

Parramatta Community Uniting Church

Newsletter: *Sunday 3 March, 2024*



PCUC BBQ: Northmead Uniting Netball Club 'Season Kick-starter'



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

PCUC Notices...

INVITATION: WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

You are invited to join our **World Day of Prayer** service **this Friday 1 March, 6.00 pm**, at **Leigh Memorial, Parramatta**. You can also follow by Zoom: **Meeting ID: 519 908 9657**

The World Day of Prayer is a global lay women's movement that brings together people from different countries and Christian backgrounds to pray. This year the resources have been prepared by Palestinian Christian women on the theme, *'I Beg You, Bear with One Another in Love'* (Ephesians 4: 1 – 3).



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

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.*

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

LENT & EASTER @ PCUC

Palm Sunday – Sunday 24 March

Regular 9.30am 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 service: Combined, 10.00am
Northmead-Centenary and Westmead services: 9.00am

Easter Sunday – Sunday 31 March

Leigh Fijian & Leigh Memorial Parramatta service: Combined, 10.00am
Northmead-Centenary and Westmead services: 9.30am

** Further information about PCUC's Easter program will be forthcoming.

Congregation Leadership Team (CLT) Meetings

For information, in 2024 the CLT meet on the first Saturday of each month. The meetings are held at PCUC – Centenary commencing at 10.00am & finish at approximately midday.

The meetings are normally attended by our elected leaders, however any member of PCUC is welcome to attend.

Church Council Meetings

For information, the remaining meetings set for Church Council in 2024 are 27 March, 22 May, 24 July, 25 September and 27 November. The meetings are held at PCUC – Centenary commencing at 7.30pm & finish at approximately at 9.30pm dependent on the items on the agenda.

The meetings are normally attended by our elected leaders, members of our Ministry Team, a representative of Presbytery, our Head of Finance & Corporate Services and our Compliance Officer. Similar to the CLT, any member of PCUC is welcome to attend.

Request for a few nights accommodation for Aboriginal women from Arnhem Land

Do you have a spare room?

We (PCUC) have received a request from PLC school and Nathan Tyson, Synod Director for First Nations Strategy. The request is to provide 4-5 nights accommodation for up to five Yolgnu women who will be attending a Christian conference in Blacktown during Easter March 28- April 1.

PLC school is a partner with Milingimbi School in NE Arnhem Land. Around 40 adult students from Milingimbi are coming to Blacktown to attend a ‘Why the Kingdom Seminar’ with Kingdom Ambassadors International. Five women students are still seeking accommodation for free or low cost.

Do you have a spare room one or more of these women could use for that time? They would be at the conference during the day but may need some breakfast and dinner as well. Assistance in getting to and from the conference would be a bonus.

If you are able to offer this kind of hospitality please contact me (Jon O’Brien from Northmead UC) as soon as you can, and I can pass that on to Julie Shaw at PLC who is coordinating arrangements for the women.

My contacts details are, mobile: 0411 332 825 and email: joo'Brien@uniting.org

Thanks for considering this request.

Jon O’Brien

SUNNY'S STORY

After five years of married life in Korea, my husband and I decided to move to Australia in 2010. The move was both a personal and parental challenge, as it meant leaving behind my extended family, long-time friends, and my career, while also facing the task of raising our 9-month-old boy in a new country.

As a mother, it was important for me to gather information and find friends to help with raising a child. The three playgroups I attended during those days played a significant role in helping both myself and my son socialise with other mothers and children experiencing a similar stage in their lives. The like-minded relationships that I built have provided emotional and social support for me and many other friends.

As a migrant speaking English as a second language, I have always felt that mastering English is a lifelong endeavour. I have observed many migrants struggling with English here. Some express a desire to stay at home, while others mention difficulties in finding employment or communicating with their children due to their lack of confidence or competence in English. English Conversation Classes aim to assist these individuals in improving their English skills and empowering them in the process.

It has been a great privilege for me to serve as a community worker alongside people who share similar experiences. I have been able to share my own experiences with newly arrived mothers and children and support them during playgroup sessions. Witnessing people share their stories and connect with each other during English Conversation Classes has been a wonderful experience, fostering a sense of community and mutual support.

Through these mission activities, I aspire to establish the following vision for our neighbourhood and community:

Fostering a welcoming and inclusive community, regardless of background.

Empowering individuals and fostering connections among community members.

Collaborating to build a sustainable community by caring for our environment for future generations.

I trust that God will guide and support our community in making this vision a reality.

Sunny Song, Community Worker: PCUC – Centenary.



Prayer Points

In recognition of **International Women’s Day (8 March)** and the ongoing campaign for gender equity, equal educational opportunities and pay, community-based inclusivity and an end to discrimination and violence against women and girls – prayers this week have been supplied by two women of the Westmead and Tamil communities of PCUC. **This year’s IWD theme is: *INSPIRE INCLUSION***



Prayer by Cheryl, Westmead Worship Community:

Lord we come to You in prayer, asking that those of us who are facing the loss of loved ones or dear friends, be held in Your loving arms and comforted as they journey on. We ask that You bestow strength and healing upon those who are unwell and especially that for any ongoing medical investigation or treatment, that the right attention is provided. We pray for the chaos and trauma, hunger and homelessness that wars all around the World are creating, that somehow Your light may shine through, and that neighbourly love and peace be felt in the devastation. Strengthen and protect those who work to provide aid in these areas. We pray for our climate that efforts to protect and preserve resources as well as reduction of greenhouse gases may always be the focus of all nations. We ask that You provide hope and shelter for our homeless, protection and guardianship over those who are abused/ neglected. Be with those who are silently battling mental health challenges, those who are lonely, those who can't speak up for themselves, the marginalised, the many who are facing rising costs and changes to their lives. ***Christ be our light, shine in our hearts and help us to make the right choices. Amen.***

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Prayer by Dorothy, Tamil Faith Community:

Gracious God, all glory and honour to you. Hallowed be thy name. We place before you the people of your world, in turmoil, injustice and many facing hunger. In a world torn apart by division and strife, we beg you to bring peace, to heal the damaged, to remember the unloved, the aged, the children – and the sick in mind and body. Only True God, we ask for your compassion and that their burdens be made easier to bear. In humility we come before you, we remember the refugees and asylum seekers, those in horrible makeshift and unsafe camps, many dying. Make us feel one with them. We pray for your wisdom to infuse people of influence so that justice may prevail. ***Holy God we hold space for hope – Hope for a new world – Hope for thy kingdom come.*** You, our Loving God – who knows everything even before we ask – we bring to you the needs and concerns of those gathered to worship you: those in pain, those who are ill, or lonely, those facing financial difficulties, those who needs your healing power. You are our only hope Giver of life. We cling to you our rock. We ask your special blessings on those celebrating their birthdays and give thanks for the gift of life. Be in our midst Loving God. We dedicate ourselves to you anew and we dedicate our congregation. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

PCUC HERITAGE COMMITTEE – UPDATE

Commencing as the ‘Parramatta Mission Heritage Committee’ in 2009, what is now the ‘Parramatta Community Uniting Church Heritage Committee’ continues to research, share and advocate for heritage at all our sites, and to assist church members and the broader community with heritage enquiries.

Guided tours of Leigh Memorial Church and Meals Plus for community, adult education and high school groups are continuing this year – with over 500 people of all ages visiting the Parramatta site during 2023 and 2024 (to date) to hear about PCUC’s long history and our current programs and vision – and the congregation’s connection to Meals Plus. Recently, the Committee also contributed historical data about all sites to PCUC’s **Mission from the Inside** project, and continued providing assisting to the **Synod Archives Office** on request.

Plans for 2024 include further involvement in the congregation’s forward-planning/visioning processes, the release of a 60th anniversary history of the Leigh Memorial Fellowship Centre (to coincide with an impending renovation of the building) – and ongoing efforts to improve the sharing and storage of our conjoined PCUC archival collection. An effort is also underway to thoughtfully repurpose the soon to be removed 1964 stage curtains from the Leigh Memorial Hall. A Heritage Committee tour of historic St. John’s Cemetery, Parramatta (the site of some significant early Wesleyan graves), is planned for 2024, with a date and time to be advised. PCUC will also jointly celebrate ‘Heritage Sunday’ on Sunday 23 June this year, inc. an acknowledgement of the UCA anniversary.

Most of our PCUC-produced heritage books are available online via the Parramatta Mission website and the Camden Theological Library’s ‘illuminate’ repository. Hard copies are held by Parramatta Civic Library plus other State and National libraries/archives, and can also be requested from the Committee.

“Many thanks” for everyone’s ongoing support for PCUC’s dynamic past, present & future – Liz.

**** Camden Theological Library’s online ‘illuminate’ repository:**

Leigh Memorial history (138th anniversary – focusing on the church’s stained glass):

[https://illuminate.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/23871?](https://illuminate.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/23871?keywords=Luminous&type=all&highlights=WyJsdW1pbm91cyJd&lsk=3abab2757b84bf4ba74243df1ce5f30f)

[keywords=Luminous&type=all&highlights=WyJsdW1pbm91cyJd&lsk=3abab2757b84bf4ba74243df1ce5f30f](https://illuminate.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/23871?keywords=Luminous&type=all&highlights=WyJsdW1pbm91cyJd&lsk=3abab2757b84bf4ba74243df1ce5f30f)

Leigh Fijian history (30th anniversary):

[https://illuminate.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/20805?](https://illuminate.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/20805?keywords=Tolu+Decades&type=all&highlights=WyJ0b2x1IiwZGVjYWRLcyJd)

[keywords=Tolu+Decades&type=all&highlights=WyJ0b2x1IiwZGVjYWRLcyJd](https://illuminate.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/20805?keywords=Tolu+Decades&type=all&highlights=WyJ0b2x1IiwZGVjYWRLcyJd)

Northmead history (100th anniversary):

[https://illuminate.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/23257?](https://illuminate.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/23257?keywords=Northmead&type=all&highlights=WyJub3J0aG1lYWQiXQ%3D%3D&lsk=5d892d68ca3b2f86f5093a893c9e52bb)

[keywords=Northmead&type=all&highlights=WyJub3J0aG1lYWQiXQ%3D%3D&lsk=5d892d68ca3b2f86f5093a893c9e52bb](https://illuminate.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/23257?keywords=Northmead&type=all&highlights=WyJub3J0aG1lYWQiXQ%3D%3D&lsk=5d892d68ca3b2f86f5093a893c9e52bb)

Westmead history (30th anniversary):

[https://illuminate.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/20803?](https://illuminate.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/20803?keywords=Westmead&type=all&highlights=WyJ3ZXN0bWVhZCJd&lsk=6aff4c2b392e4ccb03b54b2bfd26faca)

[keywords=Westmead&type=all&highlights=WyJ3ZXN0bWVhZCJd&lsk=6aff4c2b392e4ccb03b54b2bfd26faca](https://illuminate.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/20803?keywords=Westmead&type=all&highlights=WyJ3ZXN0bWVhZCJd&lsk=6aff4c2b392e4ccb03b54b2bfd26faca)

Centenary history (1990 booklet only. An updated history produced by PCUC is in progress):

[https://illuminate.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/1629?](https://illuminate.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/1629?keywords=Three+Churches&type=all&highlights=WyJ0aHJlZSIsImNodXJjaGVzIl0%3D&lsk=4ef7644b50d4a3bfb9a9fbde6d5fb6f6)

[keywords=Three+Churches&type=all&highlights=WyJ0aHJlZSIsImNodXJjaGVzIl0%3D&lsk=4ef7644b50d4a3bfb9a9fbde6d5fb6f6](https://illuminate.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/1629?keywords=Three+Churches&type=all&highlights=WyJ0aHJlZSIsImNodXJjaGVzIl0%3D&lsk=4ef7644b50d4a3bfb9a9fbde6d5fb6f6)

KOORI KINNECTIONS – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL WALK

Last Saturday, 24 February, **16 Leigh Fijian Young Adults** attended one of Parramatta Phive’s series of ‘Koori Kinnections’ walks, involving an Aboriginal Presenter taking groups of community members to sites in Parramatta Park and along Parramatta River. There, they hear about Aboriginal connections to land, plant uses for food and medicine, and other aspects of local indigenous culture.

Following is some feedback shared by Tupou Kamotu on behalf of the Leigh Fijian attendees on Saturday: “We were reminded of the meaning of Parramatta, as it was a meeting place for all indigenous people of Australia. Aboriginal people used the Barter System, they had arranged marriages and they gathered for feasts. We learnt how Aboriginal people have the cultural knowledge to connect with nature for survival. Our experience during the Koori Kinnection Walk also reflected how similar Aboriginal culture is to indigenous Fijians and our way of life, including having that connection with nature and making use of trees and plants for medicinal purposes, food and mats.”

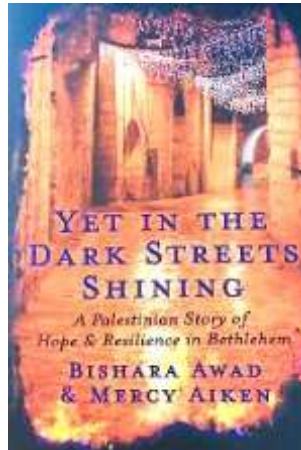
To book for the next ‘Koori Kinnection Walk’ in June, check the ‘Phive’ website:

<https://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/phive/events/koori-kinnections-aboriginal-cultural-walk-june>



YET IN THE DARK STREETS SHINING – Speaking Event with Mercy Aitkin:
Sunday 7 April, 5.00 - 6.30pm at Banksia Hall, 2 Lane St, Wentworthville.

I would like to encourage you to take up the opportunity to meet Mercy Aikin, co-author of the book '**Yet in the Dark Streets Shining**' which tells the amazing story of Bethlehem Palestinian Christian leader, Bishara Awad. Mercy will be visiting Australia in April – and you are invited to hear her speak.



Mercy's visit is hosted by the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network (PIEN)

<https://mailchi.mp/660c3defb500/pilgrims-prayers-and-the-power-of-words?e=998ef1806c>

It would be great if a few of us from PCUC could go together. For more information please give me a ring.

Helen

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Book Review & purchase information:

"When my cell phone rang and I saw that it was our son Sami, I had a sense of foreboding. "Dad, I've decided to try to get out of Bethlehem now. I don't want to risk being stuck here when Rana goes into labor. I know it is risky, but we don't have a choice. We need to get to Jerusalem as soon as possible."

And so begins the book about Bishara Awad's life: 'Yet in the Dark Streets Shining'....

Tim Costello has written a review of 'Yet in the Dark Streets Shining.' Tim writes, "A good storyteller will draw the reader into their life's sights, smells and experiences. This is exactly what Bishara does, with eloquent descriptions of sunny days with loving family and friends interspersed with dramatic and distressing descriptions of the difficulties his family faced when he was a young child."

Review:

<https://pien.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=6d422d0e088b3c87c0df13ec9&id=1aac04fbbe&e=998ef1806c>

To purchase the book:

<https://pien.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=6d422d0e088b3c87c0df13ec9&id=e47d770a96&e=998ef1806c>

Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimages are underway – *Walk in Prayerful Solidarity...*

During this Lenten period Christian groups around the globe are taking part in the **Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimages**. To date there are 116 cities in 15 countries organising pilgrimages. To find out more about the Ceasefire Pilgrimages click <https://www.gazaceasefirepilgrimage.com/>

We in Sydney are also invited to walk as a sign of solidarity with those calling for an enduring ceasefire and access to humanitarian aid, including the Churches of the Holy Land.

The date of the Sydney walk is Saturday 6 April.

If you would like to join, please talk to Helen Richmond or Bruce Bennetts.

The Sydney Pilgrimage will also help raise funds to support 'Palestinian Christians in Australia' as they seek to provide support for up to 60 families that are to arrive in Australia from Gaza as well as contribute future rebuilding efforts in Gaza. If you can't join the Pilgrimage but would like to support refugees from Gaza, here is a link:

https://palestinianchristians.org.au/donate-to-gaza/?mc_cid=2d6103af60&mc_eid=998ef1806c

Where did the idea for the Ceasefire Pilgrimages come from?

After the terrible events of October 7 and the relentless Israeli bombing of Gaza that followed, New Zealander James Harris, like many of us, felt heartbroken at what he was seeing on his screen every day. In act of prayerful solidarity with the people of Gaza, he decided to walk the length of the Gaza Strip. He rang his Aussie mate, Jarrod McKenna, and asked if he thought others would be interested in doing it. Jarrod's response was, "Mate, I think people all over the world would be interested!"

You might like to read the article by Nils von Kalm. After joining the Melbourne pilgrimage on Ash Wednesday he wrote, 'The Man Who Walked The Length Of The Gaza Strip In His Hometown.

<https://pien.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?>

[u=6d422d0e088b3c87c0df13ec9&id=2245e2ccab&e=998ef1806c](https://pien.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=6d422d0e088b3c87c0df13ec9&id=2245e2ccab&e=998ef1806c)

PCUC Calendar of Events for

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
2 *10.00am - to Midday Congregation Leadership Team Meeting	3 Worship Service * 9.30am - Northmead on site - Westmead on site - Leigh Memorial on site & Zoom * 11.30am Leigh Fijian on site * 2.00pm Korean Faith Community, Parramatta PCUC weekly online service https://northmead.uca.org.au/	4 *10.00am Playgroup @ Centenary	5 *10.00am English Conversation Classes @ Centenary *7.00pm Christian Meditation Group @ Centenary
9 *9.00am Walking Church - Parramatta Park – meet at Tudor Gates	10 Worship Service * 9.30am - Northmead on site - Westmead on site - Leigh Memorial on site & Zoom * 11.30am Leigh Fijian on site * 2.00pm Korean Faith Community, Parramatta *4.30 - 8.00pm Uniting Church Tamil Faith Community -Northmead PCUC weekly online service https://northmead.uca.org.au/	11 *10.00am Playgroup @ Centenary	12 *10.00am English Conversation Classes @ Centenary *7.00pm Christian Meditation Group @ Centenary
16	17 Worship Service * 9.30am - Northmead on site - Westmead on site - Leigh Memorial on site & Zoom * 11.30am Leigh Fijian on site * 2.00pm Korean Faith Community- Parramatta PCUC weekly online service https://northmead.uca.org.au/ *6.00 to 8.00pm Jazz on Hammers-Northmead	18 *10.00am Playgroup @ Centenary	19 *10.00am English Conversation Classes @ Centenary *7.00pm Christian Meditation Group @ Centenary
23 *9.00am Walking Church - Parramatta Park – meet at Tudor Gates	24 Palm Sunday -Worship Service * 9.30am - Northmead on site - Westmead on site - Leigh Memorial on site & Zoom * 11.30am Leigh Fijian on site * 2.00pm Korean Faith Community- Parramatta PCUC weekly online service https://northmead.uca.org.au/	25 *10.00am Playgroup @ Centenary	26 *10.00am English Conversation Classes @ Centenary *7.00pm Christian Meditation Group @ Centenary
30	31 Easter Sunday- Worship Service *9.30am Northmead-Centenary and Westmead *10.00am Leigh Fijian & Leigh Memorial, Combined Service *2.00pm Korean Faith Community - Parramatta PCUC weekly online service https://northmead.uca.org.au/		

For Christian Meditation @ Centenary, Contact Jon O'Brien 0411 332 825
For English Conversation Classes & Centenary Playgroup: Contact Sunhee Song, community@centenaryunitingchurch.org.au



2024

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		1 *10.00am Playgroup @ Centenary
6 *10.00am Playgroup @ Centenary *1.00 to 2.00pm Open Church Leigh Memorial	7 *10.00am English Conversation Classes @ Centenary	8 *10.00am Playgroup @ Centenary
13 *10.00am Playgroup @ Centenary *1.00 to 2.00pm Open Church Leigh Memorial *6.30pm Ladies Dinner - Northmead Bowling Club	14 *10.00am English Conversation Classes @ Centenary *10.00am to Midday Friendship Centre Northmead	15 *10.00am Playgroup @ Centenary
20 *10.00am Playgroup @ Centenary *1.00 to 2.00pm Open Church Leigh Memorial	21 *10.00am English Conversation Classes @ Centenary	22 *10.00am Playgroup @ Centenary
27 *10.00am Playgroup @ Centenary *1.00 to 2.00pm Open Church Leigh Memorial *7.30pm Church Council - Centenary	28 *10.00am English Conversation Classes @ Centenary *10.00am to Midday Friendship Centre Northmead *7.00pm Tenebrae Centenary, inc. a shared meal	29 Good Friday *10.00am Combined Service Leigh Fijian & Leigh Memorial, Parramatta *9.00am Northmead-Centenary and Westmead

Leigh Fijian

1. **Lotu ena macawa oqo 03/03** Na lotu ena macawa mai oqo na veiqaravi tiko kina na Pastoral team/ youth (reflection). Na tali ni vunau sa gadrevi tiko me vakaitavi mai kina na matasiga e tolu.
2. **Lotu ena macawa mai oqo 10/03:** Na lotu ena macawa mai oqo e rau na vunau tiko kina ko Viliame Kamotu kei Taito Dovibua. Vunau vakarau nai vakatawa Anare Vocea kei Serupepeli Nagatalevu. Tu vakarau na veiliutaki kei na tali matasiga #3
3. **Lesoni ni mawaca oqo 26/02 – 03/03: Lent 3** Lako Yani 20:1-17 Same 19 1 Korinica 1:18-25 Joni 2:13-22.
4. **Lesoni ni macawa mai oqo 04/03 - 10/03:** Tiko mai na Lekutu 21:4-9 Same 107:1-3, 17-22 Efeso 2:1-10 Joni 3:14-21.
5. Na yakavi ni sigatabu oqo 03 Maji ena qaravi tiko kina na lotu ni PNP mai Cambelltown ena 3pm.
6. Sa vakaraitaka mai ko Ofa ni sa dola tiko na registration ni Kids Camp Out 2024. Ni qai veitaratara vei Mereani me baleta ni registration.

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.

The Leigh Fijian Congregation is overwhelmed with gratitude to the Qata family for their generosity and the wonderful gift they present to the church. They presented their family gift after lunch on the 25th of February 2024.





THE POWER OF 300 CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE

In the book of history, the Battle of Thermopylae stands as a testament to the incredible power of unity and devotion. Just as 300 Spartan warriors held back an army of millions, we invite you to become a modern-day hero and join our cause.

Our Mission:

We are on a quest to bring about positive change in the lives of those in need. The challenges we face may not be armies of millions, but they are formidable nonetheless – homelessness, poverty, hunger, domestic violence, and injustice. Our battleground is the real world, and our weapons are compassion, generosity, and kindness.

The Army of 300:

We are seeking 300 compassionate individuals to become regular donors of \$30 a month and form the Army of 300 with the purpose of securing the funding to ensure food costs are covered for a 12 month period. These dedicated supporters will stand as guardians of hope, ensuring that our mission continues to make a lasting impact and by always being able to provide a hot meal made with love.

Why Become a Guardian of Hope?

- **Food Security:** Providing the stability and resources needed to ensure a meal is always available year-round.
- **Make a Lasting Impact:** Just like the 300 at Thermopylae, your contribution will make a significant difference in the lives of those doing it tough. Your commitment allows us to plan and execute long-term, sustainable solutions.
- **Join a Noble Cause:** Be part of a community that believes in the power of collective action. Your support inspires others to join the League of 300 and amplifies the impact of our collective efforts.



www.parramattamission.org.au/powerof300



In the heart of a bustling city, Garry's life began in the shadows of domestic violence within a foster home. Experiencing homelessness for over 25 years tested his spirit, but art became his refuge.

Diagnosed with cancer, Garry sought solace in a local mission, turning its walls into a canvas of resilience. Each stroke of his brush told a story of triumph over adversity, inspiring others facing similar struggles.



Garry's artwork transforms the mission into a beacon of hope, a testament to the transformative power of art and the human spirit. Despite his own battle against cancer, he continues to paint, leaving behind a legacy that speaks of courage and resilience, thank you Garry.

Will you be a part of Parramatta Missions 300 army?

We invite you to be a part of this transformative journey. Hope is a powerful brushstroke, and Garry's story paints a vivid picture of conquering adversity.

Your support enables the Mission to provide meals, refuge, opportunities, and a canvas for friends like Garry to express themselves, follow their dreams, and live life to the fullest.

With your support, we can continue turning adversity into art, creating a legacy of resilience that inspires others and creates a sense of belonging.



**Parramatta
Mission**



**uniting
church**
in Australia
United of NSW & ACT



www.parramattamission.org.au/powerof300



THE POWER OF 300 **CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE**



We are looking for 300 compassionate warriors that will become regular donors of \$30 a month to form the Army of 300.

Are you ready to become a Meals Plus Warrior?



www.parramattamission.org.au/powerof300



REMINDER... LENT EVENT 2024: A CALL TO FAITHFUL ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE!



by UnitingWorld

Lent Event is inspired by a simple but powerful idea. That every one of us has a role to play in building a world free from poverty and injustice.

It's especially true of the issue of climate change.

Climate change is worsening every threat to peace, security and human wellbeing in our world.

It's going to take all of us, doing all we can, with all our hearts, to fight it.

We believe people of faith have a powerful role to play in taking meaningful climate action, as well as inspiring hope and courage to face the future.

It's not too late!Join us for Lent Event: 14 February – 28 March, 2024

Commit to 40 days of faithful action for God's creation. Start wherever you're at with a large or small sustainability challenge. Use it to fundraise to help vulnerable communities who are fighting to build resilience and mitigate climate impacts. Raise your voice.

Along the way, we'll be considering the role of faith in caring for God's creation through a series of short devotions and video interviews with our partners and theologians.

Here's a little pitch video with the help from some of our partners sharing the world we want to see...

Sign up today and start inspiring others to join!

www.lentevent.com.au

CONDOLENCES

Our PCUC community is deeply saddened to learn of the passing of **Pat Richards** on 29 February. Pat was a very long term member at Leigh Memorial and attended Westmead in recent years. Funeral arrangements are not known at this time, but will be advised. Our memories of Pat include her beautiful smile, her immense kindness and words of encouragement to others, and her good heart.

Pat faithfully assisted at, and supported, so many church and Mission events over the years that her contributions were innumerable. She was a member of the 'Couples & Friends' group (one of PCUC's longest-running groups – more recently meeting for lunches and keeping in touch as a 'Friendship' group) – and 'SPOW' (Single People of Worth), which has now concluded. Pat was also a helper at the Leigh Memorial 'coffee shop' at Macquarie Street in the old days when it was open to the public, along with participating in many other Parramatta Mission activities. Her recent involvements at Westmead are remembered with warmth and appreciation. All of us thank God for Pat's generosity of spirit, and hold her friends, fellow members at Leigh & Westmead and her dear family in our prayers at this difficult time.

We also express our sympathies to the family of past Leigh Memorial member **June Smith**, who was an incredible 101 at the time of recent passing in Galston. June's loved ones have also been in our prayers over the past couple of weeks and we thank God for her various kindnesses and contributions over a long period.



Lectionary Readings for March

Mar 3 2024 - Lent 3

Ex 20:1-17
Ps 19
1 Cor 1:18-25
Jn 2:13-22

Mar 10 2024 - Lent 4

Nm 21:4-9
Ps 107:1-3,17-22
Eph 2:1-10
Jn 3:14-21

Mar 17 2024 -Lent 5

Jer 31:31-34
Ps 51:1-12 or Ps 119:9-16
Heb 5:5-10
Jn 12:20-33

Mar 24 2024 - Liturgy of the Palms

Ps 118:1-2,19-29
Mk 11:1-11 or Jn 12:12-16
Liturgy of the Passion
Is 50:4-9a
Ps 31:9-16
Phil 2:5-11
Mk 14:1-15:47 or Mk 15:1-39, (40-47)

Mar 29 2024 -Good Friday

Is 52:13-53:12
Ps 22
Heb 10:16-25 or Heb 4:14-16, 5:7-9
Jn 18:1-19:42

Mar 30/31 2024 - Easter Vigil

Ex 14 & 15
Gn 1:1-2:4a
Is 55:1-11
Prv 8:1-8, 19-21; 8:4b-6
Ps 136:1-9, 23-26
Rom 6:3-11 Mk 16:1-8

Services & Zoom Information

Northmead-Centenary

Time: Sunday 9.30am on site

Leigh Memorial

Time: Sunday 9.30am on site & Zoom

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5199089657>

Meeting ID: 519 908 9657

Westmead

Time: Sunday 9.30am on site

Leigh Fijian

Time: Sundays 11.15am on site

Korean Faith Community Parramatta

Time: Sundays 2.00pm on site

Uniting Church Tamil Faith Community

Northmead

Time: Second Sunday of the Month 4.30 - 8.00pm
on site

PCUC online service

<https://northmead.uca.org.au/>

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PCUC.

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Please send all newsletter submissions to Rose by the Wednesday of each week.
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Parramatta Mission



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Parramatta Mission

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

March 2024		Parramatta Community Uniting Church Worship Planning	
Date	Congregation	Minister	Online (For all congregations)
3 Mar	Leigh Leigh Fijian	Helen Helen	Stuart Elliot, Peter Fragar Communion x2
	Northmead-Centenary	Geoff	
	Westmead	Tui	Communion
10 Mar	Leigh LF	Ben Gilmour	Vladimir absent until May 12
	Northmead-Centenary	Tui	
	Westmead	Sarah	
17 Mar	Leigh LF	Bruce Bennetts	
	Northmead-Centenary	Stuart Elliott	
	Westmead	Tui	
24 Mar Palm Sunday	Leigh L Fijian,	Tui Geoff/Tui	
	Northmead-Centenary	Helen	Communion
	Westmead	Geoff	
29 Mar Good Friday	Leigh	Tui	
	Northmead/Cent	Helen	
	Westmead	Geoff	
31 Mar Easter Sunday	Leigh LF	Tui	
	Northmead-Cent	Geoff	
	Westmead	Helen	