

NEWSLETTER

21 February – 27 February 2022

Revive
Restore
Reach Out

NRCC News and Notices

▪ Covid Safety Guidelines

- Although face masks are not mandatory from this weekend, we encourage you to wear one if you have any health concerns for yourself and others.
- No QR code check-ins are required.
- **Morning tea from the first Sunday in March.**

▪ Ash Wednesday Service March 2 @ 7 PM

Our 40 days journey with the Lord in Lent starts on Wednesday, March 2 this year. We hope to spend this holy season of Lent reflecting on our Lord's sacrificial love for us and for the world. Please come and join the reflective service. There will be an imposition of ashes on our foreheads.

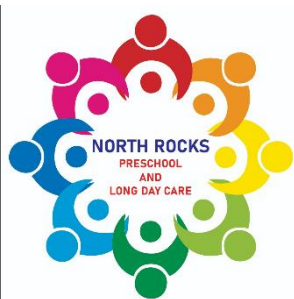
▪ **Lent Event** calls you to join other Christians in a pledge to give up or take up something in solidarity with those who live with less. From 2 March to 14 April, Lent provides us with opportunities to reflect on our relationship with Christ and put faith into action.

For more information or ideas go to <https://unitingworld.org.au/lent-event-is-coming/>



Community News and Notices

▪ Preschool News



The preschool is now open with a new name and new operators. Swati and Maneesh Pareek are very enthusiastic about starting this new venture here at North Rocks, and especially love the bush setting. If you see them, be sure to say hi. The centre has a new name, to reflect the change of management – **North Rocks Preschool and Long Day Care**. It is open from 7 am – 6 pm Monday to Friday. Spaces are still available, so if you know of anyone who may be interested, let them know.

Contact details – 0405 522 223, admin@northrocksldc.com.au,

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/North-Rocks-Preschool-and-Long-Daycare-108266601742934>

▪ “Journeying with Paul”

Blacktown UC’s next annual Biblical day “Journeying with Paul” is on Saturday 19 March.

We’ll be looking at Paul’s letters and mission. The focus will be twofold:

- How Paul’s creative and adventurous “make-it-up-as-you-go” mission in the 1st Century helps us figure mission out in the 21st Century.
- Lectionary passages from Paul’s letters and Acts from Easter onwards this year to help in preaching, worship-leading and Bible study.

Basic details:

- Saturday, 19 March.
- Blacktown Uniting Church.
- Arrive at 9.00 for a 9.30 start.
- Sessions run 9.30-3.30.
- Registrations essential by Tuesday, 15 March, please.

Click the link for the brochure for more information and all the practical details: eg cost (only \$15 including lunch!), location, and most importantly, how to register.

<https://microsites.uca.org.au/media/11897/journeying-with-paul.pdf>

▪ **The UME Healthy Churches Expo** is coming soon! It’s a great balance between growth and mission on one hand, and the need for safe and healthy places on the other hand. I’ve registered and hope to see as many PNP peeps there as possible. I have attached the program – you’ll see that there is something for everyone!

Basic details:

9.00-5.00

Saturday, 26 March, 2022

On-site at the Centre for Ministry (North Parramatta) and online

Cost: \$35 on-site (including morning and afternoon tea and lunch). \$10 online.

For full details and to register, go to:

<https://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/calendar/healthy-churches-expo-2022/>

Blacktown Uniting Church

Shining the Light of Christ

Journeying with Paul

An introduction to Paul’s mission and his letters for preachers, worship leaders and missional leaders, and for those who want to go deeper into the story and community behind the story.

Date: Saturday, 19 March 2022
9:00am

Cost: \$15 per person (lunch included)



HEALTHY CHURCHES EXPO 2022

-Six Studies in Lent

This series of 6 Lenten studies will be led by Rev Dr Chris Walker.

What: Six-week Lenten study on the book: "Discipleship: Things to Remember".

Session 1: "Remember where you came from and what God has done for you."

Session 2: "Remember your citizenship is in heaven."

Session 3: "Remember to seek the Lord, recognising that God's ways are not our ways."

Session 4: "Remember you are a new creation in Christ, called to the ministry of reconciliation."

Session 5: "Remember the surpassing value of knowing Jesus Christ and press toward the goal."

Session 6: "Remember to have the same mind as Christ and serve him unashamedly."

Order the book NOW from MediaCom: \$13.95 per copy

<https://www.mediacomeducation.org.au/shop/discipleship-things-to-remember-six-lenten-studies-on-being-a-follower-of-jesus-in-our-time/>

Why: To deepen your discipleship in life and specifically to prepare you to celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter.

Who: Anyone who feels called to deepen their faith.

When: 7.30-9.00 pm, on 6 Mondays: 7, 14, 21, 28 March and 4, 11 April.

Where: The same Zoom link each time:

Topic: PNP Lent studies with Chris Walker

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/98886955795?pwd=aXorT2RLRIMzdE1uSVkyclVUNCtPdz09>

Meeting ID: 988 8695 5795

Passcode: 506655

Reflection of the Week

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-13.

Our strength does not come by gritting our teeth. It doesn't come by pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps. It won't be wrought with statements of self-affirmation—"Yes, I can!" The strength Paul described to Timothy doesn't come from within. We only become strong through the grace that is in Jesus Christ.

Just like the old hymn says, grace is truly amazing. Consider how many ways grace works in our lives: We are saved by grace. We are justified by grace. We are sanctified by grace. We are to live every moment of every day by grace. And we are empowered by grace to overcome every struggle that comes our way in our daily lives. However, we must take hold of the grace God offers us.

We are all prone to forget about Jesus. We have fickle memories. Our lives are filled with distractions, and we have busy schedules. That's why, all too often, we forget what the power of Christ can accomplish in our lives. How many times have you found yourself in a challenging situation, facing an unsolvable

problem—only to respond with panic, anger, or blame? How often we forget to call upon the Lord and ask for His wisdom in our times of need!

Paul knew his disciple Timothy was prone to discouragement, self-pity, and the temptation to surrender—just as we are—so he wrote to him from the depths of a Roman dungeon and urged him to remember Jesus, to be strong in the grace of God, and to never give up the fight.

How do we begin to do this in our daily lives? We start by immersing ourselves in the Scriptures and dwelling on God's Truth. The Bible delivers God's promises to us afresh and reminds us of the beautiful story He is writing with our lives. Are you lonely? God's Word will comfort you. Are you burdened with guilt? God's Word will set you free. Are you full of bitterness and resentment? God's Word will show you how to forgive. Are you discouraged? God's Word will lift your spirit. Are you lost? God's Word will light your way back to Him.

You can know triumph in times of defeat. You can know peace in the midst of chaos. And when fear, shame, and discouragement threaten your joy, you can stand strong in the grace of God.

Prayer: Father, thank You for the gifts of Your Spirit who gives me strength and Your Word that reveals Your sure promises. I have hope because You are with me. Your grace uplifts me and gives me courage. Grant me boldness to serve You and Your Kingdom. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 2:1).

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.
Robyn: 0424791916

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: Steve Lee Discipleship: Alex Chow Pastoral Care: Robyn Pike Fellowship: Sue Vasilevska
Interген: Fiona & Cathy Mission: Steve Turner

North Rocks Community Church

132-136 North Rocks Rd, North Rocks. NSW 2151

<https://northrocks.uca.org.au>

Facebook: North Rocks Community Church

Email: enquiry@northrocks.org.au

Phone: (02) 9683 2586

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

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

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