



NEWSLETTER

13 December – 19 December 2021

Revive
Restore
Reach Out

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 @ North Rocks Community Church

Friday 24 Dec 2021, 6 pm	A REFLECTIVE CAROL NIGHT
Saturday 25 Dec 2021, 9 am	Christmas Service
Sunday 26 Dec 2021, 9 am	Sunday after Christmas

Please come and celebrate with us the birth of our Saviour!

132 North Rocks Rd North Rocks
Facebook: North Rocks Community Church
<https://northrocks.uca.org.au/>

▪ **Guest preacher on Dec 19**

This week we have invited a guest preacher, **Rev. John Barr** to share with us.

▪ **Updated safety measures for our Sunday service**

- If you are feeling unwell, please consider others - stay away and get tested
- Ensure 1.5m physical distancing where possible
- Check in using our QR code. If this is not possible, please check in at the desk.
- **We strongly encourage all to wear a mask while indoors if you have any health concerns.**
- 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

Are you looking for a Christmas present for the person who has everything?

We will not be running a shop at church this year but please consider buying online.



EVERYTHING IN COMMON **GIFTS THAT FIGHT POVERTY AND BUILD HOPE**

Make a difference through your gift giving!
Shop online for gifts that fight poverty through health, education, leadership and income opportunities.

<https://everythingincommon.com.au/>



TEARFUND **USEFUL GIFTS CATALOGUE**

When you buy a Useful Gift, you are contributing to sustainable, long-term development projects run by Tearfund and our local partners.

<https://www.usefultgifts.org/>

Parramatta Nepean Presbytery is looking for a Business Manager

- Full-time, or part-time permanent position (can be negotiated)
- A friendly, supportive, professional dedicated to excellence
- A role with purpose - work for a socially driven Australian organisation

If you are interested please click on the link below.

<https://microsites.uca.org.au/media/11547/parramatta-nepean-presbytery-business-manager-031221.pdf>

▪ Useful sources of information about mental health issues:

Beyond Blue: <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/>

SANE Australia: <https://www.sane.org/>

Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia Inc: <https://www.mifa.org.au/en/>

The Blackdog Institute: <https://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/>

Head To Health: <https://www.headtohealth.gov.au/>

Headspace: <https://headspace.org.au/>

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](#).

Reflection of the Week

The weeks leading up to Christmas Day are full of exciting preparation with gifts to buy, parties to plan, and decorations to display. In the midst of the hustle and bustle, we look forward to celebrating the Advent of Christ—God entering our world as a man "to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28).

However, the joy of the Christmas season can often be overshadowed by the brokenness of our families, the loss of loved ones, or even our own loneliness. In these instances, we are faced with the reality that many Biblical prophecies are yet to be fulfilled. Although Jesus defeated sin and death on the cross, Satan still "prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8). We know this because sin and death are still ever present in our lives.

Our world's abiding brokenness is precisely why Christmas should be a time for us to hope and prepare for Christ's second coming, even as we celebrate His first. The fulfilled prophecies of Christ's birth prove that the Biblical prophecies about His return will also one day be fulfilled.

In 2 Corinthians 5:16, Paul writes, "So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer." At Christmas, it's right for us to rejoice as we remember the baby in the manger. But Paul's words remind us that we must no longer regard Christ as merely a helpless babe, for He is now and forever the risen and glorified Lord. And He will soon return to judge the world and complete His work of salvation and restoration.

As you celebrate in this Advent season, are you ready for the ultimate advent? The baby in the manger may not have come making demands, but the risen Lord of lords demands our all. The glorified Christ of Revelation is the one we will all meet on that great day when He returns to fulfill all of God's promises and defeat Satan once and for all.

Prayer: Come, Lord Jesus! May this Christmas be full of hope as I look forward to the fulfillment of Your precious promises. Any lack, any suffering, pales in the light of Your glorious hope, faithfulness, and future. Help me to serve You as I wait for Your ultimate advent. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him" (Hebrews 9:28).

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 / 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
Interген: Fiona & Cathy Mission: Steve Turner

North Rocks Community Church

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Uniting Church in Australia <https://uniting.church/>

NSW & ACT Synod <https://nswact.uca.org.au/>

Parramatta Nepean Presbytery <https://parramattanepean.uca.org.au/>