

# Parramatta Community Uniting Church Newsletter: *Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2024*

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*Leigh Memorial during the recent 'Metro' construction site Open Day (Phive building and Parramatta Square in the background – photo supplied by Clive Pearson).*



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 28 April*

<b>Sunday Worship</b>			
Sunday 28	9.30am 9.30am 9.30am  11.15am 2.00pm  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, Parramatta Korean Faith Community, Parramatta site  PCUC weekly online service: <a href="https://northmead.uca.org.au/">https://northmead.uca.org.au/</a>	
<b>Groups &amp; Activities...</b> (all members & the wider community are welcome to participate)			
Day	Activity	Time	Venue
Mondays	Playgroup (school terms) Bible Study (via Zoom) <b>Zoom ID: 950 4369 5512</b>	10.00am 2.00pm	Centenary Westmead
Tuesdays	English Classes (school terms) Club Chat  Christian Meditation Group	10.00am  7.00pm  7.30pm	Centenary  Northmead Bowling Club  Centenary
Wednesdays	Playgroup (school terms) Ladies Morning Tea (3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month) Open Church Ladies Dinner (next: 8 May)	10.00am 10.00am  1.00pm 6.30pm	Centenary 'Cake Mania' café, Northmead Leigh Memorial Toongabbie Bowling Club
Thursdays	English Classes (school terms) Friendship Centre (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursdays of each month)	10.00am  10.00am	Centenary  Northmead
Fridays	Playgroup (school terms) Leigh Fijian Youth Group	10.00am evening	Centenary Leigh Memorial
Saturdays	Walking Church (2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturdays of each month)	9.00am	Parramatta Park

## PCUC NOTICES....

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### ANZAC DAY REMEMBRANCE

*At the going down of the Sun and in the morning, we will remember them – Lest We Forget.*

### REMINDER: MINISTERS DAYS OFF

Days off: **Rev Geoff & Rev Tui** – Mondays & **Rev Helen** – Tuesdays and Fridays. This does not apply to urgent matters/ emergencies.

**NB: Rev Geoff is on leave between 24 April and 25 May.**

### GARDEN WORKING BEE – THIS SATURDAY!

The next Garden Working Bee at **Centenary** will be held from **7.00am on Saturday 27 April**. We are making great progress and have started to do some planting. Brunch will be provided. *All welcome*. Enquiries: Susan.

### NETBALL CLUB – BBQ VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Netball Club season has commenced and PCUC has agreed to assist with BBQs during the season. Our agreed dates to assist are:

**Saturdays: 11 May, 15 June and 27 July/ Time: 11.00am and 2.00pm**  
**Venue: Gooden Reserve, at 78Z Gooden Drive, Baulkham Hills.**

What do you need to bring? Just yourself! The BBQ & food will be provided – we just need to cook! Should anyone be able to assist – be it for just one hour or three hours – please let Rob Eagleson know by email:

[reagleso@bigpond.net.au](mailto:reagleso@bigpond.net.au)

### UNITING CLIMATE CONFERENCE

The *Uniting Climate: Faith in a better future* conference (in-person + online) will be held on **Saturday 11 May**. If you would like more information about the conference, please contact Jono Row, Church Collaboration Lead - Advocacy, Uniting at [jrow@uniting.org](mailto:jrow@uniting.org) or 0403 242 360 – Uniting Advocacy Team. **NB: Registrations:**

[https://events.humanitix.com/uacan-conference?](https://events.humanitix.com/uacan-conference?gl=1*1wg23uk*_ga*MTY3MTUwOTc5My4xNzA2NjU3OTQ2*_ga_LHKW5FR9N6*MTcwNzQ0MDM5OS4lLjEuMTcwNzQ0MTI3OS4zNi4wLjA)

[\\_gl=1\\*1wg23uk\\*\\_ga\\*MTY3MTUwOTc5My4xNzA2NjU3OTQ2\\*\\_ga\\_LHKW5FR9N6\\*MTcwNzQ0MDM5OS4lLjEuMTcwNzQ0MTI3OS4zNi4wLjA.](https://events.humanitix.com/uacan-conference?gl=1*1wg23uk*_ga*MTY3MTUwOTc5My4xNzA2NjU3OTQ2*_ga_LHKW5FR9N6*MTcwNzQ0MDM5OS4lLjEuMTcwNzQ0MTI3OS4zNi4wLjA)

## **‘RICH PERSON-POOR PERSON’ – FUNDRAISING DINNER**

Parramatta Mission will be holding its annual ‘RPPP’ dinner on **Friday 10 May, 5.30 – 9.00pm** at the Parramatta Mission Hall, 119 Macquarie St; Parramatta. Enquiries: 9891-227. To purchase tickets, please go to:

<https://events.humanitix.com/rppp2024>

## **TAMIL CONGREGATION – THANKSGIVING SERVICE**

On **Sunday 12 May at 5.00pm**, the Tamil Congregation will be holding a Thanksgiving Service at PCUC **Northmead** to celebrate **Rev John Jegasothy’s 50 years of ministry** in the church and community, followed by dinner. Rev Geoff Stevenson, Parramatta Nepean Presbytery Chairperson, will provide a reflection at the service. To assist with catering, please advise Rob Eagleson by email [reagleso@bigpond.net.au](mailto:reagleso@bigpond.net.au) or mobile (0472 813 602) by no later than Sunday 28 April should you wish to attend.

## **SAVE THE DATE: ‘PENTECOST IN THE PARK’**

This special, combined PCUC service and picnic will take place outdoors in Parramatta Park on **Pentecost Sunday, 19 May @ 10am**. BYO chairs, rugs, food & drink. A map & further information will be provided. NB: There will be no 9.30am Leigh Memorial, Westmead or Northmead services held that day.

## **ACKNOWLEDGE THIS! – ZOOM WORKSHOP**

On **Thursday 30 May, 3.30 – 5.30pm**, Uniting Mission & Education is offering a free Zoom workshop on how to give an authentic Acknowledgement of Country. Places are limited. To register, go via the following link:

<https://nswactuca.eventsair.com/acknowledge-this/registration-form>

## **PCUC GROUPS & ACTIVITIES**

A number of friendly and engaging groups & activities are operating in PCUC, including those coordinated by the Northmead worship community. These are open to everyone in PCUC and are now listed in the weekly editions of the newsletter, along with days & times. The groups include **Club Chat, Friendship Centre, Ladies coffee morning, Ladies dinner, Jazz on Hammers and Men’s Shed**. Contact details for each of the groups/ activities will be provided shortly. Northmead enquiries may be directed to:

[Elisepa.Fililava@parramattamission.org.au](mailto:Elisepa.Fililava@parramattamission.org.au)

## **LOST PROPERTY**

Please check with the stewards at each site if you’ve misplaced anything!

# Assembly Standing Committee Resolution on the Holy Land (17 April 2024)

<https://uniting.church/asc-resolution-on-the-holy-land/>

<https://uniting.church/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/ASC-Resolution-Holy-Land.pdf?>

The Uniting Church in Australia Assembly has this week sought to highlight and communicate its deep concerns about the escalating conflict in Israel-Palestine and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Following a resolution of the Assembly Standing Committee (ASC) at its March meeting, President Rev Sharon Hollis has written to several members of the Australian government and other representatives in the Holy Land to share the Church's concerns, express support for measures taken and call for further action.

## **In particular, the ASC resolution:**

- Commits the Uniting Church to support the Middle East Council of Churches in their advocacy.
- Condemns all atrocities and acts of brutality which make peace efforts impossible.
- Welcomes measures taken by the Australian Government to offer humanitarian assistance and advocate for an end to the conflict.
- Calls on the Australian Government to do all it can to facilitate a just peace in the Holy Land including supporting the International Court of Justice in its measures to prevent genocide, supporting peace-making organisations and imposing targeted sanctions.
- Calls on the Israeli Government to end extrajudicial killings and impunity for members of the Israeli security forces and settlers that murder Palestinians and to abolish the practice of detaining Palestinians without charge.

The resolution was communicated to the Australian Prime Minister, the Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the Australian Greens, the General Secretary of the Middle East Council of Churches, the Israeli Ambassador to Australia and the Head of the General Delegation of Palestine to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific. The letters express a deep concern for the catastrophic situation in Gaza, noting in particular the suffering of innocent civilians and the suffering of the Christian church in Gaza as they seek to offer ministry and care to the region. The latest advocacy on Gaza is grounded in the Uniting Church's long-standing

commitment to being a peacemaking church. This has included a commitment to supporting the right of both Israel and Palestine to exist in peace. The resolution also called on Uniting Church congregations to offer support to those in the Australian community living with grief and fear due to the conflict and rising racial and religious hatred. Congregations are encouraged to pray for and listen to those who are suffering, to participate in events and actions in support of a just peace, and to consider donating to the following:

**Act for Peace Gaza Emergency Appeal:**

<https://actforpeace.org.au/gaza-emergency/>

**Palestinian Christians in Australia accommodation drive:**

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

To support the public advocacy of Uniting Church members, the Assembly has produced these posters in support of a ceasefire which can be printed, displayed in homes and churches or carried publicly. We give thanks for the many UCA members and communities who are already active in supporting a just peace in the Holy Land.

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**PRAYER POINTS**



**God of Comfort -**

Send your Spirit to encompass all those whose lives are torn apart by violence, hunger, illness and death in Israel and Palestine, and other places in our world. You are the Advocate of the oppressed and the One whose eye is on the sparrow.

Let arms reach out in healing, rather than aggression.

Let hearts mourn rather than militarize.

Let peace-making and love motivate us at home, work and in our community interactions as we move through the coming *week*.

***Amen.***

(Adapted from...) <https://uniting.church/praying-for-peace-in-the-holy-land/#:~:text=God%20of%20Love%2C,us%20burn%20incense%2C%20not%20children.>

# NATIONAL PRAYER CHAIN

*Connecting the whole Uniting Church through Uniting in Prayer....*

*“Connecting the whole Uniting Church through  
Uniting in Prayer”*

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

On 19 May, Pentecost Sunday, we begin Uniting in Prayer 2024 – 35 days of prayer across the national Uniting Church.

Through Uniting in Prayer, our PCUC community is being invited to pray for two other Uniting Church communities.

**The two communities we are invited to pray for are:**

**Mallee Rivers Ministry Team**

**& Korean Cairns Uniting Church.**

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A poster for 'Uniting in Prayer 2024' with a red-to-orange gradient background. On the right side, there is a large, stylized white fingerprint graphic. The text is white and includes the event title, dates, a prayer chain logo, and information about the prayer chain's availability.

**UNITING IN PRAYER 2024**  
19 May - 22 June



Through Uniting in Prayer different parts of the Uniting Church will be connected to each other through a national prayer chain.

The prayer chain has been sent by email and is now available in full on the Act2 website. If your community didn't receive it or you're not on the list, please email the Act2 team.

**Prayer Chain Now Available: [act2uca.com/unitinginprayer2024](https://www.act2uca.com/unitinginprayer2024)**



## ‘Djiriyay and Revolution’

“I had the opportunity last Saturday to see the wonderful and very moving exhibition ‘Djiriyay and Revolution’ and would recommend it to PCUC friends. It is at Blacktown Arts Centre, running until the end of June. The artist, Jayne Christian, is also a lawyer and Chair of the Parramatta Council First Nations Advisory group.” – *Helen Richmond*.

‘Djiriyay and Revolution’ is the first solo exhibition for Baramadagal woman, Jayne. Featuring woven pieces made during her residency at the *Cite International Des Arts in Paris*, and in collaboration with Jayne’s mother, aunts and cousins. The exhibition celebrates the freedom to protest and the importance of cultural practices and activism. **The Leo Kelly Blacktown Arts Centre, 78 Flushcombe Rd, Blacktown, 16 Apr – 29 June.**



## ‘Elders in Residence’

**Fridays, 10.30 am to 12.30 pm, 8 March to 13 December – Free (but need to register)** – also at the Leo Kelly Blacktown Arts Centre. Get to know local First Nations Elders on Friday mornings at Elders in Residence. Acknowledging our place on Darug land, Elders in Residence is the place to connect with First Nations culture. Grab a cuppa and some damper, and have a yarn with these knowledge holders and valued members of the local community. All welcome. Damper and beverages provided.

<https://blacktownarts.com.au/elders-in-residence-2024/#>



# MISSION IN THE AUTUMN SEASON

*Rev. Dr Karina Kreminski – Mission Catalyst*



We are in Autumn. A season I love. Take a leaf from the ground and have a good, slow, long look. What words come to mind for you as you think about the season of Autumn? Autumn is the season before winter. It is the season when it gets colder, darker and things begin to show signs of slowing down and even dying.

I want to apply this season to our work in the church. The work of mission. Autumn is not a season that we might find that encouraging. We might want to favour the Spring or Summer season as we talk about mission. We want to see the "harvest" brought in, new things birthing and growing -- we value church growth. And there are seasons for this kind of growth. But what does it look like to think about mission in the Autumn season? What season do you think the church is in right now? What season are you personally in right now? You may feel like you are in a spring season or summer in your life. Perhaps there is a lot of life and new things -- energy around you.

But since we are in autumn now, let's think about the Autumn season as applied to mission. We have recently emerged from Holy Week -- we rehearse that story of death and resurrection. We remind ourselves that both are core aspects of our faith. There is no resurrection without death, and death is never final. Death and resurrection are woven into the fabric of the earth. When something dies it goes back to the earth where it is reborn in a new way.

I was reading this week *The Church in Ordinary Time: A Wisdom Ecclesiology* by **Amy Plantinga**. She talks about the church's expansion post resurrection as being a "lenten journey of growth and decline". She writes that the church has an "inherent fragility, an inbuilt vulnerability". So growth, she says, is not exponential or progressive and linear but rather "serial" -- it comes in instalments and waves. Church growth -- that tricky phrase -- comes differently in each season. If we think about what growth looks like in winter, it's different to spring. Growth is still happening in winter though it might be more nuanced, hidden and mysterious. There may be a fallowness to this time as well. So we need to treasure the growth that happens in all seasons. What does church growth look like in the Autumn season? What does mission look like in the Winter season? Can too much growth be a problem?

What are the struggles that come with the Spring season of growth? Do we sometimes need to treasure the slow, deep, hidden, mysterious growth that happens in autumn or even the death that happens in Winter? And I do mean treasure rather than holding our breath for Spring. Can we praise God for these different seasons which reveal to us the different aspects of God and God's work in our world and church? Can we find God in the descending darkness of Autumn?

In a devotional I use called *The Seven Sacred Spaces* the author writes "The darkness can be exquisitely beautiful and restful. In the darkness we can view the stars. Seeds need darkness for gestation and growth. The baby grows in the darkness of the womb. Too much light can be blinding. There is a softness in darkness." A friend of mine is dying of cancer. She has a month or so to live. As I talk with her, she reminds me of an Autumn leaf on the ground. There's no doubt, her body is fading fast. And she tells me that she needs to let go well. We talked about what it looks like, what it means to let go well. I think an Autumn leaf knows how to let go well. It knows how to let go of that vibrant green and allow the brown, honey, maple colours to seep through its veins. Letting go is an Autumn discipline.

Franciscan priest **Richard Rohr** writes, "Death and life are two sides of the same coin; we cannot have one without the other. Each time we choose to surrender, each time we trust the dying, our faith is led to a deeper level, and we discover a Larger Self underneath. We decide not to push to the front of the line, and something much better happens in the back of the line. We let go of narcissistic anger, and we find that we start feeling much happier. We surrender our need to control our partner, and finally the relationship blossoms. Yet each time it is a choice—and each time it is a kind of dying. It seems we only know what life is when we know what death is." Each season speaks to us different things about mission. Autumn teaches us to let go, to value the darkness, to look for hidden growth, to encounter mystery, wonder. It teaches us to move away from the shiny things perhaps and notice the small things, to slow down to allow for change as we let go of the old and explore tentatively, maybe carefully, the new. We work out what we need to hold onto- the important things. And what we need to let go of. What is the autumn season telling you about mission as you live and work with God? We have recently emerged from Holy Week -- we rehearse that story of death and resurrection. We remind ourselves that both are core aspects of our faith. There is no resurrection without death, and death is never final. Death and resurrection are woven into the fabric of the earth. When something dies it goes back to the earth where it is reborn in a new way.

<https://www.nswact.uca.org.au/blog/mission-in-the-autumn-season/>

## LEIGH FIJIAN NEWS

- 1) Lotu ena macawa oqo 28 ni Epereli: Na lotu ena macawa mai oqo na veisau vunau kei Fiji Parish. Rau na gole yani ki Fiji Parish ko Di Akisi Allison kei Sikeli Duwai. Vunau vakarau Senitiki Qata. Tali matasiga #1.
- 2) Lotu ena macawa mai oqo 05 ni Me: Na lotu ena macawa mai oqo na lotu vulavou. Na veiqaravi tiko kina na pastoral team ka na qaravi talega na sakaramede.
- 3) Lesoni ni macawa oqo Epereli 22 - 28: Cakacaka 8:26-40 Same 22:25-32 1 Joni 4:7-21 Joni 15:1-8
- 4) Lesoni ni macawa mai oqo Epereli 29 - Me 05: Cakacaka 10:44-48 Same 98 1 Joni 5:1-6 Joni 15:9-17
- 5) Sa vakacurumi cake na yaca i Levi Tuiloma ena bose ni vavakoso me sa cakava na Period of Discernment (POD).
- 6) Ena mai vosa tiko e dua na mata mai na Pacific Empowerment ena i ka 12 ni Me. E na mai vosa ka veivakasalataki ena veika me baleta na nodra mai sasaga tiko ena vanua oqo ko Ositerelia na wekada na viti. Eda na vakasigalevu vata tiko kina. Ka sa kerei me da veisureti mai vei ira na wekada era gadreva tu e so na veivuke kei na vakasala.
- 7) Na qaravi tiko na lotu ni Penitiko ena 19 ni Me. Eda na lotu cokovata tiko kina na PCUC ena qaravi tiko ena Parramatta park. Ka da na vakasigalevu vata tiko kina.
- 8) Sa vakadonui ena bose ni vavakoso me baleta na FNC, me sa dua na matasere ni vavakoso, dua na matasere ni youth, dua na matasere ni marama kei na matasere ni turaga.
- 9) Na vulisere sa na qaravi tiko ena vei siga vakaraubuka. Tekivu ena 7:30pm-8:30pm. Ena qaravi tiko ga ena Coffee shop.

### Ulutaga ni veinani ena Masu:

**Lolo kei Na masumasu** - Veinani 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.

**Veinani ena Masu** :Kerei meda veinani 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 Berala. Ena qaravi tiko na FNC ena vula ko Okotova ni yabaki oqo 2024 e Katoomba Conference Centre.

*Bula Feeding on Monday (22 April).*





# FEEDING *the* HOMELESS



HOT MEALS FOR EVERYONE



MONDAY



5:30PM - 6:30PM



ALPHA PARK BLACKTOWN





We invite you to join us for a special event



# RICH POOR PERSON PERSON

FUNDRAISING DINNER

**FRIDAY**  
**10TH MAY 2024**  
**5.30PM - 9PM**

119 MACQUARIE STREET  
PARRAMATTA



This event is an opportunity for us all to put ourselves in the shoes of those experiencing homelessness and disadvantaged and to better understand the challenges they face.



**TICKETS ARE LIMITED - PURCHASE YOURS NOW**  
[WWW.PARRAMATTAMMISSION.ORG.AU/RPPP24](http://WWW.PARRAMATTAMMISSION.ORG.AU/RPPP24)



*A reminder of items that can be donated to the Mission*



# Hope!

## HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THOSE IN NEED



### WITH PARRAMATTA MISSION

Our Goal is to supply care packs to individuals and families in need

You can help by making donations of the following:

#### FOOD ITEMS

- Baked beans
- Tinned Spaghetti
- Tuna
- Instant noodles
- Energy bars
- Small tins of coffee
- Sugar
- Fruit cups / Tinned fruits
- Cereal
- Biscuits
- Pasta
- Pasta sauce
- Rice
- Long life milk

#### TOILETRY ITEMS

Soap, Tissues (travel pack size), Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Small Shampoo, Small Conditioner, Body wash and Deodorants.

#### SOCKS AND JOCKS

New socks and underwear - All sizes and ages

[www.parramattamission.org.au](http://www.parramattamission.org.au)



## PASTORAL CONTACTS

**Rev Geoff Smith** (Lead Minister)

0407 416 377

[geoff.smith@parramattamission.org.au](mailto:geoff.smith@parramattamission.org.au)

*(Unavailable Mondays)*

**Rev Dr Helen Richmond**

0439 257 575

[helen.richmond@ymail.com](mailto:helen.richmond@ymail.com)

*(Unavailable Tuesdays & Fridays)*

**Rev Tui Waqinabaravi**

0455 595 684

[tuiwaqa@gmail.com](mailto:tuiwaqa@gmail.com)

*(Unavailable Mondays)*

**Rev Hyun Goo Jun** (Korean Faith Community): 0433 320 588

[joeunch@hotmail.com](mailto:joeunch@hotmail.com)

**Anare Vocea** (Leigh Fijian Vakatawa)

0432 772 852

[a\\_vocea@y7mail.com](mailto:a_vocea@y7mail.com)

**Rev John Jegosothy** (Tamil Faith Community) 0422 224 789

[John.jegosothy@gmail.com](mailto:John.jegosothy@gmail.com)

Or Amal Jebas

[amaljebas@hotmail.com](mailto:amaljebas@hotmail.com)

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### Submissions:

Please send newsletter submissions to Rose by the Wednesday of each week:

[rose.shalala@parramattamission.org.au](mailto:rose.shalala@parramattamission.org.au)

NB: Articles & Prayer Points should be sent to Liz:

[LeighMemorialUniting@gmail.com](mailto:LeighMemorialUniting@gmail.com)

## PCUC CONTACT INFORMATION

**Centenary**

46 Sorrell St; Nth Parramatta

(02) 9683-5023

[Elisepa.Fililava@parramattamission.org.au](mailto:Elisepa.Fililava@parramattamission.org.au)

**Leigh Fijian**

119 Macquarie St; Parramatta

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

**Leigh Memorial**

119 Macquarie St; Parramatta

(02) 9891 2277

[leighmemorialuniting@gmail.com](mailto:leighmemorialuniting@gmail.com)

**Northmead**

3-7 Hammers Rd; Northmead

(02) 9890 5814

[Elisepa.Fililava@parramattamission.org.au](mailto:Elisepa.Fililava@parramattamission.org.au)

**Parramatta Mission**

119 Macquarie St; Parramatta

(02) 9891 2277

[wecare@parramattamission.org.au](http://wecare@parramattamission.org.au)

**Westmead**

175 Hawkesbury Rd; Westmead

(02) 9891 2277

[wecare@parramattamission.org.au](http://wecare@parramattamission.org.au)



**uniting  
church**

in Australia,  
Synod of NSW & ACT