

Parramatta Community Uniting Church Newsletter – March 24th, 2024

Palm Sunday



Hosanna!



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 24 March

<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 24th</p>	<p>9.30am 9.30am 9.30am</p> <p>11.15am 2.00pm</p> <p>Online</p>	<p>Palm Sunday</p> <p>Worship Service - Northmead Worship Service - Westmead Worship Service - Leigh Memorial Parramatta (Onsite + Zoom) Meeting ID: 519 908 9657</p> <p>Worship Service - Leigh Fijian Korean Faith Community - Parramatta</p> <p>PCUC weekly online service: https://northmead.uca.org.au/</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday 26th</p>	<p>7.00pm</p>	<p>Christian Meditation Group - Centenary</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday 27th</p>	<p>1 – 2pm 7 – 9pm 6.30pm 7.30pm</p>	<p>Open Church – Leigh Memorial Lent Study Group – Centenary PM Board @ Centenary PCUC Council @ Centenary</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday 28th</p>	<p>7.00pm</p>	<p>Combined Tenebrae -Centenary inc. a shared meal</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Friday 29th</p>	<p>09.00am 09.00am</p> <p>10.00am</p>	<p>Good Friday</p> <p>Northmead- Centenary Westmead</p> <p>Combined Service Leigh Fijian & Leigh Memorial Parramatta</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 31st</p>	<p>9.30am 9.30am 10.00am</p> <p>2.00pm</p> <p>Online</p>	<p>Easter Sunday</p> <p>Worship Service - Northmead Worship Service - Westmead Combined Worship Service Leigh Fijian & Leigh Memorial Parramatta (Onsite + Zoom) Meeting ID: 519 908 9657</p> <p>Korean Faith Community - Parramatta</p> <p>PCUC weekly online service: https://northmead.uca.org.au/</p>

PCUC Notices...

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INVITATION:

OPEN CHURCH COMMUNION SERVICE

inc. Farewell Lunch with Vladimir

On **Wednesday 27th March at 1.00pm**, Open Church's **pre-Easter Communion Service** will be taking place at Leigh Memorial, led by Rev Vladimir. As Vladimir will soon be leaving PCUC to take up a Supply ministry position, this will be his final Open Church service. Anyone from PCUC who is able to attend, is very welcome – and we'll be offering a **light lunch with sandwiches, tea & coffee in the Vestry from 12.15pm** so that there is an opportunity to chat with Vladimir and celebrate/reflect on his time with us since 2020. No rsvps are required and parking is available – text Mario, 0415 803 921 for access as needed. Enquiries: Liz & the Open Church Team. **NB:** A PCUC acknowledgement of Vladimir is also in the planning – further details to follow.

LENT STUDY GROUP

This year's PCUC Lent Study is being led by **Rev Dr Chris Walker** and held at Centenary, Nth Parramatta, 7.00 – 9.00pm. **Concludes: Wednesday 27 March.** Enquiries: merynobrien@gmail.com

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EVENTS: NEXT WEEKEND, 6 – 7 APRIL

Saturday 6 April – Sydney 'Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage'. Please see Helen and/or check the updated details contained in this week's newsletter.

Sunday 7 April – **Induction of Rev Dr Helen and Rev Tui & Commissioning of Sunny:** 2.00pm, Centre for Ministry, Masons Drive, Nth. Parramatta – followed by afternoon tea.

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

COMBINED ‘TENEBRAE’ @ CENTENARY

On **Thursday 28 March at 7.00pm**, we’ll be gathering at PCUC - Centenary, (Sorrell Street, Nth Parramatta) for a shared meal and Tenebrae observance. Parking is available onsite and nearby, and no rsvps are required. ** Helpers will be needed, so if you’re available, please contact **Rev Geoff Smith**.



LENT & EASTER @ PCUC

Palm Sunday – Sunday 24 March

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

Regular 11.15am worship - Leigh Fijian.

Tenebrae (Combined) – 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

SYDNEY'S 'GAZA CEASEFIRE PILGRIMAGE'

Please note updated arrangements

The Sydney Ceasefire Pilgrimage will take place on **Saturday 6th April 2024 at 9am**. **Meet at St Leonards station** and walk to Milsons Point then Circular Quay and conclude at St Mary's Cathedral in prayerful solidarity with all those suffering in Gaza, and calling for an immediate and sustained ceasefire. To register and/or obtain further information, please check the website:

<https://palestinianchristians.org.au/sydney-pilgrimage/>

What do we want?

1. Enduring and Sustained Ceasefire.
2. Immediate flow of humanitarian assistance.
3. Release of all hostages – both the Israeli hostages held by Hamas – and the Palestinian hostages held in the Israeli prison system.
4. End of occupation so that a just-peace can begin.

INVITATION – SPECIAL EVENT: INDUCTION OF HELEN & TUI, AND COMMISSIONING OF SUNNY

Everyone is warmly invited to attend the Induction of **Rev Dr Helen Richmond** and **Rev Tui Waqanibaravi** - and the Commissioning of **Sunhee Song** into Parramatta Community Uniting Church - at **2.00pm on Sunday 7th April at the Centre for Ministry**, Masons Drive, North Parramatta, followed by Afternoon Tea. No RSVPs required. Parking available. NB: Regularly scheduled morning services at all PCUC sites will still take place that day.



MEET MOLING!



Hi everyone, my name is Moling Chun. I am the 2024 Ministry Candidate (first year Formation ministry at United Theological College - UTC).

Firstly, I would like to share about my background: I am of Chinese ancestry as my parental family lived overseas from time to time, including my grandpa, who lived in America his whole life, while my dad lived in Macao and Hong Kong.

I was born in Hong Kong and then lived in Australia since 1990. I intermittently lived in Hong Kong and Australia for study and work after graduating with my first nursing degree in Australia. Later, I married my pastor husband and worked in public and private hospitals while he served in an Anglican Church in Sydney.

In 2014, some months after my dad and older brothers passed away, I remembered my promise to the Lord's call to serve God for the rest of my life – I responded at a women's conference and under encouragement and support from my family, I went to study different courses including Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care, Clinical Pastoral Education with 400 hours, Bachelor degree of Ministry; and Graduate Diploma of Divinity and Counselling in different Bible Colleges and Universities through on job with part-time study over ten years.

I have served in two Aged Care facilities simultaneously for about seven and a half years as Pastoral Practitioner with 126 residents (recently serving in only one facility.) Meanwhile, I am an accredited Chaplain in Chaplaincy Australia and 1800Chaplain Hotline and a Disaster Chaplain in Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Network (DRCN). I was invited to do PoD by God's grace and time to discern my call with my mentor. Then, I had a couple of different meetings with SCCP and Synod. They affirmed and supported my calling to be a Formation Ministry Candidate at UTC.

Prayer Points

(Prayer Points kindly supplied by the Leigh Fijian worship community)

Palm Sunday

⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna^[a] to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”^[b]

“Hosanna^[c] in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰ When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

¹¹ The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

(Matthew 21: 8 – 11, NSRV)



This Palm Sunday, we pray –

- **For a Deeper desire of God:** Increase within us the very desire to know you more clearly and more deeply;
- **To serve others:** We pray to be your hands and feet in serving and helping others in our community;
- **To be peacemakers:** Strengthen our resolve to be peacemakers and encourage others to do the same;
- **To carry another person's cross:** Let us be like Simon who helped Jesus carry his cross – when we see someone struggle with a burden, may we be the one who helps lift it;
- **For hope:** May we always hope for the best, believe in the best and work for the best in all circumstances in our community and the world. Open our eyes to see your unconditional love for us. Help us believe that with your help, we have the inner strength to change. **Amen.**

Leigh Fijian News

1. **macawa oqo 24 ni Maji:** Na sigatabu mai oqo na sigatabu ni gone. Era na vei qaravi tiko kina ko ira na luveda.
2. **Lotu ena macawa ni siganimate**
 - a) **Lotulevu 28 ni Maji-** Ena qaravi tiko na lotu ni "**Tenebrae**" e Centenary, ena 7:00pm eda sa sureti taucoko tiko kina na lewe ni vavakoso ena PCUC meda tiko kina.
 - b) **Vakaraubuka 29 ni Maji na lotu ni siga ni mate** - Eda na lotu cokovata kei ratou na vavakoso vakavavalagi Leigh memorial. Ena tekivu na lotu ena 10:00am.
 - c) **Sigatabu 31 ni Maji sigatabu ni tu cake tale-** Eda na lotu cokovata tale kei ratou na vavakoso vakavavalagi Leigh memorial. Ena tekivu na lotu ena 10:00am.
3. **Lesoni ni mawaca oqo 12 ni Maji – 24 ni Maji:**

Liturgy of the Palms Same 118:1-2, 19-29 Marika 11:1-11 Joni 12:20-33
Liturgy of the Passion Aisea 50:4-9 Same 31:9-16 Filipai 2:5-11 Marika 14:1-15:1-47
4. **Lesoni ni macawa mai oqo:**
 - a) **Vakaraubuka 29 ni Maji ni siga ni mate-** Aisea 52:13, 53:12 Same:22 Iperiu: 4:14-16, 5:7-9, 10:16-25 Joni:18:1-19
 - b) **Sigatabu 31 ni Maji sigatabu ni tucake tale** - Cakacaka 10:34-43 Same 118:1-2,14-24 1 Korinica 15:1-11 Joni 20:1-18 Aisea 25:6-9 Cakacaka 10:34-43 Marika 16:1-8
5. Qaravi na veisiko vei budratou na gone mai Fairfield Mereoni Kamotu ena siga Vukelulu ena macawa sa oti 13 ni Maji. Sa vakavinavinakataki kina na lotu.
6. Qaravi tale ga na Prayer breakfast ni Bula Feeding ena siga vakarauwai nai ka 16 ni Maji. A qaravi mai Alpha Park. vakavinavinakataki na nomu ni veitokoni tiko kina Bula Feeding.

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 ko rawa ni qarava.

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.

FNC 2024: Me nanumi na FNC ni tou na veiwaseitaka na veiqaravi kei na tolu na valelotu Cambelltown, St Mary kei Beralā. Ena qaravi tiko na FNC ena vula ko Okotova ni yabaki oqo 2024 e Katoomba Conference Centre.

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The Moderator's Easter Message 2024 (transcript)



Rev Faaimata Havea Hiliau

<https://www.nswact.uca.org.au/resources/easter-2024/>

Friends, here I am in Gerringong, the land of Dharawal people.

I'm going to be here with a group of our young people in the Church to listen to the question about "what does this mean for them in 2024"? Where accessibility to information and data and choices are a click of a button. What are we hearing? What are they seeing? What are the responses?

This Easter, is Jesus still relevant in our time and what does the resurrection and new life of Jesus still mean for them?

Here's what our Young People had to say:

It starts when it's still dark. There's a sense of renewal, there's a sense of hope, new hope... To make a difference in people's lives in a way that is meaningful, it costs something... I often find myself sitting on Easter Saturday and sort of just reflecting about that... I think a lot about the force of empire. The promise in the resurrection that there is a power; if you love your neighbour, that will transcend the powers that be... It feels like this. It's the living embodiment of Christ, of being in community, of working with one another... A lot of social justice issues come from disconnection. A lot of the relevance of Easter to me is trying to find that deep interconnection... How do we open up to the surprise of the new thing that God is doing with us?"...

I kind of want to intellectualise Easter less. The sheer goodness of Christ risen from the dead and the empty tomb and like walking into church so someone can shout, "He Is Risen" and everyone can shout back "He Is Risen Indeed".

Jesus, this radical guy, had such an impact because he spoke a message about hope for people that were disadvantaged in his community. He challenged the leaders of his day and people followed.

How do you and I still offer a message about "we have seen the Lord!", we want to offer that goodness and hope, not just at Easter day, but every day as we continue to walk with our family, with our youth and young people, with our community, with our church, and with the world.

And so this Easter season, how are you seeing the risen Lord? Have a blessed Easter and may you walk gently with God in the power of God for the rest of this year. Thank you so much and God bless.

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Palm Sunday Rally

*Justice for Refugees – Peace not war – Permanent Visa
2.00pm Belmore Park, near Central Station*

<https://uniting.church/palm-sunday-2024/>

For many years now on Palm Sunday, there is a march in support of with people seeking asylum and refugees. This year the march will be held at 2pm on Palm Sunday at Belmore Park, Haymarket, next to Central Station. We are invited to walk with the community seeking justice for refugees calling for:

- An increase in the humanitarian intake of refugees & an end to war;
- Permanent visas and family reunion for all refugees;
- Fair and timely assessment of all claims for refugee status;
- Health care, work rights, income support, and access to education for all seeking asylum;
- Freedom – releasing ALL refugees from detention;
- Resettlement in Australia for refugees still remaining in Papua New Guinea;
- An end to offshore processing and detention.

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Newsletter Submissions:
Please send all newsletter submissions
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