

Parramatta Community Uniting Church

Newsletter: *Sunday 25^h May, 2024*

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RECONCILIATION WEEK 2024: 'NOW MORE THAN EVER' – 27 May–3 June

“My Blessing” – Uncle Vince Ross

*May the God of creation warm your heart like the campfires of old.
Bring wisdom and peace as shown to the First Peoples of this land.*

*Shake off the dust from the desert plains by the refreshing rains,
followed by the glow and warmth of the sun.*

*Let the light of God show us the right path and stand tall like the big
river gums, drawing life from the ever flowing waters.*



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 25 May*

Sunday Worship			
Sunday 26	9.30am 9.30am 9.30am 11.15am 2.00pm Online	Worship Service – Northmead Worship Service – Westmead Worship Service – Leigh Memorial, Parramatta (Onsite + Zoom) Zoom Meeting ID: 519 908 9657 Worship Service - Leigh Fijian, Parramatta Korean Faith Community, Parramatta site PCUC weekly online service: https://northmead.uca.org.au/	
Groups & Activities... (all members & the wider community are welcome to participate)			
Day	Activity	Time	Venue
Mondays	Playgroup (school terms) Bible Study (via Zoom) Zoom ID: 950 4369 5512	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 rd Wednesday of each month) Open Church Ladies Dinner (next: 12 June)	10.00am 10.00am 1.00pm 6.30pm	Centenary ‘Cake Mania’ café @ Northmead shops Leigh Memorial Toongabbie Bowling Club
Thursdays	English Classes (school terms) Friendship Centre (2 nd and 4 th 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 nd & 4 th Sat- urdays of each month)	9.00am	Parramatta Park - meet Tudor Gate.

TRINITY SUNDAY REFLECTION: *A Time for All*



Today is Trinity Sunday – the day when we think about the way we understand God ... as **Three in One, One in Three**. This isn't an easy concept to get our heads around and it's important to remember that the idea of the Trinity is actually a doctrine we use because we can never understand the full reality of God. Trinity is a picture of what we struggle to grasp. The children's book, *One Family* (written by George Shannon and illustrated by Blanca Gomez) has a go at explaining this complex idea.

The book begins ... *One is one. One lamp. One clock. One book to share*. It continues to illustrate how one can be more than one ... all the way up to one is ten. Borrowing that theme let me remind you of what we all know to be true, that one is also two ... a pair of socks, a married couple. ... One is three – a family of bears who know Goldilocks, a set of triplets, a small bowl of fruit...

None of that seems hard to understand, yet the Trinity does. But maybe the most important thing about the doctrine of the Trinity is not that we understand it, but that it explains the way that we understand God's activity and relationship with the world. That's really what the book is about too – that no matter the diversity of family, it is always one family and it's the relationship that really matters.

The Bible presents God as communal, being in relationship from the beginning and wanting to invite each of us into that relationship. Why? ... because we are loved and precious. As Christ's hands and feet we, too, can be encouraged to welcome others and invite them to a place where they can enjoy the relationship with God that God desires. **The arms of God are ever-expanding to welcome so many, and despite our diversity we are all part of the family of God.**

*Rev Heather Hon
Koonung Heights Uniting Church, Victoria*

Image: Old Testament Trinity Icon by Andrei Rublev, c. 1440. Wiki Commons.

Read Aloud Children's Book (approx. 2 mins): *One Family*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CHhCyQ7Hf6Y>

PCUC NOTICES

IMPORTANT – RE PARRAMATTA SITE, 25 MAY

A reminder that the Leigh Memorial car park and church building/hall will be **inaccessible this Saturday 25 May**, due to the **Triple J Youth Concert**.

CENTENARY GARDEN – NEXT WORKING BEES...

The two remaining working bees for the Centenary Garden will be held on **Sat. 1 June and Sat. 15 June – both commencing at 7.00am**. The Garden Party will be held on **Sat. 22 June**, commencing at 12pm.

Enquiries: Susan/Fiona.

FAITH ECOLOGY NETWORK – WORKSHOP

On **Sunday 2 June**, 1.45 – 4.00pm, a hybrid workshop is being hosted by the Western Sydney **IntHERfaith Initiative**. Themes: ‘Listen to Wisdom from Elders’ & ‘Grow Your Sense of Place’. To book a place – go to this link:

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1221221>

BOOK RELEASE

Chris Walker’s new book, *Meditations and Reflections for Christian Disciples* is available from MediaCom Education in SA: admin@mediacom.org.au

LIGHT RAIL UPDATE

Testing of the Light Rail has commenced in Parramatta. Below is Mario’s photo showing the amazing sight of the train on Macquarie Street this week – going right past Leigh Memorial Church & Parramatta Mission.



‘PENTECOST IN THE PARK’

Last **Sunday, 19 May**, over 100 of us gathered in Parramatta Park for our latest PCUC Combined Service, led by Revs Tui & Helen. We heard inspiring Pentecost messages, had plenty of time to chat in the sunny weather, and even had a birthday cake! Thank you to everyone who supported the service in various ways – it was much appreciated. The next PCUC combined service will take place at 10.00am on Sunday 30th June @ Northmead. (NB: Thanks to Rev Olivia Rodonuwu, Rev Helen, Mario & others for providing our park photos).







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NOTICES cont...

‘PALESTINE UNDER SIEGE’ FILM – A documentary film screening & fundraiser for Palestine will be taking place at the Parramatta site on **Thursday 13 June** (6pm start/ film commencing at 7pm). This event is being organised by Labor Friends of Palestine. Enquiries: Helen or Bruce.

SAVE THE DATE: NUNGALINYA STAFF VISIT – On **Friday 23 August** this year, PCUC will be hosting an evening visit (6.00 – 7.30pm) to our Parramatta site by staff members from Nungalingya College, NT: Principal, Ben van Gelderen and Ox Roberts. The evening will include a time of sharing and a light meal. *Please place this date on your calendars.* Enquiries: Helen/ CLT.

RECONCILIATION WEEK: WARAMI

Warami is an annual program celebrating traditional and contemporary First Nations culture in the City of Parramatta. **Warami** (pronounced Wuh-rah-mee) is a Dharug word meaning ‘good to see you’. Calling Parramatta home for over 60,000 years, **Warami** recognises the Burramattagal people’s connection to the land and community. Our 2024 program features three main events: **National Sorry Day on 26 May**, a day of reflection and healing; **1 June** - an outdoor cinema and family-friendly event called ‘**Stories Under the Stars**’ on the River Foreshore; and ‘**Burramatta NAIDOC**’ on **13 July**, a major outdoor concert with workshops and market stalls.

Sunday 26 May: Sorry Day - 10.00am – 2.00pm: Old Government House Parramatta

Join us for a day of acknowledgement, reflection and healing as we gather to honour the Stolen Generations. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and civic leaders will honour the legacy of the Stolen Generations at a gathering with Smoking and Welcome Ceremonies, workshops and performances. Observe National Sorry Day by learning the stories of the Stolen Generation, celebrate Aboriginal achievements, and the importance of acknowledging historical trauma. Parramatta, being a city with a rich Indigenous history and culture, is an important location for observing this significant day.

Sat. 1 June: 3.00 – 7.00pm: Stories under the Stars (FREE - Parramatta River foreshore – between Wilde Ave & Parramatta Quay)

Listen, learn and participate in a beautiful evening by the Parramatta River. Join us at a family-friendly event celebrating First Nations art, language and culture with an outdoor cinema, a glow-in-the-dark artwork installation, storytelling, markets, music and more, inc. an outdoor Cinema sponsored by Optus. Bring your picnic blanket, rug up and snuggle down to watch documentary ‘Araatike! Rise Up’ under the moonlight. This powerful film follows NRL star Dean Widders’ journey to invent a new pre-game ceremony in response to the Māori Haka, to celebrate Aboriginal cultures and counter racism in Rugby League. With thanks to SBS for providing content via their Reconciliation Film Club program.

RECONCILIATION PRAYER – *NOW MORE THAN EVER*



When we look at the stars, we are looking at light that has guided your Aboriginal people from time immemorial. When we drive through Australia's plains, hills and valleys, we are often travelling on routes that have been known for longer than European history.

We give thanks for the richness of the environment in Australia and acknowledge those who have cared for it throughout time.

We give thanks that often we receive the full benefits of Australian citizenship, without stopping to consider those who are on the margins of society, and not receiving all these benefits. And yet we know that this is not the full story of what has happened here.

Merciful God, we, the Second Peoples of this land, acknowledge with sorrow the injustice and abuse that has so often marked the treatment of the First Peoples of this land. We acknowledge with sorrow the way in which their land was taken from them and their language, culture and spirituality despised and suppressed. We acknowledge with sorrow the way in which the Christian church was so often not only complicit in this process but actively involved in it.

We acknowledge with sorrow that in our own time the injustice and abuse has continued, we have been indifferent when we should have been outraged, we have been apathetic when we should have been active. We have been silent when we should have spoken out.

Gracious God, forgive us for our failures, past and present.

By your Spirit transform our minds and hearts and structures, so that we may boldly speak your truth and courageously do your will.

Through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

(Prayer supplied by Rev Vladimir Korotkov, with thanks).

Reconciliation Australia:

<https://www.reconciliation.org.au/our-work/national-reconciliation-week/>

‘UNITING IN PRAYER’ 2024 HAS BEGUN!

5 Ways to Connect...



Daily Prayers:

We'll be sharing daily prayers over the 35 days drawn from people across the breadth of the Uniting Church and our faith tradition. Sign Up using the link to receive them each day by email, or find them on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). The full set of prayers is now available via this link –

<https://act2uca.com/#:~:text=May19th%20%2D%2022nd%20June,whole%20of%20the%20Uniting%20Church.>

Gathered Worship:

The Act2 Project Unit in partnership with the Assembly Transforming Worship Circle has provided some rich resources, including a full service of worship, prayers, intergenerational activities and creative worship ideas. Biblical reflections are also available to aid your reflection or preaching.

Pray at Home:

The Act2 Project Unit has offered an intergenerational resource written for young children and families to take part. Each day has a short reflection, question for sharing and a prayer. Although aimed at a younger age range, it's easy to tweak for whoever is around your table.

Prayer Chain:

Through Uniting in Prayer different parts of the Uniting Church will be connected to each other through a national prayer chain. **Our PCUC prayers are with Mallee Rivers Ministry Team & Korean Cairns UC.**

Online Prayer Gathering:

On **Wednesday 29 May** we'll be hosting a national online time of prayer, open to all. This will be a wonderful expression in real time of what we dream will happen across the country during Uniting in Prayer - people gathering to seek the Spirit and pray for each other, our Church and our life.

[Sign up here to join us on Zoom on Wednesday 29 May, 7:30pm AEST.](#)

‘RICH PERSON-POOR PERSON’ DINNER, 10 MAY

Parramatta Mission recently hosted our second **"Rich Person, Poor Person" dinner, with 100 of our supporters**. The event aimed to foster empathy and awareness about social inequality. Attendees randomly drew tickets to determine their dining experience for the evening. A fortunate 15 guests, who drew the "rich person" tickets, enjoyed a luxurious three-course meal. In contrast, the remaining 85 attendees, representing "poor persons," were served a modest meal of soup and bread.

This stark contrast in dining experiences was designed to provide a visceral understanding of socioeconomic disparities. The evening was more than a meal; it was an exercise in empathy, encouraging participants to reflect on the realities faced by many people in the community.

The event was a resounding success on multiple fronts. Not only did it raise a substantial amount of money for Parramatta Mission, but it also heightened awareness about social inequality. Additionally, 16 attendees committed to joining the 300 Campaign (our regular giving program), a testament to the evening's lasting impact. Participants shared their profound experiences, with many describing the dinner as eye-opening and transformative. The "Rich Person, Poor Person" dinner effectively illustrated the disparities in our society and inspired many to take action towards creating a more equitable community.

I want to extend a huge thank you to all our volunteers and members from the PCUC congregation who assisted us in hosting this experience.

Davyn e Bruyn

General Manager, Community and Fundraising



**** To watch a great Parramatta Mission VIDEO about this year's RPPP Dinner, go to the following link ...**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0rP_uMqUwuA



BUDDHA'S LIGHT INTERNATIONAL ASSOC. (BLIA) & PARRAMATTA MISSION – JOINT LUNCH SERVICE, 15 MAY

Many thanks to the BLIA for its generous support and wonderful food – and thanks also to our Tzu Chi Buddhist friends in Eastwood, who regularly provide delicious vegetarian meals for Meals Plus. PCUC joins Parramatta Mission in celebrating these and all our special inter-faith connections.



**MESSAGE FROM BUDDHA'S LIGHT INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
SYDNEY PRESIDENT, DANIEL WU:**

16 May, 2024

Dear Friends at Parramatta Mission,

Auspicious Greetings!

On behalf of Buddha's Light International Association (BLIA) Sydney, I would like to extend our gratitude for the opportunity to collaborate on the lunch service yesterday.

The lunch service was not only a chance to serve the community but also a meaningful way to connect and learn from each other. The synergy between Parramatta Mission and BLIA Sydney is truly effective, and we are optimistic about the positive impact our organisations can make for the benefit of the community.

We hope our partnership will continue and look forward to future opportunities to work together...

Thank you once again for all that you are doing for the community.

With metta,

Daniel Wu
President, BLIA Sydney



LEIGH FIJIAN NEWS

- 1) Lotu ni macawa oqo 26 ni Me (Trinity Sunday): Na lotu ni macawa oqo na veisau vunau kei na Fiji Parish. Vunau lesi Rev Samu Sadrata/Senitiki Qata kei Sikeli Duwai. Vunau vakarau Emosi Rogoimuri kei Isireli Tuiloma. Tu vakarau vei liutaki kei na tali matamasumasu naba 1.
- 2) Lotu ni macawa mai oqo 02 ni Jiune: Na lotu ena macawa mai oqo na veiqaravi tiko kina na pastoral team kei ratou na youth. Na qaravi tale tikoga kina na sakaramede. Tali sa da na vakaligaliga tikoga mai kina na vavakoso.
- 3) Lesoni ni macawa oqo 20 ni Me - 26 ni Me: Aisea 6:1-8 Same 29 Roma 8:12-17 Joni 3:1-17
- 4) Lesoni ni macawa mai oqo 27 ni Me - 02 ni Jiune: 1 Samuela 3:1-10, 11-20 Same 139:1-6,13-18 2 Koronica 4:5-12 Marika 2:23-3:6
- 5) Gauna vou ni veiqaravi ni Bula Feeding, sa veiqaravi talega ena veisiga vakarauwai ena soli katalau. Qaravi tiko mai na 8:30am - 10am.
- 6) Sa tekivu talega ena na street ministry outreach e Blacktown ena veisiga tusiti mai na 10am - 12pm. Na qaravi ga na soli flyers kei na veitalanoa kei ira na tamata. Sa kerei tiko ke o ni galala ka o ni gadreva mo ni mai veitokoni ni qai veitaratara ga mai kei Suguta.

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 kei Sainiana Vute. Ko ratou na veiliutaki tiko ena nodatou vavakoso vaka viti kei na veivuvale kece sara ena loma ni nodatou vavakoso.

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.

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.

PASTORAL CONTACTS

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(Unavailable Mondays)

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Or Amal Jebas

amaljebas@hotmail.com

Submissions:

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

rose.shalala@parramattamission.org.au

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

LeighMemorialUniting@gmail.com

PCUC CONTACT INFORMATION

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in Australia,
Synod of NSW & ACT