

# Parramatta Community Uniting Church

Newsletter: *Sunday 10 March, 2024*

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*World Day of Prayer service, PCUC - Leigh Memorial, Friday 1 March*



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

**PCUC Program...**  
***Week commencing Sunday 10 March***

Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	‘Walking Church’ in Parramatta Park
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am 9.30am 9.30am  11.15am 2.00pm  4.30 - 8.00pm  Online	Worship Service - Northmead Worship Service - Westmead Worship Service - Leigh Memorial Parramatta (Onsite + Zoom) <b>Meeting ID: 519 908 9657</b>  Worship Service - Leigh Fijian Korean Faith Community - Parramatta  Uniting Church Tamil Faith Community - Northmead  PCUC weekly online service: <a href="https://northmead.uca.org.au/">https://northmead.uca.org.au/</a>
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Christian Meditation Group @ Centenary
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	1 – 2pm 7 – 9pm	Open Church – Leigh Memorial Lent Study Group – Centenary
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am 9.30am 9.30am  11.15am 2.00pm  6.00 - 8.00pm  Online	Worship Service - Northmead Worship Service - Westmead Worship Service - Leigh Memorial Parramatta (Onsite + Zoom) <b>Meeting ID: 519 908 9657</b>  Worship Service - Leigh Fijian Korean Faith Community - Parramatta  Jazz on Hammers  PCUC weekly online service: <a href="https://northmead.uca.org.au/">https://northmead.uca.org.au/</a>

# PCUC Notices...

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## **LENT STUDY GROUP – *with Rev Dr Chris Walker***

This year's PCUC Lent Study is being 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:** It's ok to attend any or all sessions in the series.

Enquiries: Meryn O'Brien – [merynobrien@gmail.com](mailto:merynobrien@gmail.com)

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## **SOME PCUC DIARY DATES, MARCH - APRIL:**

**Sunday 17 March – Jazz on Hammers, 6 – 8pm, PCUC – Northmead.**

**28 – 31 March – Leigh Fijian Youth Easter Camp** (Parramatta site)

**Wednesday 27 March – Next 'Open Church' Communion service, 1.00pm,** Leigh Memorial. Parking available (text Mario, 0415 803 921).

**Saturday 6 April – Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage - Sydney.** Please see Helen Richmond or Bruce Bennetts for further information.

**Sunday 7 April – Induction of Rev Dr Helen and Rev Dr Tui – 2.00pm,** Centre for Ministry, Masons Drive, Nth. Parramatta – followed by afternoon tea. NB: Regular PCUC worship services will take place that morning as well.

**Sunday 7 April – Speaker, Mercy Aitkin – 'Yet in the Dark Streets Shining' author** – Banksia Hall, 2 Lane St; Wentworthville, 5 – 6.30pm. Please see Helen for further information.

## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE**

“Thank you” to Rev Helen and everyone who contributed to last Friday's WDP service, which was created this year by Palestinian Christian women. Those who gathered in prayer and song for Palestine & the Holy Land at Leigh Memorial were from PCUC & other churches in the Parramatta area. The service was followed by a beautiful supper provided by the Leigh Fijian ladies and the offering went to Bible Society Australia's Arab-Israeli Appeal. NB: 'Palestinian Christians in Australia' (PCIA) were significant contributors to the WDP evening and are currently raising funds to house Gazan refugees arriving in Australia. If you would like to help, the website is as follows:

<https://palestinianchristians.org.au/>

**World Day of Prayer service PCUC - Leigh Memorial, Parramatta held on  
Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2024**



## **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY – 8 MARCH**

***INSPIRE INCLUSION*** – This International Women’s Day, and every day, we stand with women throughout the world who are campaigning for gender equity, equal educational opportunities and pay, and community-based inclusivity. We also join in global IWD prayers for an end to domestic violence, workplace discrimination and other actions negatively impacting women and girls.



<https://www.internationalwomensday.com/>

### **FUNERAL NOTICE**

Pat Richard’s funeral will take place at 2.00pm, Tuesday 12 March at the Allan Drew Chapel, Old Northern Rd; Castle Hill. A livestream may be available:

<https://www.allandrewfunerals.com.au/>

### **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 PCUC - Northmead ) 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](mailto:joo'Brien@uniting.org)

Thanks for considering this request.

Jon O’Brien



# LENT & EASTER @ PCUC

## Palm Sunday – Sunday 24 March

Regular 9.30am worship at Leigh Memorial, Parramatta,  
Northmead & Westmead

Regular 11.15am worship – Leigh Fijian, Parramatta

## Tenebrae – Thursday 28 March

Centenary, 7.00pm – inc. a shared meal. *Combined - 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



## 'MEALS PLUS' - DONATION IDEAS....

### TOILETRIES DRIVE



Donated toiletries need to be new & in-date and may include bars of soap, small tissue packs, face or hand wipes, disposable shavers, lip balm, combs, toothbrushes, toothpaste, sanitiser, women's products and deodorant etc. \*\* Small or single use toiletries items are particularly helpful.

### BED LINEN, BLANKETS & TOWELS



Donated bed linen and towels can either be second-hand (clean & in good condition) - or new. Meals Plus uses a large number of single-use, second-hand towels for clients who need a shower onsite. These include people who are homeless or sleeping rough. Towels are also used for hygiene and cleaning purposes. Clean sheets, blankets, pillows, pillow-cases and large cushions are also helpful.

### NON-PERISHABLE FOOD



All grocery donations to Meals Plus need to be unopened & in-date. Commonly requested items include tinned spaghetti, baked beans and tuna (in small, self-pull tins). Items used in hampers include non-perishable ready-meals & soups, and staples such as pasta, rice, tinned vegetables and fruit, crackers/biscuits, UHT milk, cereal sachets etc. NB: Home-grown fruit & vegetables, and eggs, are also useful for Meals Plus breakfasts & lunches - prepared onsite 5 days per week.

## KNITTED/ CROCHETED RUGS



Meals Plus always needs good quality second-hand and new rugs. There are also a few knitting & crocheting groups operating around PCUC which donate rugs to Meals Plus and/or associated programs or other charities. Donations of wool for these programs are always appreciated. Please contact the following people if you would like advice/ further information:

Helen Key – Leigh Memorial & Jenny Fuda – Meals Plus. Please check with the Northmead community for their knitting/ wool contact person.

## CLOTHING



Meals Plus accepts donations of clean, second-hand clothing. Items in demand during the cooler months of the year include beanies, socks, jumpers, coats and jackets. Caps, scarves, sunglasses, back-packs & both small and large carry bags are also always useful.

## HOW TO DONATE....



Meals Plus donations can be made by directly contacting Paul or the Parramatta Mission office on 9891-2277 [wecare@parramattamission.org.au](mailto:wecare@parramattamission.org.au)

OR - There are also people at each PCUC site who are willing to collect donations and bring them to Parramatta for you as needed. Please check with leaders for details.



# Leigh Fijian News

1. **Lotu ena macawa oqo 10 ni Maji:** 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
2. **Lotu ena macawa mai oqo 17 ni Maji:** Na lotu ena macawa mai oqo na veisau vunau kei na PNP. Vunau lesi nai vakatawa Anare Vocea kei Serupepeli. Vunau vakarau tuirara Emosi Rogoimuri kei Sireli Tuiloma. Tu vakarau na veiliutaki kei na tali matasiga naba 1
3. **Lesoni ni mawaca oqo 04 ni Maji – 10 ni Maji: Lent 4** Tiko mai na Lekutu 21:4-9 Same 107:1-3, 17-22 Efeso 2:1-10 Joni 3:14-21.
4. **Lesoni ni macawa mai oqo 11 ni Maji - 17 ni Maji: Lent 5** Jeremaia 31:31-34 Same 51:1-12, 119:9-16 Iperiu 5:5-10 Joni 12:20-33 .

## 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.

## Prayer Points

*(Supplied by Chris Walker, PCUC – Northmead)*

Eternal God, who cares for each and every one of us, we bring our prayers to you. As we reach towards you, come to us, to our church, and to our world with your grace.

Come to us individually. Save us from our evasions and deceits and the complacency we easily adopt. Chase us and let us experience your forgiveness. Call us anew to follow the way of Jesus. Enable us to move beyond self-interest to serve your purposes in the world.

We pray for those who are going through difficulties: sickness, injury, financial concerns, relational issues. Be with them and may they know your guidance, comfort and strength.

Be with your church, and in particular our own Uniting Church. We pray for our Moderator Rev. Havea Hiliau. We bring to you the PCUC Ministers: Geoff, Helen, Tui and Vladimir. Assist them to offer the leadership required at this time of change. Be with Sunny and the lay leaders and people of the different congregations and the various activities associated with our churches.

We pray for our world at this time. We especially pray for the dire situation in Gaza. May a ceasefire come, humanitarian aid flow, and the war come to an end. We also continue to feel for the people of Ukraine as the war with Russia drags on with all the loss of life and suffering. Lord, may the leaders who justify war change, and peace be realised for the sake of the people. We pray for people who are suffering in different ways in our own country, such as due to mental health issues, disadvantage and poverty. May our political leaders do more to provide services to enable us to have a more compassionate and fair society.

Help us all to conduct our lives that we be part of what you want for people and the world.

These prayers we bring in the name and Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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



**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](http://www.lentevent.com.au)**

## Pastoral Contacts

**Rev Geoff Smith** (Lead Minister)  
0407 416 377  
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Or **Amal Jebas**  
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Uniting Church Tamil Faith  
Community PCUC.

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**Newsletter Submissions:**  
Please send all newsletter submissions  
to Rose by the Wednesday of each  
week.  
[rose.shalala@parramattamission.org.au](mailto:rose.shalala@parramattamission.org.au)

## PCUC Contact Information

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**Parramatta Mission**  
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