

Parramatta Community Uniting Church

Newsletter: *Sunday 18 February, 2024*



Lent, 2024



Parramatta Community Uniting Church (PCUC) 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.

PCUC Program...
Week commencing Sunday 18 February

Sunday 18 th	9.30am 9.30am 9.30am 11.15am 2.00pm 6 – 8pm Online	Worship Service – Northmead Worship Service – Westmead Worship Service – Leigh Memorial, Parramatta (Onsite + Zoom) Meeting ID: 519 908 9657 Worship Service – Leigh Fijian, Parramatta Korean Faith Community, Parramatta Jazz on Hammers, Northmead PCUC weekly online service: https://northmead.uca.org.au/
Tuesday 20 th	7.00pm	Meditation Group @ Centenary
Wednesday 21 st	1 – 2pm 7 – 9pm	Open Church – Leigh Memorial Lent Study Group – Centenary
Saturday 24 th	9.00am	‘Walking Church’ – Parramatta Park (meet Tudor Gate)
Sunday 25 th	9.30am 9.30am 9.30am 11.15am 2.00pm 11am – 2pm Online	Worship Service – Northmead Worship Service – Westmead Worship Service – Leigh Memorial, Parramatta (Onsite + Zoom) Meeting ID: 519 908 9657 Worship Service – Leigh Fijian, Parramatta Korean Faith Community, Parramatta BBQ (PCUC) – Netball Club season ‘kick starter’ event PCUC weekly online service: https://northmead.uca.org.au/

LENT

LENT STUDY GROUP – with Rev Dr Chris Walker

This year's PCUC Lent Study will be held at **Centenary, Sorrell Street, North Parramatta.**

When? 7.00 – 9.00pm (Cake & Coffee/ Tea to start. Study from 7.30pm).

Starts: Wednesday 21 February – **Concludes:** Wednesday 27 March.

NB: If you can't attend every session, that's fine - it's ok to join in when you can. All welcome.

Enquiries: Meryn O'Brien – merynobrien@gmail.com

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ADDITIONAL LENT RESOURCES & STUDY OPTIONS:

Book: Rev Dr Chris Walker – *Discipleship for All Seasons*

<https://www.mediacomeducation.org.au/shop/discipleship-for-all-seasons/>

NB: The MediaCom Education website has additional Lent resources.

Book: Anglican Board of Mission - *God's Own Country*

www.intothedesert.org



UnitingWorld – Lent Event 2024: 40 days of Faithful Action for Climate Change

<https://unitingworld.org.au/lent-event-is-coming/#:~:text=Lent%20Event%20is%20inspired%20by,the%20issue%20of%20climate%20change.>





Tear Fund: *Following Jesus for a World Restored* (Lent 2024)

<https://www.tearfund.org.au/following-jesus-for-a-world-restored-lent-2024>

Tear Fund – Lent Podcast: ‘Local & Global Voices’ (archived)

<https://www.tearfund.org.au/the-way-of-love-lent-2022>

With Love to the World – Lent & Easter study, 2024

<https://johntsquires.com/2024/02/02/the-latest-issue-of-with-love-to-the-world-daily-bible-reading-resource/>

World Council of Churches: Lent Webinar, 2024 (1 hour)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vmLuvgr_2U0

World Council of Churches: *True Freedom* - Lent Resource addressing Modern Slavery

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/6553a399b2687e59979e7451/t/658315ad90cdf2c67675bb3/1703089586615/>

[The+Clewer+True+Freedom+Document+FINAL+-+ENGLISH.pdfLent%20Event%202024:%20a%20call%20to%20faithful%20action%20on%20climate%20change](https://www.wccf.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/True-Freedom-Document-FINAL-ENGLISH.pdf)

PCUC Notices...

NETBALL CLUB BBQ – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

On **Sunday 25th February, 11.00am – 2.00pm**, there will be a Season 'Kick Starter' event for Northmead Uniting Netball Club at Gooden Reserve (Gooden Dr; Baulkham Hills). To support the Club, PCUC will be providing & cooking a BBQ for this event. Volunteers are needed to assist. If you can help, please contact Rob Eagleson (reagleso@bigpond.net.au) - or Rev Geoff Smith.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024 – ECUMENICAL SERVICE

A PCUC-hosted ecumenical service for World Day of Prayer will be held at Leigh Memorial Church on **Friday 1 March, commencing at 6.00pm**, followed light refreshments in the Fellowship Centre. PCUC helpers are needed for this event. Please contact Rev Helen, or speak with Liz/ the worship team.



You are invited to the
World Day of Prayer
6pm Friday 1 March 2024
Hosted by Parramatta Community
Uniting Church- Leigh Memorial
119 Macquarie St, Parramatta
Followed by light refreshments

Guest Speaker: Mary Wahhab Sweeney
*The 2024 WDP service has been prepared by
Palestinian Christian Women.*

Artist Halima Aziz
*Under the shade of an ancient olive tree
Palestinian women share their stories*

UNITING IN PRAYER: ACT 2

The Uniting Church Assembly's 35 days of national prayer will take place again this year between 19 May and 22 June. The catalyst theme for 2024 is: **“Threads of Love, Weaving Christ's Love Across Cultures and Boundaries.”** Prayers are requested by **31 March**. Please go to the website for further details:

<https://www.act2uca.com/unitinginprayer2024>

MEALS & SUPPORT SERVICES – PARRAMATTA MISSION

Those wishing to learn more about – and support – Parramatta Mission, are invited to visit the website, which includes a donations link:

<https://www.parramattamission.org.au/meals-support-services/>

LENT & EASTER @ PCUC

Palm Sunday – Sunday 24 March

Regular worship services at Parramatta, Northmead & Westmead

Tenebrae – Thursday 28 March

Centenary, 7.00pm – inc. a shared meal. *All welcome.*

Good Friday – Friday 29 March

Leigh Fijian & Leigh Memorial, Parramatta (TBC)

Northmead-Centenary and Westmead: 9.00am

Easter Sunday – Sunday 31 March

Leigh Fijian & Leigh Memorial, Parramatta (TBC)

Northmead-Centenary and Westmead: 9.30am

ONLINE EASTER STUDIES – 4 APRIL to 16 MAY

Hosted by Tuggeranong Uniting Church & sponsored by *With Love to the World*. Go to the church's website & search “Connect to Bible Studies on Zoom.” (10am & 7pm repeat sessions available):

<https://tuc.org.au>

EREMOS (“Exploring Spirituality in Australia”) – *Introducing the Intensive Journal® process Online* (Sunday 18 February from 2:00 - 5:00 pm – or - Tuesday 12th March 2.00 – 5.00 pm). Offered by the Eremos Institute and led by Kate Scholl, this workshop offers a brief introduction to the Intensive Journal® process, a powerful and practical tool to explore our inner stirrings and live more grounded in our own life. See the Eremos website: www.eremos.org.au Early bird rates apply.

CULTURE OF SAFETY AWARENESS WORKSHOP

Last Saturday, 10 February, our PCUC leadership team, ministers and Parramatta Mission staff attended a half-day “Safe Church” workshop at Centenary. Topics covered included child protection and the care & protection of all vulnerable people within our worshipping communities and workplaces, plus recommended reporting procedures and risk management/problem-solving strategies. Thanks to Robert & Lorna for arranging the workshop, Safe Church Unit facilitators Revs Jenny Ducker & Christine Bayliss Kelly, plus Fiona, Margie & Ken for coordinating tea/coffee & morning tea – and everyone who provided support.



Prayer Points

(Kindly supplied by the Leigh Memorial worship community)

Creator God, Holy Friend,

In the business of our lives, help us to draw aside from all the earthly thoughts that distract us and draw us into your presence

Touch our ears that that we may hear you,
Touch our eyes so that we may remember you,
Touch our minds that we may know you, and
our hearts that we may love you.

There are times when our prayers seem a weak and an ineffective exercise in the face of all that is happening around us. As a community we have fallen far from the examples of life that Jesus portrayed throughout his ministry. And so, we boldly pray for your continued mercy on us your family of faith, your Church.

We pray -

for leaders that may:

govern with integrity & honesty
stand and fight against injustices, and
mediate for peaceful outcomes

for our Uniting Church

For our Moderator Rev. Havea Hiliau
The members of the Pastoral Team, Geoff, Helen, Tui and
Vladimir

For the gifts and skills of the staff of Parramatta Mission as
they help people in need

For our Church Council and Congregation Leaders

Most loving God,

In this cynical world, help us to provide the hopefulness of existence by turning negative situations into positive opportunities. Through Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen**

Leigh Fijian News

1. **Lotu ena macawa oqo 18/02:** Na lotu ena macawa mai oqo ena vunau tiko kina ko Talatala Samu Sadrata. Vunau vakarau Senitiki Qata kei Isikeli Duwai. Tu vakarau na veiliutaki matasiaga #1. Tali matasiaga #1
2. **Lotu ena macawa mai oqo 25/02:** Na lotu ena macawa mai oqo rau na vunau tiko kina ko Senitiki Qata kei Isikeli Duwai. Vunau vakarau Viliame Kamotu kei Taito Dovibua. Tu vakarau ena veiliutaki kei na tali matasiaga #2.
3. **Lesoni ni mawaca oqo 12/02 – 18/02: Lent 1** Vakatekivu 9:8-17 Same 25:1-10 1 Pita 3:18-22 Marika 1:9-15
4. **Lesoni ni macawa mai oqo 19/02 – 25/02: Lent 2** Vakatekivu 17:1-7, 15-16 Same 22:23-31 Roma 4:13-25 Marika 8:31-38, 9:2-9

Ulutaga ni veinanumi ena Masu:

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.

Bula Feeding : Me nanumi tiko na nodratou veiqaravi na Bula Feeding.

Sasaga ni Visa: Gadrevi na noda veinanumi ena masu vei ira na lewe ni vavakoso era mai sasaga kei na nanumi talega ni nodra vuvale mai Viti.

FNC 2024: 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 Okotova ni yabaki oqo 2024 e Katoomba Conference Centre.

Sharing from Rev John Jegasothy (PCUC Tamil Faith Community)....

The **Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce (ACRT)**, a body set up to promote a shared Christian vision of compassion and hospitality for asylum seekers and refugees and to advocate for just and humane policies, met in-person on Friday 9 February to plan its work for 2024. It is a privilege to be part of this group. The gathering was a fruitful time with representatives from the Salvation Army, Anglican Church, Churches of Christ, Catholic Church, Quakers and the Uniting Church. Alongside other advocacy groups, we determined our focus will be on visa permanency.

Last year the Federal Government granted 19,000 refugees permanent visas, ending over a decade of visa limbo for some of the most vulnerable people in Australia. Unfortunately, this process left approximately 10,000 asylum seekers still facing ongoing uncertainty about the future. Thousands of these people use the services of our churches and their agencies for support, giving us a powerful reason to raise our voice.

This year, the ACRT will engage directly with political decision makers, as well as engage our members to meet with their local MPs to advocate for those still waiting who live with uncertainty and fear. If you would like to know more about the Australian Churches Refugee Task-group (ACRT) or share ideas on how to support refugees in our community please feel free to contact me.

For more information and to stay in the loop about future opportunities you can also check out the **ACRT Website and Facebook pages:**

www.facebook.com/AustralianChurchesRefugeeTaskforce

<https://uniting.church/working-for-refugee-justice/>

PLEASE NOTE: An immediate way you can get involved is join the ‘Big Walk for Refugees’:

www.bigwalk4refugees.au

and Palm Sunday Rallies:

<https://aran.net.au/actions/palm-sunday-2024/>

Pastoral Contacts

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Uniting Church Tamil Faith
Community PCUC.

Newsletter Submissions:
Please send all newsletter submissions
to Rose by the Wednesday of each
week.
rose.shalala@parramattamission.org.au

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