

# Parramatta Community Uniting Church

## Newsletter: *Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2024*

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*Happy Mothers Day, 2024*  
*(floral arrangement by Adi Akisi Allison)*



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 12 May*

<b>Sunday Worship</b>			
Sunday 12 <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, Parramatta Korean Faith Community, Parramatta site  Uniting Church Tamil Faith Community - Northmead  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 dinner: 12 June)	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

## **VALE – ADI AKISI ALLISON**

**29. 03. 1952 – 04. 05. 2024**



On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May, our dear Akisi passed away. Akisi was, until the very last, providing guidance, inspiration and support to others, and sharing her hospitality, faith insights and innate kindness with our Congregation Leadership Team.

Born in Fiji in 1952, and arriving in Australia in 1974, Akisi attended Leigh Memorial Church in the 1980s, prior to the official inauguration of the Fijian Parish of Parramatta Mission in 1991 – and for a subsequent 30 years, she worked diligently in various capacities for Leigh Fijian and the glory of God.

In addition to a career at Mayflower & Uniting – during which she held key positions as a Liaison Officer, Respite Care Officer, Admission Officer and Administrator – Akisi was a dedicated and loving wife, mother and , and a gifted lay preacher and pioneering congregation leader. She was also a person of significant style and gracious taste, including creating beautiful table arrangements and floral displays for special occasions. Akisi also enjoyed being part of the CLT and Open Church, and viewed the coming together of the Parramatta Community Uniting Church communities as a positive and hopeful step. Most significantly she was, as Rev Tui has described her, an important “bridge” between various people and communities, and for this alone, we are truly grateful for her legacy.

We are also appreciative of Akisi’s encouragement and training of young people within the Leigh Fijian community – all of whom will carry the benefits of her warmth, encouragement and knowledge into their lives and future service to the church. For this, and her many other contributions to the life and witness of the Leigh Fijian community, Akisi was among five members listed in the ‘Tolu Decades’ anniversary book (2021) as receiving a landmark Certificate of Appreciation and Acknowledgement.

A person of integrity and abiding faith, Akisi will be long remembered. Her thanksgiving service will take place at Leigh Memorial Church on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30am, with a wake to follow at Centenary from 2.00pm. Farewell Akisi and thank you. ***Well done, good and faithful servant.***



Photographs sourced from the Leigh Fijian 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary book, *TOLU DECADES - A COLLECTION OF TALANOA: LEIGH FIJIAN CONGREGATION OF PARRAMATTA MISSION, 1991 – 2021*  
[https://illuminate.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/20805?  
keywords=tolu+decades&type=all&highlights=WyJ0b2x1IiwZGVjYWRLcyJd](https://illuminate.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/20805?keywords=tolu+decades&type=all&highlights=WyJ0b2x1IiwZGVjYWRLcyJd)

## PCUC NOTICES....

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

Parramatta Mission will be holding its annual ‘RPPP’ dinner this **Friday 10 May, 5.30 – 9.00pm** at the Parramatta Mission Hall. Enquiries: 9891-227. **Tickets still available** – purchase here: <https://events.humanitix.com/rppp2024>

### UNITING CLIMATE CONFERENCE – THIS SATURDAY

The *Uniting Climate: Faith in a better future* conference (in-person at the Centre for Ministry + online) will be held on **Saturday 11 May**. This is a great opportunity to become better informed, join in valuable conversations and be part of the process towards a more positive future.



### It's not too late to register!

[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](#)

### NEXT WORKING BEE – CENTENARY

The next working bee at the garden at Centenary Church will be on **Saturday 18 May, commencing at 7.00am**. We hope to be planting out the remainder of the garden and doing some mulching. Brunch is included. Any questions? Please contact Susan or Fiona. NB: Diary Date – our PCUC ‘Garden Party’ is scheduled for **Saturday 22 June**. All welcome.

### NEXT ‘JAZZ ON HAMMERS’

The next Jazz on Hammers night at PCUC – Northmead will take place on Sunday 19 May from 6.00pm. We hope to see you there!



# '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. Please see map below (our spot marked is by the **red 'X'**).

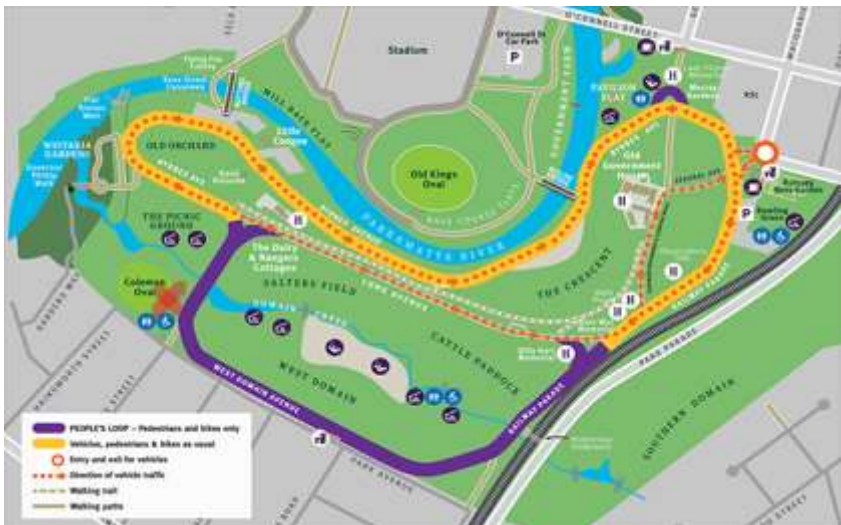
NB: There will be no 9.30am Leigh Memorial, Westmead or Northmead services held that morning. The Leigh Fijian service will, however, proceed at the regular time of 11.15am. (The weather venue for the 10am service in the park will be the Westmead Chapel, cnr Queens St & Hawkesbury Road).

**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**

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 CC 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)

## ‘THANK YOU’ ST. ANDREW’S PARRAMATTA CRICKET CLUB



St. Andrews Parramatta Cricket Club started in 1956 as an activity of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Parramatta (which transitioned to Centenary Uniting Church North Parramatta in 1990 and is now part of Parramatta Community Uniting Church).

**After 68 years, the Club has come to the decision that its innings is at an end. The season is over.**

As the roots of the Club are within PCUC, its surplus funds (totalling \$6000) have been transferred to PCUC *on the basis that they are used to build capacity of young people in the community and promote physical, spiritual and mental health.* The Club expects that these arrangements will honour the past and provide a future legacy for young people in the Church and community.

At its peak, St. Andrews Parramatta Cricket Club was one of the leading clubs in the Churches Cricket Union of NSW, with Teams in both Junior and Senior Competitions.

A morning tea was held on 2nd May which was attended by **Greg Gibb** (Club President and Life Member), **Ian Gray** (Life Member), **Garry Ingles** and **Robert Key** (representing PCUC) – pictured – to celebrate and acknowledge the immense contribution of the Club to the community, and to celebrate a wonderful ministry of nearly 70 years duration.





The foundational values of the Club have included a desire to be inclusive and encouraging to everyone of any age, gender and ability – and the friendships and fun experienced by so many players have established memories to last a lifetime.

Whilst it is sad to see the Club come to a conclusion, it is time for its season to come to an end. The Club's donated funds provide a corpus of money for careful discernment by PCUC as to how the wonderful legacy of St Andrew's will continue into the future.

**Well done and many thanks to St Andrews Parramatta Cricket Club!**

Ian Gray.



## **GAZA CEASEFIRE PILGRIMAGE – CANBERRA**

Last weekend, **Bruce Bennetts** joined a large cohort of people undertaking an over 40km awareness-raising 'Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage' in Canberra (photo below). Bruce took along one of the crosses painted by Leigh Fijian Youth.



## MULTI-FAITH PRAYER VIGIL, PARRAMATTA

*SHALOM, SALAM, SHANTI, PEACE...*



*Photo above includes (from left) –*

*St. John's Uniting Church Wahroonga Minister & Abrahamic Conference Chairperson - **Rev Dr Manas Ghosh**, the Grand Mufti of Australia - **Ibrahim Abu Mohamed**, Uniting Church Moderator (Synod NSW/ACT) - **Rev Mata Havea Hiliau** – and Parramatta Community Uniting Church Community Engagement & Relationships Minister – **Rev Dr Helen Richmond**.*



## **A message from Rev Dr Manas Ghosh, Chairperson – Abrahamic Conference:**

### ***Shalom, Salam, Shanti, Peace...***

“For those less familiar with the Abraham Conference, it came about in 2002 in recognition of the common heritage of Judaism, Christianity and Islam with the objective of building respectful interfaith relations. Since then, an annual conference has been held every year with joint interfaith initiative of a number of organisations that are associated with the three Abrahamic faiths.

Today (Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May) – we have gathered here not just as people of Abrahamic faith but people of all faiths in response to a string of violence that have taken place in recent time – from the stabbing death of six innocent people in Bondi and injuring eleven others, to the stabbing of Bishop Emmanuel of the Assyrian Orthodox Church in Wakeley, and victims of domestic violence that has claimed innocent lives, mainly women.

As members of one human family we are shocked, grieved and disturbed by these violent incidents and loss of human lives.

Today with one voice we condemn and reject all forms of violence, and offer our deepest condolences and sympathies to those who are grieving for the loss of their loved ones and our prayers for those who have been injured.

Those events cannot be undone, but we can help that it doesn't happen again. As leaders and representatives of our own faith communities we continue to call for calm and peace.

We call followers not to heed to misinformation, disinformation and fake news. By extending friendship, love, care and compassion to others, we all can play a role in healing the hurt and brokenness of our communities.

We also encourage governments - both federal and state - to enhance our mental health systems so that those with significant mental health problems can receive mental health support and treatment.

As we pray together, we recommit ourselves to loving, respecting, and caring for one another, that such violence does not happen again, and harmony and peace may prevail in our communities.”

## PRAYER POINTS

(Supplied by Chris Walker, Northmead Community)

Father and Mother God, your love surrounds us even when we do not recognize it. Your love is like the air we breathe that we so often take for granted and do not notice. We do not pray as though we are instructing you concerning our needs or seeking to urge or remind you of them. We pray because you want us to name our concerns before you. You want us to open our hearts to you in prayer. Our God, help us not to lose our awareness of you and your Son Jesus. Grant us your Spirit that we may experience your presence in our lives. Steady our faith, assist us to put aside our doubts, and enable us to live confidently in your love.

Give us a new love for other people and your creation. Forgive us that we are often fatigued by others and irritated by what they say and do. Give us grace to sympathise more deeply with the needs of others, to appreciate their good qualities, to be forgiving of what needs forgiving, and to helpfully correct things that are amiss. May our love extend beyond people to your creation with its creatures that are often negatively affected by human action. As we as a society recognize the extent of domestic violence, may we not continue to excuse it or tolerate it. Be with those assisting victims of domestic violence. May abusers be called to account. Help us to play our part in fostering a culture where gender violence is always seen as unacceptable. Rather may people show respect for one another in the way Jesus did.

As we celebrate Mothers' Day, we pray for mothers and give thanks for their love and concern. We honour them for all they have done in raising their children. We pray for mothers who experience difficult relationships with their children. We pray for reconciliation that daughters and sons may have positive relationships with their mothers, even if there have been strained relations in the past. We pray for our churches that they continue to spread the good news of Jesus and your love for all. May Christian communities be examples of loving communities as you desire. Help us to love one another. Save us from unnecessary conflicts and divisions. We pray especially for our Fijian community after the sudden death of beloved leader, Adi Akisi Allison.

We pray for our nation and the nations of the world. May your Spirit touch and guide leaders and politicians that war and conflicts might come to an end and mutual respect be shown for the good of all. We pray for peace and justice to become more of a reality in our world. This we pray in the name and Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## LEIGH FIJIAN NEWS

- 1) Lotu ena macawa oqo 12 ni Me: Na lotu ena macawa oqo, na era na veiqaravi tiko kina tinada.
- 2) Lotu ena macawa mai oqo 19 ni Me: Na macawa mai oqo na sigatabu ni Tina. Era na veiqaravi tiko kina na tinada.
- 3) Lesoni ni macawa oqo Me 06 - Me 12: Cakacaka 1:15-17, 21-26 Same 1 1 Joni 5:9-13 Joni 17:6-19
- 4) Lesoni ni macawa mai oqo Me 13 - Me 19: Cakacaka 2:1-21 Isikeli 37:1-14 Same 102:24-42,35 Roma 8:22-27 Joni 15:26-27, 16:4-15

### 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.



# *Adi Akisi Vutevute Allison*

CALLED TO ETERNAL REST ON 4TH MAY 2024



## **REGUREGU**

Friday | 10/5 | 5pm-11pm & Saturday | 11/5 | 2-9pm  
Centenary Uniting Church  
46 Sorrell St, North Parramatta

## **THANKSGIVING SERVICE**

Monday | 13/5 | 10.30am  
Leigh Memorial Uniting Church  
119 Macquarie St, Parramatta

## **WAKE TO FOLLOW**

Monday | 13/5 | 2pm  
Centenary Uniting Church  
46 Sorrell St, North Parramatta



**\*\* Please note that the casket will arrive at Leigh Memorial Church at 10.00am for the Thanksgiving Service on Monday 13 May.**

## Thanksgiving Service Parking

We recommend leaving lots of time to travel, park and walk to the Parramatta Church. It is located in a busy business district and the service starts just after peak hour.

## Parramatta Parking Options

- Limited Space in church carpark
- Parramatta Station Carpark, 15/17 Wentworth St
- Eat Street Carpark, 30 George St
- Westfield Parramatta Carpark

## Service Zoom Livestream Link

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

Meeting ID: 519 908 9657



## 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)  
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**Rev Dr 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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**uniting  
church**  
in Australia,  
Synod of NSW & ACT