

# Parramatta Community Uniting Church Newsletter: *Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2024*

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***PCUC Garden Working Bee – Centenary, 27 April: THANK YOU team!***



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 5 May*

<b>Sunday Worship</b>			
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	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  7.00pm	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

**NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REMEMBRANCE DAY**  
*...to remember and honour the many killed by domestic and family violence.*

**& DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION MONTH, MAY 2024**  
*...working together as communities to help prevent  
Domestic & Family violence.*

DV Remembrance Day is an annual event held on the **first Wednesday in May (which in 2024 is May 1st)** when people across Australia hold vigils and light candles to remember those who have suffered as a result of domestic and family violence, and mourn those who have died. It is estimated that 1 in 4 Australian women have experienced some form of violence committed by an intimate partner since the age of 15. Over the past 10 years in Australia, an average of one woman per week has been killed in the context of family violence. 28 women have died already in 2024. Domestic and family violence affects people from all walks of life and cultures. No woman or child should ever have to live with domestic and family violence, nor endure the trauma of intimate partner or family violence. **Everyone is entitled to live a life free of violence.**

**Lynda Dunstan's prayer for Domestic Violence Prevention Month, 2024:**  
[https://www.commongrace.org.au/prayer\\_for\\_dfv\\_survivors](https://www.commongrace.org.au/prayer_for_dfv_survivors)

**Lifeline: 13 11 14 or 1800RESPECT (1800 737 732) (24 hour services)**



<https://www.thirdsector.com.au/why-organisations-need-to-step-up-to-support-women-experiencing-domestic-abuse/>

## PCUC NOTICES....

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### CONGREGATION LEADERS MEETING

The next CLT meeting will be taking place between 10.00am and Noon on **Saturday 4 May @ Centenary**.

### UNITING CLIMATE CONFERENCE

The *Uniting Climate: Faith in a better future* conference (in-person at the Centre for Ministry + 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/ucan-conference?\\_gl=1\\*1wg23uk\\*\\_ga\\*MTY3MTUwOTc5My4xNzA2NjU3OTQ2\\*\\_ga\\_LHKW5FR9N6\\*MTcwNzQ0MDM5OS41LjEuMTcwNzQ0MTI3OS4zNi4wLjA](https://events.humanitix.com/ucan-conference?_gl=1*1wg23uk*_ga*MTY3MTUwOTc5My4xNzA2NjU3OTQ2*_ga_LHKW5FR9N6*MTcwNzQ0MDM5OS41LjEuMTcwNzQ0MTI3OS4zNi4wLjA).

### Moderator Mata's Invitation Video:

[Mata - UCAN Conference Invite - VEED - Online Video Editor - Video Editing Made Simple](#)



## LEIGH MEMORIAL RENOVATIONS

The current phase of repairs and painting inside Leigh Memorial has been completed, with scaffolding to be dismantled before the end of the week. Thanks for everyone's patience & understanding during this project.

## '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>

## 'PENTECOST IN THE PARK'

This special, combined PCUC service and picnic will be held 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. (Please note that the wet weather venue will be the Westmead Chapel).

**10am 19 MAY**  
**PENTECOST**  
**IN THE PARK**

Combined PCUC  
gathering

*(near corner of Park  
and Jessie St)*

**BYO** chairs, rugs,  
food & drinks -  
and/or some food to  
share



## 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 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.** Northmead enquiries may be directed to:

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

## WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 12-19 May 2024



Love Your Neighbour  
as Yourself

The **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** is an international Christian ecumenical observance, kept annually between Ascension and Pentecost in the Southern Hemisphere. The 2024 theme was chosen by the working group from [Burkina Faso](#). Theme: “**You shall love the Lord your God...and your neighbour as yourself...**” (Luke 10:27).

**History of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:** The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was first proposed in 1908 as an observance within the Roman Catholic Church by Fr Paul Wattson, founder of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement in Graymoor, New York. Since the founding of the World Council of Churches in 1948, many other Christian denominations around the world have come to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and since 1968, the Faith and Order Commission of the WCC and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity have collaborated to produce materials for use over this eight-day period. **The World Council of Churches (WCC) resources have been adapted for use in Australia by Father Gerard Kelly and Rev Deacon, Sandy Boyce.** [Worship and daily prayer resources can be found here: https://www.ncca.org.au/faith-and-unity-resources/wopcu24](https://www.ncca.org.au/faith-and-unity-resources/wopcu24)

## The Armenian Genocide: ‘The Unnamed Crime’...

Back in 2015 the full Assembly of the Uniting Church resolved to ‘affirm the value of recognizing a date on or near the anniversary of the Armenian genocide as a day of observance and commemoration’. Among a number of accompanying resolutions, it also requested that the National Consultant, Christian Unity, Doctrine and Worship to prepare ‘a prayer to be provided for all congregations of the UCA for use on the day’ – and, in consultation with others, provide ‘educational and liturgical resources for congregations to use’.

The date usually set aside for such observance is 24 April.

In a number of ways this initiative taken by the Assembly was highly significant. There is an iconic relevance to the place of the Armenian nation in the unfolding tradition of the Christian faith. It is so especially at a time when the regions of the Middle East and the Caucuses are in such turmoil and many lives continue to be lost.

In 301 (a long time ago now) Armenia became the first Christian nation in the world. The word genocide was not invented until 1943. What we now know as the Armenian Genocide occurred during and immediately after the First World War. Winston Churchill called it the ‘*unnamed crime*’; Great Britain, France and Russia described at the time as a crime against humanity and civilisation.

The Turkish government of those days oversaw the wholesale killing of able-bodied males and the deportation of women, children, the elderly and the infirm on death marches leading into the Syrian desert. It is estimated that 1.5 million people died and a further 1 million people were displaced.

In our Synod we have an Arminian congregation at Willoughby and a couple of Armenian ministers in service. They are testimony to the resilience and the possibility of new life in diaspora.

Those resolutions of the Assembly have rarely been observed. And yet this initiative – along with one seeking to commend to the state government that it should acknowledge the genocide and encourage the federal government to do so led the Uniting Church to be awarded a Freedom Award bestowed by the Armenian National Committee of Australia. In order to honour those Assembly resolutions, we are providing you with a prayer and a hymn for the occasion. Your support and solidarity in continuing times of difficulty is appreciated.

Our current observance of the original Armenian Genocide is happening at a time of further ethnic cleansing. Last September 120,000 Armenians were forced to leave their homes in the ancestral lands of Artsakh following ten months of a blockade enforced by neighbouring Azerbaijan. They have become the latest waves of refugees. (*Supplied by Clive Pearson*).

## Armenian Martyrs' Day Prayer

Our loving and gracious Heavenly Father, for all those who stood firm in their Christian faith in the face of persecution, exile and death.

***We praise You, O God.***

For all who endured the genocide,

***We praise You, O God.***

For all those Armenian men, women and children who were deported, driven in death marches, and massacred mercilessly because they refused to deny Christ,

***We lift up our cries to You, O God.***

For all those who directly or indirectly participated in the murder of this small Christian nation and washed their hands saying, “*I am innocent of their blood,*”

***We lift our cries to You, O God.***

For all those who continue to trample on truth, justice and human rights,

***We lift our cries to You, O God.***

That this nation may not perish but prosper under Your fatherly care,

***We pray to You, O God.***

That You may uproot from our hearts every trace of hatred and the spirit of vengeance.

***We pray to You, O God.***

That those of us who are the descendants of those noble martyrs may have a deep sense of gratitude and a deep sense of responsibility.

***We pray to You, O God.***

That we may recognize they died for their faith that we might live for it,

***We pray to You, O God.***

Grant that we may value the freedom and the security we are privileged to enjoy in this beautiful country.

***Hear our prayer, O God.***

Grant that Your power of resurrection may inspire us to live as a righteous people prepared for every good work,

***Hear our prayer, O God.***

Grant that we may be a compassionate, forgiving and loving people.

***Hear our prayer, O God, and grant us a right spirit. Amen!***



## PRAYER POINTS

(Westmead worship community)

Dear Heavenly Father, we come before you giving You thanks and praise for being our Shepherd -walking with us, guiding us, especially when our path becomes poorly lit. We bring to You those who are unwell at home, in hospital and those undergoing treatment for chronic illnesses. May they know Your healing grace and love. We uphold the carers and the residents of No 28 to You that they may be comforted and held close to You. We also pray for the workers at Meals Plus and the 175 Motel, and the guests that come in – May Your Holy Spirit touch each person with healing and restoration. We pray for No 28 carer Mary's granddaughter Lela, and also Jan at this time – Lord bring Your healing and love upon them.

Father we bring to You the devastations of war around the world, especially the escalations between Israel, Palestine, and Russia, Ukraine. We acknowledge the despair, fear, grief that people trapped in these zones feel and we ask that You work in the hearts of the perpetrators that love may come about instead of war. We place in Your hands those who have been affected by the recent Bondi tragedy, the Waverly church the loved ones of the many women who met tragedy in the recent weeks.

Father God, as we approach National Reconciliation Week seeking the healing of our nation, we ask that your Holy Spirit bring to our nation the compassion and understanding of Jesus, as we work to confront the injustices and disparities facing our Indigenous brothers and sisters. We ask you Father to heal the wound in our nation's soul.

We pray for the homeless especially in the cold and wet, for those who struggle with the cost of living and forgo meals and other essential services to survive. We pray that resources of food and shelter become available to these and that their plight is seen by others that they may stop and help.

For frontline workers, aid workers, health care staff, Ministers of Your Word and those that are first responders to disasters, we pray for their mental well-being and pray that they be comforted in their own lives.

Father, we pray for our climate change and bring to You the countries suffering from disasters because of it, those that are experiencing drought, hunger, disease, and imminent death. May aid be mobilised, and resources shared by World leaders.

Keep our church, Parramatta Community Uniting Church, enfolded in Your Light that we may go forth knowing that You are with us and that we may work with Your love in us. **Amen.**

## NATIONAL PRAYER CHAIN

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

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

From **19 May, Pentecost Sunday**, we begin ‘Uniting in Prayer 2024’ – 35 days of prayer across the national Uniting Church. Through Uniting in Prayer, PCUC 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*

NB: The **Mallee** is a sub-region of **Loddon Mallee** covering the most north-western part of **Victoria** and is bounded by SA and NSW borders. Mallee eucalypts dominate the surviving vegetation throughout most of the Mallee (except for swamps and areas along waterways). The Mallee’s biggest settlements are at Mildura and Swan Hill.

#### *& Korean Cairns Uniting Church*

NB: **Cairns in Far North Queensland** was founded in 1876 and named after Sir William Wellington Cairns, following the discovery of gold in the Hodgkinson river. During the Second World War, Cairns was a key staging ground for Allied Forces in the Battle of the Coral Sea. By the late 20th century the city had become a hub of international tourism – and has since developed into a large multicultural city, with tourism being a significant source of income. Cairns exists in close proximity to natural landmarks such as the Daintree Rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef.

## LEIGH FIJIAN NEWS

- 1) Lotu ena macawa oqo 05 ni Me: Na lotu ena macawa mai oqo na lotu vulavou. Na vunau tiko kina ko Rev Helen Richmond ka na qaravi talega na sakaramede. Tu vakarau na veiliutaki soqosoqo ni tabagone.
- 2) Lotu ena macawa mai oqo 12 ni Me: Na macawa mai oqo na sigatabu ni Tina. Era na veiqaravi tiko kina na tinada.
- 3) Lesoni ni macawa oqo Epereli 29 - Me 05: Cakacaka 10:44-48 Same 98 1 Joni 5:1-6 Joni 15:9-17
- 4) Lesoni ni macawa mai oqo Me 06 - Me 12: Cakacaka 1:15-17, 21-26 Same 1 1 Joni 5:9-13 Joni 17:6-19
- 5) **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 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.

**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.

**Combined Fijian Women's Gathering, Leigh Memorial  
26.04.24**



## ANZAC COMMEMORATION, 2024 – OPEN CHURCH @ LEIGH MEMORIAL



Lal & Ken lay wreaths at Leigh Memorial's WWI and WW2 memorials.



- 1) 'Courage' stained glass memorial window, Leigh Memorial (installed 1923);
- 2) Heritage Committee book: *We Will Remember Them – The First and Second World Wars & Between the Wars* (Parramatta Mission, 1914 – 1945). **Available online:**

<https://illuminate.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/23874keywords=We+Will+Remember+Them&type=all&highlights=WyJXZSIsIldpbGwiLCJSZW1lbWJlciIsIlRoZW0iXO%3D%3D&lsk=5d1208713d092e1ff2cac1313412a36d>

We invite you to join us for a special event



# RICH PERSON POOR 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 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 souce
- 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  
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*(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  
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**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

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**Leigh Memorial**  
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**Parramatta Mission**  
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**uniting  
church**

in Australia,  
Synod of NSW & ACT