## OUR NEWS 26th November 2023



# Parramatta Community Uniting Church



Parramatta Community 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 Meditations**

Pentecost 26A, 2023

Matthew 25: 31-46

The reign of Christ: The least of these Suzanne Guthrie

## **Meditation One** *No Longer Myself*



All through those weary first days in jail when I was in solitary confinement, the only thoughts that brought comfort to my soul were those lines in the Psalms that expressed the terror and misery of being suddenly stricken and abandoned. Solitude and hunger and weariness of spirit — these sharpened my perceptions so that I suffered not only my own sorrow but the sorrows of those about me. I was no longer myself. I was a human being. I was no longer a young girl, part of a radical movement seeking justice for those oppressed, I was the oppressed. I was that drug addict, screaming and tossing in her cell, beating her head against the wall. I was that shoplifter who for rebellion was sentenced to solitary. I was that woman who had killed her children, who had murdered her lover.

The blackness of hell was all about me. The sorrows of the world encompassed me. I was like one gone down into the pit. Hope had forsaken me. I was that mother whose child had been raped and slain. I was the mother who had borne the monster who had done it. I was even that monster, feeling in my own heart every abomination.

#### **Dorothy Day**

From an autobiography, written as a letter to her brother (with echoes of Psalm 130) Dorothy Day (1897–1980) was an American journalist and a radical social activist who became a Catholic without abandoning her radical social justice values and activism. She created the Catholic Worker Movement, a pacifist movement that combines direct aid for the poor and homeless with nonviolent direct action on their behalf. She practiced civil disobedience, which led to arrests and imprisonment.

#### **Meditation Two**

What Glorious Hope

"What glorious hope!" [François] Mauriac writes. "There are all those who will discover that their neighbor is Jesus himself, although they belong to the mass of those who do not know Christ or who have forgotten Him. And nevertheless they will find themselves well loved. It is impossible for any one of those who has real charity in their heart not to serve Christ. Even some of those who think they hate Him, have consecrated their

lives to Him; for Jesus is disguised and masked in the midst of people, hidden among the poor, among the sick, among prisoners, among strangers. Many who serve Him officially have never known who He was, and many who do not even know His name, will hear on the last day the words that open to them the gates of joy. 'O, Those children were I, and I those workers. I wept on the hospital bed. I was that murderer in his cell whom you consoled.'"

#### François Mauriac 1885-1970

Quoted from the above letter by Dorothy Day

#### **Meditation Three**

Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.

#### The Talmud

#### Suzanne's Meditation

Sheep and Goats

Recently, when the story of the Wise and Foolish Virgins came up in the lectionary, a friend said, "I don't subscribe to that parable." I laughed, because the whole spate of recent readings involving weeping, gnashing of teeth, binding hands and feet and tossing poor clueless folk into the outer darkness doesn't at all sound like Jesus. Jesus sought the company of sinners, tax collectors and other collaborators, exploiters, cheaters, the unclean and marginalized, prostitutes, women and children in general, lepers, and losers of all kinds. Oh, and he also had at least a few friends among the elite. Would Jesus suddenly turn face at the moment of death?

Nevertheless, I like these doom parables because, like a dream, see myself in all the characters. I'm both a wise and a foolish virgin, I'm the fellow with the five talents, the two talents, and the one burying the single talent. I'm the crazy, irrational king that lost his mind over the guest without the wedding garment. I'm always throwing myself out into the outer darkness. I need every facet of every story to understand my place in the roiling complexity of humanity.

A good story moves the soul to action. The shock of the pit and gnashing of teeth helps dislodge me from my usual mediocre moral groove. But I also know that the Good Shepherd leaves the other ninety-nine sheep to gather up the one little lost lamb - or goat - balancing on a crag at the edge of darkness. And, I can testify, will do so more than once.

#### Suzanne Guthrie

At The Edge of The Enclosure

#### Parramatta Community Uniting Church

#### ADVENT 2023

## All welcome!

#### Friday 1 December

Christmas Carols & Sausage Sizzle - The Hills School, Mary St; Northmead - 6.00pm

#### Tuesday 5 December

'Service of Solace' – Uniting Westmead Aged Care Chapel, Caroline St; W'mead – 6.30pm (RSVPs to the Pastoral Care team at Westmead in person or via 0466 532 497 by 1/12/23)

#### Sunday 10 December

Community Christmas Party @ Centenary Uniting Church - 5.00pm

#### Wednesday 13 December

Parramatta Mission Christmas Stall - Centenary Square, Parramatta - 11.00am

#### Sunday 17 December

'Jazz on Hammers' Christmas Carols (inc. BBQ) @ Northmead Uniting Church - 6.00pm

#### Friday 22 December

Community Christmas Lunch @ Parramatta Mission - 11.00am

#### Sunday 24 December

Christmas Eve: Regular 9.30am worship at Parramatta, Westmead & Northmead

#### Monday 25 December - Christmas Day

8.00am: Northmead Uniting Church

9.00am: Leigh Memorial Uniting Church (combined Leigh Memorial & Leigh Fijian) (Onsite + Zoom: https://nca-nswact.zoom.us/i/5199089657)

9.00am: Westmead Uniting Church

#### Our sites:

Centenary Uniting Church – 46 Sorrell Street, North Paramatta Leigh Memorial Uniting Church & Paramatta Mission – 119 Macquarie Street, Paramatta Northmead Uniting Church – 3-7 Hammers Road, Northmead Westmead Uniting Church – car Queens & Hawkesbury Rds; Westmead

#### Further information:

Parramatta Community Uniting Church: 9891-2277 (Parramatta & Westmead),
9890-5814 (Northmead) & 9683-5023 (Centenary - North Parramatta)
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#### **CHANGES TO OUR NEWSLETTER**

As people will no doubt be aware, at our gathering on Saturday 18 November a decision was made for our new entity to be known as Parramatta Community Uniting Church (PCUC).

As another step towards bring us together as one entity, from the first Sunday in December we will be issuing just one Newsletter to cover all our worship communities.

Commencing on the first Sunday in December the plan is to issue one detailed newsletter containing, but not limited to, stories from worship communities, a message from the ministry team, a calendar for the month of December, pastoral messages & prayer points.

The newsletters issued for the other weeks in December will be much shorter and focus on what is happening across PCUC in the coming week and also include pastoral messages & prayer points.

The intention is for the Weekly Reflection to be distributed as a separate document.

Please note that a paper version will continue to be made available for those who currently receive this format; additional copies will be available at each worship site.

From next week the following process for preparing & issuing our newsletter will be:

- Contact person for newsletter items will be Rose Shalala (<u>rose.shalala@parramattamission.org.au</u> or mobile 0419 421 528)
- Cut off time for items is close of business Wednesday to enable completion and distribution by no later than Friday morning)

We understand this is a change and ask that people bear with us as we move forward. Nothing is set in concrete and we will make modifications as needed.

Should anyone have any questions or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact Liz de Reland (<a href="mailto:leighmemorialuniting@gmail.com">leighmemorialuniting@gmail.com</a>) or Rob Eagleson (reagleso@bigpond.net.au).

NB: we are currently establishing a new congregation master list and will be using this for our distribution addresses, so should you not receive your newsletter for the first Sunday in December, please let us know so that we can correct our records.

#### **COVID ADVISORY**

As we are in the midst of an 8th COVID wave in Western Sydney – with serious implications for vulnerable people in our worshipping communities and those at increased risk of 'long COVID' – PCUC members and visitors are reminded that mask wearing, social distancing, handwashing/sanitising and providing good ventilation are among the many helpful "preventative" measures at our disposal. During the "wave" members and visitors with cold/flu symptoms are requested to join us on Zoom or watch the PCUC online service instead of attending worship and other congregation gatherings in-person.

Northmead Community Men's Shed market stall

Sat Nov 25 & Sun Nov 26

8am - 4pm

Winston Hills Mall

**Caroline Chisholm Dr, Winston Hills** 

Please come along to support our Men's Shed and maybe buy some Christmas gifts.

The next Working Bee at the garden at Centenary Church will be on the 9th December at 7.00am with Breakfast/Morning Tea served at 8.30am and a 10.00am finish.

The early start is to get some work done before it gets too hot.

Any questions contact Susan Stevenson or Fiona Bennetts

## Advent Studies by Rev Dr Chris Walker

Chris Walker has written three Advent studies over the past three years covering each of the readings in the three year lectionary - years B, C and A.

This coming Advent goes back to the readings of three years ago. The studies are as follows.

- \* The Coming of Jesus Christ: past, present and future -4 studies on hope (year B)
- \* Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today and Forever Finding hope and strength in trying times (Year C)
  - \* Signs of the New Age already and not yet in Jesus Living in the present, looking to the future (Year A)

Each study not only covers the biblical readings but also has a quote, a story and reference to a hymn/song and prayers. There are questions for consideration or discussion.

The studies can be readily found on the MediaCom Education website: <a href="https://www.mediacomeducation.org.au">www.mediacomeducation.org.au</a>
Click on Shop then Advent studies.

## Foster your faith this week

Ez 34:11-16, 20-24 Ps 100

Eph 1:15-23 Mt 25:31-46

## Leigh Memorial

#### WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We look forward to seeing everyone at Leigh Memorial this **Sunday**, **26 November @ 9.30am** with **Rev Vladimir** (Onsite + Zoom). All welcome.

#### **COVID UPDATE**

Members are reminded that we are currently in a new COVID "wave" – so social distancing, ensuring good ventilation and mask wearing at church are among a number of "preventative" options that we can use to protect vulnerable people. Please stay at home if you're unwell & join us on Zoom instead. Disposable masks and sanitiser are available in the Leigh Memorial vestibule as needed.

#### PCUC ADVENT & CHRISTMAS DATES 2023

A flyer outlining our various Advent events in December is available in this week's Newsletter. Please come along and share in all these wonderful gatherings. The big event at our Parramatta site will be the Parramatta Mission Community Christmas Lunch on Friday 22 December. All welcome!

#### **CAR PARK CLOSED**

A reminder that **between 27 November and 2 December**, the car park at Leigh Memorial/ Parramatta Mission will be undergoing major re-surfacing work, so parking will be unavailable.

#### SCHOOL VISITS PROGRAM

During the past week and continuing next week, over 200 high school students from Barker College and The King's School will visit Leigh Memorial Church and Meals Plus. The school groups bring donations with them, learn about the history of the site, and hear about the work of Meals Plus while preparing food and clothing hampers to assist those in need. Further visits are planned in 2024, with a big thanks to Chao from PM who coordinates the program. Thanks also to Paul, Liz & Jenny Fuda.

#### **NEWSLETTER CHANGE**

Until now, there has been a Parramatta-Westmead newsletter and a Northmead -Centenary newsletter. However as part of us being one congregation, we'll now have <u>one</u> combined PCUC newsletter – starting 3 December. A longer version with notices & news from each community will be issued on the first weekend of each month, but on the remaining weeks, a simple list of key events/dates and important updates will be distributed. Please see the notice in this week's newsletter for further details.

#### INVITATION: OPEN CHURCH COMMUNION SERVICE

Next **Wednesday**, **29**<sup>th</sup> **November**, **from 1 – 2pm** at Open Church (Leigh Memorial), we'll be sharing in a lunchtime Communion service with Meals Plus & the whole community. PCUC members are warmly encouraged to attend. Enquiries: Revs Vladimir & Geoff.

#### THE 'GIVING TREE' - STARTING 3 DECEMBER

The 'Giving Tree' at Leigh Memorial is a tradition that goes back to the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This year's 'Tree' will take place over 3 Sundays (3, 10 & 17 December). Members who wish to do so may leave **non-perishable Christmas food treats** (chocolates, biscuits, Christmas cakes, puddings, lollies etc) – **or general non-perishable food items** – under the tree on these Sunday mornings in December. Donated items will be used at the Parramatta Mission Christmas Lunch on 22<sup>nd</sup> December – or served at Meals Plus/ distributed in hampers over the festive season. Christmas decorations and wrapping paper etc are also welcome. Enquiries: Liz & Callum.

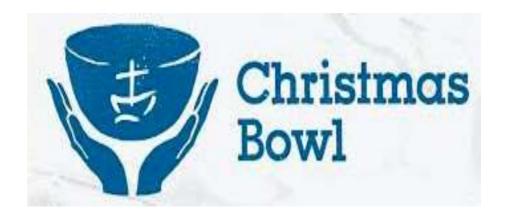
#### 'MISSION FROM THE INSIDE' PROGRAM

The final gathering in our first series of 'Mission' engagement events was held last Saturday at Centenary. Thanks to those who attended some or all of these enlightening events over the past month or so. A report on this year's experiences and insights will be compiled, and more work in this vital area of our life & witness as a congregation will continue in 2024. **Special thanks** to the ministry team & everyone from the PCUC who assisted in planning and hosting the four gatherings.

#### **CHRISTMAS BOWL 2023**

The Christmas Bowl is organised by 'Act for Peace,' supported by the Australian Council of Churches and held in churches across Australia from the first Sunday in Advent until the first Sunday after Christmas. The program provides practical support each year to refugees and other displaced people. For further information or to make a donation, please go to the Christmas Bowl website:

https://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au/donate



#### Westmead

## **Sharing The Hospitality of Jesus Christ**

### Sunday 26th November 2023- 09.30am

Stuart Elliott will lead worship at Westmead this Sunday – a very warm welcome Stuart, we look forward to seeing you.

Last Sunday Pastor Fil reflected on the passage of Matthew 25:14-30. A copy of this interesting reflection can be found in last week's Newsletter from Debie Thomas who titles it "The Good kind of Worthless". Try to not lose hope if you are in uncomfortable situations because you stood for what is right - you may be considered "worthless" by others or your own self, due to personal circumstances, but remember to daily uphold faith and Christ will lead you.



\*For all PCUC Christmas dates see the full Newsletter\*

Westmead Christmas celebrations for your diary – All very welcome to join these celebrations

7<sup>th</sup> December (Thursday) Westmead Bible Study group will hold a luncheon at Westmead and would like to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to come along.

Please chat to Eileen Thomas if you would like to join the luncheon.



10<sup>th</sup> December (Sunday) – Westmead Community Brunch. The brunch will follow our Sunday service and if you would like to attend please place your name on the list in the foyer or speak to Georgie, Sue or Lorna. Cost: \$5 per person.



10<sup>th</sup> December (Sunday evening) – PCUC Christmas Community Event at Centenary Uniting Church. (details to follow).



12<sup>th</sup> Dec (Tuesday) – Christmas Lights Bus Trip. Pastor Fil will have the bus ready to leave Westmead church at 7.30pm - return by 10pm. Cost \$5

Please contact Lorna if you would like to join the trip.

2<sup>nd</sup> December (Saturday) – final CLT Meeting for 2023 at 10.00am, Centenary Uniting Church.

There will be NO CLT meeting on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> January. The first CLT meeting of 2024 will be held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

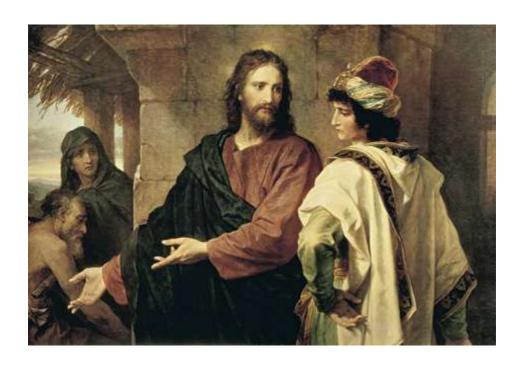
3<sup>rd</sup> December – Gold Coin Sunday at Westmead. Christmas hampers for Wesley Apartments are underway.

#### **BIBLE STUDY**

**All Welcome** - Meets each Monday at 2pm via Zoom. For any enquiries please speak to Jan or Eileen.

Zoom Link: <a href="https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/95043695512">https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/95043695512</a>

For any special prayers please contact Jan for a prayer chain prayer.



## Leigh Fijian

- 1. Lotu ena macawa oqo 26/11: Na lotu ena macawa mai oqo na veisau vunau kei Fiji Parish. Na valelotu mai Fairfield ena gole tiko mai. Vunau lesi Josefa Foiakau kei tuirara Emosi Rogoimuri. Vunau vakarau nai vakatawa Anare Vocea kei Serupepeli Nagatalevu. Tu vakaru na veiliutaki matasiga naba 3. Tali ni vunau matasiga naba 3.
- 2. Lotu ena macawa mai oqo 03/12: Na lotu ena macawa mai oqo na lotu vulavou. Na veiqaravi tiko kina ko Pastor Filikesa Kamotu.Ratou na reflection na youth.
- **3. Lesoni ni macawa oqo 20/11 26/11:** Esera 34:11-16, 20-24 Same 100 Efeso 1:15-23 Maciu 25:31-46
- **4. Lesoni ni Macawa mai oqo 27/11 03/12:** Aisea 64:1-9 Same 80:1-7, 17-19, 1 Korinica 1:3-9 Marika 13:24-37

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 ogo 2024 e Stanwell Top.

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	23-46
26성령강림 주일 (26th P	entecost of Sunday	) 2023년 11월 26일	오후 1시30분
개회 찬송 (Entrance Hy	mn)	왕이신 나의 하나님	다함께
예배의 부름 (Calling)			인도자
송영 (Gloria) 재1장	통1장 민	북의 근원 하나님	다함께
사도신경 신앙고백 (The	Apostle's Creed)		···· 다함께
찬양/찬송 (Chorus & F 	통 46 장 찬양	하라 복되신 구제수	다함께 예수
<b>기도</b> (Prayer) 주기도문	송 635 하늘	에 계신 우리 아버지	다함께
성경 봉독 (Scripture Re	ading)	시편16:1-11	
말씀(Preaching)	전현구 담임목사	내가 내 자신의	의 저자다
봉헌 송(Offertory Hymn	시 421	통210 내가 예수	를 믿고서
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폐회찬송(Final Hynnn) 사	447장 등 448장	너 시온아 이소식	전파하라 (1절)
축도		전	현구 담임목사
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# DONATE A PLATE





# JUST \$10 PROVIDES A MEAL FOR SOMEONE IN NEED







Decorate a Plate to send a message of HOPE to someone this Christmas!



www.parramattamission.org.au



JOIN US FOR
THE PARRAMATTA COMMUNITY

# Christmas Lunch

Friday 22nd December
11.00am - 2.00pm
119 Macquarie Street Parramatta



Christmas is a time for celebration.

Each year at Parramatta Mission, we celebrate
Christmas with food, fun and inclusiveness.









## **Prayer Service for Peace**

The Abraham Conference
Organising Committee invites you to
pray for peace in Israel and Palestine.

Thursday 30 November 12:30 to 1:00 pm

Ferguson Hall (St Stephen's Uniting Church)
197 Macquarie Street, Sydney
(opposite NSW Parliament)



Places are limited: please register by scanning the QR code or by clicking the link.





COLUMBAN CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM RELATIONS









New South Wales Council of Christians and Jews

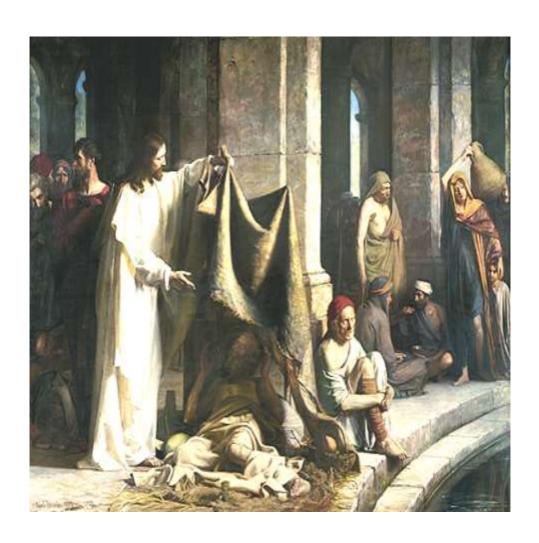








INDIAN CRESCENT SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.



## **Prayer Points**

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

#### Westmead

- For those that are unwell or undergoing medical treatment, and their families – Lord we lift these up in Your name and ask for healing- May You surround their families with strength and grace as they go through this journey.
- For the wars that escalate and the lives that are destroyed and their loved ones – We think especially of the children of Gaza and of the other wars that they may find hope amongst terror. May their circumstances change for the better and may peace arrive in the war zones.
- For doctors and nurses and especially those medical teams that are pushed with lack of resources and appropriate conditions due to war

   we pray a special prayer that their expertise may benefit those that are suffering. May You bless the hands that work to heal and recover.
- For those that are burdened by grief, and by mental health challenges – We pray that they may have the courage to carry on and that they may be able to apply themselves with the security of Your love and companionship in the emptiness of their lives.
- For teachers, and those that work to establish law and order we pray for Your guidance and for Your love to permeate through when things become challenging.
- For the economy and our country We pray that You guide our government that there be more awareness of homelessness, and that those facing economic hardship find moral support and love of others surrounding them in difficult times.

#### 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.

## **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 caregivers, 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 Community 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 Community 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, 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
$\Diamond$	Anare Vocea (Fijian Vakatawa)	0432 772 852





