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| **Revive**  **Restore**  **Reach Out**  NEWSLETTER  **29 November – 5 December 2021**  **NRCC News and Notices**  ▪ **ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES**  We will be journeying through the coming four weeks during Advent with a joyful anticipation of Christ’s birth in our lives. During the four weeks, we are going to celebrate hope, peace, joy and love which our Lord wants to bless us with. May our relationship with our Lord be strengthened during this special season.  **Christmas services plan this year:**  Christmas Eve, Friday, 24th Dec @ 6 PM 🡪 A reflective carol service  Christmas Day, Saturday, 25th Dec @ 9 AM 🡪 A celebration of Christ’s birth  1st Sunday after Christmas, Sunday, 26th Dec @ 9 AM    ▪ **NRCC Men’s Advent Prayer Gathering**  Our men’s group has started the prayer gathering during the week. We meet on ZOOM to support each other and to uphold our church in prayer. **Wednesdays during Advent @7.30 PM**.  ▪ **Guest preachers on Dec 12 & 19**  The next two weeks we have invited guest preachers to share with us. **Rev. Dr Rob Macfarlane** will preach on December 12 and **Rev. John Barr** on December 19.  ▪ **Current safety measures for our Sunday service**   * If you are feeling unwell, please consider others - stay away and get tested * 2 sqm indoors. Ensure 1.5m physical distancing where possible * Check in using our QR code. If this is not possible, please check in at the desk. * Wear a mask while indoors. * Singing is allowed with a mask if you are fully vaccinated * At the end of the service please help by wiping down your chair * We won’t be serving morning tea for now | |  |
| **Community News and Notices**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | ▪ Useful sources of information about mental health issues:  Beyond Blue: [https://www.beyondblue.org.au/](about:blank)  SANE Australia: [https://www.sane.org/](about:blank)  Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia Inc: [https://www.mifa.org.au/en/](about:blank)  The Blackdog Institute: [https://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/](about:blank)  Head To Health: [https://www.headtohealth.gov.au/](about:blank)  Headspace: [https://headspace.org.au/](about:blank)  Digital mental health tools to support children: <https://www.flexischools.com.au/top-3-free-digital-mental-health-tools-to-support-your-children>  UCA Assembly Resource on **Domestic and Family Violence** can be found [here](about:blank).  **Reflection of the Week**  In Psalm 100, the psalmist instructs us: "Shout for joy to the LORD, . . . Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. . . . Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations" (v.1-2, 4-5).  What is it about praise and thanksgiving that brings the Lord and the believer so close together? Praise melts our hearts so that we are no longer hardened by sin or disappointment. The Bible teaches that God is near to those who praise Him (see Psalm 145:18-19). He knows the deepest concerns of our hearts (see Psalm 139). And while He never requires our praise, He certainly desires it because He knows that praise places us in a position to receive His blessings.  Praise reveals the true spiritual condition of our hearts and moulds us into people who are thankful.  *Prayer: Father, help me to be a person who praises You all the time, for You are truly worthy of all praise! I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.*  **"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name" (Hebrews 13:15).**   |  | | --- | |  | |  | | | |  |
| ***E -* give** (Direct Electronic Giving)  **Account Name:** North Rocks Community Church  **(BSB):** 634634 **Account Number:** 100025906 | Prayers  If you have any prayer requests or would like to know of those with particular pastoral needs to pray for, please contact Robyn, Steve or Pastoral Care Team. |
| **Ministry Leaders**  **Minister**: Rev. Steve Lee / [minister@northrocks.org.au](about:blank) / 0433 698 690  **Church Council**  Chairperson: Cathy Nelson Secretary: Jenny Keyte Treasurer: Anne Crabb  **Team Leaders**  Worship: Jenny Keyte Discipleship: Alex Chow Pastoral Care: Robyn Pike Fellowship: Sue Vasilevska  Intergen: Fiona & Cathy Mission: Steve Turner | |
| **North Rocks Community Church**  132-136 North Rocks Rd, North Rocks. NSW 2151  [https://northrocks.uca.org.au](about:blank)  Facebook: North Rocks Community Church  Email: [enquiry@northrocks.org.au](about:blank)  Phone: (02) 9683 2586  **Uniting Church in Australia** [https://uniting.church/](about:blank)  **NSW & ACT Synod** [https://nswact.uca.org.au/](about:blank)  **Parramatta Nepean Presbytery** [https://parramattanepean.uca.org.au/](about:blank) | |