

# Parramatta Community Uniting Church

Newsletter – Week commencing Sunday 10 December, 2023



*Parramatta Park – PCUC Combined Service, 29 October.*



# Parramatta Community Uniting Church

## Newsletter – Week commencing Sunday 10 December

### What's on in PCUC this week?

Day	Date	Time	Activity	Venue	Contact
<b>Sunday</b>	10	9.30am	Worship (Northmead, Leigh Memorial, Westmead)		
		11.15am	Worship (Leigh Fijian)		
		10.30am	Worship Community Brunch	Westmead	Lorna: 0408 365 478
		5.00pm	Community Christmas Party	Centenary	Geoff: 0407 416 377
<b>Monday</b>	11	10.00am	Playgroup	Centenary	Sunhee: 0415 435 912
<b>Tuesday</b>	12	10.00am	English Conversation Classes	Centenary	Sunhee: 0415 435 912
		7.00pm	Club Chat	Northmead Bowling Club	
		7.00pm	Christian Meditation	Centenary	Jon: 0411 332 825
		7.30pm	Christmas Lights Bus Trip	Westmead	Lorna: 0408 365 478
<b>Wednesday</b>	13	10.00am	Playgroup	Centenary	Sunhee: 0415 435 912
		11.00am	Parramatta Mission Christmas Stall	Parramatta Mall	Mission: 9891-2277 (BH)
		1 – 2pm	Open Church	Leigh Memorial	Vladimir: 0431 759 573
		6.30pm	Ladies Dinner	Northmead Bowling Club	
<b>Thursday</b>	14	10.00am	English Conversation Classes	Centenary	Sunhee: 0415 435 912
		10.00am	Friendship Centre	Northmead	Maggie: 0447 473 478
<b>Friday</b>	15	10.00am	Playgroup	Centenary	Sunhee: 0415 435 912
<b>Sunday</b>	17	9.30am	Worship (Northmead, Leigh Memorial, Westmead)		
		11.15am	Worship (Leigh Fijian)		
		06.00pm	“Jazz on Hammers” Christmas Carols (inc. BBQ)	Northmead	

## Please consider...

### **‘EVERYTHING IN COMMON’ GIFT GIVING - UNITINGWORLD**

Please check the website for “Gifts that fight poverty and build hope!”: <https://donate.unitingworld.org.au/everythingincommon>

### **ACT FOR PEACE ‘CHRISTMAS BOWL’ 2023**

Each year, the Christmas Bowl supports refugees and other displaced people. For further information or to make a donation this Christmas, please go to the Christmas Bowl website: <https://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au/donate>

### **TEARFUND AUSTRALIA – Useful Gift Shop returns to Northmead**

The Tearfund Australia Useful Gift shop will be returning to Northmead Uniting after an absence last year, on **Sunday December 3 and 10**. The Useful Gift Shop is a way to support live changing projects that help some of the poorest communities in the world. The projects are operated by local churches and church based agencies native to those countries. Projects cover areas designed to make the most difference and enable families and communities to sustain themselves. Project provide assistance in areas such as early education, health training and sanitation, small business, women’s health, clean water, animal husbandry and food production. **We will run the gift shop in the church following the 9.30am service on the 10th of December.**

### **LEIGH MEMORIAL ‘GIVING TREE’ – FOR PARRAMATTA MISSION**

This year’s ‘Giving Tree’ will take place over 3 Sundays (**3, 10 & 17 December**).

Members are invited to donate non-perishable Christmas food treats (chocolates, biscuits, Christmas cakes, puddings, lollies etc) – or general non-perishable food items. Christmas decorations & bon-bons are also welcome. Donated items will be used at the Parramatta Mission Christmas Lunch on 22 December and/or used in hampers or meals via Meals Plus over the festive season. **Donations may be delivered to Leigh Memorial Church on Sundays between 9.00 and 11.00am – OR – a “pick up” can be arranged from any of the PCUC sites.** Enquiries: Liz c/o [LeighMemorialUniting@gmail.com](mailto:LeighMemorialUniting@gmail.com)

**SAVE THE DATE: NEW YEAR’S EVE COMBINED SERVICE:** On **Sunday 31 December**, there will be a Combined PCUC service at **Westmead UC**, **commencing at 10.00am**. The service will be followed by a ‘Thank You & Farewell’ morning tea for Rev John and Pastor Fil. Members are kindly asked to ‘bring a plate of food to share’. Enquiries: Lorna & Jan. **\*\* NB: Leigh Fijian will no longer be holding a ‘Watchnight’ service on New Year’s Eve as previously advertised.**

***Parramatta Community Uniting Church***

**ADVENT 2023**

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**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/ Leigh Fijian: 11.15am.

**Monday 25 December – Christmas Day**

**8.00am:** Northmead Uniting Church

**9.00am:** Leigh Memorial Uniting Church (combined Leigh Memorial & Leigh Fijian)  
(Onsite + Zoom: <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5199089657>)

**9.00am:** Westmead Uniting Church

## Prayer Points

This week we pray for those who are unwell, undergoing treatment or surgery (including Ruth from Leigh Memorial who is having a procedure on 11/12) – and those who are at the end of this life's journey; We pray for peace between Israel and Palestine, for peace between Russia and Ukraine, and for peace to occur in other war-torn regions of the world; We pray for the millions of children facing hunger and malnutrition due to scarcity of food and water due to climate change, for food resources to become available and to be shared – and for proper shelters so that people are not sleeping rough and are able to be provided human care and compassion daily to enable them to rebuild a future; We pray for the hungry and homeless, lonely and grieving and for those with mental health and personal challenges. Lord, hear our prayers. **Amen.** (Prayer points kindly supplied by the Westmead worship community).



A very warm welcome to **Rev Dr Helen Richmond** and her husband **Ben Suherman** (pictured). Helen has recently joined the ministry team for Parramatta Community Uniting Church after serving in the Northern Territory over an extended period. We pray for Helen as she gets to know all of us and settles into her new role, and for both she and Ben as they embrace the relatively cooler climate of Sydney! We also welcome and pray for **Rev Dr Simaima Tuiono Waqanibaravi (known as 'Tui')** – following his appointment as the PCUC Resource Minister (commencing Feb. 2024).

Please note that Helen has contributed to – and kindly provided the link for – a very worthwhile Advent resource from the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network (PIEN): <https://uniting.church/pien-advent-guide/> Please also note that a Zoom prayer vigil for peace in the Holy Land has been organised by Assembly for next week. Details to follow.

## Feature News

### Douglas Purnell: 'Beyond Words' Exhibition

*Artist and theologian, Douglas Purnell, presents a suite of paintings working towards his vision of creating a contemplative chapel space. Exhibition details: 11am-4pm (Monday to Saturday) - Saturday 2 December to Tuesday 19 December at the 'McGlade Gallery', Australian Catholic University, Gate 3 25A Barker Rd, Strathfield. There will be a public conversation with the artist on each of the Saturdays at 2pm.*

**Comments received following the opening of exhibition:** "Attended the opening of Doug Purnell's exhibition at the Catholic University at Strathfield on Saturday. What a wonderful show it is. The paintings are emotive, spiritual, monumental, and intimate at the same time. A very moving experience being amongst them. Everyone should try to get there to see the show. I defy anyone not to be moved by these wonderful brave works. Congratulations on a really special show Doug." / "Douglas Purnell's exhibition yesterday was indeed beyond words... As per his chat with artist Chris Wyatt, capturing something of spirituality and being and the beyond... whether you see doors, or portals, a face or an aorta, or the limit of human reach. Hope to go back and sit on the floor and just be, at some point over the next 3 weeks."



## Pastoral Contacts

**Rev Geoff Smith** (Lead Minister)

0407 416 377 / [geoff.smith@parramattamission.org.au](mailto:geoff.smith@parramattamission.org.au)

**Rev Dr Helen Richmond**

0439 257 575

**Rev Vladimir Korotkov**

0431 759 573

**Rev Hyun Goo Jun** (Korean Faith Community)

0433 320 588

**Anare Vocea** (Fijian Vakatawa)

0432 772 852

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## Newsletter Prayer Points

Please send prayer points to Liz at [LeighMemorialUniting@gmail.com](mailto:LeighMemorialUniting@gmail.com)

or Rob at [reagleso@bigpond.net.au](mailto:reagleso@bigpond.net.au) by the Tuesday of each week.

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## General Submissions

Submissions to our PCUC Newsletters – and any enquiries, feedback or suggestions – may be sent to Rob or Liz at the above emails (preferably by the Tuesday of each week). **NB:** Please note that privacy considerations will be taken into account, and that some news items may be deemed more suitable for the monthly editions. *Thanks for everyone's support.*

## Contacts for our Uniting Church Sites

**Centenary**

46 Sorrell Street, North Parramatta 2151

(02) 9683-5023 [office@centenaryunitingchurch.org.au](mailto:office@centenaryunitingchurch.org.au)

**Leigh Fijian**

119 Macquarie Street Parramatta NSW 2150

(02) 9891 2277 [taitod@bigpond.com](mailto:taitod@bigpond.com)

**Leigh Memorial**

119 Macquarie Street Parramatta NSW 2150

(02) 9891 2277 [leighmemorialuniting@gmail.com](mailto:leighmemorialuniting@gmail.com)

**Northmead**

3-7 Hammers Rd, Northmead NSW 2152

(02) 9890 5814 [nuchurch@bigpond.net.au](mailto:nuchurch@bigpond.net.au)

**Parramatta Mission Reception**

119 Macquarie Street Parramatta NSW 2150

(02) 9891 2277 [wecare@parramattamission.org.au](mailto:wecare@parramattamission.org.au)

**Westmead**

175 Hawkesbury Road Westmead NSW 2145

(02) 9891 2277 [wecare@parramattamission.org.au](mailto:wecare@parramattamission.org.au)

Parramatta Community Uniting Church acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands on which we gather – the Burramattagal clan of the Darug people – and pays respect to elders past and present, and emerging leaders.