing at 10am, to be followed by a congregational meeting and lunch. The purpose of the congregational meeting is for members and members-in-association to:

- · Appoint a congregation chairperson (or two co-chairs) and secretary
- Elect up to 20 elders (who we will call "leaders")
- · Elect up to 6 church councillors
- Approve a charter for the new PCUC Council More information will be provided over the coming weeks.

If you are a member or member-in-association of PCUC and wish to nominate as a leader and/or a church councillor you may submit a nomination form and hand it to Fiona Bennetts, Robert Key or David Norris at Leigh Memorial, Sosi Toa as Leigh Fijian, Stuart Elliott or Ken Murray at Northmead or Jan Robson at Westmead.

You may alternatively send a nomination by email to robert.key@parramattamission.org.au.

Nominations must be submitted by **3 September 2023** and a list of nominees will be made available to the congregation by **10 September 2023**.

A nomination form should be to the following effect:

ı [insert name], being a member/member-in-association 🦠	ΟĪ
Parramatta City Uniting Church (PCUC), hereby nominate to be	ре
(tick either or both):	
a leader of the congregation	
a member of the PCUC Council	
for a period of 12 months from today.	
signed:	
contact telephone number and/or email:	

The returning officer for the voting process will be Robert Key.

WINTER CLASSICS CONCERT!



Join us to hear 15 wonderful performers! All proceeds to Parramatta Mission.







Young violinists and a wonderful group of organists and other performers, including accomplished New Zealand-born soprano Amber Johnson and renown musician Fiona Loader (both pictured), will be part of our **Winter Classics Concert** – a very special musical experience taking place at Leigh Memorial Church on **Sunday 20th August @ 2.30pm**. Advance ticket bookings are preferred but **limited tickets will be available at the door (\$20 pp)**.

Please arrive no later than 2.15pm.

Enquiries: LeighMemorialUniting@gmail.com

Link to buy tickets in advance:

https://events.humanitix.com/winter-classics-concert?

ga=2.241644170.927831356.1689549140-3705648.1688607006



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://events.humanitix.com/ winter-classics-concert

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO



Leigh Memorial

WELCOME TO WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY!

We look forward to seeing you at Leigh Memorial this Sunday 6th August at 9.30am, with Rev Vladimir. All welcome.

PASTORAL NEWS

Our warmest prayers remain with all those in our worship community who are unwell, in hospital or rehab, receiving treatment, grieving or facing other significant challenges at this time – and everyone accessing Meals Plus and other support services this winter. Donations of blankets and warm clothing continue to be appreciated. Details for the ministry team are in the newsletter.

HOMELESSNESS WEEK - 7th to 13th AUGUST

This week is 'Homelessness Week', with the 2023 theme being "It's time to END Homelessness". On Wednesday 9/8, Parramatta Mission will be hosting a Community Hub event on site and on Friday 11/8, a Memorial Service will take place at Meals Plus at 10.30am. Please continue to pray for Meals Plus attendees who have lost their lives this year and for all those impacted by homelessness and the trauma of loneliness, hunger and addiction. Prayers also for Paul and his hard-working team.



NEXT SUNDAY!!...'WINTER CLASSICS' FUNDRAISING CONCERT

This special event – with some very talented primary & high school performers plus a soprano and some gifted organists – will take place at Leigh Memorial on Sunday 20th August at 2.30pm. 100% of proceeds going to Parramatta Mission's Winter Appeal. Please join us in supporting this event & pass the word! *Thanks to everyone who has joined our Event Team.* Enquiries: Liz or Robert.

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LEIGH MEMORIAL CHURCH - ARRANGEMENTS, 19 & 20 August

Please note that due to the 'Winter Classics' fundraising concert taking place next weekend and bookings relating to rehearsals, set-up and other preparations on both Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th August, the church will only be used for worship services on the Sunday (ie. Leigh Memorial @ 9.30am, Leigh Fijian @ 11.15am and Korean @ 4.30pm – later than usual due to the concert). Otherwise, the church is booked for use by Parramatta Mission, the Sydney Organs Group concert performers and our congregation Event Team across the whole two days. The Church car park will also need to be cleared of all on-essential vehicles by 1.00pm on Sunday 20 August. Additional helpers for the concert afternoon are welcome. Please see Liz or Robert if you wish to join the Event Team.

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.

THANK YOU & FAREWELL MARK

The tenure of Parramatta Mission Executive General Manager Mark Newton will conclude on 18 August. The PCUC thanks Mark for his service and for the caring, Christ-focussed manner in which he has discharged his responsibilities through all the many challenges of recent years, inc. Covid and the changes at PM. Our prayers go with you and yours Mark and all the very best.

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.

Westmead



Sharing the Hospitality of Jesus Christ

Sunday 13th August 2023, 09.30am

We will gather in Worship today with Pastor Fil leading us – a warm welcome to you, Fil and we look forward to hearing from you.

Last Sunday, it was a pleasure to hear from Pastor Sarah who reflected on the consecutive stories appearing in the Gospel about John the Baptist's death and Jesus going away to a quiet place to reflect. Jesus had compassion for the thousands who were like "sheep without a Shephard" that had followed Him. Sarah placed the image of three types of "tables" in Life – the first of death, destruction and depravity where things are done disregarding God, the second the table of the Eucharist where God sets an example and invites to acknowledge and take part in knowing Him, the third table, the table of breaking, sharing and multiplication of gifts He has bestowed on us, that we are still finding out about. Thank you, Sarah, for your beautiful reflection.

We uphold those in prayer, who are in need of strength and support, especially right now – May God grant healing, strength, love and peace to all.

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/





Sunday 20th August, 2.30pm

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

This special event – with some very talented primary & high school performers plus a soprano and gifted organists – will take place at Leigh Memorial. Tickets are now on sale – transport available if required. Single tickets \$20; Family \$50 (2 adults and 2 children) Use link to purchase or speak to Lorna.

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

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS FUNDRAISING EVENT

100% of your ticket proceeds will go to Parramatta Mission's Winter Appeal.



The next MYSTERY BUS TOUR is being planned for Wednesday 30th August.



COMBINED CONGREGATION SERVICE/MEETING Sunday 24th September, 2023

A combined PCUC Service, PCUC Congregation Meeting and Lunch will take place at Leigh Memorial from 10.00am. Transport will be available to/from Leigh Memorial Church if required.

BIBLE STUDY: Meets each Monday, 2.00pm

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

Leigh Fijian

- 1. Lotu ena macawa oqo 13/08: Na lotu ena macawa oqo na vunau tiko kina ko Di Akisi Allison kei Suguta Rogoimuri. Vunau vakarau Rev Samu Sadrata. Tali matamasumasu naba 2.
- 2. Lotu ena macawa mai oqo 20/08: Na lotu ena macawa mai oqo na veisau vunau na PNP. Ratou na gole tiko mai na valelotu mai Campbelltown. Vunau lesi St Mary Rev Samu Sadrata. Tali matasiga #1
- 3. **Lesoni ni macawa oqo 07/08 13/08**: Vakatekivu 37:1–4, 12-28 Same 105:1-6, 16-22 , 45 Roma 10:5-15 Maciu 14:22-33
- **4. Lesoni ni macawa mai oqo 14/08 20/08**: Vakatekivu 45:1-15 Same 133 Roma 11:1-2, 29-32 Maciu 15:10-20, 21-28

Lolo kei Na masumasu - Veinanumi ena lolo kei na masumasu ena vei matai ni Vukelulu ena vei vula mai na $\underline{6am-12pm}$ se $\underline{6am-6pm}$. 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.

Parramatta Leigh Fijian Youth leading the Sunday church service on the 6th of August.





시드니 조은	교회 Sydney	Jo-Eun Church	23-31
11 성령강림 주일 (11th F	entecost of Sunda	y) 2023년 8월 13일	오후 1시30분
개회 찬송 (Entrance Hy	mn)	왕이신 나의 하나님	다함께
예배의 부름 (Calling)			인도자
송영 (Gloria) 세1장	통1장	만복의 근원 하나님	다함께
사도신경 신앙고백 (The	Apostle's Creed)		… 다함께
찬양/찬송 (Chorus & H _ 새 80 장	21-	에 있는 이름 중	다함께
기도 (Prayer) 주기도문	송 635 하 늘	에 계신 우리 아버지	다함께
성경 봉독 (Scripture Re	ading)	창세기 49:8	1-12
말씀(Preaching)	전현구 담임목사	한 국가의 미래를 위	구다에서 찾아라
봉헌 송(Offertory Hymn) 세 582	통 261 어문 밤 미	음에 잠겨
나눔과 알림 (Announcer 1. 시드니 조은교회에 9 3. '매일성경' 묵상과 '공 님과 동행하는 삶 살아? 4. 어려움을 겪는 이웃들 5. 하나님의 기쁨인 전도	2선 여러분을 주는 동체성경읽기' 통 사시길 바랍니다 들을 위해 함께 중.	독으로 말씀을 적 보기도 해주시기 비	용하며 매일 주
폐회찬송(Final Hymn) 새	501장 통 255장	너 시온아 이소식	전파하라 (1절)
축도		전	현구 담임목사
QT나눔 & 성경공부 오후4:00	수요기도회: 오후 예레미야 21:1	2	- 회 : 오전 6시 - 19:14-22:30



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 "Anthropocehe" 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.

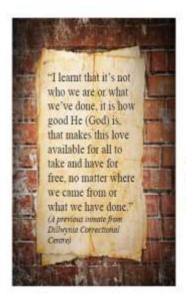
Rev Dr Peter Walker BA (Hons) BTh PhD

Principal | United Theological College Director of Education | Uniting Church NSW & ACT

REGISTER HERE



Are you interested in joining God in unexpected places?



Information Afternoon Saturday 16th September at 2.30pm-4.30pm Blacktown Uniting Church

59 Bungarribee Road Blacktown NSW 2148

Afternoon Tea Included
Please RSVP to kidillwyniasec@kairos.org.au
or phone Yvoune on 0419 284 128

Come and hear about how God is using Kairos prison ministry to change the lives of those who are in prison and the families and friends of those who are impacted by their imprisonment. Come and find out how you can be involved!







Kairos Prison Ministry Australia

UNITING CHURCH NATIONAL HISTORY SOCIETY

4th Biennial History Conference

ruth-Telling: from Colonising to Covenanting

Thursday 24th August to Sunday 27th August 2023

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday 24 Aug

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

Friday 25 Aug

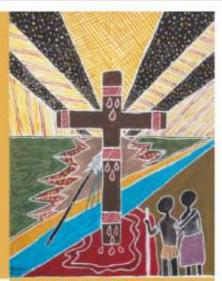
9 Speakers
Visit to Chung Wah Society
Temple and Museum
Morning/Afternoon Teas and Lunch

Saturday 26 Aug

Tour Nungalinya 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



Artist: Frances Rrikili Garrawurra

Venues

Darwin Memorial Uniting Church Nungalinya College

> In Person \$260 Online \$80

For more information

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

To Register go to

ttps://www.trybooking.com/CGJUQ

Contact Us ucnhs2023conference @gmail.com

Prayer Points

The people of Parramatta City Uniting Church and Parramatta Mission invite you to pray for our Community.

Westmead

- For those who have family members that are unwell or undergoing diagnosis at this time Lord let the medical team successfully treat their loved ones and let Your healing renew bodies and minds.
- For the upcoming Voice referendum let Your Holy Spirit guide people in this confusing period. Let the outcome be a compassionate togetherness and understanding of problems faced by The First Nations, and for reconciliation on both sides.
- For the war in Ukraine We pray that death and destruction may end, and that peace may arrive. Let resources that are impacted by the war be mobilised to those who need them.
- We pray that the battle for homelessness may be addressed by the government – let Your Holy Spirit fall on those who govern and let the needs of housing and support become available for those who are falling.
- For the countries that face scarcity of food, water, and medicine Lord thank You for the aid that gets distributed – let those who are in need get supplied fully.
- For climate change We pray that wherever we are, we do a little to support our environment by recycling – help us to stabilise our climate.

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.

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

\Diamond	Rev Geoff Smith (Lead Minister)	0407 416 377
\Diamond	Rev Vladimir Korotkov (Supply Minister)	0431 759 573
\Diamond	Rev John Barr (Supply Minister)	0400 694 540
\Diamond	Pastor Fil Kamotu	0404 552 915

YOU CAN ALSO CONTACT THESE PEOPLE FOR PASTORAL ISSUES

\Diamond	Rev Hyun Goo Jun (Korean Faith Community)	0433 320 588
\Diamond	Pr Sarah Bishop (Children's Hospital)	0429 912 943
\Diamond	Anare Vocea (Fijian Vakatawa)	0432 772 852

